

***British Literature for  
Christian Homeschoolers***

**Volume 1:  
Great British Works**

**Answer Key to Review Questions**

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## Week 1, Day 1 – *Beowulf*, I-XIII

1. Write down examples of alliteration and a belief in *fate*.

*Answers will vary.*

2. Describe the ceremony for Scyld.

*After he dies, his body is set at sail in a boat with many treasures.*

3. Who is Grendel? Why do you think that he is angry at Hrothgar? What does Grendel do in response?

*Grendel is said to be Cain's descendant. Grendel seems to be angry with Hrothgar because Hrothgar builds a magnificent hall ("Heorot"), and appears to be arrogantly asserting his power. Grendel attacks men at the hall and kills 30.*

4. Why does Beowulf come to Hrothgar? How does he say he will kill Grendel, and why does he want to use this method?

*Hrothgar seeks warriors to fight Grendel, who has terrorized the area for 13 years, and Beowulf comes in response, to assist Hrothgar. Beowulf says he will kill Grendel in hand-to-hand combat, since Grendel seems impervious to arrows and swords.*

5. Why does Hrothgar say so many of his warriors have bragged about killing Grendel? (See VIII.)

*He says his warriors have been emboldened by the mead (beer) they drink at feasting, and that's why they brag.*

6. Sum up the exchange between Unferth and Beowulf.

*Unferth is jealous of Beowulf's claim that he will kill Grendel, and he mocks Beowulf. Beowulf responds by saying Unferth says a lot after he's drunk, and he (Beowulf) tells of his previous exploits, including killing a sea monster.*

7. Describe the banquet that Queen Wealhtheow prepares. What does it represent?

*It is a banquet that is formal, orderly, and sober. It seems to represent civilization and culture, which is a welcome and reassuring contrast to the turmoil that Grendel has caused.*

8. What is the reason given at the beginning of Chapter XII for Grendel's actions? Compare this to 2 Kings 18:1-12 and Jeremiah 25:1-11. What sin of Hrothgar and his warriors seems to be the reason?

*It is said God is using Grendel to punish Hrothgar's kingdom, just like God used pagan kingdoms to punish Israel when its people "obeyed not the voice of the Lord" (2 Kings 8:12) and "have not hearkened unto me [God]" (Jeremiah 25:7). Hrothgar and his men appear proud, and the story suggests that God has sent Grendel to punish them for their pride.*

9. Describe the fight between Grendel and Beowulf. What does Beowulf do after the battle is over?

*Grendel comes into Heorot Hall again and kills, and Grendel locks on his arm, tearing it off, mortally wounding him. Beowulf then takes Grendel's arm and places it in Heorot Hall as a decoration!*

## Week 1, Day 2 – *Beowulf*, XIV-XXIV

1. What does the bard (storyteller) do for Beowulf?

*He adds Beowulf's deeds of heroism to his list of tales.*

2. Does Hrothgar's offer to Beowulf in reward of his (Beowulf's) killing Grendel remind you of a standard element of many fairy tales?

*Answers will vary, but there are many fairy tales in which a king or kingdom faces a grave problem and offers great riches or the king's daughter in marriage to whoever can eliminate the threat.*

3. After the tale of another battle is told, what does Queen Wealhtheow offer Beowulf?

*A special ring.*

4. Who is angered by Grendel's death? What is this creature's response, and then Beowulf's response?

*Grendel's mother; she kills one of Hrothgar's favorite thanes. Beowulf goes after her, swimming to the bottom of the sea to find her lair.*

5. Describe Beowulf's battle in the lair. What description near the end of Chapter XXIV indicates the size of the creature Beowulf overcomes?

*Grendel's mother attacks him, and his sword can't pierce her. He finds a giant's sword, which he uses to kill and then behead her. He then decapitates Grendel and swims back to the surface; the blood of Grendel's mother is so poisonous that it melts the blade, and he is left with nothing but the hilt.*

*At the end of XXIV it is stated that it takes four men to lift Grendel's mother's head, indicating that she is huge beast.*

### **Week 1, Day 3 – Beowulf, XXV-XXXII**

1. Sum up the exchange between Beowulf and Hrothgar. What sin does Hrothgar remind Beowulf to avoid? (Note how they give God glory for the victory.)

*Beowulf tells of his battle with Grendel's mother, and Hrothgar praises his courage and virtue. He reminds Beowulf to avoid the sin of pride, which he says has caused the downfall of many a great man who opens himself up to the lures of the devil.*

2. What does Beowulf take home? What does he give to Hygelac and Hygd upon his arrival home?

*Beowulf takes Hrunding, Unferth's sword, home with him. He gives Hygelac and Hygd many treasures he has won from Hrothgar.*

3. How is Beowulf rewarded? How long does he rule after Hygelac's death?

*Beowulf is rewarded with riches from Hygelac, and he rules for 50 years as king after Hygelac dies.*

4. What happens to disrupt his rule? Is there a more modern example of British literature that you think could have been influenced by this section?

*During his reign, a dragon, from whose treasure hoard a golden goblet has been taken, takes vengeance by belching out flames on a neighboring village. It's probable that the story of the dragon angered by a single piece of his treasure stolen influenced J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, which contains a similar incident.*

### **Week 1, Day 4 – Beowulf, XXXIII-XLII**

1. Explain Beowulf's battle preparations. What is his mood as he approaches his mission?

*He goes to fight the dragon, insisting he will go alone, then taking 11 warriors with him. His mood is pensive and reflective upon his life as he goes to battle, possibly because he believes it might be his last.*

2. What unexpected order does Beowulf give his men? What does Wiglaf do to show his character, and how do the other men come across?

*Beowulf tells them that he will fight the dragon alone. Wiglaf alone comes to Beowulf's aid during the battle with the dragon, and the other men run into the woods in fear of their lives.*

3. Sum up Beowulf's last words and request of Wiglaf.

*He thanks God for his life, and requests that Wiglaf show him the treasure before he dies.*

4. Why does no one take the treasure left unguarded by the dragon's death?

*A curse is said to be upon it.*

5. Describe the ceremony of Beowulf's burial. How does this event mirror the story's beginning?

*A great funeral pyre is built for Beowulf, with a wall around it, and the flame and smoke rise so high that ships traveling the nearby seas can see it. This funeral mirrors the story's beginning, when Scyld dies and is buried at sea.*

## Week 2, Day 1 – *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Part One*

1. What is the opening scene like at Camelot? What custom does King Arthur follow?

*The scene at Camelot is a 15-day feast, with colorfully arrayed noblemen, knights, and ladies, and King Arthur making merry. King Arthur's custom is to only eat after he has heard a tale of some knight's heroic deed, or to witness a new knight's challenge to a knight of the Round Table to a joust.*

2. Describe the Green Knight and his proposal. Who is Sir Gawain, and how does he respond? What does this show about his character?

*The Green Knight is a huge man who is all in green, from his clothing to his hair and beard, and even his horse! He holds a holly-bough in one hand and a great axe in the other, and his challenge to any knight is this: that he will accept a blow to his neck with his axe, if whoever gives it will receive a blow from him in one year and a day. Sir Gawain, King Arthur's nephew, accepts the Green Knight's challenge when no knight volunteers, and before Arthur accepts it. This shows his mettle and sense of honor, in wanting to spare possible harm to his uncle.*

3. What amazing thing happens when Sir Gawain performs his part of the proposal?

*After he cuts off the head of the Green Knight, the Green Knight stands up, picks up his head, reminds Sir Gawain to come to his castle in a year and a day, and rides off!*

4. Give some examples of *alliteration* in Part One.

*Answers will vary.*

## Week 2, Day 2 – *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Part Two*

1. Describe Sir Gawain's departure. How does his mood compare with the general mood of the lords and ladies of Camelot? (Note his careful putting on of his armor.)

*He goes off to keep his end of the bargain with the Green Knight dutifully, bravely, and relatively cheerfully, although the lords and ladies at Camelot weep and bewail his fate, giving him a great feast to send him off.*

2. What is a *pentangle*, the shape that adorns Sir Gawain's shield? What does the author say it represents?

*It is a five-sided "star" figure. The five sides are said to represent five keen senses, five dexterous fingers, the five wounds of Christ, the five joys of Mary for Jesus, and five virtues: frankness, fellowship, purity, courtesy, and compassion.*

3. What does Sir Gawain do on his way to meet the Green Knight? How is he received into the castle he finds? Describe the lord of the castle.

*He has an endless array of battles with monsters and knights and dragons which the author says would take up too much time to tell. Sir Gawain is hospitably welcome into the castle by the lord of the castle, who is a tall, strong-looking man.*

4. Describe the "lady" of the castle. How does she treat Sir Gawain?

*She is young and beautiful, beautifully dressed. She seems to take a great interest in Sir Gawain, spending much time with him.*

5. What does the lord of the castle request of Sir Gawain, and what does he promise?

*He asks Sir Gawain to stay with them over Christmas and until New Year's Day, and also if he will eat with his wife. The lord of the castle promises on New Year's Day to show Sir Gawain where the Green Knight's castle is.*

6. Sum up the covenant that Sir Gawain accepts from the host.

*The host says that whatever he kills on his hunts he will give to Sir Gawain, and Sir Gawain attains that day he will give to the host.*

### **Week 2, Day 3 – Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Part Three**

1. What awkward situations does the lord's wife put Sir Gawain in? How does Sir Gawain handle himself?

*She enters his room each of the three days that her husband is out hunting, and comes on to Sir Gawain, asking for a kiss, a declaration of love, a gift, and other attentions that don't seem fitting from the wife of another man. Sir Gawain does his best to remain honorable and chivalrous, resisting the lady's advances while trying not to hurt her feelings.*

2. How do both the lord of the castle and Sir Gawain fulfill their parts of the bargain? How does Sir Gawain not totally fulfill his part on the third day?

*On successive days, the lord gives Sir Gawain the deer, the boar, and the fox he hunted down that day. Sir Gawain gives the lord in return what he "won" that day: one kiss the first day, two kisses on the second day, and three kisses the third day. He does not, however, totally honor his part of the bargain, since he withholds from the lord a girdle that the lady gives him.*

3. What is notable about the girdle that the lady gives Sir Gawain?

*She says it has magic powers and will prevent anyone from killing him while he wears it.*

### **Week 2, Day 4 – Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Part Four**

1. How does Sir Gawain's squire tempt him? What is Sir Gawain's response?

*He tries to convince Sir Gawain to avoid certain death by not going to the Green Knight's castle, and the annoyed Sir Gawain refuses, saying it is his duty as a knight and gentleman to keep his word, even at the cost of his life.*

2. How does Sir Gawain react to the Green Knight's blows each time? How is each blow different? What does the Green Knight explain about why each blow is different?

*Sir Gawain flinches at the first blow, which purposely misses him, and the Green Knight chides him, saying he didn't flinch at Sir Gawain's blow a year ago. Gawain does not flinch at the second blow, which strikes him, but doesn't injure him. The Green Knight draws blood with the third blow, but purposely does not injure Sir Gawain too badly; after the third blow Sir Gawain says he's had enough.*

*The Green Knight explains that the first two blows, which did Sir Gawain no harm, were for his staying true to him by not giving in to the temptation that he put his wife up to, to test Sir Gawain. The third blow, which did some injury, was given as a penalty for Sir Gawain's not keeping his end of the bargain by withholding the girdle the lady gave him.*

3. Why does Sir Gawain say he will continue to wear the girdle? Who else resolves to wear lace, and why?

*To remind himself of his weakness, and to strengthen his resolve in times where he might give in to fear or temptation. The other knights of the Round Table resolve to do the same, in honor of Sir Gawain.*

4. How does the Green Knight explain his incredible visit to Camelot the previous year?

*He says that Morgan le Fay, who is a sorceress, gave him the magic to be able to create the illusion that Sir Gawain cut his head off.*

**Week 7, Day 1 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 1.1 – 1.4**

1. Sum up Macbeth’s part in the battle for King Duncan.

*He handles himself bravely and effectively. He fights, gets attacked fiercely by the enemy, and fights back even harder. King Duncan receives regular reports recounting Macbeth’s exploits on the battlefield.*

2. What do the witches tell Macbeth? Why does this trouble him immediately and later?

*They call him “thane of Glamis” and “thane of Cawdor,” although as far as he knows he hasn’t received those titles. He learns that the witches were correct about his already having been given the title “thane of Glamis” since the previous thane of Glamis was defeated, but knows that the only way he can receive the title “thane of Cawdor” is that if the current thane of Cawdor is dead—which he isn’t then. (Later the thane of Cawdor confesses his treason and is executed, which gives the title to Macbeth.)*

*The witches also say he “shall be king hereafter,” which makes Macbeth wonder how, since King Duncan is alive, and so are his sons Malcolm and Donalbain. Macbeth then starts to think about killing the king and his sons to gain the crown.*

3. What does Macbeth mean when he says (a) “If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me without my stir”? and (b) “Why do you dress me in borrowed robes?”

*The first quotation means that if Macbeth is “fated” to be king, then he will obtain that position without his having to murder anyone who is currently in his way. The second is Macbeth’s way of saying “Why do you call me the thane of Cawdor, when the thane of Cawdor still lives?”*

4. What is the connection between the witches’ saying “Fair is foul, and foul is fair,” Macbeth’s saying “so foul and fair a day I have not seen,” Ross’s saying “What, can the devil speak true?” and Banquo’s saying “And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths”?

*Evil can sometimes appear as good, just as the devil can tell the truth to aid in his temptation of others, as he did while he tempted Jesus.*

5. What does Lady Macbeth resolve to do when she receives her husband’s letter? What does this show about her character? Name some other evidence of her character in these scenes.

*She resolves to steel his will so he will go through with murdering Duncan so he can become king. Lady Macbeth shows herself as desperately wicked. Other examples of her wickedness include her plotting the king’s murder, praying to evil spirits to give her strength to help her assist Macbeth in murdering Duncan,*

6. What is Duncan’s off-base assessment of Macbeth’s castle in 1.6? What does this demonstrate about his character? How does Macbeth say it would be doubly evil to kill Duncan, and how does the portrayal of Duncan make Macbeth look worse?

*Duncan remarks (as does Malcolm) how wonderful it is to be in Macbeth’s castle, unaware of Macbeth’s plans. It shows him as a vulnerable, trusting man. Macbeth says it would be doubly evil to kill Duncan since (a) Duncan is Macbeth’s relative and subject, and (b) Macbeth, as host, is placed in a protective position, and killing Duncan would be a wicked betrayal of that trust. Duncan’s portrayal as a trusting king makes Macbeth look even more evil, since it is such a contrast with Duncan’s good-heartedness.*

7. Explain Lady Macbeth’s plan to murder Duncan.

*They will get Duncan’s guards drunk, kill him, and then blame the guards.*

8. Describe Macbeth’s vision. List the “horror words” that mark his *soliloquy* (speech he makes to himself).

*He sees a vision of a dagger, drenched with blood. This is a scene of horror, death, and dread, marked by words such as “fatal,” “blood,” “murder,” “wolf,” “ghost,” “horror,” and “hell.”*

9. Explain the meaning of these well-known quotations from this section of *Macbeth*:

- (a) “Yet do I fear thy nature; It is too full o’ the milk of human kindness.”
- (b) “Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower, But be the serpent under ‘t.”
- (c) “I have no spur To prick the sides of my intent, but only Vaulting ambition, which o’erleaps itself And falls on the other.”

*Lady Macbeth is afraid that Macbeth is too kind to go through with the murder of Duncan.*

*Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth to look natural and friendly, to hide his intent to murder Duncan.*

*Macbeth compares his ambition to jumping on a horse, worried that his ambition will be too great and lead to disaster, like trying to jump on a horse and completely jumping over it instead.*

### **Week 7, Day 2 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 2.2 – 2.4**

1. Why is Lady Macbeth unable to murder Duncan herself? What does this do for her character?

*She can’t kill Duncan, because he reminded her of her father as he slept. For all her evil and greed, Lady Macbeth does appear decent, at least a tiny bit.*

2. What does Macbeth say to his wife about sleep after he tells his wife he has killed Duncan? How does she instruct him?

*He thinks he hears a voice cry, “Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep!” and that sleep is “innocent” and heals stress and anxiety. Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth to wash the blood off of his hands, and to smear blood on the innocent guards to make them look guilty.*

3. Why do you think Shakespeare included the scene of the drunken porter?

*Answers will vary, but possibly for comic relief, to break the tension of the play.*

4. What is the irony in Macduff’s saying “Ring the bell” so he can let everyone know Duncan has been killed?

*Because a ring of a bell is the same signal that Lady Macbeth used to let Macbeth know that it was time for Duncan to be murdered.*

5. Why does Macbeth say he killed the guards? Do you think Malcolm and Donalbain believe him?

*He says he killed them because they killed Duncan. Answers will vary on whether Malcolm and Donalbain seem to believe Macbeth, but there is a definite absence of praise for Macbeth from them (or anyone else), unlike the praise they heaped upon him for his killing in defense of the king at the play’s opening.*

6. What do Malcolm and Donalbain decide to do, and why? Why does this make them look suspicious?

*They decide to flee, one to England, and one to Ireland, because they believe their lives are also in danger from whoever killed their father. Their flight brings suspicion upon them, because it might be argued that they are fleeing their own crime.*

**Week 7, Day 3 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 3.1 – 3.3**

1. What do Banquo's words at the beginning of 3.1 indicate? What do Macbeth's words to Banquo indicate?  
*Banquo suspects Macbeth of killing Duncan. Macbeth's words to Banquo indicate that he is trying to see where Banquo will be, so he can make better plans to kill him.*

2. How does Macbeth convince the murderers he hires that they are doing the right thing? What greater point can you draw from the fact that Macbeth uses others to carry out his evil plans?

*He lies to them, telling them that Banquo (probably as a military superior officer) held them back from promotions, and that the murderers are justified in killing him in revenge. The greater point is that even though there are evil men in the world, if others wouldn't work with them or take orders they know to be unjust or evil, who knows how much of the evil plans in the world would ultimately be carried out?*

3. Explain the meaning of Lady Macbeth's words: "Nought's had, all's spent. Where our desire is got without content." What other phrase near the beginning of 3.2 is a common one, and what does it mean?

*It is not truly satisfying and exhausting to gain something that you want and find out that after you obtain it you are not content. This is a commentary on the fact that even though she and Macbeth obtained the crown for him, they are not truly happy as a result.*

*The other common phrase used by Lady Macbeth is "What's done is done." In other words, she is trying to convince herself and Macbeth not to worry about or feel guilty about what they have done—murder Duncan.*

4. Explain the results of the next attempted murders.

*The three murderers (Macbeth sends an additional one) successfully kill Banquo, but Fleance escapes.*

### Week 8, Day 1 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 3.4 – 3.6

1. How does the appearance of Banquo’s ghost affect Macbeth? How do you think it affects his relationship with his wife, and with the guests present?

*It makes him nearly go mad with guilt and fear. He says nonsensical and twisted things that don’t make sense to his guests. Before the appearance of the ghost, Macbeth took Lady Macbeth’s advice and leaned heavily upon her counsel, but she doesn’t seem to get through to him in her warnings and scoldings; he seems to have tuned her out. The guests are no doubt shocked and suspicious of Macbeth after his outbursts at the meal as well.*

2. Compare the orderliness of the meal in *Beowulf* with the orderliness of the meal in 3.4 of *Macbeth*? What does it demonstrate? How does this coincide with Macbeth’s decision at the end of 3.4?

*Unlike the social graces and sense of decorum and dignity on display at the meal table in *Beowulf*, the scene in 3.4 of *Macbeth* displays utter chaos, demonstrating the descent of Macbeth’s character and his lack of control of his life. This is on further display when Macbeth decides to go consult the witches again, when earlier in the play he disdained and showed disgust for them.*

3. After learning that Banquo is dead (and that Macbeth blames Banquo’s son Fleance for it), how do you think the people (and major characters in *Macbeth*) regard Macbeth? What do you think this does for their view of what happened to Duncan?

*No doubt Macbeth now is suspected of killing Banquo, because of his mad ravings at seeing a ghost at the dinner party, which the guests no doubt have guessed was the ghost of Banquo. Also, with Macbeth’s blaming Fleance for his father’s murder (knowing that Macbeth was most likely guilty), it surely makes the people wonder whether Macbeth’s earlier story about the guards being guilty of Duncan’s murder is actually true, and if Macbeth himself is not the real murderer.*

### Week 8, Day 1 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 4.1 – 4.2

1. Describe the scene with the witches. What is notable in how they announce Macbeth’s arrival?

*They are combining awful, gory, horrible items in a cauldron to make “magic” against whoever they choose. They announce Macbeth’s arrival by saying “Something wicked this way comes,” which is notable because as evil as they are, they note that Macbeth himself is evil as well.*

2. What are the three apparitions? How do they advise Macbeth?

*They are an armed head, a bloody child, and a child with a crown on his head and a tree in his hand. The first tells Macbeth to beware Macduff; the second informs him that “none of woman born shall harm” him; the third tells him he will not be killed until the trees of Great Birnam travel to Dunsinane Hill to fight against him.*

3. What does Macbeth vow to do (and follow through on) after he hears the words of the three apparitions? What does this say about his character?

*He vows to have Macduff, his wife, and his children murdered (which is accomplished), which shows his descent into pure evil, especially since there is no reason to kill Macduff’s wife and children.*

4. Sum up the meaning of Lady Macduff’s words “Whither should I fly? I have done no harm. But I remember now I am in this earthly world, where to do harm is often laudable, to do good sometime accounted dangerous folly....”

*She is answering the messenger’s warning to flee Macbeth’s murderers, saying, “Why should I run? I’ve done nothing wrong.” She then reminds herself that in the evil, earthly world, doing evil is often praised, and doing good is sometimes treated as having done something dangerous.*

### Week 8, Day 2 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 4.3 – 5.2

1. Describe Lady Macbeth's state of mind. What things does she do that indicate her guilt? How does her behavior here contrast with her temperament at the play's beginning?

*She sleepwalks (which was considered a sign of guilt in Shakespeare's day), she makes motions as if she is washing her hands (trying to wash Duncan's blood—representing her guilt—off of them), she says things aloud indicating her knowledge of the murders, which the doctor and gentlewoman hear. Her uneasy, jittery, guilty behavior here is a marked contrast with her poised, confident, "we'll kill anyone who gets in our way" manner at the play's beginning.*

2. What things does Angus say Macbeth surely feels, which make him miserable as king?

*The "sticking" of the murders on his hands and conscience; the knowledge that revolt is imminent; the realization that those he commands don't obey his order in love, but only out of a sense of duty; and his title of king, which "hang[s] loose about him, like a giant's robe upon a dwarfish thief."*

3. What do the men in 5.2 vow to do?

*To march on to Macbeth's castle and rid Scotland of him, whom they call a "tyrant."*

### Week 8, Day 3 – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, 5.3 – 5.8

1. What is Macbeth's outlook on life, as evidenced by his words and how he treats his servant in 5.3?

*He is miserable, says "I have lived long enough," and doesn't enjoy being king. He has fallen greatly in character in even little things like insulting his servant who is trying to respectfully warn him about the soldiers marching against him.*

2. How is the witches' prophecy about the Birnam forest fulfilled?

*The witches prophesied that Macbeth won't be defeated until the Birnam forest comes to Dunsinane, which happens in a sense when the advancing army cuts down trees from the forest and hides behind them as they march to Macbeth's castle.*

3. Sum up Macbeth's thoughts in his soliloquy immediately after he learns about Lady Macbeth. (This is one of the most famous speeches in any Shakespeare play.)

*Macbeth says he wishes his wife could have died at a time more convenient to honor it, instead of right before his key battle. He laments his life, saying that all his days simply pointed to "dusty death." He then disparages life itself, calling it a "walking shadow," a lousy actor in a play, and "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing"—totally meaningless, in his eyes.*

4. How is the witches' other major prophecy about Macbeth fulfilled?

*They told him that no man "born of woman" could kill him, but Macduff wasn't "born of woman"—he was born via a C-section—and he successfully kills Macbeth, avenging the murders of his wife and children.*

5. Explain how *Macbeth* ends on a hopeful, optimistic note.

*Macbeth the tyrant dies, Malcolm is crowned king of Scotland, he rewards his thanes for fighting for him, makes plans to call back those in exile from Scotland because of Macbeth's tyranny, and promises a new kind of rule.*

## Week 12, Day 2 – *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, Author’s Apology & Part 1

1. Sum up Bunyan’s main thoughts in his “Apology.”

*He never intended to write an entire book, just to put some thoughts down. Some told him to publish it; some said not to, so he did it. Some criticized the book for various reasons, including its “darkness” and usage of metaphors, but he thought it good to write to pull people toward Jesus Christ.*

2. What do the “den” and the “dream” represent in Bunyan’s life?

*The “den” represents his time in prison, and the “dream” is the book, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, which he wrote in prison.*

3. What is Christian’s plight? What does Evangelist tell him to do?

*He is burdened for his soul; his family ridicules him. Evangelist tells him to keep his eyes on the light and to go to the wicket gate.*

4. Why does Pliable leave? How does Worldly Wiseman advise Christian?

*They come up the Slough of Despond (like difficulties in coming to Christ), and he is angry that he has to go through hardship, so he leaves. Worldly Wiseman advises Christian to get rid of his burden (which represents forgetting about his sinfulness and not worrying about his soul’s salvation); he says that the way Evangelist advises Christian to go is too dangerous and troublesome.*

5. What do you think Mr. Legality and Mr. Civility represent? What does Evangelist say about them, and how does he advise Christian?

*They represent, first, the attempt to get to heaven by “doing good” or following the laws of Moses in the Old Testament; and second, trying to attain heaven by being “civil,” or good. Evangelist says that Mr. Legality is a cheat, and Civility is a fraud and can’t help Christian. Evangelist warns Christian not to turn aside again from the path to the Wicket-Gate.*

## Week 12, Day 3 – *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, Part 2

1. What do you think Beelzebub’s actions toward those trying to enter the gate represent?

*His shooting arrows at them represents sending troubles their way when they are trying to find and put their faith in Jesus, to stop them from doing it or making it uncomfortable for them.*

2. What does Goodwill tell Christian about the burden on his (Christian’s) back? What do you think this represents?

*He says that it will fall off by itself when he reaches the Wicket-Gate, representing the deliverance from sin that salvation in Jesus Christ brings to the sinner.*

3. Whom does the Interpreter represent? What lesson does he teach Christian about sweeping the house and the water?

*The Interpreter represents the Holy Spirit. The sweeping of dust just spreads it around the house, choking everyone; this represents the attempts of those who try to keep the laws of Moses for their salvation. The sweeping is effective only when water is spread on the ground, which represents the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

4. What lesson do Passion and Patience teach Christian?

*Passion wants everything good now; Patience waits for good things. This represents men who will do anything for an entertaining, easy life on earth, as opposed to those who patiently wait for the next life.*

5. Who is the man in the iron cage, and what does he warn Christian?

*He symbolizes those who wanted to become Christians, but let the pleasures of sin get in their way, until their hearts were too hardened to believe.*

### **Week 12, Day 3 – *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, Part 3**

1. What kind of person does Formalist represent?

*Those who disobey God’s Word and trusting in their salvation through Jesus Christ, in favor of following laws and rules done because of religious custom, whether Pharisaical or Roman Catholic tradition. As Formalist says, “What matter is it which way we get in?”*

2. What is the lesson of the “Hill of Difficulty”?

*That a person must follow Jesus Christ only for salvation, even though other ways are easier. The other ways are named “Death” and “Destruction” to indicate that they are not effectual for salvation.*

3. What does Christian’s roll represent?

*“The assurance of his life, and acceptance at the desired haven.”*

4. What does Christian discuss with Prudence, Piety, and Charity? (Be sure you know what these names mean!)

*They talk about where he has gone and is going; their talk is generally edifying to each other. Prudence asks Christian what he thinks about his old hometown (he is ashamed of it and detests it); Charity asks him about his family; Christian bemoans their mocking him and love for the world.*

5. What weapons and armor is Christian given, and why? How does this compare to Ephesians 6:10-18?

*A sword, shield, helmet, breastplate, prayer, and shoes that won’t wear out; these are to protect Christian on his journey. Ephesians 6:10-18 says, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”*

### **Week 12, Day 4 – *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, Parts 4 & 5**

1. Describe Apollyon and his battle with Christian. What does this battle represent?

*He is clothed with scales like a fish; he has wings like a dragon, feet like a bear; out of his belly comes fire and smoke; he has a mouth like a lion. Christian defeats him in battle by using the weapons he has been given, and he thanks God for the victory.*

*The battle represents the devil’s attempts to sabotage a Christian in his journey.*

2. Who are Pope and Pagan? What do they represent?

*They are two giants of old times who were powerful tyrants, and who have killed many pilgrims on the journey. Pope represents the Roman Catholic Church, under which many true Christians have been tortured and murdered for not compromising their faith in Jesus Christ alone; he has very little power now, which probably represents the decreased power of the Roman Church in England. Pagan has been dead many years; he represents worship of gods other than the true God.*

3. What happens to Christian when he gets ahead of Faithful? What does this symbolize?

*Christian feels proud, and he stumbles and falls; Faithful helps him up. This symbolizes the danger of pride and the need for Christians to support each other.*

4. What does Faithful tell Christian about Wanton? What does Wanton represent?

*Wanton is a “she” who tempts Faithful, like Joseph was tempted by Potiphar’s wife; Wanton represents sexual sins.*

5. Who is “Adam the First”? Give the names of his three daughters.

*Adam the First is the “old man” that Christians are commanded to put off. His three daughters are the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life.”*

6. What is Shame’s basic view of Christianity? How does Faithful respond to him?

*Shame sneers at it, saying that it is pathetic, and it is shameful, weak, and silly to obey God. Faithful tells him “that which is highly esteemed among men is had in abomination with God,” and that God’s way is best, regardless of what men say.*

7. What are Talkative’s problems? What Bible passages does Faithful remind him of?

*He just talks about becoming a Christian, and never does anything about it. He leads others astray because his life doesn’t match his talk, and he deceives others into thinking Christianity is a joke.*

*Faithful reminds him that “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:17); and “But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:49); and “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18), among others.*

### Week 13, Day 1 – *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Part 6

1. Describe Vanity Fair. What does it symbolize?

*It is filled with all manner of worldly goods and pleasures; it represents the kingdoms of the world (the Britain Row, the French Row, the Italian Row, the Spanish Row, the German Row, etc.), as opposed to the kingdom of God.*

2. Give the reasons that residents of Vanity Fair are so upset with the pilgrims there. What do these characteristics of the pilgrims represent?

*The pilgrims dress differently, their speech is different, and they care very little about the goods that the storekeepers have to offer.*

*These characteristics represent Christians' more modest dress, their less aggressive manner of speaking to others and focus on heavenly things in their speech, and their obedience to Jesus Christ's command to "love not the world."*

3. What do the pilgrims seek to buy?

*The truth.*

4. Why are they put on trial and treated badly? How do they respond? What lesson for Christians is shown?

*There is no real reason; the other Vanity Fair residents simply are convicted and lash out. The pilgrims patiently endure their wrongful treatment, which is a reminder to Christians that we will face unfair treatment and hatred in this world.*

5. What happens to Faithful and Christian?

*Faithful is tortured and burned at the stake; Christian is sent to prison.*

### Week 13, Day 2 – *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Part 7

1. How does Demas try to turn aside Hopeful and Christian? What happens to By-ends? What does this represent?

*He shows them a silver mine that offers treasures; this represents the love of money and worldly goods, and how this can sidetrack a Christian. By-ends is covered up by the mine and never seen again!*

2. Describe Giant Despair, Diffidence, and their encounter with Christian and Hopeful. How do Christian and Hopeful escape?

*He is an evil giant who lives in a place called "Doubting Castle," and he kidnaps Christian and Hopeful and puts them into a smelly, dirty dungeon, beating them and telling them they should kill themselves. Diffidence is Giant Despair's wife ("diffidence" means "quietness" or "shyness"). Christian and Hopeful escape with the key called Promise.*

### Week 13, Day 3 – *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Parts 8 & 9

1. What is the name of the hill by the Delectable Mountains? What is at its feet?

*It is called "Error," and there are numerous dead men at its foot.*

2. What do the shepherds advise Christian and Faithful to do on their way to the Celestial City?

*They tell them to beware the Flatterer, don't sleep on the Enchanted Ground.*

3. How does Ignorance say he will reach the Celestial City?

*By his good works (praying, fasting, offerings, etc.).*

4. Who are the “three rogues”? How do they almost destroy Little-faith, and how do Hopeful and Christian respond?

*Faint-heart, Mistrust, and Guilt. They weaken and almost destroy Little-faith by attacking him (symbolizing these three’s attacks on weaker Christians). Hopeful criticizes Little-faith, but Christian rebukes Hopeful, saying that it is possible for most Christians to be weak in moments.*

5. Describe the encounter with the Flatterer and the angel.

*Christian and Hopeful mistakenly listen to the Flatterer, who leads them to a path that looks straight, but does not lead to the Celestial City. An angel punishes them for being so easily led astray, and places them on the real path.*

6. What does Atheist tell Christian and Hopeful?

*That there is no such place as the Celestial City, and that he has never seen it, although he has looked for it for years.*

7. Explain why Hopeful resisted Christ for so long. What things brought to his mind his sins?

*He didn’t know God was reaching out to him, he loved the pleasures of sin, he didn’t want to leave his old, non-Christian companions, and the feeling for needing Christ was unpleasant to him.*

*Several things brought his sins to mind: meeting good men, hearing the Bible, thinking about sick or dead neighbors/friends, thinking about death, and knowing he deserved judgement for his sins.*

8. What did Hopeful try before he became a Christian?

*Religion, which didn’t work for him.*

9. How does Christian counter Ignorance’s explanations for how he thinks he will reach the Celestial City? What does Christian answer Ignorance when Ignorance answers his question “What dost thou believe?” and Ignorance’s claim that faith in Christ will lead believes to sin more, not worrying about their sins?

*Christian reasons with Ignorance, telling him he can’t trust his heart to lead him to the Celestial City, that thinking good thoughts about God will not get him there, and so on. When Ignorance tells Christian he (Ignorance) believes that Christ died for sinners, Christian answers him by saying that a true Christian would cling to Christ and His righteousness, desiring greatly to serve and obey Him. Christian also chides Ignorance for saying Christians will be more likely to sin, feeling confident in their “covering,” saying that Christians are freed from being slaves to sin and greatly desiring it.*

### **Week 13, Day 4 – The Pilgrim’s Progress, Part 10**

1. How does Christian describe “right fear”?

*A healthy “fear” that keeps Christians close to Christ, convicting them of their sins, and keeping them in reverence toward God and His Word.*

2. List the reasons that Hopeful says some resist going all-out in becoming a Christian?

*First, some have a pricking of their conscience, but that fades and they forget about it. Second, they fear any change in a life in obedience to Jesus. Third, they are arrogant or proud, and they think that “religion” is beneath their dignity.*

*Fourth, they choose ways that minimize their guilt or fear of the afterlife, so they don't think about it, and their hearts harden.*

3. What ways are used by some to turn away from Jesus, according to Christian?

*They stop thinking about God, stop praying and being around other Christians for edification, find faults with Christians, hang around carnal men, start sinning secretly and then do them openly, and become hardened against God.*

4. What are Beulah and the Celestial City like?

*Beulah is a beautiful, restful place in reach of the Celestial City, with arbors and vineyards. The Celestial City is the heaven of the Bible: with precious stones, gold, pearls, and so on.*

5. What stands between the pilgrims and the Celestial City? What does this represent?

*A deep river, which represents death, since only two men (Elijah and Enoch) have avoided having to cross it.*

6. What happens to Christian and Hopeful when they reach the Celestial City? What happens to Ignorance?

*They are brought into heaven by two shining men, surrounded by God's glory and other Christians, music, given crowns and garments. Ignorance is led by a ferryman named Vain-hope to the gate, and turned out to hell from the gate of heaven.*

7. How does *The Pilgrim's Progress* end? What does Bunyan tell the reader in the conclusion?

*The author wakes, and realizes it was a dream. Bunyan exhorts the reader to gather truth from his allegory, to forgive his faults in storytelling to realize the truth of what he is saying.*