

# ***Classic Literature for Christian Homeschoolers***

## **Volume 3: Classic Tales**

### **Answer Key to Review Questions**

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### Week 13, Day 1 – A Christmas Carol – Stave I

1. Look up the term “stave.” Why do you think Dickens called his chapters “staves” instead of...chapters?

*A “stave” means a stanza of a song. The title of the tale is A Christmas Carol, and this is Dickens’s creative way of comparing the chapters of this “carol” to stanzas of a Christmas song.*

2. Why does Dickens emphasize the fact of Marley’s death in the story’s opening? How does Scrooge feel about his death?

*To show the reader that Scrooge’s encounter with Marley is an encounter with a spirit, not Marley himself. Scrooge is barely affected at all by Marley’s death, which is surprising, because he was a long-time business associate of his.*

3. List examples that show Scrooge’s miserable nature. How does Dickens still create a sense of pity for Scrooge in the reader’s mind?

*Scrooge is cold, greedy, and cheap, not even heating his office on cold days. He is universally hated, and likes that he is. Scrooge’s nephew Fred wishes him a Merry Christmas, to which Scrooge replies “Bah! Humbug!” He hates Christmas because it reminds him that he’s a year older and has to pay bills, and he thinks everyone who says, “Merry Christmas” to him “should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.”*

*Scrooge scoffs at Fred’s marriage “for love.” He then rebuffs two men asking for alms for the poor. He grabs a young boy trying to regale him with Christmas carols, who flees in terror. Scrooge growls at Bob Cratchit, his clerk, because he is expected to pay him not to work on Christmas, and demands that Cratchit come earlier the day after.*

4. How are the weather, Scrooge’s apartment, and Scrooge’s office similar? Why do you think Dickens chose to do this?

*Dark, gloomy, cold. Dickens probably chose this to emphasize the darkness of Scrooge’s behavior.*

5. Explain Scrooge’s encounter with Marley. How does this already work a slight change in his (Scrooge’s) temperament?

*Scrooge goes home to his dark, gloomy apartment, and sees Marley’s face as the door knocker. He hears bells ringing, and sees the ghost of Jacob Marley clanking up, weighted down by cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, deeds, and purses of money—all the things that weighed him down in his life. Marley says, “I wear the chain I forged in life,” and he is doomed to walk the earth with reminders of how he wasted his life and with what he should have helped his fellow man.*

*Marley tells Scrooge he will be visited by three spirits, without whom he (Scrooge) has no hope of redemption. He then departs. Scrooge hears and sees numerous ghosts wailing, many of whom he knows, one being a man with an iron safe (presumably full of money) wailing because he cannot help a woman and her infant in need.*

### Week 13, Day 3 – A Christmas Carol – Stave II

1. Describe the Ghost of Christmas Past.

*It is a young-old figure, with smooth, young skin, but with white hair, and wearing a white tunic. He holds a branch of holly and has a bright light coming out of the top of his head.*

2. Briefly sum up what Scrooge sees in his own past.

*He sees himself as a boy, deserted in a building, and weeps, watching himself reading books to escape into different worlds. He then sees himself a little older, and his sister Fan (his nephew Fred’s mother) says their father has changed and wants him to live with them; they pack and leave the boarding school. (It is Christmastime again.)*

*Then he sees himself as a young man, at work with Fezziwig, his boss, and Dick Wilkins, a coworker and friend. Fezziwig puts on a party with food and drink and dance, merrily wishing his employees a Merry Christmas.*

Scrooge then sees himself in the “prime of life,” not quite hardened by avarice, but growing toward it. He sees his fiancée releasing him from their agreement to marry, saying that the man she loved had become one who cared only for “Gain.” Scrooge is tortured by this. Finally, Scrooge sees the family that might have been his at Christmastime, only seven years earlier, just before Marley’s death, as Belle, Scrooge’s former fiancée, learns from her husband that he ran into Scrooge earlier.

3. At the stave’s beginning, what does Scrooge beg the Ghost of Christmas Past to do with his (the Ghost’s) hat—an act that is reprised at the stave’s end? What might this action by Scrooge represent?

*At the stave’s opening, Scrooge begs the Ghost of Christmas Past to put his hat on, and at the stave’s end he pulls down the cap on the spirit’s head (symbolically, at first, to “put out the light,” as he doesn’t want to see what the spirit wants to show him, or at the end, when he doesn’t want to see any more).*

4. Do you believe that this revelation of Scrooge’s past is enough to justify his present life? Why or why not?

*Answers will vary, but it must be said that many have gone through hardships as bad as or worse than Scrooge, without resorting to his “Bah-humbug!” outlook.*

5. Give some evidence that Scrooge’s heart is softening.

*Answers will vary, but might include these: Scrooge laments not giving something to the boy who tried to sing him a Christmas carol. He also says he would like to speak to Bob Cratchit after seeing Fezziwig’s office party.*

### **Week 14, Day 1 – A Christmas Carol – Stave III**

1. Describe the appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Present and the room he shows Scrooge. What is the significance of these?

*The Ghost of Christmas Present is a giant with a torch, wearing a green robe with white fur, and a holly wreath around his head. He shows Scrooge a room covered with green plants and many foodstuffs, and with a roaring fire in the chimney.*

*The significance of the appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Present and the room is to demonstrate the richness that can imbue the Christmas holiday, especially when the Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge many persons who are poor who still continue the Christmas tradition.*

2. Based on the conversation between Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present, what do you think Dickens believed about the practice of Sabbatarianism? Why?

*Obviously Dickens was against it, since the Ghost of Christmas Present says it is not a heavenly practice, but done in God’s name. With Scrooge’s comments, Dickens demonstrates his belief that the practice takes away the poor’s only chance during the week for recreation (since most worked six days a week).*

3. What does the Ghost of Christmas Present tell Scrooge about Tiny Tim? What shameful words does the GOCP bring back to Scrooge’s ears?

*The Ghost of Christmas Present tells Scrooge that Tiny Tim will die if the future is unaltered, bringing back Scrooge’s own words about the poor to shame him: “What then? If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.”*

4. Why does the Ghost of Christmas Present show Scrooge various scenes around the world?

*To demonstrate how others all around the world celebrate Christmas.*

5. Describe the boy and girl who are revealed under the robe of the Ghost of Christmas Present. How does their presence affect Scrooge? How does the Ghost of Christmas Present again use Scrooge's own words against him?

*They are called Ignorance and Want—palpable examples of the misery and need in the world. Scrooge is horrified to see them, especially since they are represented by children (who often suffer because of need). The Ghost of Christmas Present, when asked by Scrooge if they can be helped, roars, “Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?”*

6. Give some more evidence that Scrooge is softening even more.

*Answers will vary, but might include how Scrooge asks the Ghost of Christmas Present to instruct him, asks if the children (Ignorance and Want) can be helped, and asks about Tiny Tim's future.*

### **Week 14, Day 3 – A Christmas Carol – Stave IV**

1. How is the Ghost of Things Yet to Come different in appearance and behavior than the previous two ghosts?

*He is silent, dressed in black, and has his face hidden; his appearance is terrifying.*

2. How does the men's reaction toward their dead colleague mirror Scrooge's behavior at a previous point in *A Christmas Carol*?

*They laugh about his death, not concerned or sorrowful in the least. This mirrors Scrooge's lack of concern when Marley, his business partner, dies.*

3. What does Scrooge ask the Ghost of Things Yet to Come to show him? What does the ghost show him?

*Scrooge asks the spirit to show him someone who feels emotion because of this man's death. The spirit shows Scrooge a family in debt to the man who rejoices at his death, knowing that the creditor who replaces him will not be so harsh. Then the spirit takes Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's house, and everyone is mourning the death of Tiny Tim.*

### **Week 14, Day 3 – A Christmas Carol – Stave V**

1. Describe Scrooge's Christmas Day.

*Scrooge wakes up in his own bed, sobbing, resolving to keep Christmas. He sees the curtains on his bed, and realizes the things he saw were not written in stone, but could be changed. He is giddy, laughing, and happy, and pays a boy to buy the giant turkey for the Cratchits, sending it to them in a cab.*

*Scrooge shaves, gets dressed up, and walks around on Christmas day. He sees the gentleman who asked him for alms earlier, and offers a generous amount to him. He then visits others, and goes to Fred's house.*

2. What happens the next day at Scrooge's office? How is the tale resolved?

*The next day Scrooge arrives early at work, tricks Bob Cratchit into thinking he's angry at his coming in late, and then says he will increase his salary and help his family. Scrooge becomes like a second father to Tiny Tim, and the whole town knows of Scrooge's change. It is said of Scrooge that he “knew how to keep Christmas well.”*

### **Week 16, Day 1 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapters I-II**

1. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's background and current state in life. What do his parents advise? How does Robinson Crusoe react to this?

*He's born in 1632 in York to a good family, has two brothers (one killed in battle, one he doesn't know what became of). He wants to go to sea, but his parents advise against it, saying that a middle-class life is best, because poverty and wealth both bring with them troubles). His father's tearful plea affects RC for a while, but then he ignores him and goes to sea.*

2. How does Robinson Crusoe's decision not bode well even from the start? Describe what he vows, and how the vow turns out.

*A storm overtakes his ship on the very first voyage he goes on, and he vows never to set foot in a ship again if he lives. The ship is rescued, and soon after, he foolishly renounces this vow.*

3. How is Robinson Crusoe linked to both the prodigal son and Jonah?

*He sees himself as the prodigal son, shamefully returning home in disgrace after ignoring his parents' advice, and the father of one of his friends tells him never to board a ship again, saying that the shipwreck was a sign for RC not to go to sea, as the storm was a sign for Jonah.*

4. How does Robinson Crusoe benefit by his trip to Africa? What happens on his next voyage?

*He makes money in trade, and he learns much about sailing from the captain. On his next voyage, he is captured by Muslim pirates and made a slave.*

5. Describe how Robinson Crusoe escapes. What is Xury like? What happens to them when they sail close to an island for water?

*He loads up on supplies and pretends to go out fishing for his master and sails away, throwing overboard one man and threatening to do the same for Xury. Xury is a young man who proves to be a faithful companion to Robinson Crusoe, helping him and showing bravery and loyalty. They hear many frightening roars and animal cries on the island, finally going ashore for water, and they manage to kill a lion and skin it.*

### **Week 16, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter III**

1. Describe Robinson Crusoe's encounters with the islanders.

*He trades with them, and then he shoots a large leopard-like creature, which impresses them, and they give him roots, corn, and water.*

2. How does the Portuguese captain treat him? How does Xury fit in?

*He rescues him, refuses to take any of RC's goods as payment, and buys his ship. He also offers to buy Xury, which RC doesn't want to do, since Xury has been faithful to him, but the captain promises to set Xury free in 10 years.*

3. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's activity in Brazil. What does he come to decide about life in Brazil? What kind of man does he say he lives like?

*He learns about sugar plantations, sends away to London for his money and property, and buys as much land as he can for plantations. He makes a friend named Wells, and he (RC) spends several years planting sugar and tobacco.*

*As for his life in Brazil, he regrets not having taken his father's advice, and he concludes that he could have done just as well in London as he was doing in Brazil, and even better, would be living among his own people. He says he lives "just like a man cast away upon some desolate island." (!)*

4. How does Robinson Crusoe prosper in Brazil? What does he say he should have done in regards to this prosperity?

*He uses his money to buy goods, and sells them, and makes an increase. He also does well with his tobacco, becoming wealthy. He says that he should have been happy and content with this life and not gone to sea again.*

5. Why does Robinson Crusoe set sail again? What is significant about the date he sails? Describe what happens to his ship and lifeboat.

*Some merchants ask Robinson Crusoe to go buy them African slaves, since they “need” them, and they’ll reward him; he agrees to do so. The day he sails is eight years to the day he first set sail, against the counsel of his parents. A storm blows against their ship for 12 days, and breaks up the ship near an island, drowning all those on board except for Robinson Crusoe, who is able to swim to shore.*

6. Give several reasons why Robinson Crusoe’s decision to sail for Africa for slaves is foolish and wrong. (See 1 Timothy 1:8-10 and Hebrews 13:5.)

*He has already experienced storms at sea, he is already very wealthy, and it is plain wrong to make money by selling human beings to others.*

*The Bible says this in 1 Timothy 1:8-10: “But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine....”*

*That is, those that God sees as “lawless and disobedient” include those like Robinson Crusoe, who would have to be classified as one of the “menstealers”—those who engage in the slave trade.*

*Hebrews 13:5 says this: “Let your conversation [character] be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

*Part of the reason Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked on the deserted island is because he desires more wealth, even though he is much wealthier than almost anyone around him.*

### **Week 16, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter IV**

1. Why does Robinson Crusoe return to the ship?

*To get any supplies that he can find to use on the island.*

2. Describe the island.

*It is apparently deserted, there is a hill about a mile from him, he is surrounded by sea, and there are two smaller is-lands about three leagues away. There aren’t any wild animals to be seen except birds and a few hare-like animals, and a wild cat he feeds.*

3. List the items Robinson Crusoe brings from the ship. In what general *order* does he bring them, and why? What does he say to the money, and why?

*In general order: food and drink, a carpenter’s chest, weapons and ammunition, nails, hatchets, and a grindstone, clothes, a hammock and bedding, sails, more food, a razor, scissors, and silverware, and gold and silver. He brings them this way because this is roughly the level of importance for each group. To the money he says, “O drug! What art thou good for?” because in his situation, silver and gold have much less value than the other items he has pulled from the ship.*

4. List his four key concerns for how and where he should set himself up.

*Health and fresh water, shelter from the sun's heat, safety from danger from men or animals, and a view of the sea, so he can see if a ship approaches and signal it.*

5. What spiritual thoughts does Robinson Crusoe have? Why is he thankful?

*He wonders if God has placed him on the island for a reason, and weeps, but is thankful that he survived the shipwreck, when all his other companions perished. He is also thankful he was able to procure so many items from the ship to help him live, especially when one day he should run out of ammunition and not be able to hunt game, or be too old and feeble to.*

6. Give some other details of helpful items not listed before that Robinson Crusoe is able to take from the ship to the island. What things does he lack?

*He also gets from the ship pens and ink, compasses, navigational instruments, and a dog and two cats! He lacks a spade, pickaxe, shovel, needles, pins, and thread.*

7. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's "Evil" vs. "Good" list as he marks one year on the island.

*See book for side-by-side comparison.*

8. What has Robinson Crusoe completed on the island by the end of Chapter IV?

*His tent-house under the rock, a fence and wall to surround it, a door in and out, a place to store his goods, a chair and table, shelves. He also has begun a journal.*

#### **Week 16, Day 4 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter V**

1. What saddens Robinson Crusoe about the fact that all the men left the ship during storm?

*That they would have all lived had they stayed on the ship, and might have been able to fashion the remaining parts of the ship into a vessel they could have sailed off in to find civilization again.*

2. What does Robinson Crusoe do about his powder when he hears thunder and lightning?

*He divides it into different units, so if lightning strikes one part and it explodes, he'll still have more gunpowder left.*

3. How does Robinson Crusoe use the "iron-tree"? What else useful does he make, and what else does he wish he had?

*To make a small shovel, or spade. He also makes a sort of wheelbarrow, but wishes he could make a basket.*

4. How does Robinson Crusoe improve his home? What does he realize after his encounter with the goats?

*He widens it and improves the different areas, or rooms. He adds shelves and nails to hang things on. He realizes he can tame and raise the goats for food, so he won't have to always shoot them, when he eventually runs out of gunpowder.*

5. How does his wall doubly provide security?

*It is a wall, so ipso facto it is a protection from outsiders; also, it hides the house, so anyone coming on shore will not easily realize that it is there.*

6. How does the thrown-away corn affect Robinson Crusoe spiritually?

*It sprouts up, and he attributes its growth, which was very fortunate, to God's providence. He soon forgets, however, and somewhat attributes it simply to good fortune.*

7. Explain the terrible weather's effect on Robinson Crusoe.

*The earthquake and the hurricane rattle his house, terrifies him, and makes him fear for his life, and the loss of all his possessions. He decides to cut a hole in the cave to let water pour through and prevent flooding, and he also decides to move his tent-house away from the cave so it won't fall on top of him and bury him in case of violent weather.*

### **Week 17, Day 1 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapters VI-VII**

1. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's next batch of work on the ship's wreckage.

*He finds that the earthquake has repositioned the ship, which makes it easier for him to approach it, and he secures from it more items, which he takes in.*

2. What is the effect upon the reader in reading about Robinson Crusoe's illness in a journal format? How does Robinson Crusoe's illness affect him spiritually?

*Reading it in a journal format has the effect of showing the reader of Robinson Crusoe's worsening condition. His sickness weakens him terribly, and makes him cry out to God for deliverance. He sees a vision of an angel of death coming to kill him, and it terrifies him. He weeps when he thinks about how unthankful he has been for all his prosperity, how wicked he has been (and how his condition on the desert island could be God's punishment), and how his parents warned him that God would not bless him if he continued to pursue his dreams of adventure at sea.*

3. What important thoughts does Robinson Crusoe have while sitting by the sea?

*Who made the earth and sea, and mankind? It is God, who oversees all things, and sometimes intervenes in the affairs of mankind. He knows Robinson Crusoe is there on the island, and Robinson Crusoe wonders why he is there, but reprimands himself with the thought that God could have let him be killed many times already, but spared him.*

4. Explain his finding of bodily and spiritual cures. How do they affect him?

*He finds tobacco and rum, which he mixes as a pain-relieving medicine, which leads to his sleeping a day and a half, assisting his recovery. He also finds a Bible and reads Psalm 50:15, which he believes is appropriate to his situation, and he kneels and prays for the first time in his life.*

5. How does Robinson Crusoe's Bible reading affect him?

*He is reminded about his sinfulness, and when he reads Acts 5:30-31, he trusts in Jesus Christ and is saved from his sins. He then thinks less about asking God's deliverance from his life on the island than about God's delivering him from his sins.*

6. What does Robinson Crusoe learn on his trip around the island? What decision does he make?

*How it lays out, the bend of the waterways, that there are fruits (grapes, lemons, limes, and so on) growing, and that he might want to move to another part of the island (he says he must have picked the worst area to build his tent-house in).*

*He decides to build a second "house" on the island, but not to move there permanently, as pleasant as the area is, because his present house is more hidden (in case of unfriendly visitors).*

7. How does Robinson Crusoe spend his year anniversary on the island?

*Fasting, praying, and thanking God for his deliverance.*

8. What does Robinson Crusoe learn about planting and the island's seasons? What does he learn to make with his hands, and what does he wish for?



*He experiments with planting grains until he is successful, and he divides the island's seasons into two main ones: rainy and dry. He begins to plan for these seasons, gathering extra food so he doesn't have to go out in the extreme rainy seasons.*

*He learns to make baskets and a tobacco pipe, and he wants vessels to hold liquid in, and a pot to boil things in.*

### **Week 17, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter VIII**

1. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's exploration of the islands, what he gains from the exploration, his impressions, and what he decides.

*For more than a month, he walks, with his dog, approximately 12 miles, observing the other island, which he thinks is more beautiful than his. He wonders where he is, but is thankful he is not on one of the islands that could be inhabited by cannibals. He finds a young parrot, which he captures. As beautiful as the island is, he doesn't want to move, because he considers his tent-house "home." He decides he will explore the island on the other side of his home next.*

*He becomes slightly lost on the way back, and his dog catches a goat, which RC saves alive. He resolves never to take such a long trip again, away from his home. He tames the goat and the parrot, making a cage for the latter.*

2. What does September 30 mark? How does Robinson Crusoe spend the day?

*September 30 marks RC's second full year on the island. He thanks God for his conveniences, his life, God's presence in his life, His grace to his soul, and the hope of eternal life after his earthly life.*

3. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's spiritual journey, and how it has changed his outlook on his life, and his behavior.

*He begins to believe that he is much happier in this life than he was in his former life. He remarks that before his salvation, he would despair at times of his condition, weeping uncontrollably or becoming despondent; but now, he reads God's Word daily, which strengthens and comforts him. He is especially comforted by reading Hebrews 13:5, and realizes that he can be happier on this island than he would be outside it, and thanks God—not for bringing him to the island (which he believes would be hypocritical), but for opening his eyes to his sinful condition.*

4. What are Robinson Crusoe's daily tasks, in order? What is praiseworthy about this order?

*His daily tasks: first, reading the Scriptures; second, hunting for food; third, preparing and preserving the food he killed or caught. This is praiseworthy, because he is only one man on an island trying to live, and he still gives the first part of his day to reading the Scriptures.*

5. List what Robinson Crusoe works on during this time on the island. What character traits are brought to light by these descriptions of his work?

*He spends six weeks cutting down a tree and hewing a board out of it; much of his work is like this—laborious, tedious, and slow. RC plants his grains, but fights hares and birds, who try to eat them, by building a fence and putting his dog to guard the crops. He can't defeat the birds at first (which simply wait for him to leave and keep eating the corn) until he kills three and places them by the corn as scarecrows, which scares off the other bird permanently! He harvests a good crop and resolves to learn how to make bread from the grains, saying he has plenty of time.*

*Robinson Crusoe shows himself to be patient, hardworking, and persistent; each one of these challenges he meets with hard work and tenacity. Of course, he would say that he had no choice, since he had all the time in the world!*

### **Week 17, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter IX**

1. What projects does Robinson Crusoe undertake in this chapter? How do they benefit him?

*He teaches Poll to talk, the first voice not his own he hears on the island. He works for two months to make two large earthen vessels and also makes smaller vessels with more success. But he wants most to make a large pot that will hold liquid and withstand fire, to cook in. He is able to make them after finding a piece of clay hardened by the fire. He also makes a wooden mortar to grind his meal, sieves from old pieces of clothing, and an oven. With these he is able to make bread, cakes, and puddings.*

2. Describe Robinson Crusoe's grain situation. What does he think about escaping? How does he think the ship's wreckage might help?

*His grain production increases, and he determines that 40 bushels are more than enough, so he sets that as his yearly quota. He thinks often of escape, but knows the possible cannibals nearby pose danger. He wishes he had his old companion Xury with him again, and he believes the boat that was shipwrecked could be made to sail again if he can get it to shore and turned over. He tries for several weeks to do this, but fails, and plans to cut down a tree and hollow it out to make a boat.*

3. Describe Robinson Crusoe's work on the canoe. What lesson does he learn from his attempt?

*He works for months on cutting down and hewing out and shaping a cedar tree into a giant canoe. He doesn't plan, however, how he is going to get the boat up to the water, which is uphill from where the canoe is; in addition, the boat is monstrously heavy. He fails to move the boat by digging a slope and by trying to lengthen the creek to extend to where the boat is. He learns the lesson of "counting the cost" before determining accurately our strength and ability to complete a work.*

4. Describe Robinson Crusoe's fourth year service and the reflections he has on himself, on his world, and on God.

*He finishes his fourth year, holding another memorial service. He has greatly increased his learning through his Bible reading, and he looks even more at his life completely differently. He is "removed from all the wickedness of the world" on the island, and has everything he needs. He says, whatever we may heap up to give others, we enjoy just as much as we can use, and no more."*

*He becomes quite thankful for what he has, and less concerned about what he doesn't have. He also is thankful for God's providence in allowing him to retrieve so many useful items from the ship; sometimes he entertains himself by imagining in detail what it would have been like to have nothing from the ship! He tells the reader to never ask, "Who has it as bad as I do"? but rather, to think of others who are worse off. In this he says, "All our discontents about what we want appeared to me to spring from the want of thankfulness for what we have." He relates that any spiritual inclination that his parents had instilled in him was "laughed out of" him by his shipmates. He thinks about how advantageous a position he has been put into—an island with everything he needs, and without any sign as yet of dangers from wild beasts or cannibals—and thanks God. He notes that certain calendar days in his life have shared momentous events.*

5. What needs does Robinson Crusoe face because of depletion and wear? How does he solve this? How does he comfort himself when he thinks of his situation?

*His ink, bread, and clothes begin to deplete and to wear out, and he successfully turns furs he has saved into clothes and a hat and an umbrella for himself, and these keep him out of the sun and dry as well. He resigns himself to God's will, sometimes missing human conversation, but comforting himself in the fact that he converses with his own thoughts, and with God.*

### **Week 17, Day 4 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter X**

1. Sum up Robinson Crusoe's second canoe and journey.

*He builds a second canoe, complete with mast and sail, and brings it half a mile to the creek and fills it with supplies so he can sail around the islands. He is caught in a current and dragged out to sea, and he repents at being (in his mind) unthankful for his life on the island, thinking he will never see it again. Another eddy carries him toward shore, and he works until he is exhausted, reaching the shore and falling to his knees to thank God for delivering him again.*

2. Explain what Robinson Crusoe means when he says this (while struggling to reach land again): “Thus, we never see the true state of our condition till it is illustrated to us by its contraries, nor know how to value what we enjoy, but by the want of it.”

*In his case, he is reproaching himself for leaving his home on the island to look for “greener pastures,” when he is almost lost at sea as a result. We don’t understand how good we have it, and all the blessings we have, until we go without them; and we don’t appreciate the blessings we have until we go without them.*

3. Describe Robinson Crusoe’s second journey and his shock when he returns home. What does he spend the next year working on?

*Robinson Crusoe sails to the island, not too near his original home, because he is concerned about the currents. He is shocked to hear his name called out several times, before he realizes it is Poll. He decides not to use his boat because of the dangers of sailing it, and lives peacefully for another year, improving his skill in carpentry and basket-making, and even making a tobacco pipe.*

4. What major concern for the future does Robinson Crusoe have? How does he solve this looming problem? What unexpected blessings does this provide?

*He is concerned that he is running out of gunpowder, and makes traps to catch goats for food. He builds an enclosure to keep the tame ones from running away or mingling with the wild ones, and within a few years he has more than 40 goats, and then builds five enclosures, with gates from one to the other. This provides him with meat, milk, butter, and cheese. He praises God for being so merciful to him and providing him with so much, even on a deserted island.*

### **Week 18, Day 1 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapters XI-XII**

1. What sights does Robinson Crusoe say would make anyone laugh to see?

*The sight of his “family” sitting around the dinner table, and the sight of him wearing his apparently ridiculous-looking goat skin clothes, hat, and umbrella, along with his odd-looking whiskers.*

2. What does he do about his boat situation? Explain how he strengthens his food situation.

*By observing the tides, he believes he could take his boat out again without danger to the other side of the island, but is terrified at the prospect, so he decides to make another boat for that side.*

*He has two main fortresses—one at the cave, well-hidden and stocked with supplies. His other home, which he calls his “country habitation,” is also comfortable and hidden. He takes special pains to strengthen the fences around his goats, so they are securely kept in their pens, and his grapes, which provide him with raisins, his favorite food on the island.*

3. What sight terrifies Robinson Crusoe? What thoughts frighten him? How is he comforted at first?

*When he sees a footprint, he is terrified at first that it might be the devil, then a native. This frightens him because he thinks that if there is one, there are more, and they are capable of both taking all his food and of killing him as well. He thinks it strange that for so long he longed for the sight of another human, and now that one might be near, he is terrified and upset. He resolves to put himself in God’s hands and is comforted by reading the Bible, where he encounters encouraging passages. He also thinks that the footprints might have been an illusion, or even his own footprints.*

4. What does he decide about the sight when he sees it again? List the steps he takes to protect himself.

*He sees the footprint again and realizes it can’t be his, because it is in a different spot where he got out of his boat, and it is considerably larger than his. This terrifies him, and he resolves to tear down some of his enclosures and corn fields so no one will realize a human lives here and therefore won’t look for him. Later he thinks calmly, reasoning that although there are other humans who might live somewhat nearby, it is very unlikely that anyone will ever come back. He fortifies his*

home, however, with an outer wall with holes in which to stick guns pointing out, which takes several months, and a thick grove of trees, which further covers his home over the next few years.

5. What does Robinson Crusoe decide to do about his goats? What new, terrifying sight does he encounter, and what does he do about it? Explain the conflict he has as to what to do.

*He decides to save his goat from possible invaders by either digging a hidden cave underground, or by hiding them in several places, so if one place is discovered, he would still have more to breed. He finds that his prayers are more terrified in nature than calm and thankful as they have been.*

*While spreading out his goats, he thinks he sees a boat, and comes upon a pile of human bones in a fire pit. He is terrified for a while, but the terror lessens, although he is more careful when he emerges from his homes. He thinks about killing the cannibals with guns, or by placing gunpowder under their fire so it will blow up, and saving their victims. After thinking about it, though, he believes it would be wrong to simply murder them, as their killing isn't much different than "Christians" who kill captives in war, and that this behavior would be as bad as the Spanish conquistadors, who wantonly murdered natives in their lust for gold and attempts to spread Roman Catholicism. He decides not to interfere, partly because he decides it isn't his business, and partly because he believes if he doesn't kill all the cannibals, they will sail off and come back in greater numbers against him.*

6. How do Robinson Crusoe's plans change? What does he encounter that assists him?

*He decides to stop hunting the cannibals, and he hides his boat so they won't see it, along with anything else that will give away his presence on the island. He stops hammering nails, chopping wood, and firing a gun (which could be heard); he also stops making fires outside, so the smoke won't be seen. While exploring a cave, he sees glittering eyes, which turn out to belong to a dying he-goat, and he encounters beautiful sparkling rocks and glitter inside the cave. He moves some of his arms and ammunition there, and decides to hide there if he sees cannibals, because the cave is extremely well hidden, and dangerous for anyone to try to attack anyone in it, even if he knew he was there.*

### **Week 18, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XIII**

1. How long has Robinson Crusoe been on the island? How would you describe his life?

*He has been on the island 23 years, and he keeps many animal companions around himself, and aside from the fear of cannibals, leads a contented life.*

2. Explain this remark by Robinson Crusoe: "How frequently, in the course of our lives, the evil which in itself we seek most to shun, and which, when we are fallen into, is the most dreadful to us, is oftentimes the very means or door of our deliverance, by which alone we can be raised again from the affliction we are fallen into."

*It is a little cryptic at this point, but it means, essentially, that a thing that we are afraid will destroy us can often be the way that we are helped out of our troubles.*

3. What does Robinson Crusoe see one day? What repulsive sight does he then encounter? What does he do in response to this?

*He sees a fire and a number of cannibals around it, as well as the blood and bones of their victims. He takes his guns and ammunition and watches while they leave, and he spends 15 months waiting for them to return, thankful he hid evidence of his being on the island and tamed goats, so he didn't have to shoot them and draw the notice of the cannibals with the sound of gunfire.*

4. What does he hear one day, and how does he respond? Explain his wish on having heard the sound.

*One day he hears a ship's cannon fire offshore and keeps a fire going all night to attract their attention. He wonders what is going on when the ship doesn't come to shore, fearing that they cannot reach it, or possibly that all those onboard were*

drowned, and longs more greatly than ever in his life for human companionship, wishing that if only one person were saved, he would be happy. He never knows what became of all those on board except for a boy, whose body he finds on shore.

5. What does he find upon sailing out to inspect?

*He sails out to the ship to see if there are any still on board or any supplies he can use, and finds a Spanish ship stuck between two great rocks. He finds a dog and two dead seamen; and on board the ship he finds treasure chests, guns, gunpowder, pots and kettles, candy, shirts, handkerchiefs, gold, and shoes.*

### **Week 18, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XIV**

1. List several thoughts that preoccupy Robinson Crusoe’s mind. What troubles him? What does he purpose to do?

*He thinks constantly about escape, imagining what he could have done with his plantations in Brazil had he stayed there when he had the chance. He also thinks about how much he has changed since the appearance of footprints, and he is thankful that God spares humans much worry about diverse topics by making them unaware of them.*

*But he still is deeply concerned about the possibility of running into cannibals unexpectedly on the island. He wonders what would happen if he tried to escape, balancing the possibility of being rescued by civilized men against the possibility of being caught by cannibals. While thinking these troubled thoughts, he falls into a deep sleep and dreams of rescuing a man from cannibals, who then directs him of how to sail to safe lands. He is troubled with the thought of fighting with and killing other humans, even cannibals, but at last determines he will try to rescue the cannibals’ next victim for this purpose.*

2. Describe the scene a year and a half later.

*A year and a half later Robinson Crusoe gets his chance to save a victim of cannibals when 30 cannibals come to the island, start a fire, and kill a man to eat. Another victim escapes and runs toward Robinson Crusoe’s home, pursued by several of the cannibals, two of whom Robinson Crusoe and his rescued friend kill. He is pleased to hear the man talk to him, although he doesn’t understand his words, because these are the first human words he has heard in 25 years!*

3. Describe Friday.

*Friday is about 26, tall, and in good physical condition. He offers himself as a servant to Robinson Crusoe, who teaches him his language and gives him clothes, and a name, “Friday,” since that was the day he found the islander. He lets Friday they will not eat the cannibals that they killed, as Friday tries to do. They bury the remains of the victims.*

4. What precautions does Robinson Crusoe take at first? Why does he soon drop them?

*He takes precautions at first to protect himself at night while he sleeps, not knowing Friday’s nature, but finds him completely loyal and harmless.*

5. Explain Robinson Crusoe’s thoughts about Friday, in comparison to millions of others in “Christian” nations. What things is he able to teach him?

*He ponders how friendly and trustworthy Friday is, and compares him to the millions who ought to match his character, having the Word of God and more complete knowledge of Him. He teaches Friday all he can about being useful and the language, and thinks that he could hardly be happier in his present condition.*

### **Week 18, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XV**

1. Describe what Robinson Crusoe teaches Friday. What happens when he shows Friday what his gun can do?

*He teaches Friday to eat other animals, to get him weaned from cannibalism, and lets him see him shoot other animals dead. Friday is so frightened that he cowers, not understanding what has happened, and tries to speak to the gun to ask it not to kill him too! Friday eventually tells Robinson Crusoe he will no longer eat the flesh of man.*

2. What makes this year the “pleasantest year” of all for Robinson Crusoe?

*The companionship of Friday, the help with the workload, the love he develops for Friday, partly because of Friday’s pleasant personality.*

3. What does Friday tell about his past? What does Robinson Crusoe ask him?

*He tells Robinson Crusoe his history of living in tribes, his capture, and details about geography that he (Robinson Crusoe) is interested in. He also tells of the Spanish conquistadors’ brutalities, and when Robinson Crusoe asks Friday if they could sail to the white men, Friday tells him they can, in a boat as big as two canoes.*

4. What does Robinson Crusoe learn about Friday’s notions of God? How does Robinson Crusoe instruct him? What comment about “priestcraft” does he make? (Compare this to 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 Peter 2:9, and Hebrews 8.) How does Friday’s conversion help Robinson Crusoe?

*Friday has primitive notions of God, so Robinson Crusoe instructs him in the knowledge of the true God. From Friday’s comments, Robinson Crusoe realizes that even in pagan religions, there is a “priestcraft” class that pretends to have special access to God. The Bible says, however, that there is only one mediator between man and God—Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5-6), that Christ is our only priest (Hebrews 8), and that Christians are referred to as a “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). Robinson Crusoe is thrilled and thankful to be able to instruct Friday on the true God. Friday’s conversion to Christianity helps Robinson Crusoe, because in reading the Bible to him, he gains more knowledge for himself than he would have otherwise.*

5. Robinson Crusoe remarks with wonder at how plain the gospel is. How does the Bible confirm this?

*Answers will vary. Students might reference Mark 10:13-15, John 3:14-18, Acts 8:36-37, Acts 10:42-43, Acts 16:27-31, Romans 4:3-5, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, and 2 Timothy 3:14-15.*

6. What else does Robinson Crusoe teach Friday? What exciting information does he learn from Friday about his homeland?

*He teaches Friday how to shoot and gives him a hatchet to use. After telling him about England, he realizes through Friday’s words that he must have seen an English ship driven to his shore, which had 17 Englishmen on it, whom Friday says are still dwelling on one of the islands; this greatly excites Robinson Crusoe. He further finds out that the cannibals allow them to live there and do not attack them, because of a kind of truce.*

7. Why is Friday overjoyed one day? How does Robinson Crusoe react? What plans do they make?

*When Friday sees his own island, he is overjoyed and wants to go, which makes Robinson Crusoe a little jealous and fearful that Friday might revert to his savage ways; these fears are unfounded, however. Robinson Crusoe asks Friday if he would like to return to his native land, and Friday says he would, and would not revert to cannibalism or his old ways. He invites Robinson Crusoe to go with him and says his people would be kind to him, since he saved Friday, and his people were already tolerant of the other 17 white men there.*

### **Week 19, Day 1 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapters XVI-XVII**

1. Sum up the discussion between Robinson Crusoe and Friday regarding sailing to Friday’s home. How do they prepare to do so?

*They talk about sailing to Friday’s tribe, and Friday is upset at his telling him he will leave him with his people. He tells Robinson Crusoe that that he wants to stay with him and not return to his tribe forever, and that Robinson Crusoe can help*

tell his tribe about Jesus like he did to Friday. Over the several months, they cut down a large tree (nearer the shore this time), make a boat and sails, and get it down to the water. He ends his 27th year with the same ceremony, thanking God and praying for deliverance, although still working on his food supply.

2. Describe the danger Friday encounters, and what ensues.

*While preparing provisions for the trip, Friday runs back to Robinson Crusoe and announces there are several canoes approaching, which turn out to be 21 cannibals and three victims. At first Robinson Crusoe is filled with anger and determined to kill all the cannibals, but then he realizes he doesn't have the right to wantonly kill them all, being judge, jury, and executioner, before God. He sees that one of the victims is a European, though, and he and Friday begin shooting the cannibals, killing and wounding 17 out of the 21, and the remaining four sail away. Robinson Crusoe frees the prisoner (a Spaniard), who tells him in Latin, "Christianus" (Christian), and gives him water and bread.*

3. What surprise does Friday discover? Why is it especially meaningful?

*While taking another canoe to pursue the escaped cannibals, they find Friday's father bound at the bottom.*

4. What do Robinson Crusoe and Friday do for the victims of the cannibals? What does Robinson Crusoe send Friday to do at the scene of the battle?

*He and Friday tend to the needs of the Spaniard and Friday's father and bring to their home, but can't get them over the wall, since they can't walk yet, and make them a crude shelter. (Robinson Crusoe is delighted that his island is "peopled" with his "subjects"—of three different religions!) Friday returns to the battle scene to collect the arms, bury the dead cannibals, and burn the remains of their victim.*

5. What do they find out about the possibility of being attacked again?

*They learn from Friday's father that the cannibals would never return to the island (they escape the storm, it is learned later) because they believed that the island was enchanted and that Robinson Crusoe and Friday were spirits who killed them with lightning from the sky.*

6. What does Robinson Crusoe find out from the Spaniard? What vow does he extract from him?

*He finds out from the Spaniard that there are 16 more Europeans marooned, and he offers to help them, after receiving a solemn vow from the Spaniard that they will not enslave or kill him, as so many have been by the Roman Catholic Church during the Inquisition (where non-Catholics were imprisoned, tortured, and killed for not adhering to the beliefs of the Roman church).*

7. What sensible idea does the Spaniard have? How do they make this happen? Where does Robinson Crusoe send him, and with what instructions?

*The Spaniard says they should wait to rescue the other 16 men until they have planted and reaped much more grain, enough to feed everyone, so there won't be any disagreements or hardships when they are all together. They do so, and since there are four on the island, their fear of the cannibals disappears, and they freely travel the island. They work on building boats, increasing the goat herd, and harvesting grapes. He sends the Spaniard to sail off to get the 16 men, instructing him to bring only those who swear allegiance to him (Robinson Crusoe) by oath and by signing a statement.*

8. What news does Friday bring? Why is Robinson Crusoe cautious?

*Friday runs to Robinson Crusoe, saying, "They are come!" He is wary of why an English ship would be in this part of the world, and his hunch is correct, because they turn out to be mutineers, with their captain as prisoner. The prisoners look despondent, but as Robinson Crusoe, notes, they don't realize how close to deliverance they are, just as he didn't realize God would provide for him when he first landed on the island by moving the shipwreck closer so he could obtain supplies from it. He prepares for battle, remarking that he made a formidable presence, with his goat-skin clothes and heavy arms.*

9. What do the prisoners think of Robinson Crusoe at first? Describe what he does for them, and what he finds out from them, and how they respond.

*When he approaches the prisoners, at first they think he is an angel, and he finds they are a captain and two faithful seamen, tied up by the mutineers. He takes them to his home secretly, and gives two conditions to the captain for his help: first, the captain will cede all authority to Robinson Crusoe, both on the island and on the ship; second, the captain will take him and Friday to England for free. They overcome and kill the mutineers, who pledge their loyalty in exchange for their lives.*

10. Describe the conversation Robinson Crusoe has with the captain. What do they plan?

*When he tells the captain his story, the captain weeps, believing God sent Robinson Crusoe there to also preserve his (the captain's) life. The captain tells him there are still 26 more mutineers on board, hardened in the knowledge that if they fail, they will be taken to England and hanged, so they must be careful. They empty the mutineers' boat and sink it, and prepare to battle them.*

### **Week 19, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XVIII**

1. How do Robinson Crusoe and his men capture the mutineers?

*The ship fires a gun as a signal to the mutineers on the island; receiving no reply, they come to shore. The captain says that most of the men were coerced into becoming mutineers, and that the boatswain is the ringleader. Several mutineers come ashore, discover the stripped and ruined boat, can find no one, and return to the ship. Seven come ashore again later, leaving three on their boat to get away if they are attacked, which would be no help to Robinson Crusoe, since the mutineers would get to the ship first and sail away. Robinson Crusoe has Friday and one seaman shout for the mutineers, moving closer inward, and drawing them farther from the boat. Robinson Crusoe and the captain first capture the men remaining on the boat, and then the other mutineers.*

2. What is ironic and humorous about the men calling Robinson Crusoe “governor”? How do he and his men overcome the ship?

*The captain and Robinson Crusoe's mates call him “governor” and other high-titled names, and he is at first reluctant to appear, knowing how ridiculous he looks in his goat-skin clothes! He and the captain make plans to overcome the ship, using some of the mutineers who promise to help if their lives are spared by “the governor,” and this plan works.*

3. How does Robinson Crusoe react when he realizes he can now sail away? Describe the ship captain's generosity, and which gift is most precious.

*When he sees the ship ready to sail with him, he is so overwhelmed he is unable to speak, and almost faints, then weeps with joy and thanks God for his deliverance. The captain gives him many gifts, the most precious of which is clothes to wear.*

4. Sum up the deal Robinson Crusoe offers the mutineers. How does he generously help them?

*He offers the mutineers their lives only if they agree to stay on the island; otherwise they will be taken to England or an English colony and hanged for treason. They accept, and he shows them his setup on the island, warning them that they would be hanged otherwise (he hangs the chief mutineer).*

### **Week 19, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XIX**

1. Describe the ship's sailing, and what Robinson Crusoe takes with him.

*The ship sets sail, along with two mutineers who swim up to the ship and say they would rather be hanged than stay with the others on the island; they are whipped and allowed to stay after they solemnly vow to be faithful. Robinson Crusoe takes with him his goat-skin cap and umbrella, his parrot, and his gold and silver. He has been on the island 28 years.*



2. What does Robinson Crusoe find in England and Lisbon?

*He comes to England as a stranger, having been gone 35 years. His steward has endured hard times and become a widow twice, but he forgives her. He finds his parents dead, but finds two of his sisters and two of his brother's children alive. Since he has been long given up for dead, he was not included in his father's will, and he doesn't have enough money to sustain him; but the captain of the ship he rescued arranges for a present of 200 pounds.*

*He sails to Lisbon to see how his plantations in Brazil are doing, and he finds the captain of the ship that first took him to Africa. He learns that his estate has been given one-third to the king and two-thirds to charity, and that he can still claim his one-third. His friend gives an account and pays him, even though he needs the money, and Robinson Crusoe is so moved that he gives most of it back to him.*

3. What does he find out regarding his plantations?

*He finds out from his partner that he is a wealthy man, and receives huge payments of his due, and remarks that, like Job, he was better off than he was before. He is so shocked at the news of his wealth that he grows sick, and believes he would have died had not a physician "bled" him. He rewards his old captain friend, but doesn't know what to do with all his wealth—how to get it back to England with him. He sends money to his widow steward and his sisters, but doesn't know to whom he should place in charge of his property.*

4. Explain how he prepares to return to England. Why does he hesitate several times? How does this hesitation benefit him?

*He wants to live the rest of his life in the Brazils, but is concerned about the Roman Catholic influence and whether they will persecute him, although what to do with his money is his main concern. To prepare for going to England, he gives part of his money to the Brazilian monastery and the poor, and he writes his partner, saying he will soon come there to live. He hesitates about sailing to England, and cancels his reservations several times, finding out later that two ships never made it. He decides to travel by land as much as possible to England instead, getting traveling companions, along with Friday.*

5. What happens on his land travels?

*Traveling through Spain, they hear reports that there is so much snow that travelers are having to turn back. The weather is bitterly cold, and there is so much snow that avalanches are a constant danger. Friday suffers inordinately, since he is not used to this type of weather. They run into four Frenchmen, who tell them the snow is not so bad on the other side, so they change course, led by a guide who warns them to arm themselves against wolves. On the journey, wolves and a bear attack the group, and Friday shoots and kills a wolf that attacks the guide, and the group hears many more wolves howl around them.*

### **Week 19, Day 4 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XX**

1. Describe Friday's encounter with the bear and the group's battle with wolves.

*Friday taunts a bear in the woods, getting it to chase him up a tree (while the group looks on and is amused), and finally shoots it. The group continues, with the injured guide, and encounters several wolves, including one group which is eating a horse. They hear another group and see about 100 wolves coming at them. They fire upon them and shout at them, and the wolves turn and run. Later they are surrounded by them on three sides. They come upon a dead horse and two dead men eaten by wolves, and then find themselves surrounded by about 300 wolves. They set up behind felled trees and fire upon the creatures, and set off gunpowder, which kills many wolves and sends the rest into retreat.*

2. What do the locals tell the traveling group about the wolves?

*After leaving their injured guide, they press on, with the weather warm and without wolves, and the people they run into express surprise that a guide would lead them through such treacherous terrain, saying that the danger of wolves is well known in that area. They also inform the group that they should have stayed on their horses, which would have kept the wolves away, since they would not have seen the horses as prey belonging to them.*

3. Sum up the story's conclusion.

*Robinson Crusoe reaches England, settles his estates, and thinks about going back to "his" island to see how events are going, especially whether the Spaniards made it. He marries and has two sons and a daughter, but his wife dies. He then travels by sea to the West Indies and visits "his" island. He learns, among other facts, that the Spaniards arrived, the mutineers did not get along with them, and the Spaniards were forced to rule them (benignly). Robinson Crusoe leaves more supplies with them, and even finds women for wives for the men on the island! Later the islanders fight off 300 natives. Robinson Crusoe ends the book by saying that he has more "surprising incidents" to tell of, which he will narrate in a second book.*

### Week 23, Day 1 – Julius Caesar – Act I, Scene I

1. How do the tribunes and commoners differently view Julius Caesar’s return?

*Patricians Flavius and Marullus, who revere the traditional Roman Republic believe Julius Caesar is gaining too much power; in contrast, many of the plebeians (commoners) seem to support him.*

2. What else happens to suggest the groups are discordant?

*The workmen are not wearing their “proper work clothes”; there is language confusion and misunderstanding (some intentional) between Marullus and Flavius and the laborers.*

3. Why does Marullus rebuke the workmen, and what does this say about the character of “mobs”?

*They rejoiced when Pompey came into the city before; now they rejoice for Julius Caesar, who was responsible for Pompey’s murder. Shakespeare appears to be commenting on how a crowd’s opinion is often formed by whoever is talking at the moment.*

4. What is the double meaning of the cobbler’s words when he says he is a “mender of bad soles”?

*He’s making a pun on souls/soles. He’s “mending” men’s souls—making them feel better—by leading the cheers for Julius Caesar, a leader they believe will serve their interests.*

5. How does Flavius plan to “pluck feathers from Caesar’s wing”?

*He plans to drive away the mobs (“feathers”) who blindly cheer for Caesar and help him “fly.”*

### Week 23, Day 2 – Julius Caesar – Act I, Scene II

1. How does Caesar react to the warning of the soothsayer?

*He refuses to listen and doesn’t even bother to ask **what** he should beware.*

2. Cassius says he has heard many Romans wish that “noble Brutus had his eyes.” What does he mean?

*He wishes Brutus could see his own greatness, as others like Cassius see in him.*

3. What kind of man is Brutus? What does Cassius notice about him? What does Brutus say when Cassius points this out?

*Quiet, thoughtful, seems to be interested in the good of his country. Brutus is troubled. He is conflicted because he loves Caesar, but is afraid he is becoming too powerful. (He says, “Vexed I am of late with passions of some difference.”)*

4. Why does Brutus fear the shouts of the people? What does Cassius think of the idea that Caesar is godlike?

*They are extolling Caesar as a god, but Cassius sneers at the idea. (He had to save Caesar from drowning and has seen him sick and weak.)*

5. What does Caesar think about Cassius, and how does this contrast with the “fat, sleek-headed men” he keeps around him?

*Cassius “thinks too much; such men are dangerous.” Caesar keeps a bunch of lazy “yes-men” around him.*

6. How does Caesar view himself? What is ironic about his telling Antony to come around to his good ear so he can hear Antony?

*He views himself as godlike and invincible, but can't hear out of one ear, so he's obviously a mortal man with weaknesses like any other.*

7. Why do the Roman people shout three times? How does Caesar's manner change each time he refuses the crown?

*He hesitates more each time, as if it were more difficult to refuse. They're encouraging Caesar to accept the crown as king that Antony offers him.*

8. Why does Caesar "fall down"? What does Cassius mean when he says, "we have the falling sickness"?

*Caesar apparently suffers from epilepsy. Cassius's meaning is that those who allow themselves to be ruled by men like Caesar are as weak as he is.*

9. What kind of character is Casca?

*Witty, moody, cynical. Cassius calls Casca's rudeness a "sauce to his good wit."*

10. What do Brutus and Cassius plan?

*They will meet to discuss what they should do about Caesar.*

### **Week 23, Day 2 – Julius Caesar – Act I, Scene III**

1. Describe the conversation between Cicero and Casca, the omens, weather, etc.

*They discuss the omens. Cicero doesn't see any big deal; Casca is troubled. He sees: (a) a burning hand of a slave, (b) a lion in the street, (c) "ghastly women" afraid who say they saw men in fire walking, and (d) an owl at noon. Cassius says the heavens give these signs to point to ominous events ahead.*

2. Cassius compares Julius Caesar to what animal? Why?

*A wolf among sheep, because he believes Julius Caesar is dominating and dangerous to them.*

3. What does Cassius mean when he says, "Our fathers' minds are dead"?

*Romans are becoming weak like women, allowing tyrants like Caesar to rule them.*

4. Why does the conspiracy so desperately want Brutus?

*He lends credibility to their group because he is well known, noble, and sincerely desires the best for Rome.*

### **Week 23, Day 3 – Julius Caesar – Act II, Scene I**

1. Describe the struggle in Brutus's mind. What does Brutus think will happen if Julius Caesar is crowned? How does this analogy compare to Genesis 3?

*He has nothing against Julius Caesar personally (he is his friend!), but tries to think of the good of Rome above his personal feelings. Brutus believes that Julius Caesar will be given a "sting" like a serpent and be dangerous. He wants to kill Julius Caesar before this happens, or "kill him in his (egg) shell." Brutus thinks he's being a faithful Adam who crushes the serpent instead of falling to him. He thinks himself a new Adam, but acts like the old Adam.*

2. How does Brutus want to hide the intentions of the conspiracy? Why doesn't he want the conspirators to swear an oath?

*Brutus wants to hide the conspirators' intentions "in smiles and affability." He doesn't want them to swear an oath because he believes that their goal is serious and good enough without one.*

3. Describe the two contrasting views of Cassius and Brutus over whether to kill Marc Antony with Julius Caesar.

*Cassius: Marc Antony is too dangerous and too good a friend of Julius Caesar's to let live, and we shouldn't let him live longer than Julius Caesar.*

*Brutus: We'll look like butchers instead of sacrificers; Antony is only Julius Caesar's arm, which is no good without the head!*

4. What is funny about Decius's remark about flattering Julius Caesar?

*He tells Caesar that he hates flatterers. Caesar then says he is right and is flattered!*

5. Summarize Brutus's and Portia's conversation.

*Portia notices Brutus is troubled, asks him to tell her what's wrong, says she's his friend and confidant, and so on.*

6. Look up the phrase "crossing the Rubicon" and write a brief explanation of what it means.

*Brutus is worried that Julius Caesar will attempt to take control as a dictator for life because he was allowed to defy the Senate and cross the Rubicon River and start the Gallic Wars. The phrase "crossing the Rubicon" means that someone has taken a step that is practically irreversible and likely will lead to trouble for himself, others, or both.*

### **Week 24, Day 1 – Julius Caesar – Act II, Scene II**

1. Why does Calpurnia want Caesar to stay home?

*She has seen strange signs and had dreams that she believes point to his death. She cries out three times, "Help, ho! They murder Caesar!"*

2. How does the augurers' interpretation of the "beast without a heart" differ from Caesar's interpretation?

*They believe it a warning for Caesar to stay home; Caesar believes the gods are telling him to go on or he will be just like a beast without a heart.*

3. List several ways in which Caesar shows his arrogance.

*He talks about himself in the third person (☺); claims that things that threaten him cower in fear when they see his face; claims he is more dangerous than danger itself; tells Decius that he doesn't need to explain why he doesn't want to come to the Senate, because they should just accept that as his will, and so on.*

4. Interpret this saying of Caesar: "Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once."

*They are afraid all the time of death and let that fill their lives with fear, but the brave know that death is coming and if it happens, it happens.*

5. What does Decius say to Julius Caesar to save the conspirators' plans?

*He convinces Caesar to come to the Senate. He reinterprets Caesar's dream and shames Caesar by saying he can't tell the Senate that Caesar is staying home because his wife had a bad dream.*

### Week 24, Day 2 – Julius Caesar – Act II, Scenes III-IV

1. Who does Artemidorus write to Julius Caesar? Explain the meaning of his words “My heart laments that virtue cannot live out of the teeth of emulation.”

*Artemidorus is warning Julius Caesar about the conspirators. The saying “My heart laments that virtue cannot live out of the teeth of emulation” means that in the view of Artemidorus, honorable men like Julius Caesar can’t live beyond the reach of jealous opponents.*

2. How can we tell that Portia is flustered in this scene? What does she want her servant boy to do?

*She sends the errand boy to the Senate, but keeps forgetting to tell him what to do. She wants him to check to see what is happening at the Senate.*

3. What is ironic about Portia’s plea, “O Brutus, the heavens speed thee in thine enterprise”?

*She doesn’t realize what Brutus is planning to do.*

### Week 24, Day 3 – Julius Caesar – Act III, Scene I

1. How does Caesar’s arrogance at the beginning of this act cost him? Describe the way Caesar compares himself to “the northern star.”

*Julius Caesar refuses to take the letter from Artemidorus, which warns him of the danger he’s in. He (Julius Caesar) compares himself to the “northern star”—to suggest that he is immovable and practically infallible—when Metullus, Cassius, and Brutus all ask him to reconsider banishing the brother of Metullus. He also compares himself to those on Mount Olympus (the Roman “gods” home). Obviously, his arrogance costs him; the conspirators are even more happy to assassinate him.*

2. Why do you think Caesar says, “Et tu, Brute?”? (Look up the Latin phrase.)

*He is surprised to see Brutus acting as one of the conspirators, since he thought Brutus was his friend and would not take part in such an act. “Et tu, Brute?” means “And you, Brutus?”*

3. How do the conspirators react after their deed is done? Do you think bathing their hands the way they do is a smart move? What somewhat humorous remark does Cassius make as the conspirators bathe their hands in the blood?

*They run around joyously and proclaim that tyranny is dead, freedom has come to Rome, and they bathe their hands in Julius Caesar’s blood. Opinions will vary whether bathing their hands is smart, but many will say that it makes them look gory and bloodthirsty—almost eager to kill Julius Caesar—instead of simply assassinating him with no more thought than for the good of Rome.*

*As the conspirators bathe their hands, Cassius remarks, “How many ages hence Shall this our lofty scene be acted o’er In States unborn and accents yet unknown!” By having Cassius wonder if future generations will act out the scene of the conspirators murdering Julius Caesar and bathing their hands, Shakespeare makes a joking reference to the fact that the play Julius Caesar does just that!*

4. What does Antony’s servant ask of Brutus after the murder of Caesar? How do Brutus and Cassius still differ on their opinion of Antony? How does Brutus explain the conspirators’ murder of Julius Caesar to Antony?

*He asks Brutus if the conspirators mean to kill Antony as well, to which Brutus says they does not. Brutus still believes Antony will not be any danger to them if they let him live (saying they can have him “well to friend”), and Cassius is sure that they should kill Antony as well. Brutus tells Antony that the conspirators only had the best of intentions in murdering Julius Caesar.*

5. Why is Cassius concerned about Brutus's allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral? What restrictions does Brutus place on Antony in speaking?

*Cassius is concerned because he believes Marc Antony will stir up the crowd against the conspirators. Brutus says he will allow Antony to address the crowd, but only after he speaks, and with the stipulation that Antony will not criticize the conspirators.*

6. Summarize Antony's *soliloquy* (Look up the term!) to Caesar's body. What does he compare Caesar's wounds to?

*A soliloquy is a speech made by a single person either to himself or unable to be heard by anyone else (meant in part to show the speaker's feelings toward the audience of a play). It is a touching speech to the dead Julius Caesar, as well as an angry harangue. Antony bewails the death of Julius Caesar and promises revenge upon the conspirators. He compares Julius Caesar's wounds to open mouths that cry out without making a sound.*

### **Week 24, Day 4 – Julius Caesar – Act III, Scene II**

1. What argument does Brutus make before the crowd?

*He argues that it was necessary for Julius Caesar to be killed before he enslaved Rome because he was "ambitious." He says that Julius Caesar was his friend, but he had to kill him for the good of Rome; the famous phrase Brutus uses is "Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more."*

2. Does he prove that Caesar was ambitious? How does the crowd receive him?

*Answers will vary, but Julius Caesar did, after all, refuse the crown three times; of course, on the other hand, he did come to power illegally, by defying the Senate and crossing the Rubicon. The crowd receives Brutus well, shouting that they agree with him that Julius Caesar was too ambitious.*

3. Summarize Antony's speech to the crowd. What phrase describing the conspirators does he repeat?

*He technically does not criticize the conspirators, as Brutus has forbidden him to do. But to the crowd he slickly presents their murder of Julius Caesar as completely dishonorable, saying ironically several times, "They were honorable men" right after he recounts one dishonorable deed after another. He argues that Julius Caesar was not really ambitious, having seen him weep at the plight of some of his fellow Romans.*

4. How does Julius Caesar's will play into this scene? How does the crowd react?

*Marc Antony reads Julius Caesar's will to the crowd, which reveals that Julius Caesar has left parks and walks and money to the Roman citizens. This inflames the crowd against the conspirators, although Marc Antony pretends he doesn't want to read the will and rile up the citizens (which is, of course, exactly what he does want to do).*

### **Week 25, Day 1 – Julius Caesar – Act III, Scene III**

1. What happens to Cinna the poet (not Cinna the conspirator)? What point might Shakespeare be making about the average citizen, or mobs?

*Cinna the poet, who unfortunately shares the same name as one of the conspirators, is interrogated and attacked by the mob (possibly the same mob that listened to the speeches of Brutus and Marc Antony). They attack and kill him for no other reason than he has the same name as Cinna the conspirator, despite his protests. Shakespeare clearly shows mobs in a negative light here, portraying them as brainless groups of people who don't think before they act, often to the detriment of others who are innocent.*

### Week 25, Day 1 – Julius Caesar – Act IV, Scene I

1. Summarize the plans of the triumvirs.

*They are gathering an army to overthrow Brutus and his conspirators.*

2. How do Octavius and Antony view Lepidus? Explain Antony’s statement, “He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold.” What are Antony’s plans for Lepidus?

*Octavius views him as a valiant warrior; Antony sees him as unworthy of their co-rule. Antony’s saying is his way of expressing the idea that Lepidus is unworthy and simply carrying out plans of greater men. To ditch him after they’ve used him to their purpose.*

### Week 25, Day 1 – Julius Caesar – Act IV, Scene II

1. What has happened between Brutus and Cassius?

*They disagree strongly with each other regarding a bribe; Cassius doesn’t think it is very important, but Brutus is trying to be scrupulously noble, and says that it sullies their cause, which he believes is worthy.*

2. Explain Brutus’s man/horse comparison.

*Brutus says, “But hollow men, like horses hot at hand, make gallant show and promise of their mettle; but, when they should endure the bloody spur, they fall their crests, and, like deceitful jades sink in the trial.” By this he means that a friend is a friend, period. When someone loudly proclaims his friendship, that’s often the same person who leaves when times get rough.*

*They disagree strongly with each other regarding a bribe; Cassius doesn’t think it is very important, but Brutus is trying to be scrupulously noble, and says that it sullies their cause, which he believes is worthy.*

### Week 25, Day 2 – Julius Caesar – Act IV, Scene III

1. Why does Cassius believe that Brutus wronged him? What is Brutus’s response?

*He punishes a man Cassius put in a good word for, though the man took a bribe. He accuses Cassius of being dishonorable—having an “itching palm” (a hand that asks to be “scratched” with bribes).*

2. How do the two men differently view friendship?

*Cassius thinks it means overlooking faults; Brutus thinks it involves being brutally honest.*

3. What has happened to Brutus—which Cassius later learns—that has made Brutus irritable and disturbed?

*Portia has killed herself in grief and despair.*

4. How do Brutus and Cassius disagree about marching to Philippi? Explain what Brutus means by saying, “We, at the height, are ready to decline.”

*Cassius believes they should let Antony and company expend energy to come to them; Brutus believes if Antony comes, he will pick up others and strengthen his army. By saying “We, at the height, are ready to decline,” Brutus means that they have to “strike while the iron is hot.”*

5. What spirit visits Brutus in his tent? Why do you think the spirit tell Brutus it is “thy spirit”?



*Julius Caesar's Ghost; he tells Brutus it is "thy spirit," because he is in many ways like Brutus—stubborn, convinced he's invincible, and so on.*

6. Brutus and Cassius killed Caesar to bring peace and liberty to Rome. What has it actually brought?

*For the greater part, it has actually brought civil war between two major factions; more personally, it has brought fighting amongst even themselves.*

7. What is ironic about the scene showing Brutus does not want to listen to others' advice? What does the inability to find his own book reinforce?

*It is ironic because Brutus has made several wrong decisions up to now (refusing to kill Antony, allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral, and so on). Again, he is becoming more like Julius Caesar than he realizes. The fact that Brutus can't even find his own book reinforces how many miscalculations he has made.*

### **Week 25, Day 3 – Julius Caesar – Act V, Scenes I-II**

1. How do Octavius and Antony view the coming army of Brutus and Cassius? What hints of Octavius's character do we see?

*Octavius says their "hopes are answered," and Antony believes they are pretending to be courageous, although not truly courageous. He insists on taking the right side, dominating by imposing his will over Antony.*

2. Interpret Antony's words: "In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words..."

*Antony says Brutus has spoken well by opening a hole in Caesar's heart, which now cries out for revenge.*

3. Describe Brutus's view of suicide. What message does he give Messala?

*He believes it is "cowardly" and "vile," although he vows not to be captured by Marc Antony's triumvirate. Brutus sends Messala with a dispatch to request the other legions to come to assist him in the upcoming battle.*

### **Week 25, Day 4 – Julius Caesar – Act V, Scene III**

1. What happens to Cassius's army? What does he ask of Pindarus? What ironic news does Messala bring after this?

*It seems to be suffering defeat. He asks Pindarus to kill him with the same sword that killed Caesar. Ironically, Messala brings news that they are winning under Brutus.*

2. On what does Messala blame the death of Cassius? What does Titinius mean when he says, "Alas, thou hast misconstrued every thing!"?

*Messala blames Cassius's death on mistrust of success, since Cassius believed that Titinius was captured when he heard shouting, but it was the shouts of his own men rejoicing. Thus, Cassius had "misconstrued every thing," misunderstanding the situation and unfortunately killing himself.*

### **Week 25, Day 4 – Julius Caesar – Act V, Scene IV**

1. Why does Lucilius offer money to—and what does he say to—the soldiers? What does Lucilius "assure" Antony when he comes upon the scene?

*He pretends to be Brutus, probably to help Brutus escape. He assures Brutus that he will never be taken alive.*

**Week 25, Day 4 – Julius Caesar – Act V, Scene V**

1. What does Brutus ask of Clitus and Dardanius? Why?

He asks them to kill *him*, because he doesn't want to be captured and humiliated.

2. Explain what Brutus means by saying: "...Caesar, now be still: I kill'd not thee with half so good a will." What opinion does Marc Antony offer of Brutus?

*This is Brutus's way of saying that his desire to kill himself much greater than his desire to kill Julius Caesar. Marc Antony says that Brutus he was truly the only noble conspirator, trying to better Rome through his actions, unlike the others, who killed Julius Caesar for reasons of personal gain or jealousy.*