

World Literature for Christian Homeschoolers

Volume 2: Stories, Essays, and Speeches

Answer Key to Review Questions

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Week 1, Day 2: “Quench the Spark”

1. How does the feud between the two families begin? What two things make the way the feud begins especially foolish?

A mistake about a hen laying an egg. It is especially foolish because (a) it is simply a quirky situation and a misunderstanding, and (b) we’re talking about AN EGG here.

2. What does the “old man” keep saying? How do the younger people react?

To let it go, and stop fighting and make up. The younger people ignore him.

3. Explain the incident at the wedding and the court results.

Ivan’s pregnant daughter-in-law insults Gabriel, who strikes her and injures her. Ivan gets Gabriel sentenced to a flogging, and Gabriel threatens to burn down Ivan’s home. The judges try to settle the matter without punishment, but the two refuse to listen.

4. What truths about strife does the “old man” tell his son Ivan after the sentence?

That Ivan doesn’t see his own wrongdoing, just Gabriel’s, and that he should make up with him. That Jesus taught us to seek peace with our neighbors, and to accept wrongdoing, and turn the other cheek. That Ivan has wasted his time and money suing Gabriel, and that his household members and employees have followed his example of hating his neighbors.

5. How does Ivan react to his father’s advice? What changes his mind?

He sits thinking, and decides to make peace, but hearing that Gabriel is about to sue him and try to take his land, he changes his mind.

6. How do both Gabriel and Ivan contribute to the burning down of their own houses?

Gabriel sets a fire to burn down Ivan’s shed, and instead of putting out the fire, Ivan runs after Gabriel. The wind spreads the fire to Gabriel’s house and both burn down.

7. Describe the scene with Ivan’s dying father. What does Ivan’s father tell him to make sure to do? How does this help with resolving the feud?

Ivan acknowledges his sin before his father. His father urges Ivan not to tell the law who started the fire, and that God would forgive both him and Gabriel. Ivan follows this advice, rebuilds his home and relationship with Gabriel, and the two live as good neighbors.

Week 1, Day 4: “How to Be a Doctor”

1. In the opening, how does Leacock humorously compare new scientific inventions to “new diseases” of the last hundred years (in 1910)?

He says that, like the airplane and electricity, medical science has “given” to the world all kinds of horrible diseases that we weren’t aware of until recently (of course, society was aware of them; they just didn’t have proper scientific names).

2. Explain Leacock’s example of the “progress” medical science has made in treating fevers, rheumatism, and epilepsy.

In a nutshell, he makes it sound as if science hasn’t helped cure these ailments at all, other than informing the public of what WON’T work in curing them.

3. What do you think the writer is saying with the examples of doctors slugging patients and giving them conflicting advice on eating and drinking?

Answers will vary, but he seems to suggest that many doctors don't know what they're doing, pretend to know more than they do, or base their "treatments" on however they feel at the time.

4. How do medical laboratories play into Leacock's view of doctors?

He makes them seem as if they're a weapon in the doctor's arsenal to make himself look highly scientific and mysterious, to impress the patient (even to the point of causing the patient great pain and discomfort!), even though the doctor might not know what's wrong with the patient.

5. What does this essay say about the author's view of patients themselves?

Answers will vary, but he seems to suggest that patients are so awed by doctors' supposed god-like powers that the patients will put up with all kinds of pain and inconvenience from doctors—even when they have been disappointed by them before—just to make themselves feel better (a point that Leacock even "admits" is true about himself in the last paragraph!).

Week 2, Day 2: "Abolition of Slavery"

1. How do you think Wilberforce's tactful opening affected the members of the Parliament listening to his speech?

It made them more open, since he doesn't want to directly accuse them of evil—just to point out that they all share the blame for slavery; and he wants to assure them that he is interested in facts, not passionate arguments.

2. How does Wilberforce say the slave trade affects Africa itself?

It drags them further into barbarism, encourages their princes to treat their people like goods to be sold, and it "destroys humanity."

3. Why does Wilberforce say that the trip from Africa across the ocean is particularly dreadful?

The slaves are crammed into ships, chained together, get sick with diseases, are surrounded by filth and stench, and die on the way over, sometimes 50 percent of those transported.

4. Sum up Wilberforce's "politics vs. principles" argument at the speech's closing. How does this compare to what the Bible says in 1 Timothy 1:9-10?

He says that for the slavery issue, like other moral issues, the government should rise above what is good for politicians and those who elect them and do the righteous thing. 1 Timothy 1:9-10 strongly condemns "menstealers" (those who kidnap persons into slavery) as "lawless," "disobedient," and "contrary to sound doctrine."

Week 2, Day 4: "The Fountain of Youth"

1. Describe the characters of Hans and Greta.

They are a simple young married couple.

2. At what point in the story does it become obvious that this is a fairy tale? What clues that this is a fairy tale are offered before this happens?

It becomes obvious when the wood-sprite appears at the teasing summons of Hans. The main characters' names, Hans and Greta, are similar to "Hansel" and "Gretel," and therefore offer a clue that this is a similar fairy tale. Also, the language of the characters seems very broad and old-fashioned, like that of a fairy tale.

3. When does it become apparent to the young couple that each has hidden the truth about the "water of youth" from the other? Why do they respond the way they do to the wood-sprite's final offer?

It becomes apparent when they see each other, old and gray, reflected in the water. They refuse the offer to regain their youth because they have grown accustomed to each other and love each other the way they are, and because it would be awkward to regain their youth when their children are already grown and they have grandchildren.

Week 8, Day 2: "Spanish Armada Speech"

1. How does Elizabeth compliment her English subjects?

She says that she doesn't worry about traitors, calls her people "faithful and loving," and says that one of her main strengths is the "loyal hearts and good will" of her subjects. She closes by promising rewards to her faithful subjects for their heroism and hard work.

2. What does Elizabeth mean by saying, "I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king—and of a King of England too"? Compare this statement to 1 Peter 3:7.

She realizes she can't do all the things a man can do physically, because of the differences in the physiology of men and women, but she is prepared mentally for any challenge she faces. 1 Peter 3:7 acknowledges that women are the "weaker vessel," and should be honored by their husbands.

3. What does the queen promise to do, even as she acknowledges her inherent relative weakness as a woman? How do you think this affected her audience?

She promises to take up arms herself if necessary, which surely encouraged her audience and endeared her to them.

4. What is your take on the queen's closing remarks of the speech? Why do you think she uses the phrase "my God" instead of simply "God"?

Answers will vary, but it ends on a positive note, confident of victory. The queen probably uses the phrase "my God" to differentiate her belief in a non-Roman Catholic God.

Week 8, Day 2: "The Foreign Policy of Washington"

1. Sum up Fox's take on President Washington's policy on foreign affairs.

Fox praises Washington for remaining neutral, and for keeping American soldiers from dying in a war just because a French ambassador insulted him (Washington).

2. What benefit to England might Fox be trying to gain by openly and lavishly praising President Washington and America's government?

He might be trying to encourage the United States to stay out of the war between France and England, possibly worried that America would enter on the side of France, to "pay back" France's assistance in America's Revolutionary War.

3. What is your take on government leaders who are willing to go to war if they believe they have been insulted?

Answers will vary, but it seems ridiculous for a president or monarch to involve thousands, if not millions, of others in one's nation in a war just to save face.

Week 8, Day 3: “Ungo-Zenji”

1. Explain the contrast of Daté Masamuné's opening mood and words with what he does to Heishiro.

He looks at and speaks appreciatively of the beauty of the snow, but violently attacks Heishiro with his shoe.

2. Daté Masamuné is described as “young” and “imperious” at the beginning, and Heishiro is a servant. How do the two compare to their former selves by the story's end?

Daté Masamuné is old and humble, and Heishiro is exalted as a high priest. Also, Daté Masamuné places himself under Heishiro, a reverse of their former positions.

3. What is the irony in Heishiro's desire to train as a priest? What does he find happens the longer he stays in his training? What does he realize about Daté Masamuné's ill treatment of him?

He is trying to become a priest, not for any spiritual benefits, but to gain revenge. He finds, however, that he no longer cares for revenge when he has been in the system for a number of years. Heishiro realizes that if not for Daté Masamuné's ill treatment, he never would have risen to his high position.

4. What two questions does Daté Masamuné ask Heishiro when he sees him again? How does Daté Masamuné respond to Heishiro's answers?

What are those clogs doing there, and how did you get that scar on your head? Heishiro gives him truthful answers, which shocks Daté Masamuné.

5. Does God—the true God, not the “god” of Buddhism—take evil done by some and turn it into good? Give some examples.

Yes. Students might mention the story of Joseph, or of course, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Week 11, Day 2: “The Petition of the Manufacturers of Candles, Etc.”

1. How is Bastiat poking fun at French government policies when he says at the beginning, “You reject abstract theories and have little regard for abundance and low prices”?

Because this sounds as if he is complimenting them for their “good” policies, but he is actually being critical, since these policies are ridiculous—imagine having “little regard for abundance and low prices”!

2. What basic complaint about the sun does the author make? What laws does he propose to combat this?

He asks the government to pass a law requiring the closing of all windows, dormers, skylights, inside and outside shutters, curtains, casements, bull's-eyes, deadlights, and blinds, so that some businesses won't be harmed.

3. Name some of the reasons that the author claims closing out the sun will benefit France.

He claims it will help manufacturers of artificial light; result in more farm animals, which provide tallow; assist the whaling industry; raise the shipping industry; enrich Parisian manufacturers of fancy, elaborate candles and chandeliers; help match sellers; and raise the living standard for those who invest in coal mines.

4. How does the author “refute” the government's possible argument that blotting out the sun will hurt consumers?

The fact that the government has already hurt consumers many times before with its policies that favor certain producers, and that it's only fair that the government also help the candle producers too.

5. What is Bastiat's overall point in writing "Petition"? What does he mean by saying that to reject the free light of the sun is to reject "wealth itself"?

To point out that government policies that force consumers to pay for something, or to pay more for something they could get for less without a law, destroys wealth and makes a nation poorer, not richer. It only helps the specific group that the law is designed to benefit, to the detriment of all other groups.

Week 11, Day 4: "Miss Calista's Peppermint Bottle"

1. What kind of a woman is Miss Calista described as in the story's opening? How does this compare with the men she has given a chance to replace Caleb Cramp?

"Kind" and "generous," but "hard to please" and insistent that her hired man be hardworking. This is a contrast between the lazy, immature hired help she has had trying to replace her nephew.

2. Describe Ches Maybin's background. What does it mean when the villagers say about Ches Maybin, "What was bred in the bone was bound to come out in the flesh"? Is it a fair assessment?

Ches Maybin has had a hard life, with a bum for a father and a mother who died when he was very young. "What was bred in the bone was bound to come out in the flesh" is what the townspeople say about him, which means that they almost accuse him of being good-for-nothing simply because of the family he was born into. It is true that a child or young person can be negatively influenced by his family background, but every person is ultimately responsible for and judged upon his own behavior.

3. Why does Miss Calista withdraw her money? What makes her nervous?

She hears rumors about the bank's being unsafe, and doesn't want to lose her money. She is nervous about being alone in her house with all that money.

4. Sum up the encounter in the night, Miss Calista realization of who it was, and why she hires Ches Maybin.

Someone tries to steal Miss Calista's money, and she flings a bottle of peppermint at him, and he runs away. She smells the peppermint on Ches Maybin the next day, confronts him, and decides to hire him after hearing his story to give him a chance to prove himself.

5. How are Miss Calista's refusal to hire Ches Maybin at first and her withdrawal of her money from the bank similar?

They are based on rumors in town, and they don't lead to anything positive (as far as we know, nothing happened with the bank she had her money in at first).

6. Other than the peppermint smell, what "sticks" to Ches Maybin? In light of this, what could the peppermint bottle represent?

His reputation. The peppermint bottle could represent Miss Calista's "sticking" Ches Maybin with a new reputation by giving him a chance to succeed.

7. The author says at first of Miss Calista regarding her refusal to hire Ches Maybin: "She was simply unconsciously following the example of a world that exerts itself to keep a man down when he is down and prevent all chance of his rising." Is this an issue in modern society? How should a Christian deal with someone like Ches Maybin?

Answers will vary, but certainly Christians should be a combination of wise/wary and forgiving to those like Ches Maybin.

Week 15, Day 3: Excerpts from *The Prince*

1. How does Machiavelli portray Agathocles? How does Machiavelli say that a ruler should use violence and the threat of violence?

As a man who got into power through ruthless killing and terror. Machiavelli says rulers should consider what kind of violence it is “necessary” for him to use, and to commit it in one giant stroke, so he won’t have to repeat it regularly.

2. Why does Machiavelli claim that war should be the main study of a prince?

He claims that strong, warlike princes are feared and respected more than peaceful ones, and that his soldiers will only respect and fight for him if he is versed in the “art” of war.

3. Explain why the author says that princes should try to be feared more than loved. What does he say about how a prince should regard being labeled as “cruel”?

Because fear gives better results in getting subjects to do what you want them to do, since men will more likely obey a ruler due to fear of him than love for him. Machiavelli does say that a ruler should try to remain feared, and not hated. He also says that a prince shouldn’t worry about being label “cruel,” since that reputation will strengthen his command over his army.

4. What main idea does Machiavelli propose with the Chapter XVIII selection?

That rulers should try to appear to be honest, religious, friendly, and humane—but they should ditch any of these characteristics if they “need” to get the things they want as a ruler. Also that the people won’t really dig deeply in figuring out if a ruler really is honest and religious—they’ll be convinced that he is simply if he appears to be.

5. After having read the selections from *The Prince*, what evidence is there to suggest that it is a satire?

Answers will vary, but the methods that Machiavelli advocates, or supposedly advocates, are so horrible, twisted, and dedicated to the acquisition and maintenance of power, that it hardly seems likely that he would advocate such measures.

Week 15, Day 3: “How to Live to be 200”

1. List some of the funny-sounding words that Leacock uses in this essay.

Answers will vary, but might include these: Jiggins, thumps, slinging, pepsin, huckleberry, gassing, bacilli, etc.

2. What funny statement about Jiggins does Leacock tell us after running down all of Jiggins’s exercise and health routines? What makes the statement funny?

“Jiggins is dead.” It’s funny because he just states it bluntly after going through all of the ways that Jiggins tried to stay healthy.

3. Name some of the ridiculous pieces of advice Leacock gives the reader to help him to stay healthy.

To get up late, take hot baths, walk up to germs and slap them confidently, eat whatever bad-for-you food you want (including gluten!), and forget fresh air and exercise.

4. Make a list of several topics that would make another funny “how to” essay. Now pick one topic and brainstorm several ideas you could include to make it funny, and write these down.

Answers will vary!

Week 16, Day 2: “Indian Folk Tales”

1. Compare “Pride Goeth Before a Fall” to Proverbs 16:18. Why do you think this folk tale is titled the way it is?

Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall,” which is the basic idea of this folk tale. It’s titled “Pride Goeth Before a Fall” because that’s exactly what happened to the robbers.

2. If you had to write a one-sentence “lesson” at the end of “The Beggar and the Five Muffins” (like the “moral of the story” last sentence of an Aesop’s Fable), what would you write?

Answers will vary, but something like “Don’t be stubborn (especially about something trivial like a muffin!), or you could get yourself in trouble, and trouble others around you.”

3. What does “The Lost Camel” show about what Indian storytellers and people of India value in their society?

Answers will vary, but they valued justice, as well as righteous and wise kings.

4. Do you think the king was wise to do what he did? Compare this folk tale to Proverbs 24:6 and Proverbs 29:2.

Answers will vary, but probably will be “Yes,” since kings ought to have wise counsel. Proverbs 24:6 says in part, “In multitude of counsellors, there is safety,” and Proverbs 29:2 says in part, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.”

Week 16, Day 3: “The Japanned Box”

1. Describe Thorpe Place and Sir John.

It is very old, with thick grey walls, crumbling plaster, an old smell, but with a modern wing which is bright and well kept. Sir John is around 55, weary-looking, private and uncommunicative, and a huge, intimidating man.

2. What does the inside of Sir John’s private room look like?

It is round (the same shape as the tower it is in), simply furnished, with a japanned box and the photograph of Sir John’s wife.

3. What does Colmore find out from Richards about Sir John, Beryl Clare, the japanned box, and about current rumors about Sir John?

That Sir John was an alcoholic until Beryl Clare married him and helped him stop drinking, and that there is no alcohol allowed in the house. The japanned box always goes with Sir John if he ever leaves the house for an extended period of time. Several persons have said, however, that they have heard a woman’s voice in Sir John’s room over the years since Beryl died.

4. How does Colmore begin to view Sir John? What changes Colmore’s mind? How does the incident with Mrs. Brown solidify his belief?

He sympathizes with Sir John, supportive of his attempts to not relapse into alcoholism, but is disgusted when he hears a woman’s voice inside the room when Sir John is there. When Mrs. Brown is fired by Sir John for touching the japanned box, Colmore is even more sure there is something fishy going on.

5. What additional mysteries about the voice arise? What does Mr. Richards suggest the voice could be?

The voice is still heard, even though the circular room has been uninhabited since it was destroyed, and there is almost no way a human could get in to see Sir John undetected by anyone else in the house. Mr. Richards suggests it could be a ghost.

6. Sum up Colmore's discovery of the woman's voice.

Colmore is sick and takes medicine that causes him to fall asleep in Sir John's room, and Sir John does not notice he is there. Colmore overhears a metallic, crackling version of Mrs. Bollamore's voice. Sir John has been regularly listening to his wife's voice recorded on a phonograph record (if you're not sure what this is, ask your parents). This was her way of "being" with him after her death, to encourage him to never drink again in moments he feels weak and tempted to drink.

Week 16, Day 4: "The Necklace"

1. Why does Mathilde feel so sorry for herself? What does she daydream about?

Because she is not wealthy. She daydreams about being rich, and throwing expensive parties with important and wealthy friends.

2. How do you view Mathilde's reaction to her husband's offer to take her to the ball and buy her a new dress?

It seems petty and unthankful. He is obviously going to a great deal of expense to provide a dress for her, and she isn't happy, because she wants jewels, not just a new dress.

3. What can be inferred by the fact that when Mathilde runs into Madame Forestier after 10 years, that Mme. Forestier is "still young, still beautiful, still attractive"? What has Mme. Loisel traded her youth and attractiveness for?

Obviously Mathilde looks older and worn down because of the harsh lifestyle she has had to live to pay off the debt. She has, in fact, traded her beauty and youthfulness for fake pearls!

4. What is ironic about Mathilde's "suffering" from having to "endure" worn curtains, old chairs, and clothes that did not meet her lofty standards? What do you think about the line: "She had no clothes, no jewels....[S]he felt that she was made for them."

Mathilde imagines herself as a high-society type who recognizes the "finer things" in life, but the irony is that she didn't recognize fake pearls! The line about her being "made for" the jewels actually turns out to be correct—she was apparently "made for" fake pearls.

5. How does "The Necklace" compare, ironically, to the fairy tale of Cinderella? What moral do you think du Maupassant intends to convey? What does God's Word say about how a Christian woman should "adorn" herself? (See Titus 2:9-10).

Cinderella is a scrub-girl who goes to a ball, and because of her beauty and character, marries into the prince's family. Mathilde, on the other hand, because of her superior manner, goes to a ball, but ends up scrubbing floors for 10 years! Probably du Maupassant intends to convey a message about being happy with what you have, and the treacherousness of being taken in by riches. Titus 2:9-10 says that Christian women should adorn themselves not with costly jewels or clothes, but with modesty and good works.

Week 22, Day 2: "How Much Land Does a Man Need?"

1. Describe the story's setup. What tale is the sisters' argument similar to?

The sisters argue about what is better, country or city life (like the tale of the country mouse and city mouse); the younger sister's husband, Pahom, overhears their argument and says that he wouldn't be afraid of the devil himself if he had enough land. The devil hears him say this, and he says he will see about that.

2. How does Pahom's desire for more land mushroom?

He gets more land by buying it from a local woman, then hears land is cheap in Samara, and goes there to buy more land. Then in Samara, he again and again tries to buy more and more land for himself. With the Bashkirs, he bargains for more land than he can even walk around on “in a year.”

3. Describe the deal the Bashkirs offer Pahom.

He can have as much land as he can walk around and cover in a day for 1000 rubles.

4. What does Pahom dream? What is its significance?

He dreams he sees the chief, then the dealer, then the peasant, then the devil, and then himself lying dead on the ground. It foreshadows his own death, going backwards in steps from the beginning of the story.

5. Describe Pahom’s travel over the land. What is ironic about the story’s conclusion? What lesson does “How Much Land Does a Man Need?” offer the reader? How does this compare to the words of Jesus in Luke 12:15-21?

Pahom walks too far, tires himself out, barely makes it back to the starting point, and dies from exhaustion. The irony is that after all that, he only needed six feet of land to be buried in.

The lesson is that material wealth isn’t worth a man’s life. In Luke 12:15-21 Jesus warns the person who “layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Week 22, Day 2: “Honest Kyūsuké”

1. Describe Kyūsuké and Gonzaemon? How does Kyūsuké compare favorably to what God’s word says in Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:22-24?

Kyūsuké is scrupulously honest and industrious; Gonzaemon is fair and kind. The Bible tells Christian servants (slaves) to be obedient, trustworthy, and hardworking, because it gives glory to God to endure suffering patiently.

2. How does Gonzaemon help Kyūsuké? What does Kyūsuké tell his master he wants to do with the money? What personal information does Kyūsuké share?

Gonzaemon allows (actually, almost forces) Kyūsuké to work for himself, making sandals, during certain hours and keep the money. Kyūsuké plans to buy rice fields for his father and help his stepsister marry. He tells Gonzaemon that his immoral brother left home suddenly. After Kyūsuké’s mother died and his father remarried a woman who was hateful to him, Kyūsuké left too.

3. How does Kyūsuké’s kindness cost him at the robber’s house?

After Kyūsuké asks for shelter, the robber attacks his wife when he finds Kyūsuké’s hat, until Kyūsuké gives him all his money. He is almost killed by the robber after he leaves, but is saved when rain puts out his light.

4. How many times better off than he was before is Kyūsuké because of the old sword the robber gives him? What does Kyūsuké, incredibly, decide to do? How does his decision positively affect others and himself?

He is eight times better off (the sword sells for 800 ryō). Amazingly, he tries to give the robber all but 100 ryō. He learns that the robber is Kyūtarō, his wayward brother. Kyūtarō kills himself, Kyūsuké gives the remaining money to his father and stepmother (who repents of her meanness), and they take care of O-Nami. Kyūsuké is set up as the head of a “branch family” by the village head-man, and his family “thrives in Tamamura to this day.”

5. Find the sentence near the story’s end that sums up the story’s moral.

“It is wonderful how one man’s goodness works upon the hearts of those about him.”

Week 22, Day 4: “The Fly”

1. Contrast the characters of Mr. Woodifield and The Boss.

Mr. Woodifield is portrayed as a baby (looking out of his chair like a baby looking out of a stroller, being “dressed and brushed” by his wife and girls, being given something out of a “bottle” by The Boss, and so on). Woodifield seems befuddled and dependent upon others. The Boss, in contrast, is shown as a man “still at the helm,” ordering around others in his business.

2. How does the photograph contrast with the rest of the boss’s office?

It is “spectral”—gray, lifeless, cloudy—unlike the rest of the office, which is richly decorated, warm (“electric heating”), and colorful.

3. What does Woodifield say that upsets The Boss? How does The Boss respond?

He says he saw The Boss’s son’s grave in Belgium by his son’s grave. After Woodifield leaves, The Boss locks himself in his office and mourns.

4. Explain what The Boss does to the fly. What does he say and think while doing it? What might The Boss and the fly represent here?

The Boss toys with the fly by dropping drops of ink on it to see if it will survive, until the fly dies. The Boss thinks and says ridiculous things like “He’s a plucky little devil” and “Look sharp!” The Boss could represent the government leaders who toyed with the lives of those they sent off to war (World War I), saying robotic, propagandistic slogans like the ones The Boss says and thinks while toying with the fly. The fly itself could represent the soldiers themselves, dying from bombs and grenades and so on (like blobs of ink falling from the sky).

5. How are The Boss and Woodifield shown as similar by the story’s end?

Both have something they were trying to remember; both seem helpless in certain ways (Woodifield in taking care of himself, The Boss in dealing with his grief); both have lost sons in World War I; both are shut in (Woodifield is “boxed” at home by his wife and daughters, The Boss in his office).

6. For what two purposes does The Boss use his paper-knife? What do you think the significance of this is?

He uses it to (a) slit open the Financial Times newspaper, and (b) pick up the dead fly and throw it away. This suggests a connection between money and those who were killed in World War I—possibly an denunciation of bankers, arms manufacturers, and others who profit from wars.

7. What do you make of the last paragraph?

Answers will vary. It’s possible that The Boss is shutting out memories of his son’s death—trying not to remember “what it was he had been thinking about before.” This might be because he had encouraged his son to enlist in World War I, and he feels guilty for doing so.

Week 22, Day 4: “Captain Veneno’s Proposal of Marriage”

1. What does the first paragraph establish in regards to setting?

The fact that the Captain is in love, wants to marry Augustias, but is mightily torn about whether he should or not, because he has such a reputation as a tough soldier and man about town.

2. Why does the Captain tell Augustias that he cannot marry her? What possibilities does he propose?

He says he could never be a father and worry about the lives of children. He proposes that (a) she wait 10 years for him, taking half his money, until he gets used to the idea of marriage, and they can marry secretly away in the country where no one knows him, or (b) they marry and give up for adoption any children they have.

3. Why do you think that Augustias agrees so quickly and cheerfully with Captain Veneno?

She knows he will change his mind when the children are born.

4. What is ironic about the story's end?

Captain Veneno has turned out to be a doting father!

Week 22, Day 4: "The Open Window"

1. Why is Framton Nuttel out in the country meeting others?

He is undergoing the "nerve cure," which is supposed to help him get over whatever traumatic experience has upset him and given him "bad nerves."

2. Looking back at the story again, why do you think the Vera (the niece) asks Framton whether he knows many of the people around the area, or anything about her aunt?

She is trying to see if she can put the joke over on him.

3. Why does Vera suddenly break off the story when her aunt walks in? Why does Framton think Vera has broken off her story?

She doesn't want her aunt to know she's trying to scare Framton, who thinks Vera broke off the story so she wouldn't upset her aunt by talking about her "dead" family.

4. What is the irony in Framton's saying that he has been ordered by doctors to have "complete rest, an absence of mental excitement, and avoidance of anything in the nature of violent physical exercise"?

It is ironic because Vera is about to give him the opposite of all those things!

5. In what way is this story both horrifying and funny?

The reader at first thinks, like Framton, that there are ghosts walking out of the bog up to the house. The humor comes from the idea of Vera, Framton's jumping up and running like a madman out the door and down the road, Mrs. Sappleton's saying that "one would think [Framton] had seen a ghost," and Vera's explanation of Framton to her aunt.

Week 28, Day 2: Excerpts from *The Communist Manifesto*

1. What does Marx say about Free Trade, "cheap prices" of goods, and new inventions and methods of production? Does this seem strange to you?

Marx says free trade is a bourgeoisie tool to exploit workers and to permanently keep the bourgeoisie in charge. He says that inventions and methods of production are nothing more than attempts of the ruling class to stay in power. This is odd, since what is wrong with the public freely buying and selling goods and services that they want?

2. What does Marx claim that machines do to workers?

He claims they enslave laborers—the proletariat—and make their work meaningless and dishonorable.

3. What does Marx say is the communist's goal is, regarding the "bourgeoisie"? Do you see any objection to this?

To overthrow the ruling class, take away their property, and remove their individuality, independence, and freedom. But who decides what the "bourgeoisie" class is? Won't those who take away their rights be doing the exact same thing they complained about the "bourgeoisie" doing?

4. What does Marx say communists propose to do about the institution of the family?

To "free" children from the rule of their parents, and to set up a system where the community shares wives!

5. Sum up the numbered items that communists want for the "most advanced countries."

Abolishing private land, higher taxes for "the rich," prohibiting parents from passing on property to their children, a national bank, putting the government in charge of news and transportation, putting all factories and machines into the hands of the government, controlling where the people live, "free" government education.

6. Name at least one objection that you, as a Christian, would have to *The Communist Manifesto*.

Answers will vary!

Week 28, Day 2: "What Think Ye of Christ?"

1. How does Moody introduce the question "What think ye of Christ?"?

He says that men gladly give their opinions of other men or monarchs, so why shouldn't they decide on what they think about Christ?

2. What does Moody say about Jesus being criticized because He "receiveth sinners"?

That's exactly why we love Him. He loves sinners so much that He wants them to come to Him and save them.

3. Explain how Moody uses the words of Caiaphas, Pilate, and Judas to justify Jesus.

Caiaphas puts Jesus to death simply for returning for the church, and Pilate found no fault with him (even his wife said Jesus was a just man). Judas admits Jesus was innocent.

4. What does Moody point out about John the Baptist, the angels of God, and the Apostle John?

John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the angels saw Jesus leave heaven and become a man, and the Apostle John called Jesus a worthy lamb.

Week 28, Day 3: "Miss Bracegirdle Does Her Duty"

1. What does the name "Bracegirdle" immediately tell the reader?

That the character is an older or middle-aged woman, stuffy, prim, proper, etc.

2. What is ironic about Miss Bracegirdle's predicament?

Her prim, proper personality and disdain for adventure throughout her life is exactly the opposite of what you would expect when she gets herself into the embarrassing situation she ends up in.

3. Why does Miss Bracegirdle find herself pitying and feeling sympathy for Boldhu, even after she learns from the maid who he is?

She probably feels guilty at doing “something wrong” by ending up under the bed of the murderer, and since she thinks she would be misjudged and misunderstood by others if they knew what happened to her, she thinks Boldhu might have suffered the same fate.

4. Give one example of something you thought was funny in the story.

Answers will vary!

Week 28, Day 4: “The Loaded Dog”

1. Give some examples of verbal humor in “The Loaded Dog.”

Some examples include:

“There is always a rich reef supposed to exist in the vicinity; the only questions are whether it is ten feet or hundreds beneath the surface, and in which direction.”

“Andy took off his boots, tucked up his trousers, and went into a hole one day to stir up the mud with his feet, and he knew it [knew he got stuck by a catfish].”

“Most of his [Tommy’s] head was usually a red, idiotic, slobbering grin of appreciation of his own silliness.”

“They had a cat that died in hot weather, and Andy threw it a good distance away in the scrub; and early one morning the dog found the cat, after it had been dead a week or so, and carried it back to camp, and laid it just inside the tent-flaps, where it could best make its presence known when the mates should rise and begin to sniff suspiciously in the sickly smothering atmosphere of the summer sunrise.”

“Tommy bounded first after one and then after another, for, being a young dog, he tried to make friends with everybody.”

2. How does the author set up the humor in the situation with Tommy (the dog) and the dynamite? What funny things happen after Tommy gets a hold of the explosive?

He establishes the fact that Tommy is a rather stupid dog and has a habit of dragging back things that the men throw away (even a dead cat!), or just things that he is supposed to leave alone. The men scream, run around, climb trees, jump in holes; and the people in the bar run like madmen trying to get away. The mean yellow dog is blown up, and the dogs are affected by the blast, including one that “couldn’t stand the smell of a gun being cleaned.”