

***British Literature for  
Christian Homeschoolers***

**Answer Key to Review Questions**

**By Scott Clifton**

**Web: [www.homeschoolpartners.net](http://www.homeschoolpartners.net)**

**Email: [scott@homeschoolpartners.net](mailto:scott@homeschoolpartners.net)**

**For a FREE two-week sample of *Classic Literature for Christian Homeschoolers*, *World Literature for Christian Homeschoolers*, and a free copy of *The First Book of Homeschool Follies*, [click here](#).**

## 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 Hrunting, 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 3, Day 2 – “A Modest Proposal”**

1. Look up and write a brief definition of the term *satire*. How does “A Modest Proposal” fit the description?

*A satire is “A literary device of writing or art which principally ridicules its subject often as an intended means of provoking or preventing change. Humor, irony, and exaggeration are often used to aid this” (www.wiktionary.com). “A Modest Proposal” clearly fits the description, because to make a point, the essay offers a “solution” that is obviously ludicrous.*

2. What, exactly, is Swift’s “modest proposal”? How will this proposal “solve” a number of problems?

*To take one-year-old babies of poor Irish and sell them for food for the wealthy, which will “solve” the problem of hunger in children, lack of money for poverty-stricken families, and what to eat when beef and bacon get to be too repetitive.*

3. How does the author’s use of statistics and arithmetic and talk of profit to try to “prove” his point affect the reader?

*It (ideally!) angers the reader into reasoning to himself, “He can’t possibly mean cannibalism! Even aside from that horror, human beings are not just numbers; they’re created in God’s image, and can’t be looked at as statistics and arithmetic problems, regardless of how someone ‘proves’ that such a proposal works.”*

4. List some instances of “black humor” that Swift employs to make his point.

*Swift says, among other things, that...*

- *his plan would be perfect for landlords, since they already “devour” the parents, and their poor tenants could use their children as rent money,*
- *children’s hides could even be used to make ladies’ gloves and men’s boots,*
- *it would be wrong to use young teenagers for meat, since the males would be too tough, and the females could be better used as breeders,*
- *parents won’t have to worry about the cost of feeding and clothing children after they’re a year old,*
- *it will increase and improve marriages, since more couples will want to get married so they can make money selling their children for meat, and fewer men will kick their expectant wives, since they might cause miscarriages and lose money, and*
- *the different-flavored meat would be a welcome change to the same old tiresome meat they always eat (perfect for weddings and christenings!).*

5. What is Swift trying to accomplish with the paragraph that begins “I can think of no one objection that will possibly be raised...?”

*When he says, “Therefore let no man talk to me of other expedients,” and then lists them, he is actually saying that these proposals are excellent and should have been already carried through by the government and the people themselves.*

6. Explain the hypocrisy of much of the non-Christian world when it (rightfully) smiles at an essay like “A Modest Proposal,” but follows (or supports) policies that are just as gruesome and horrifying.

*Answers will vary, but most readers will get the theme of Swift’s essay: that policies that impoverish and cause great harm to people—especially vulnerable children—are evil. But many in today’s world will turn right around and defend abortion or “mercy-killings,” or the economic policies of socialism or communism (which produce widespread poverty and shortages of goods, harming the weakest citizens).*

### **Week 3, Day 3 – “Lord Randal”**

1. What phrase is repeated in each stanza? What effect does this have by the last stanza?

*The phrase is “make my bed soon.” This gives the poem a rhythmic quality.*

2. How is the last line of the last stanza slightly different from the previous stanzas’ last lines?

*It says “I’m sick at the heart” instead of “I’m weary wi’ hunting.”*

3. What has happened to Lord Randal? What elements in the story make his end even more tragic?

*He has been poisoned by a woman he loves. What makes his end even more tragic is the fact that it is his mother whom he tells he is dying, and that he is handsome and young.*

### **Week 3, Day 3 – “Sir Patrick Spens”**

1. Write a short summary of “Sir Patrick Spens.”

*A Scottish king requests that Sir Patrick Spens—the best sailor in the area—go to retrieve his daughter from Norway. The sailors warn Sir Patrick Spens that the upcoming storm is too dangerous, but Sir Patrick Spens sails anyway. The ship reaches Norway in two days, but on the return to Scotland it sinks when it has hardly gone a few miles from sea, drowning everyone—Sir Patrick Spens, the sailors, the Scottish lords, and the king’s daughter. A number of ladies sit on Scotland’s shore, waiting in vain for the ship’s return.*

2. Why does the “fate” of Sir Patrick Spens seem especially tragic—and unjust?

*The Scottish king seems to use his authority to demand that Sir Patrick Spens sail in such dangerous weather, and in fact, it’s possible that the Norwegian king should have allowed Sir Patrick Spens to wait to sail back to Scotland until the weather was better, especially since they were probably fortunate to reach Norway, with the sailors warning that the weather was not good for sailing. The injustice of Sir Patrick Spens’s “fate” lies in how it seems that he had little choice but to obey the whims of the king, regardless of the danger to himself and his men.*

3. Write down one or two questions—ones about characters’ backgrounds or actions or motivations—that are not answered by “Sir Patrick Spens.”

*Answers will vary, but here are a few: Why was the king drinking? Why couldn’t he wait until the weather was better to see his daughter? Why was Sir Patrick Spens walking on the beach when he is asked to sail the ship? Why doesn’t he listen to his men and/or tell the king it is too dangerous to sail, and that he risks losing his daughter?*

### **Week 3, Day 4 – “The Mortal Immortal”**

7. How does Winzy view immortality at the story’s beginning?

*As burdensome, weary to the mind and soul, vexing, etc.*

8. Sum up the author’s backstory with Cornelius Agrippa.

*He works for him, but after he is held in disgrace (possibly falsely), he cannot get an assistant and asks him to be his; he refuses and runs away.*

9. Describe the alteration of Bertha's position and character. How does this influence a major decision by Winzy?

*She is adopted by a rich woman, and becomes haughty and impatient with Winzy, whom Bertha's mother considers unworthy of Bertha's friendship. Bertha pulls from Winzy her relationship with Cornelius Agrippa and encourages her to return to him, which Winzy does.*

10. How does Bertha's position and character alter? How does this influence a major decision by Winzy?

*It is a "philter to cure love," and Agrippa warns Winzy not to drink it, lest he stop loving Bertha. Winzy drinks the potion because he wants to lose his love for Bertha, whom he thinks will never love him.*

11. What effect does the elixir have on Winzy? What unintended effects does it have on his life and the lives of others?

*It makes him feel light-headed and happy, but doesn't work as he had hoped, as he goes to meet Bertha to spurn her, but finds he still loves her. He stays lighthearted even after marrying Bertha, though his personality wasn't such before. And most importantly, the elixir elongates his life, which he learns from his conversation with Cornelius on his deathbed.*

*He doesn't age, but Bertha does, which makes him look like her son, and irritates Bertha. His lack of aging also raises suspicion in his neighbors, who believe he is involved in witchcraft and shun him and Bertha, making them poor, since they won't even buy his farm produce.*

12. What are Bertha and Winzy's individual obsessions? What does Winzy decide to do as he finishes telling his story?

*Bertha obsesses over Winzy's youthful appearance, and hoping he ages as much as she does. Winzy tires of life after outliving Bertha and constantly plans methods of suicide. He finally decides to do something dangerous and grand, to either make himself famous or die attempting it.*

13. Explain what these passages say about immortality:

- John 11:25-26 – Jesus says that He is the resurrection and the life, and that those who believe on Him, even though they die, will live.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 – Flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God, but one day Christians will be raised by Christ to have bodies that are changed—incorruptible, not capable of dying, instead of corruptible.
- 1 Timothy 1:17 – God has many magnificent attributes, one of which is immortality.

#### **Week 4, Day 1 – “Of Discourse”**

1. What does Bacon say some speakers crave in having a conversation? What does he say they *should* desire? How is Solomon's request of God in 1 Kings 3:5-9 related to this?

*In conversation, some people crave being told they're witty or correct instead of being thoughtful and showing good judgement of what is truth. When God told Solomon He would grant him anything he wished, Solomon asked for discernment between good and evil.*

2. Explain the meaning of this sentence in “Of Discourse”: “The honourablest part of talk is to give the occasion; and again to moderate and pass to somewhat else, for then a man leads the dance.”

*The best part of holding a conversation is giving others an opportunity to converse, and to lead the conversation without seeming to dominate it.*

3. What does Bacon say is a good way to hold a conversation?



To vary your topics: stories, opinions, asking questions, involving others, telling good jokes—not ones about religion, government, others' business, poor persons, or sharp criticisms of others.

4. Bacon refers to “saltiness” and “bitterness” in conversation. What do you think is the difference between the two? How does Colossians 4:6 compare to this advice?

*“Saltiness” appears to refer to adding flavor to a conversation and making correct, beneficial observations. Bitterness involves making truthful or perceptive observations in speech, but in a cutting or overly critical way. Colossians 4:6 admonishes Christians this way: “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”*

5. What does a person who constantly mocks others in his speech and makes them “afraid of his wit” face?

*Those who mock others, and make them afraid of their wit, will be afraid of others' memories, remembering his mocking and avoiding him or getting even.*

6. What other major pieces of advice about conversation does Bacon offer to readers?

*Answers will vary, but here are examples:*

*Asking questions will result in learning, especially from those who are knowledgeable; plus, it gives them an occasion to demonstrate their knowledge, pleasing them.*

- *Don't let others monopolize conversations*
- *Don't pretend to know more than you do (or you'll always be under suspicion).*
- *Don't talk about yourself constantly.*
- *Don't speak scornfully.*
- *Discretion of speech is more than speaking eloquently.*
- *Speaking agreeably to listeners is more important than being correct.*
- *Monopolizing a conversation is selfish.*

#### **Week 4, Day 2 – “Sonnet XVIII”**

6. How, exactly, does the poet's love compare to a summer's day?

*She is “more lovely and more temperate” (more agreeable, more gentle, etc.).*

7. What two things does the poet say cause beauty to fade? Why does he say that his love's “eternal summer” shall not fade?

*He says that beauty fades because of “chance” or by “nature's changing course untrimm'd” (when nature simply takes its course, a beautiful woman grows old and less physically beautiful).*

*The poet says that the beauty of the subject of the poem will live on as long as there are men who live and can see, because...his poem will be read by them and let them know about her beauty!*

#### **Week 4, Day 3 – “On Conversation”**

1. How does Cowper say that the English and the French differ in the way they converse?

*He says that English people require a reason to talk; the French, on the other hand, talk constantly, and talk the same way to both the higher and lower “classes.”*

2. In the fourth paragraph, what does Cowper say is the main mistake of many conversationalists? What does he say is the “essence of conversation”?

*Some who try to be good conversationalists make the mistake of turning the whole conversation to themselves, instead of following the “essence of conversation,” which is talking together.*

3. What does Cowper mean by saying we should “adapt the matter of our discourse to our company”?

*If not, the subjects we talk about will seem absurd, because of the lack of knowledge or interest in the chosen subject, and it will give the impression that you are simply talking about what you want to talk about, rather than considering your company.*

4. List several of what you think are the most memorable “Bad Conversationalists” Cowper names.

*Answers will vary, but here are most of them:*

*Attitudinarians and Face-makers are those who ruin conversation by making weird faces or bodily motions to indicate their feelings, instead of thoughtful words, like mimes. Smirkers and Smilers set off their speech with odd facial tics. Mimics try to (poorly) imitate the person they’re talking with.*

*Emphaticals speak distinctly and loudly, trying to ram home their points with excessive elocution and force. Whisperers or Low-speakers get too close and often breathe their foul breath in your face. Other bad speakers are the Wits, who do nothing but utter witty remarks, the Whistlers or Tune-hummers, and the Brawlers, who speak much too loudly.*

*Tattlers speak too femininely, which contrasts strangely with their maleness, Swearers and Half-swearers waste words on bad words and fake bad words, Sensibles speak dogmatically on trivial subjects, Wonderers constantly...wonder, Phraseologists take too long to explain their points, and Silent Men seem afraid to talk.*

5. What is Cowper’s main point in comparing man’s speech with the “speech” of animals?

*Good conversation distinguishes man from the animals. The tongue should be used for good, not evil. Some speakers can be compared to animal counterparts: Praters with parrots, chatters with monkeys, Grunters and Growlers with hogs, Snarlers with dogs, Spitfires with wild cats, Complainers with screech-owls, repetitive Storytellers with cuckoos, Critics with venomous serpents.*

6. What does God’s Word teach about speech in Proverbs 10:8, Proverbs 15:26, Proverbs 17:27, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Colossians 4:6, Titus 2:7-8, and James 3:1-12?

*Proverbs 10:8 – A man who talks too much is a fool and will fall.*

*Proverbs 15:26 – “The words of the pure are pleasant words.”*

*Proverbs 17:27 – “He that hath knowledge spareth his words.”*

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5 – Paul had no “excellency of speech” or “enticing words of man’s wisdom,” so the faith of his converts should be in God’s power, not his great speaking techniques.*

*Colossians 4:6 – Our speech should be “with grace, seasoned with salt.”*

*Titus 2:7-8 – Our speech should be “sound,” so no one can accuse us of evil.*

*James 3:1-12 – The tongue is a monstrous evil, like a rudder that turns a mighty ship, and can hardly be tamed by man. Christians should not utter both blessings and cursings from the same mouth.*

7. Name another type of Bad Conversationalist that we see in the modern age, with a short description of why this type of conversationalist needs work on speaking appropriately with others.

*Answers will vary!*

#### **Week 4, Day 4 – “Sonnet CXVI”**

1. What is the definition of true love, according to “Sonnet CXVI”?

*Love is an act that does not alter when the object of love changes; it is steady and is not shaken by “tempests” (difficulties or challenges); it is not “Time’s fool”—that is, love does not end just because a person’s looks decline through age; love lasts forever, “even to the edge of doom.”*

2. Explain the lines “It is the star to every wandering bark / Whose worth’s unknown, although his height be taken.”

*Love is a fixed, unwavering entity, like the North Star; the North Star is similar to love, because although we can use scientific instruments to find the distance to it and use it to guide sailing ships, its true worth cannot be measured.*

### **Week 5, Day 2 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. Sum up the reason for the group’s trip. How many are in the convoy? How does the author set up *The Canterbury Tales* in the prologue?

*The travelers are taking a pilgrimage to Thomas Becket’s grave. There are 29 individuals in the convoy, and the author sets up the tales, speaking as if he were one of the travelers and telling the reader his observations about each one.*

2. List several traits and background facts of the knight, the squire, and the yeoman.

*The knight has fought in the Crusades and is heroic and strong, but also gentle, meek, and wise—almost the perfect knight. His son, the squire, is an active, strong young man who sings and dances, skillfully jousts, and displays courtesy and humility. The yeoman is an independent farmer loyal to the knight, rugged, and well-armed.*

3. How are the Prioress, the Monk, and the Friar portrayed? Explain how Chaucer tells the reader about the size of the Prioress and Monk. What does this say about the Roman Catholic Church?

*The prioress is refined, polite, and sensitive. The monk would rather hunt and eat than keep his vows. The friar is a corrupt, alcohol-loving money-grubber, offering “forgiveness” for money (this Roman Catholic practice was known as “indulgences”).*

*The prioress and monk are both fat—Chaucer says the prioress was “not undergrown,” and he says the monk “stood in goodly case.” This is an indication of the wealth of the Roman Catholic Church, that its “servants” have so much more to eat than the average person.*

4. In what way do the Merchant and the Clerk differ?

*The merchant is more concerned about material values, and the clerk is a student—poor, thin, intellectual, and a bookworm.*

### **Week 5, Day 3 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. List some characteristics of the lawyer and the franklin. How are they similar?

*The lawyer is a brilliant and high-classed man, wealthy and an owner of much expensive property. The franklin is basically a pleasure seeker and enjoys food and drink. Both men are lovers of luxury and rich.*

2. What characteristic do the weaver, the dyer, and the arras-maker share?

*They are all learned men, qualified enough to be city councilmen if the need and desire arose.*

3. What kind of a man is the sailor? The physician? How are these two alike?

*The sailor is a violent man who gets into fights and sometimes kills victims, throwing them into the sea. The physician is a talented man of medicine who makes much money dispensing drugs and cures to his patients, but his character is deficient—he “read...little in the Bible” and loves gold.*

4. Describe the wife of Bath. What is the irony in the statement saying she had been “respectable throughout her life”? Compare this to John 4:7-18.

*She is an expert seamstress, but jealous of competition. She is richly dressed (as you might expect) and a large woman. The irony in the statement about her respectability is that the reason she is “respectable” is because the wife of Bath*

*has been married five times—to all wonderful, church-going husbands! This is a reference to the Biblical account of Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman who had been married five times and was living out of wedlock with a man.*

### **Week 5, Day 4 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. Give examples of the goodness and upright character of both the parson and the plowman. Explain what is meant by this line that describes the parson: *“This fine example to his flock he gave / That first he wrought and afterwards he taught.”*

*The parson is poor, patient, content with what he has, and a good example to the church. The plowman loves God and helps his neighbors, not concerned with monetary reward.*

*The line about the parson means he worked virtues in his own life, then he taught them, instead of just preaching to the church how to live without following his own words.*

2. How do the miller and manciple contrast with the parson and plowman?

*The miller cheats others he trades with, and he is a brawny, crude man; the manciple cheats those he deals with, and is a clever, vulgar man. Obviously this is a dramatic contrast with the parson and plowman, who deal scrupulously with others, with their good in mind.*

3. List some of the frightening facial and character features that mark the summoner.

*He has an angry face that “children feared,” covered with boils; it doesn’t help that he often shouts at those around him. He is corrupt, selling influence for bribes, and a drunk.*

4. What corrupt Roman Catholic Church practice is the pardoner deeply involved in? What does he claim to have in his possession? What kind of song does he sing “best of all”? What does this suggest?

*The pardoner is involved in the sale of indulgences, a practice begun by the Roman Catholic Church to increase its wealth by convincing church members that they could pay the church to “buy off” time for their dead relatives supposedly in purgatory. The pardoner claims he has a sail that belonged to Peter before he became a follower of Christ (relic worship has long been a characteristic of the Roman Catholic Church). The pardoner sings an offertory “best of all,” which means he does his best when there is money to be made.*

5. How does the storyteller introduce the next part of the story?

*He says that now he’s going to tell the reader what happened next on the pilgrimage with the travelers. He says he has to tell the truth about what happened, and he’ll do so now.*

6. What is the hotel owner like? Explain the game that he suggests. What is the prize for the winner?

*He is generous, friendly, and eager to serve his guests. He suggests that they have a tale-telling contest on the way and back to Canterbury, with each traveler telling two tales each way, so they will be entertained on their journey, instead of traveling in silence. He says that he will, if the group agrees, be the judge on whose tales are the best, and that that traveler will win a supper paid for by the other travelers.*

7. How does the group choose who gets to go first? Who is chosen to go first?

*They “draw straws,” the person drawing the shortest going first. The knight wins the contest, and agrees to tell his tales first.*

### **Week 6, Day 1 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. What mission does the Duke Theseus undertake, and why?

*He marries and comes home to the sound of ladies wailing since their husbands were killed in a war, and the victor wouldn't let them be buried. Duke Theseus then travels to Thebes, takes the city, and has the ladies' husbands buried.*

2. What does he do with the two knights? How does Emily affect them?

*He finds two knights alive and sends them to prison for life in a castle. Emily, the king's wife's sister, smites the two knights, the cousins Palamon and Arcita, with love. Arcita claims he must see Emily every day or die, and Palamon tells Arcita to forget Emily, since he saw her first.*

3. What is Arcita's "fate"?

*He is freed when his friend Pirithous puts in a good word for him with his friend Duke Theseus. The only condition is that Arcita may never return or he will be beheaded.*

4. How do both knights become more glum?

*Palamon is upset that Arcita is free and he is not, questioning why the "gods" would do this to him. Arcita is even more miserable than he was in prison, since he earlier claimed he had to see Emily every day or die, and he can't return under penalty of death. He claims, "I'm in worse prison now."*

### **Week 6, Day 2 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. Explain Arcita's plan. How do his looks help him succeed?

*After a few years of letting himself waste away in anguish, he decides to return to Emily. His love-sickness has made him much thinner and more haggard looking, and he comes back and gets a job in the home of Duke Theseus, near Emily, knowing he won't be recognized.*

2. What happens to Palamon? What angers him, and what does he propose?

*Palamon drugs the guard and escapes. He first decides to attack Theseus and either be killed or take Emily as his wife, but he overhears Arcita lamenting his life, gets angry and attacks him, and proposes a duel the next day for Emily's hand.*

3. Describe Theseus's involvement. What alters his decree upon Arcita and Palamon? Sum up his proposed "solution."

*The next day when Arcita and Palamon are battling, Theseus sees them and chides them. They confess who they are and why they are fighting, and Theseus sentences them to death. But the ladies with him begin to weep, and Theseus says he pardons them since they are fighting for love. He tells the two to come back in one year with 100 knights each, and that whoever's group wins the battle will win him Emily as his wife.*

### **Week 6, Day 3 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. Describe the amphitheater Theseus builds. Why does he build altars to both Venus and Mars?

*The amphitheater is huge—a mile in circumference, filled with carvings and artwork, and with "theatre seats." Theseus builds altars to both Venus and Mars because the occasion is marked by their "powers"—the battle is over the love of a woman (thus an altar to Venus, the "goddess" of love), and involves battle itself (thus an altar to Mars, the "god" of war).*

2. To whom does Palamon pray? What does he ask?

*He prays to Venus, asking her to give him Emily as a wife, and if he can't have Emily as a wife, to make sure he is killed in battle, because he doesn't want to live.*

3. Describe Emily's prayer to Diana. What is her answer?

*She prays to Diana, saying she doesn't want to be married. She asks Diana to move upon Arcita and Palamon so they won't love her any more, and if she does have to be married, to let it be to the man who loves her more. Diana tells Emily that she will marry one of the two.*

4. What does Arcita pray for and vow?

*He asks Mars for victory in battle, and vows to shave his head if he wins.*

5. Describe the quarrel among the “gods.” What does Saturn declare?

*Venus and Mars quarrel about who should win, Arcita or Palamon. Saturn says he has power over death, and that he will make sure Palamon wins Emily.*

#### **Week 6, Day 4 – The Canterbury Tales**

1. What instructions does Theseus give the warriors? Why do you think he does this?

*He says that no weapons made expressly for killing can be used, and that if any man is injured or otherwise overcome, he becomes the captive of the other side and his fighting is over. If either Palamon or Arcita is captured, the match is over, and the side that captures him wins. Theseus does this, probably, because he recalls the weeping women who came to him after their husbands died in battle, and he doesn't want to see any needless bloodshed or mourning. Especially since it's, you know, a GAME and everything...*

2. Who wins the battle, and how does the winner's “god” react? How does Saturn react? What unexpected event “befalls” the victor?

*Arcita wins when Palamon is captured. Venus is sad, but Saturn tells her to wait and see what happens, and Arcita is mortally wounded in a fall from his horse.*

3. What advice of Arcita and Theseus does Emily take? Explain the speech of Theseus about death.

*Arcita and Theseus both advise Emily to marry Palamon after Arcita's death, which she does. Theseus makes a speech at the funeral of Arcita about the nature of death—how all things die, and how he thinks it was glorious for Arcita to die in battle and not waste away in old age.*

#### **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 9, Day 1 – "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent" and "Holy Sonnet X"**

1. Summarize, as best you can, the message that you think Milton means to convey with his poem.

*Answers will vary, but Milton is saying that even though he is blind, he can still serve God*

2. What words and phrases in the poem refer to Milton's blindness?

Milton says his “light is spent” and refers to “this dark world.” He also says his talent is “lodg’d with me useless,” and refers to “light deny’d.”

3. What talent do you think Milton refers to that it is “death to hide”? How does the reference to his talent and its being “death to hide” allude to the parable in Matthew 25:14-30?

*It could be his ability to write, which seemed to frustrate him, because his blindness made it more difficult for him to exercise this talent. His saying that his talent is “death to hide” seems to mean that even though he is blind, he shouldn’t “hide” his writing talent (like the wicked servant of the parable), but serve God with it, no matter how difficult it was to do.*

4. What do you think the lines “Doth God exact day-labour, light deny’d?” and “They also serve who only stand and wait” mean?

*The first expresses the idea that God does not demand of us more than He gives us the ability to do (like demanding we do work that can only be done in the daytime, without giving us light). The second seems to express the thought that even those who are not able to do the work that others can are able to serve God, if they are standing by with a willing heart to do so when He calls.*

5. What is John Donne’s essential message to Death in “Holy Sonnet X”?

*That it has no reason to boast, just because it briefly conquers all men, because it will die itself.*

6. What does God’s Word say about victory over death? (See John 5:24, Romans 6:8-9, Romans 8:38-39, 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, and Revelation 21:3-4.)

*It says that...*

- those who believe on Jesus Christ have “passed from death unto life” (John 5:24),
- death has “no more dominion over [Jesus]” (Romans 6:8-9),
- death cannot “separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39),
- Jesus will put “all enemies under his feet,” and that “the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:12-26), and that
- God says that someday that “there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:3-4).

7. Compare the apostrophe to death found in 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 to “Holy Sonnet X.”

*Both are similar in that they speak directly to Death, telling it that it will not have the final victory. The passage in 1 Corinthians referenced says, in particular, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)*

### **Week 9, Day 2 – “Tobacco and Good Manners”**

1. Sum up King James’s thoughts on the habit of smoking at the dinner table. How does he say smoking makes a “kitchen” of smokers’ insides?

*James says blowing smoke on others ruins the dinner table, which is supposed to be a place of modesty and respect for others. He says that smoking makes a “kitchen” out of smokers’ insides by coating their innards with black soot, like the soot and grease that coat the insides of stoves after cooking.*

2. What does King James say about smoking and the breath?

*He says that it is a contempt of God’s gift of breath to stink it up with tobacco smoke, and that the smell almost never goes away. This is especially horrible for married couples, because if a husband, for example, smokes, and ruins his breath, the wife must also start smoking, or else she lives in constant torment of the stinking tobacco breath of her husband.*

3. What final thoughts about the offensiveness of smoking does King James pronounce? How are these thoughts similar to the modern day?

*James says that smokers should be ashamed at a habit that abuses their bodies, causing them to sin against God, making England look strange to foreign nations who see the English smoking, which is awful to look at, “hateful” to the nose, harmful to the brain and lungs, and resembling the pit of hell with its smoke.*

*These complaints and observations are many of the same complaints nonsmokers have in our day!*

4. Why do you think King James titled his essay “A Counterblast to Tobacco”?

*Answers will vary, but probably to point out the fact that smokers “blast” their smoky breath and smoke into the air of others.*

### **Week 9, Day 2 – “To Celia”**

1. What does the first line of “To Celia” mean? What other drink-related terms does Jonson use in the first stanza?

*He is asking Celia to “drink to me **only**,” by which he means, “Love me only and no one else.” He uses other drink-related words such as “cup,” “wine,” “thirst,” and “nectar.”*

2. What do the last two lines of the first stanza mean?

*The poet would not even trade a drink of “Jove’s nectar”—a drink from Jove (Jupiter) that legend says would grant him immortality—for a “drink” from his true love.*

3. Explain the two main ideas Jonson expresses in the last stanza.

*First, that he sent her a rose, not so much to honor her, but to give the rose hope that it would never wither, since Celia is so radiant and life-giving. Second, that when Celia sent the rose back to him, he loved to smell it, not because it was a rose, but because it smelled like her!*

### **Week 9, Day 3 – “The Adventure of the Dancing Men”**

1. Trace the logical chain that Holmes links together to deduce Watson’s investment decision. How does Watson annoy Holmes?

*He sees cue chalk on Watson’s hand, knows he played with Thurston, knows he has discussed investing with Thurston, knows Watson’s checkbook is still locked up, and knows Watson has no plans to invest with Thurston. Watson annoys Holmes by claiming that it is all “absurdly simple,” even after Holmes gets him to promise not to say so after he explains how he deduced Watson’s decision about investing.*

2. Explain the request Hilton Cubitt makes. What is unusual about Elsie’s background, and how do the dancing men affect her?

*He asks Holmes to inspect the “dancing men” ciphers. Elsie’s background is mysterious (she is from America), and she has a promise from her husband not to ask about it, although she says she is innocent of anything shameful. The dancing men frighten and disturb her terribly, to the point of causing her to faint in one instance.*

3. Why do new reports of the dancing men excite Holmes?

*The more examples of the dancing men, the greater chance he has to decipher the code, since there are different letters and more uses of the same letters.*

4. Sum up the news Holmes and Watson receive at North Walsham. What important sound and smell does Holmes ask the housekeeper and cook about?

*They learn that Hilton Cubitt has been shot dead, and that Elsie tried to kill herself, and is now suspected of murdering her husband. The smell of gunpowder upstairs proves there was a draft, which means the window was open, and the sound of a very loud explosion means that there were two guns fired at the same time, which leads Holmes to look for and find another bullet, proving there was a third person in the room and exonerating Elsie Cubitt.*

5. Explain the purpose of Holmes's note to Slaney.

*His note is written in the dancing men code, and it makes Abe Slaney think that Elsie Cubitt is writing him, because he believes no one else can know the code.*

6. Could this case be considered a failure for Holmes in any way?

*Answers will vary, but it is possible Holmes could have acted more quickly, knowing the danger that Abe Slaney posed for both Elsie and Hilton Cubitt.*

### **Week 10, Day 1 – “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”**

1. What is the setting for the opening of “Elegy”? Where does the focus turn to?

*The setting is the end of a day, with darkness and the rising of the moon; the focus turns to the graveyard on the grounds of a church building, and to those buried in the graves.*

2. What specific group of persons is “Elegy” written to honor?

*The unknown dead—those who did nothing “special” or noteworthy or famous.*

3. What is the overall meaning of lines 45-56 (especially 52-56)?

*Many unknown persons had the talent or creativity to have become famous or created great works of art or been “great” men, but couldn't follow through on their plans because of their poverty or birthplace in an out-of-the-way village. Lines 52-56 compare these men to gems undiscovered in ocean caves and flowers that bloom beautifully when no one is around to see them.*

4. For whom do you think the closing epitaph is written?

*Answers will vary, but critics widely believe that this was written by Thomas Gray for himself.*

5. List what you think are some of the most famous phrases from “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard.”

*Answers will vary, but a few are “The paths of glory lead but to the grave,” “Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,”*

6. What does Gray say are the legacies of the “unhonour'd dead”? How does this relate to his purpose in writing the poem?

*They are important, because they are missed by those (like the old white-haired man who speaks) who lived and worked around them and with them—their wives, their children, their friends, their neighbors. The “unhonour'd dead” didn't “do” much that would make them famous or honored by the public, but by writing this poem, Gray hopes to honor their lives and deaths, since very few poets or writers would be likely to pay tribute to them.*

### **Week 10, Day 2 – “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

1. What is the meter and rhyme scheme of “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”?

*Four beats (eight syllables) on the first and third lines, which rhyme; three beats (six syllables) on the second and fourth lines, which rhyme.*

2. What names or titles does Wesley give to God in “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”?

*“Dear Redeemer,” “gracious Master,” “my God,” “Lamb of God,” etc.*

3. What benefits and graces are credited to Jesus Christ in the hymn?

*He “charms our fears,” “bids our sorrows cease,” offers “life, and health, and peace,” “breaks the power of cancell’d sin,” “sets the prisoner free,” “makes the foulest clean,” gives “new life,”*

4. Listen to a choir singing “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.”

### **Week 10, Day 3 – “The Pig and Whistle”**

1. Name some of the traits of Mr. Ruddiman and Miss Fouracres that make them so likable. How does this affect the reader’s feelings for them?

*Mr. Ruddiman is not rich, tries hard, isn’t especially talented, but kindhearted, satisfied with simple things to make him happy, not even wanting to make himself seem “out of his class” by using a walking-stick. Miss Fouracres is pleasant, hardworking, faithful, gentle, courteous, discreet, and shy.*

*This makes them more sympathetic and induces readers to pull for them, bringing great satisfaction with their success at the story’s end.*

2. How does Mr. Fouracres view his circumstances, in contrast to Mr. Ruddiman? How does this make the reader feel toward Mr. Ruddiman and Miss Fouracres?

*Fouracres is a braggart, rude to his daughter, and generally unlikable; he is constantly angry that he is in a “lower” position than he thinks he deserves, unlike Mr. Ruddiman, who accepts his “lot” in life and pleasantly tries to save his money and think of the future. The unpleasant personality of Mr. Fouracres makes the reader even more in sympathy to Mr. Ruddiman and Miss Fouracres.*

3. What larger truth does the author present by showing how Mr. Fouracres calls the Pig and Whistle a “pothouse” and how Mr. Ruddiman loves the place? Compare this to Philippians 4:11b and 1 Timothy 6:6-9.

*That some men are happy with less, and that it is possible to be happy with something that someone else disdains as “not enough.” Philippians 4:11b says, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” 1 Timothy 6:6-9 says, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.”*

4. What makes the way the last paragraph is written more effective than if the author had spelled out exactly what was said?

*It keeps it from possibly sounding awkward, and gives the reader a chance to create the scene himself.*

### **Week 11, Day 1 – “A Red, Red Rose” & “John Anderson, My Jo”**

#### **“A Red, Red Rose”**

1. Make a list of the beautiful thoughts expressed in this poem.

*His love is as beautiful as a red rose, she’s like an in-tune melody, the poet will love her until the seas go dry, he will love her until the rocks melt from the sun, and he will return to her even if it he is ten thousand miles away.*

## “John Anderson, My Jo”

2. How has John Anderson changed since his wife met him?

*His hair has gone from being thick and black to thin and white; his brow has become wrinkled with age.*

3. What do the lines “we clamb the hill thegither,” “we maun totter down,” and “sleep thegither at the foot” mean?  
*The first refers to their starting life together and growing as a young married couple; the second refers to their “descent” into older age and slowing down after many years of marriage; the third means they will be buried together at the foot of the hill.*
4. How would you describe the tone or atmosphere of “John Anderson, My Jo”?

*Answers will vary, but even though it speaks of a woman dying and being buried with her husband at the end, the poem is lighthearted and pleasant, fondly speaking of a couple’s undying love for each other and happy life together.*

## Week 11, Day 2 – “On War”

1. What starts author James Boswell on a reflection of the “horrid irrationality of war”?

*A visit to an arsenal in Venice, in which he sees various instruments of war.*

2. What does Boswell say about the minds of most men? What does he mean when he says, “We know that there are individuals of our species to whom the immediate misery of others is nothing in comparison with their own advantage”?

*That almost none are “enlarged” enough to comprehend attempts to do good to all men, rather than do things such as (as Boswell observed) carefully and without thinking work hard to produce weapons to destroy other human beings. The men he saw thought of nothing but what money they would make in producing the weapons, not in the misery they would cause.*

*By the quotation, Boswell means that there are those persons who don’t care at all that they cause the pain and suffering of others, as long as they benefit financially from it.*

3. What thoughts does Boswell express on the irrationality of war? Why do the two men he uses as examples praise war?

*That most men realize it, but there are some who believe that it brings happiness to humanity. The two men he gives as examples believed that war was wonderful; the first because the ceremony and pomp surrounding it blinded him to the nature of killing humans, and the second thought only of how a war benefited his own family, not thinking of how it grieved others.*

4. What reasons does the author say to advocates of war justify having regular wars?

*To those who say wars are helpful in ridding the world of unneeded persons and those who might need food that can’t be provided, he says, it would be much better to send them away to find methods of cultivating food for themselves than simply having them killed, which is immoral, and besides, war doesn’t pick and choose the worst of men as victims.*

5. What are some of the mind-bogglingly wicked and irrational aspects of war Boswell mentions?

*That men in war obey without question orders from complete strangers to whom they have no familial or otherwise attachment, and that men travel great distances to kill complete strangers who have done them no harm, and with whom they have no personal offense.*

6. How does war affect those involved? Of what “benefit” is it?

*It brings suffering upon most involved, but it does enrich a few (weapons manufacturers, politicians, bankers, etc.) and provide “subjects for history, poetry, and painting.”*

7. How does modern war differ from war in ancient times?

*In ancient times, it was man-to-man, with opportunities for combatants to distinguish themselves as brave and hardy. Now, war is a mass undertaking, with individuals used only as pieces of a puzzle, and outcomes often arbitrarily affected by mistakes and confusion.*

8. What does God’s Word say in James 4 about the origins of “wars and fightings”?

*They originate from the lusts of the heart, the lusts that “war in your members”; people “lust, and have not” and “kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain” and “fight and war” to satisfy lusts.*

### **Week 11, Day 3 – “To a Mouse” & “To a Louse”**

#### **“To a Mouse”**

1. Since this poem (and “To a Louse”) is addressed to a person, animal, or object that can’t respond, what can they be classified as?

*As apostrophes!*

2. How is the man linked to the mouse in the poem, especially in the second and seventh stanzas?

*In the second stanza, Burns calls himself a “poor earth-born companion” of the mouse, and a “fellow mortal.” In the seventh, Burns points out that men also plan ahead, but their plans come to naught, sometimes because of forces outside their control.*

3. In the last stanza, why does the poet say that the mouse is luckier than he?

*Because the mouse just worries about the day it lives in; it doesn’t worry about the past and the future, like the farmer does.*

4. What do you think the poem’s most famous phrase is? What does it mean?

*Answers will vary, but the most famous line is “the best-laid schemes o’ mice and men gang aft agley.” The line refers to how the plans of both creatures and mankind often turn out differently than expected.*

#### **“To a Louse”**

1. What irritates the poet at seeing the louse on the lady’s bonnet?

*He thinks it doesn’t belong on such a fine lady’s beautiful bonnet, but somewhere dirtier and more common, like a beggar’s sideburns.*

2. What does the line “Whaur horn nor bane ne’er daur unsettle your thick plantations” mean?

*The writer urges the louse to go to a dirtier, more unkempt person’s hair, which is not “unsettled” by combs made out of horn or bone.*

3. How does the young lady wearing the bonnet apparently misunderstand the winks and pointing of others in the church service? What does the poet long for in the last stanza?

*The young lady seems to think that those around her are pointing and looking at her because she looks so beautiful, when they are actually staring at the louse crawling in her hair. Burns longs for the power to see ourselves as others see us (like the young lady in the bonnet), so we would stop putting on airs in the way we carry and dress ourselves.*



## Week 11, Day 4 – “Hot Potatoes”

1. What about the first section of “Hot Potatoes” indicates it will be a humorous story?

*How Mrs. Swann looks left and right out the door down the street and shivers, her fussing at Gilbert and overdramatizing that “The boy was gone!”, Bennett’s remarking that it wasn’t really warm out, though Gilbert claims it is, and Bennett’s saying that Gilbert’s departure was a “dramatic moment in the musical history of the Five Towns only in the minds of Mrs. Swann and Gilbert.*

2. How does the announcement of the concert affect the townspeople of Hanbridge, and more specifically, Mrs. Swann?

*There is an uproar of excitement and importance in the town, and Mrs. Swann imagines Gilbert will be the highlight of the entire concert.*

3. Why is Mrs. Swann so anxious about Mrs. Vernon and Mr. Millwain?

*She is a high-society woman whose cousin is Mr. Millwain, a London orchestra leader who is coming to town; since Gilbert has been invited to dine with them, Mrs. Swann believes the entire concert’s success rests on Gilbert.*

4. What makes Mrs. Swann’s confidence in her idea funnier than it would have been had she been hesitant about it?

*Answers will vary, but probably since the idea of hot potatoes comes across as absurd when put together with concerts and formal evening wear and dinner parties at a high-society house.*

5. Why do you think the author constantly has Mrs. Swann use Mrs. Vernon’s full name in both thought and words?

*Answers will vary, but it shows Mrs. Swann’s nervousness and belief that Mrs. Vernon is a giant, important figure, and saying the entire name reinforces this.*

6. Give some examples of humor in “Hot Potatoes.”

*Answers will vary, but here are a few:*

- *“In the Five Towns the number of cornet players is scarcely exceeded by the number of public-houses.”*
- *“The conductor of the largest Hanbridge choir...had an acute attack of self-importance, which, by the way, almost ended fatally a year later.”*
- *“...Mr. Swann, when he came home at six o’clock from his day’s majestic work at Toft End”*
- *Mrs. Swann is irritated that she meets so many people on the streetcar who aren’t going to the concert or even talking about it.*
- *“The Swanns were of the cream of the town, combining commerce with art...”*
- *“People do not expect steam from the interior of a visitor’s muff.”*

7. Write a one-sentence “moral to the story” for “Hot Potatoes.”

*Answers will vary.*

8. Name something you have read about (or seen in a movie), or something that happened to you or someone you know similar to the awkward situation Mrs. Swann faces with Mrs. Vernon.

*Answers will vary.*

## 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.*

### **Week 14, Day 1 – "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"**

1. Explain how the story begins, and describe the ancient mariner.

*The ancient mariner, an old, grey-haired, skinny man, stops a man who is a relative of a bridegroom right before his wedding to tell him his story. The relative is compelled to listen, like a child.*

2. What contradictory reactions do the sailors have toward the albatross? What happens to it?

*They welcome it at first, because it seems to be good luck in helping them escape the perilous sailing conditions—ice, wind, etc.—but they also blame it for their troubles as well. The mariner shoots the albatross with his crossbow, which both angers the sailors (when they attribute their bad luck to its death) and makes them glad (when they blame it for the appearance of the fog and mist).*

3. What line in Part II of “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” do you think is the poem’s most famous phrase? What does it mean?

*“Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.” The men in the ship have no wind to push their ship on, and they are stuck in the middle of the ocean without any drinkable water, thirsting to death.*

4. Who wins the contest between Death and Nightmare Life-in-Death? What do you think the contest is all about?

*Nightmare Life-in-Death wins; the contest is apparently to determine what happens to the ancient mariner. Since Nightmare Life-in-Death wins, the mariner is not taken by Death like the other sailors, but has to live out his guilt for the rest of his life.*

5. Why can’t the mariner pray at first? What happens to “break the spell” and allow him to pray? What happens when he does?

*He is so upset by the scene of the dead men, cursing him with their lips for causing their deaths, that he can’t pray. Later, when he sees the beauty of the water snakes, which are living creatures, he is so thankful that he feels a “spring of love gush’t from [his] heart” and is able to pray; as he does so, the albatross falls from around his neck into the sea.*

6. What strange sight on the ship does the mariner see afterwards? What do the two voices say about his “fate”?

*The mariner sees the dead bodies of the sailors embodied with spirits which drive the boat home, even though there is no wind. The two voices say that the “fate” of the mariner includes more suffering for his killing the albatross.*

7. What happens to the mariner and to his ship? What does he tell the wedding guest that his destiny is?

*The mariner is rescued by a pilot, his son, and a hermit. The ship goes down in a whirlpool. The mariner tells the wedding guest that his destiny is to wander the earth, telling his tale to those he can tell will listen to it.*

8. What is the “moral” of the poem, as told by the mariner in the final part? Do you think that this is a strong moral? Why or why not?

*To treat God’s creatures well, both “great and small.” Answers will vary on whether the moral of the poem is strong, but it seems a bit over the top to curse a man for the rest of his life just for killing a bird—unless you believe that nature holds such an extremely elevated position in the world. Of course, since the albatross is called “a Christian soul” in the poem, it is possible that the bird represents something greater than simply an animal.*

9. From reading “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” what do you think the now-common saying “an albatross around your neck” refers to?

*It means that someone has a great guilt or burden that he bears.*

#### **Week 14, Day 2 – “Daffodils” (“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”)**

1. How are the daffodils similar to the stars? How are they different?

*Daffodils stretch out in the poet’s view, seemingly by the millions, like the stars. They are different from stars, however, in that stars are bigger and relatively permanent, unlike the daffodils, which die soon.*

2. How does the poet's appreciation of the daffodils change from the third stanza to the fourth stanza? How does this make the daffodils more like the stars?

*He doesn't appreciate the wealth of beauty they brought him when he first saw them, but later as he lies and reflects, he recalls how beautiful they were. This continuing appreciation for the daffodils keeps them more "permanent" to the poet, like the stars' permanent positions in the sky and constant appearance.*

### **Week 14, Day 3 – “A Calm Address to our American Colonies”**

1. Why does Wesley say that (See Point 1) American colonists should agree to the taxes imposed upon them by England's government, and (See Point 2) that colonists can't say, “We don't have representation in Parliament, so we shouldn't have to pay taxes”?

*Colonists agreed to live under the rules of the charters, which were granted by England's kings. Therefore, the kings have a right to tax those under their rule. Also, Colonists who say they cannot be taxed without parliamentary representation must also believe that parliament cannot pass any laws at all without the colonists' representation (which they don't claim).*

2. Explain Wesley's “Point 3” argument about consent; compare this to 1 Peter 2:13-17.

*It's probably morally defensible, since it's understandable that you live under a government which you didn't choose; you're subject to its laws simply because you were born in its dominion. But 1 Peter 2:13-17 says Christians are to be subjects to their government (or “to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake,” whether it's a king's order or a governor's).*

3. How does Wesley respond to the claim of some American colonists that since they can't vote for representatives, they have a right to set up their own government?

*That they live under the state that their ancestors chose—to be protected by England's laws and bound by them as well. He also says that since they are similar to the many in England who don't have the right to vote, but are also under the dominion of English law.*

4. In Point 8, what does Wesley say about the reasonableness of the taxes England has imposed upon the American colonies?

*American colonies were under attack by France, but British soldiers helped repel the attack, which benefited the colonists. Why shouldn't they help pay for their own defense?*

5. How does Wesley in Points 10 and 12 respond to the idea that the American colonists are not free?

*He points out that they have more freedoms than anyone in the world—freedoms, for example, to worship freely, keep the fruits of their labor*

6. Why does Wesley say that the people of America can't technically take back the power they never surrendered?

*They never had the power in the first place; that is reserved for rulers.*

### **Week 15, Day 1 – “She Walks in Beauty”**

1. List some words in “She Walks in Beauty” that indicate darkness and light.

*Some examples: night, starry, dark, bright, light, shade, raven, glow,*

2. What, exactly, give the subject of “She Walks in Beauty” her beauty?



*“The best of dark and bright”—the beauty she exhibits in both aspects of darkness and light balance each other perfectly, according to the poet.*

3. Other than her physical beauty, what is especially attractive about the poem’s subject?

*Her fact is attractive because her expression shows her inner beauty; her smiles and “tints” show of “days in goodness spent.” She is a “soft,” “calm,” and “eloquent” woman, and innocent in her heart. Truly she is a beautiful person!*

## **Week 15, Day 2 – “Of Studies” & “The Superstition of School”**

### **“Of Studies”**

1. What does Bacon mean by saying, “To spend too much time in studies is sloth; to use them too much for ornament, is affectation; to make judgment wholly by their rules, is the humor of a scholar”?

*Studying too much shows laziness, since it is probably just for pleasure; studying too much to appear learned is big-headed and pretentious; basing all decisions on what you’ve learned in books is the approach of a snobby academic person and impractical.*

2. What does Bacon say is—and is not—the purpose of reading?

*The purpose is to learn to make judgements and to weigh evidence and make wise decisions, not always to tell you what to believe and to learn to argue better.*

3. Explain these statements by the author:

- “Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.”

*Some books are simply read in part to learn a few ideas; some are read, but are not important enough to merit serious consideration; some books are important enough to read and to reflect deeply upon.*

- “Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.”

*Reading engages a man fully in his intelligence; discussion with others makes a man ready to expound his views; writing helps a man be precise in his words.*

- “Nay, there is no stound or impediment in the wit but may be wrought out by fit studies.”

*Reading and studying books clears up weaknesses or deficiencies in the ability to think clearly and sensibly.*

4. What does Bacon say are the “cures” for those who have wandering minds, an inability to discriminate between truth and error, or an inability to support his opinions?

*For the first, the study of mathematics, since one’s mind must stay focused to solve a problem (or have to start all over again); for the second, studying academic writers; for the third, studying the writings of lawyers.*

5. What does God’s Word say about “studies” in Ecclesiastes 12:12 and 2 Timothy 2:15?

*Ecclesiastes 12:12 says, “And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh,” meaning that endless study for its own sake is not profitable.*

*2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” This is an admonishment to Christians to study God’s Word so that they will be able to tell truth from error.*

### **“The Superstition of School”**

1. What does Chesterton explain about the topic of “reaction”?

*The cliché is that older men get more set in their ways, when several older men have been real radicals, including Morris, Whitman, and Kropotkin. They should have known their ideas would result in reactions from others. Even little children learn from experience with items such as guns that there is such a thing as recoil. Surely older men who “fire off” revolutionary ideas should also have the experience to expect a reaction from others.*

2. How does the idea of “reaction” involve the topic of education? What is the “Superstition of School”?

*Modern education produces an equally opposite effect of what is intended by professional educators. Some ask if the poor should have an education and be given a part in running the country. The answer is that they should, since they show more wisdom than many in national government.*

*But when the uneducated get “educated,” an equally harmful reaction is produced: They pick up the Superstition of School, which is the belief that School magically transforms people into perfect beings, and the individual belief that School made him what he is, or made him better.*

3. What does excessive formal education often produce in those who undergo it?

*It produces a high-minded, superiority complex in those who undergo it, and it can lead to worship of Education over God.*

Explain the meanings of these quotations from “The Superstition of School”:

- “No man who worships education has got the best out of education; no man who sacrifices everything to education is even educated.”

*If you are truly educated, you realize that education itself is not an object of worship or a reason to rearrange your entire life; it should be an experience that creates curiosity and a desire to learn.*

- “Without a gentle contempt for education, no gentleman’s education is complete.”

*Your education can’t be complete unless you realize that modern methods of education, especially government-run education, are faulty in producing truly learned and educated persons.*

4. Explain the closing “searchlight” vs. “spotlight” analogy.

*Chesterton says that education should be a searchlight, shining on unknown topics and creating a curiosity to learn; most of the time, however, it is a spotlight shined on the “educated” himself, turning him into a self-centered, snobbish person.*

### **Week 15, Day 3 – “Ozymandias”**

1. Describe the stone statue that the traveler tells the poet about. What does the pedestal say?

*It is in the middle of a desert, broken to pieces, with the legs standing by themselves and the head, with a sneering and arrogant expression, sits half buried in the sand some distance over.*

*The pedestal says, “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!”*

2. What is ironic about the inscription on the pedestal? What lesson does Shelley seem to present? (And what line in “Elegy in a Country Churchyard” expresses a similar idea?)

*It commands the viewer of the monument to “Look on my works...and despair!” This is ironic because the monument now is nothing but a broken down assemblage of rocks in a desert wasteland, and it doesn’t inspire fear in anyone, since the king has long been dead.*

*Shelley seems to say that all “great” men are destined for the same “fate” all men face—death, and then their “greatness” will end. This is similar to the line “The paths of glory lead but to the grave” in “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard.”*

3. Read Daniel 4, Job 3:13-14, and John 19:1-11. How do these relate to “Ozymandias”?

*Daniel 4 tells of the arrogance of King Nebuchadnezzar and his humiliation at the hands of God, bringing Nebuchadnezzar to give God glory.*

*Job 3:13-14 shows Job lamenting his birth, saying he wishes he could have died, just like everybody on earth does, even important men like “kings and counselors” who “build desolate places for themselves”!*

*John 19:1-11 indicates that rulers should not be arrogant, since their power originates from God.*

### **Week 15, Day 4 – “The Mark of the Beast”**

1. How does Kipling set the scene with the soldiers at the opening?

*They are drunken, obnoxious, disorderly, immoral, and no doubt resented by the people they are there conquering (as evidenced by the mentions of soldiers being shot by the natives).*

2. Describe Fleete’s act that sets the story into motion, and the reaction from the natives.

*Fleete drunkenly disfigures a statue of Hanuman, the priests get angry, and a leper comes out and touches Fleete, which mollifies the priests.*

3. List some indications the morning after that something is wrong with Fleete. What additional changes does he undergo?

*He smells blood more keenly, wants to eat undercooked meat, stays, hungry, has a mark on his chest, and is feared strangely by his own horses. He also is ravenously hungry, rolls around in dirt, wants to stay outside in the bitter cold, and howls and snarls like a wolf.*

4. What method do the narrator and Strickland use to reverse Fleete’s condition?

*They torture the leprous Silver Man until he reverses the curse on Fleete.*

5. What do you think Kipling is saying about England and India in describing (a) how the soldiers act; (b) what happens with the narrator, Strickland, and the Silver Man; and (c) the actual “mark of the beast” itself?

*It seems that (a) Kipling is expressing sympathy for England’s provinces, since the soldiers are portrayed as repulsive invaders; (b) by showing the torture of the Silver Man by the narrator and Strickland, Kipling seems to say that England—while purporting to bring “civilization” to its conquered peoples—has somewhat lowered itself to similarly savage behavior; and (c) that England is bringing a “black mark” upon herself by continuing occupation and subjugation of the peoples in her colonies (all of these are conjecture, of course!).*

6. What does the Bible say about the worship of “gods” like Hanuman, and about the power of Satan? See these passages:

- Exodus 7:8-12 – Satan can give powers to his followers, like Pharaoh’s magicians who also turned rods into serpents.
- Deuteronomy 32:16-17 – The Israelites’ sacrifices to other “gods” were actually sacrifices to devils.
- Luke 4:40 – Devils have the power to possess a person, though Christ has the power to cast them out.
- 1 Corinthians 10:20 – Again, those who sacrifice to foreign “gods” are actually sacrificing to devils.
- Revelation 9:20 – Worshiping devils is similar to worshiping idols made by men.

### **Jane Eyre, Week 16, Day 1 (Chapters I-IV)**

1. How does the weather that opens *Jane Eyre* reflect her station in life?

*It is cold and dreary, like Jane's life at Gateshead Hall.*

2. List several things that Jane reads or thinks about that might be symbols of herself.

*She reads about birds living in isolation among rocks, and while looking at a picture books thinks about a rock standing alone against the sea spray, a broken boat alone on a faraway coast.*

3. What are John, Eliza, and Georgiana, and Mrs. Reed like?

*John is fat and spoiled and bullies and abuses Jane. (He strikes Jane hits her with a book.) Eliza is the oldest daughter, bossy and selfish; Georgiana is critical and spoiled because she is pretty. Mrs. Reed, for some reason, hates Jane and allows her children to abuse her.*

4. Why is Jane at Gateshead Hall? What incident especially demonstrates Mrs. Reed's cruelty to Jane?

*Jane's father was a poor clergyman who married her mother against the wishes of her mother's friends, and her grandfather, who disinherited her. After only a year of marriage, Jane's parents both died of typhus fever. Mr. Reed is Jane's uncle—her mother's brother—and he required Mrs. Reed, his wife, to promise to take in Jane before he died.*

*After she is locked in the red room (where Mr. Reed died), Jane thinks of Mrs. Reed's treatment of her, and imagines Mr. Reed coming back from the grave to haunt the room, which scares her so badly she screams and pounds on the door to be let out. Bessie and Miss Abbott come, but Mrs. Reed says Jane is pretending to be scared to be let out, and shuts her in for another hour to punish her. Jane breaks down and faints.*

5. How does the red room incident lead to changes at Gateshead and in Jane?

*Jane weeps silently for days, and Bessie vainly tries to cheer her. Mr. Lloyd, the druggist, talks with Jane and learns she hates Gateshead Hall and the cruelty of the Reeds. Lloyd suggests Jane be sent to school.*

6. Explain Jane's further isolation. How does she respond?

*Mrs. Reed isolates Jane from her family almost totally, even at meals and at Christmas! The Reed children do not talk to Jane at all.*

*When John tries to talk to her, she punches him. Mrs. Reed says not to associate with her, and Jane cries, "They are not fit to associate with me." When Mrs. Reed slams Jane down on her crib, Jane says to her, "What would Uncle Reed say to you, if he were alive?" Jane takes comfort in a doll, loving it fiercely.*

7. Explain Mr. Brocklehurst's reason for coming to Gateshead, and his character.

*He is the manager of Lowood School (a charity institution) and a stern, "black pillar" of a man, grim in expression, large in face. Mrs. Reed asks him to admit Jane to Lowood*

8. What is ironic about Brocklehurst's pronouncements on "humility" and Mrs. Reed's remarks on Jane's "deceitfulness"? Give specific examples.

*Mrs. Reed recommends Jane be taught humility; Brocklehurst says this is a good Christian trait, and without realizing the irony, (a) says his own daughter recognized the humility of the Lowood girl students during a recent visit, when she said they all looked so plain and surprised to see the silk gown she wore; and (b) says he will be returning in a week or two to..."Brocklehurst Hall"!*

*Mrs. Reed warns Brocklehurst that all the adults should carefully watch Jane, since she has a "tendency to deceit," a remark that is utterly galling, since Mrs. Reed herself is utterly lying about Jane.*

9. Describe Jane's final conversation with Mrs. Reed.

*After Brocklehurst leaves, Jane studies Mrs. Reed, who is about 37 years old, sturdy, blond-haired, ruthless, in superior health and strong. Mrs. Reed orders Jane out, and Jane tells her she does not love her, will never call her "aunt," will tell anyone who asks of her cruelty, and that she is the deceitful one. Mrs. Reed tries to counter her, but Jane tells her to send her away soon; Mrs. Reed leaves, and Jane considers the altercation a victory—a feeling that soon turns sour, however.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 16, Day 2 (Chapters V-VII)**

1. Describe Lowood School, and compare it to Gateshead.

*It is an all-girls school, grim, harsh, and cold, with inadequate heating, apparently making many of the girls sickly and prone to coughing. The day starts with prayers and Bible reading, but the girls are constantly given burnt, rotten, and/or foul-smelling food. The girls are all dressed plainly, in brown dresses, with no curls allowed, which looks odd to Jane.*

*Like Gateshead, it is harsh and not very welcoming or loving, but unlike Gateshead, Jane at least has a chance to make friends and improve herself.*

2. Describe Miss Temple and the girl that Jane meets.

*Miss Temple is the superintendent of Lowood—pretty, with curls and pretty clothes. After teaching lessons, she announces that she has ordered a lunch of cheese and bread to make up for the burnt porridge.*

*The girl Jane meets is punished unjustly by a teacher, who forces her to stand in the middle of a large room. The girl bears her punishment gracefully and calmly, which amazes Jane.*

3. What do the pitchers in the girls' rooms, the breakfast, and the gloves/boots indicate about Lowood?

*The water in the pitchers is frozen—indicating is below 32 degrees in the rooms, which is too harsh for girls to live under, especially apparently sick ones. Breakfast is porridge again—not burnt, but meager, indicating that the girls are underfed. Jane is getting used to the Lowood schedule.*

*The girls don't have any gloves or boots, even in extreme outside cold, forced to endure a number of hardships in the name of Christianity.*

4. What does Jane learn by talking to Helen?

*Jane finds Helen Burns and talks to her, amazed at Helen's patience in bearing injustice; Helen tells Jane that she (Helen) deserves correction, since she is so absent-minded during her lessons. Helen praises Miss Temple. Jane tells Helen she believes she must fight back at those who are unjust; Helen says that that is a heathen practice, not a Christian one.*

*When Jane tells Helen of all she endured at Gateshead Hall, Helen says she should endure it, forgiving them and focusing on the eternal, rather than our earthly life.*

5. How does Brocklehurst justify the girls' harsh lifestyle? Compare this to James 2:14-17.

*He complains to Miss Temple of waste on the girls' part, when it is actually his stinginess that deprives them of necessities. He says hardships are good for the girls, since it teaches them to get used to it, which disgusts Miss Temple.*

*This kind of horrendous false piety directly contrasts Mr. Brocklehurst's duty as a "Christian," which is to provide for the needs of fellow Christians: The Bible says, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say*

*unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone” (James 2:14-17).*

6. What does the issue of curly hair and Jane’s accident show about Brocklehurst, Helen, and Miss Temple?

*Brocklehurst shames a girl for having curly hair, even though it is naturally curly, giving more evidence that he is a Pharisaical hypocrite, especially when he says nothing to the women and girls who enter the room at that moment—all with expensive clothes, and braided or curled hair.*

*Jane accidentally drops and breaks her slate, drawing Brocklehurst’s attention, who berates her and calls her a “liar” in front of the entire school, forcing her to stand on a stool for a half hour and to forego conversation with anyone for the remainder of the day. Helen encourages her, saying the girls like her and dislike Brocklehurst, and this world is only temporary.*

*Miss Temple invites the girls into her room, asking Jane for her side of the story, which Jane gives. Miss Temple later tells Jane Mr. Lloyd wrote her and verified Jane’s account, and she (Miss Temple) announces to the school that Jane was wrongly accused.*

*Miss Temple’s approach is a marked contrast with Brocklehurst’s actions—accusing Jane in front of the school with no proof. This energizes Jane, who improves in her studies, her memory, and her drawing skills—she draws happy, colorful items in nature. She now would not trade her life in Lowood for all the luxuries at Gateshead Hall.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 16, Day 3 (Chapters VIII-X)**

1. What changes does the typhus epidemic bring upon (a) the Lowood girls, (b) Lowood School itself, (c) Brocklehurst, (d), Helen, and (e) Jane?

*(a) More than half the girls are infected, and many die, partly because of the girls’ already poor health from improper nutrition and cold. (b) After the typhus fever epidemic at Lowood, the public is outraged and provides for better food and living conditions. (c) Brocklehurst is shamed because of the squalid conditions there. (d) Helen suffers from tuberculosis, and dies. (e) Jane escapes the disease and feels freer: She can walk in the woods as much as she wants, and there is more food for her, since a new matron doesn’t know about the miserly methods of Lowood and gives the girls more to eat.*

2. Describe Helen’s conversation with Jane. What does “Resurgam” mean?

*One evening Jane learns from a doctor that Helen won’t live much longer, and she thinks seriously about heaven and hell. She sneaks in to see Helen, desiring to talk to her one last time. Helen comforts Jane, telling her she will soon see God, and dies that evening, Jane in her arms.*

*Helen is buried in an unmarked mound for 15 years, but Jane says now she has a headstone that reads “Resurgam” (Latin for “I will rise again”).*

3. What time jump occurs? What does Jane’s looking out her window represent? What does she do about it?

*Jane passes eight years at Lowood, six more years as a student and two as a teacher.*

*Jane thinks about her life, opening a window and looking out (symbolizing her desire to see more of the world around her), desiring “liberty” and a new “Servitude.”*

*She decides to place an advertisement in the newspaper, writes it, and walks it to town. She receives an offer from a Mrs. Fairfax for a position in a place called Thornfield, to tutor a girl under 10 years old, and imagines what Mrs. Fairfax and Thornfield are like. She informs Lowood, gets references (Mrs. Reed wants nothing to do with Jane), and prepares to leave. Jane’s excitement and curiosity about her upcoming new life parallels her leaving Gateshead Hall.*

4. Sum up Jane’s surprise visitor and what Jane learns.

*Bessie visits; she is married, with a boy and a girl—named Jane! She shares news of the Reeds: Georgiana almost eloped, but was stopped by Mrs. Reed, and she lives with Eliza, always fighting; John is lazy and self-indulgent, having been kicked out of college, and is still spoiled by Mrs. Reed, who gives him money.*

*Bessie tells Jane she is not very pretty(!), but admires her piano playing and painting ability. She also relates this: Seven years ago one of Jane's uncles came to Gateshead Hall looking for her; Mrs. Reed said Jane was no longer there, and her uncle left for Madeira.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 17, Day 1 (Chapters XI-XII)**

1. What is Thornfield like? How does it compare to Gateshead and Lowood?

*Thornfield is three stories, large, grey, and surrounded by thorn trees. Jane's room at first strikes her as eerie, with the nearby wide hall, large staircase, and long gallery, but she thinks it looks beautiful when she wakes up. The library/ schoolroom is furnished with books, a new piano, an easel, and two globes. The third story of Thornfield is old and antique, with rooms too gloomy to sleep in.*

*Answers will vary as to how Thornfield compares to Gateshead Hall and Lowood. It is potentially a difficult place to live (like Gateshead and Lowood), but Mrs. Fairfax and Adele are pleasant, and it is well furnished and more modern (e.g., the library/schoolroom is better furnished than Lowood). There are gothic elements of the home, but it is markedly unique, and it is the third major location of Jane's life.*

2. Describe Mrs. Fairfax and Adele.

*Mrs. Fairfax is a pleasant older housekeeper, and Adele is the ward of Mr. Edward Rochester, the owner of Thornfield; she is six or seven, not terribly bright, French, and eager to please Jane.*

3. What strange sound does Jane hear one night, and what does Mrs. Fairfax inform Jane?

*Jane hears a strange, cackling laugh, and asks Mrs. Fairfax about it, who answers that it was Grace Poole; when Jane sees Grace, it seems hard to believe that the laugh came from her.*

4. Describe Jane's interaction with Grace Poole.

*Jane hears Grace Poole laugh and make odd noises frequently, and tries to make conversation with her, but gets nowhere.*

5. Why does Jane take a trip to town? What happens on her trip?

*She sees life as too routine, tame, and ordinary, longing for excitement and adventure. (This recalls her looking out of the window at Lowood earlier in the story.) On her trip to town she encounters deep quiet, until she hears a horse coming, and a man and the horse he is on both fall on the ice, spraining the man's ankle. Jane enjoys a satisfaction with helping the man.*

6. Who is the person she encounters, and what is he like?

*He is Edward Rochester, master of Thornfield, but he pretends not to know about Thornfield and himself, asking Jane about her work at Thornfield. Rochester is about 35, has a dark face, and a stern expression—not handsome. Jane helps him back on his horse, and he rides away.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 17, Day 2 (Chapters XIII-XIV)**

1. Describe Rochester's initial conversation with and assessment of Jane.

*He asks Jane to tea, and she dresses up a little and appears before him. Jane remains calm while Rochester gruffly asks her about herself—Lowood, her family, and so on. She points out the harshness of Lowood and Brocklehurst, which surprises Rochester. He makes her play piano and examines her artwork, three watercolor paintings.*

2. What three paintings does Jane show Rochester?

*The three paintings are these:*

- a cloudy sea, with a sunken ship whose mast sticks out of the sea, with a cormorant who holds a golden bracelet in its beak, torn from the arm of a corpse, visible just below the water
- an outdoor scene, with a woman's shape rising to the sky
- an iceberg tip piercing a wintry sky, with a large head leaning toward it, with a despairing look, and a white ring of flame above it, like a crown

3. What does Jane say to Mrs. Fairfax about Rochester's personality? How does Mrs. Fairfax excuse it and explain his reluctance to stay at Thornfield for any substantial length of time?

*Jane remarks to Mrs. Fairfax that Rochester seems rude, but Mrs. Fairfax excuses it because of his "painful thoughts" and "family troubles," including the loss of his older brother nine years ago, which put Thornfield into his possession. (There were some disagreements and unfair treatment by his father and older brother as well.) Mrs. Fairfax says he has not lived at Thornfield for more than two weeks at a time; when Jane asks why, she avoids the question, saying it might be because it is a gloomy place.*

4. How does Jane answer when Rochester asks her to assess his looks? What earlier part of *Jane Eyre* does this recall?

*He asks her if she thinks he is handsome, and she says, "No." (This echoes Bessie's earlier words to Jane that she is not pretty.)*

5. Sum up Rochester's explanation of himself to Jane. How does she see his lack of good looks?

*He tells Jane life has knocked him around roughly, and that he still has a conscience. He says he is hardened toward others, but still might be redeemable. Jane sees him as not handsome, but believing his confident manner makes his lack of good looks unimportant.*

6. Describe the interaction between Rochester and Jane. How does Jane encourage Rochester in their conversation? What conversation that Jane had earlier in the novel is similar to this one between herself and Rochester?

*He talks roughly at times, but is impressed by her intelligence and spirit. He tells Jane that he has lived a hard life, that fortune has been unkind to him, but that he is not an evil man. He says that "fate" was destined an unfortunate life for him, so he plans on a life of pleasure, which Jane warns him against.*

*He also says he is attempting to change his life, and Jane encourages him. She becomes confused with his rantings, however, and tries to leave; he begs her to stay until Adele comes back (she does, thanking him for his gifts). He mysteriously refers to Adele as his burden, then says he will explain more later.*

*This conversation between Rochester and Jane, as she warns him against evil behavior, recalls her discussion with Helen on how she wished to get revenge on those who unjustly tormented her, like Rochester believes "fate" has unjustly targeted him.*

### ***Jane Eyre, Week 17, Day 3 (Chapters XV-XVI)***

1. Why do you think Jane refuses to leave Adele, knowing of her past?

*Jane tells Rochester that she could never leave Adele, who is essentially an orphan (like Jane herself, which endears her to Adele).*

2. What horror awakens Jane one night? How does Rochester respond?

*One night, Jane hears murmuring right above her while she is in bed, but can't see anything. She hears someone touching her bedroom door and is "chilled with fear." A "demonic laugh" at her door frightens her terribly, and she*



*hears someone going upstairs (Grace Poole) and a door closing. Jane sees smoke, realizes it is coming from Rochester's room, and quenches a fire in his bed before it kills him.*

*Rochester tells Jane to stay put while he visits the second story. He returns, and Jane says she heard Grace Poole laugh, and Rochester agrees that it was Grace. Jane returns to her room after Rochester thanks her profusely, and she dreams disquieting dreams of sailing in a ship to a destination she can never reach.*

3. How does Jane react to Grace Poole? What can't Jane figure out?

*Jane sees Grace Poole in Rochester's room, sitting. She tests Grace, who behaves suspiciously and pretends that Rochester accidentally started the fire with a candle, but encourages Jane to bolt her door every night.*

*Jane puzzles over why Rochester would let Grace stay, when he himself all but admitted her involvement in the fire; it can't be that he loves her, since she is older and unattractive.*

4. Where does Rochester go? Why? What does Jane wonder? How does she chide herself?

*Rochester has gone to visit a family with attractive daughters one of whom is named Blanche (Ingram). Mrs. Fairfax says Blanche is very eligible, with beautiful black hair and musical talents.*

*Jane wonders why Rochester hasn't married Blanche already. She chides herself for even hoping Rochester would ever marry or love her, when he could marry someone as beautiful and accomplished as Blanche. She draws two portraits—one of herself and one of Blanche, and looks at them to remind herself that she is no equal to Blanche.*

#### **Jane Eyre, Week 17, Day 4 (Chapter XVII)**

1. What does Jane overhear about Grace Poole?

*She sees Grace Poole come from the third story. Jane overhears Leah and a housecleaner discussing Grace Poole's job and huge salary, but they will not tell Jane the situation.*

2. Describe the guests who come to Thornfield. What is your assessment of Blanche Ingram?

*Mrs. Eshton and her two daughters (Amy and Louisa); Lady Lynn; Mrs. Colonel Dent; and Lady Ingram and her daughters (Blanche and Mary). Lady Ingram is haughty and fierce; she repulses Jane, reminding her of Mrs. Reed. The ladies talk right in front of Jane of how terrible governesses are and her physical "faults."*

*Jane studies Blanche to see (a) whether Mrs. Fairfax accurately described her, (b) whether her drawing of Blanche was close, and (c) whether she would meet Rochester's taste. Blanche is also haughty and mockingly laughs often. Blanche speaks of how she doesn't care how a man looks, just how he acts. (This is obviously a ploy to win the affections of the not-handsome Rochester.)*

3. What does Jane decide about Rochester? What doesn't surprise her, but does disappoint her?

*Rochester enters and begins conversing with the ladies without speaking to or looking at Jane, which doesn't surprise her, but does disappoint her.*

*After Blanche and Rochester sing, Jane slips away. Rochester then confronts her and asks why she is depressed; Jane replies that she is not, but Rochester insists that she is, especially when a tear rolls down Jane's cheek. He asks her to come every night to the drawing room with his visitors, and then almost says, "Good night, my love..." but doesn't.*

*She finds herself looking at Rochester with love, regardless of his less-than-handsome appearance. She decides that the other ladies have nothing in common with him, as she does.*

#### **Jane Eyre, Week 18, Day 1 (Chapters XVIII-XIX)**

1. What scenarios does the group act out while playing charades? Why doesn't Jane join, and how does Blanche respond?

*The charades: a wedding, finding of Rebecca for Isaac's bride, and a prison. Blanche says Jane "looks too stupid" to play.*

2. How does Jane react to the interaction between Rochester and Blanche?

*Jane watches them interact, close to each other, with frustration and despair, since she says she loves Rochester. She is not jealous of Blanche, since she says she is so phony and heartless, and mean to Adele. Jane notices Rochester watching Blanche too, and wonders how he can still marry her, because she sees that Blanche "could not charm him"—and she is totally clueless that her attempts are failing.*

*Jane can't understand how Rochester can marry Blanche, since she doesn't think Blanche will make him happy, but supposes this is how it works with the upper class. She realizes that she is overlooking the faults of Rochester, instead of being aware of them, saying, "Now I saw no bad."*

3. Describe Mr. Mason's visit.

*Mr. Mason says (in a non-English accent) that he is a friend of his and has traveled far to reach Thornfield. Jane notes that he looks uneasy and odd, and unmanly. Jane hears the words "old woman" and "quite troublesome" whispered.*

4. Describe the gypsy's "fortune telling" of Jane.

*Jane tells the fortune teller she doesn't believe in the practice; the gypsy tells her that she is "cold," "sick," and "silly," since she is alone and doesn't try for love, even though she is in reach of happiness. Jane scoffs, and the gypsy "reads" her palm, saying Jane is frustrated at the gaiety going on around her; Jane replies that she is not, and that she plans to save her money and open her own school. The gypsy mentions Grace Poole, which startles Jane, but the gypsy says Grace is harmless and trustworthy.*

*The gypsy asks about Jane's interest in a gentleman, to which Jane says she has none. The gypsy says that Rochester will soon marry Blanche, who might love him, or love his money. She tells Jane that happiness is within her reach, that her eye is full of feeling, her mouth should not live in silence, and that Jane is content to live alone, even though she shouldn't.*

*Rochester then reveals himself as the gypsy—Jane recognizes his young hand and the ring on it—and he asks Jane to forgive him. Jane had suspected the gypsy was Grace Poole, and was slightly on edge, but didn't suspect Rochester.*

5. What strange thing does Rochester say to Jane after she tells him of Mr. Mason's presence?

*Jane tells Rochester Mr. Mason is there from the West Indies, and this staggers Rochester. recovering himself, Rochester tests Jane's loyalty, and she says she will always stand by him, although others forsake and criticize him.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 18, Day 2 (Chapters XX-XXI)**

1. Describe the next incident in the middle of the night at Thornfield.

*Jane hears a horrific cry in the middle of the night and a cry of "Help!" from the third story. Rochester reassures the guests that a servant had a nightmare. Jane doesn't believe it, gets dressed, and is summoned by Rochester to help him to a door hidden behind a tapestry. Jane hears a snarling, snapping sound like a dog, and Grace Poole's maniacal laughter. Mr. Mason is bleeding, and Rochester tells Jane to help, and forbids Mason from talking to her.*

*Jane begins trying to puzzle out what is happening, and Rochester returns with the surgeon for Mason. Mason says, "She bit me" and says his attacker threatened to drain his heart of blood. Rochester rallies Mason, giving him medicine, and hurries him off before the guests awaken and see him. Before he leaves, Mason asks Rochester to take care of "her" and bursts into tears.*

2. What does Rochester ask Jane the next morning?

*Rochester walks with Jane in the early morning, and puts a case to her: Would she think it wrong for him to “overleap an obstacle of custom” to get his life back, after he made a grave error, ruined his life, and met a person like Blanche Ingram that could give him happiness?*

3. Describe Jane’s visit. What is your take on Eliza and Georgiana?

*Jane receives news that Mrs. Reed is dying, and John has died a shameful death, probably suicide, so she goes to Gateshead. Mrs. Reed is slightly better, and Jane answers Bessie’s questions about herself, realizing that it has been so long that she does not dread Gateshead and has forgiven the Reeds’ mistreatment of her.*

*Jane sees plain, harsh-looking Eliza and fancy-looking Georgiana, and she ignores their petty non-verbal judgements against her. She insists on being shown to Mrs. Reed, and kisses her, calling her “dear aunt” (after vowing years before never to call her “aunt”). Mrs. Reed behaves coldly toward Jane, but says she wants to tell her something. Speaking oddly, as if Jane weren’t there, she says she hated Jane because her husband was fond of Jane’s mother (his sister), and she wishes Jane would have died during the epidemic at Lowood. She also talks as if John were still alive, bemoaning his gambling and her estate’s low funds.*

*Ten days pass before she talks to Mrs. Reed again, and Jane passes the time drawing pictures (including one of Rochester), ignored almost totally by both Reed sisters. They show interest in Rochester’s portrait, and Jane sketches them both, also having superficial conversations with Georgiana. The sisters pass their meaningless lives differently: Georgiana searches for excitement and entertainment; Eliza rigidly orders each day. Eliza dislikes Georgiana so intensely that she tells her as soon as their mother dies, she will have nothing to do with her ever again. Georgiana replies that Eliza is heartless and selfish, and is still angry that Eliza ruined her chances to be married some years before.*

4. Compare Eliza’s “religion” to what the Bible says in James 1:26-27.

*Eliza still attends every church service rigidly, although she is so cold and hateful. This is not true Christianity. “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:26-27).*

5. What frustrating news does Mrs. Reed give Jane?

*Mrs. Reed withheld a three-year-old letter from Jane, which says that Jane’s uncle, John Eyre from Madeira, wanted to leave her an inheritance. Mrs. Reed says, though, that she told John Eyre that Jane was dead, not bearing the chance that Jane would be prosperous.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 18, Day 3 (Chapters XXII-XXIV)**

1. How do the “fates” of Eliza and Georgiana relate to Jane’s future?

*Eliza leaves to become a nun, Georgiana marries. These “fates” are similar to Jane’s possible futures—ones with or without marriage, especially in light of the plans of Rochester to marry Blanche Ingram soon. Weeks pass, however, and no progress is made toward a marriage between Rochester and Blanche.*

2. Describe the scene of the conversation between Rochester and Jane. What happens to the chestnut tree at Thornfield?

*He tells her Adele must go to school, and Jane must get a “new situation,” and says he has heard of a job for her with “Mrs. Dionysius O’Gall of Bitternutt Lodge” in Ireland (a clearly ridiculous, made-up name). Jane is overwhelming with the prospect of being separated from Rochester (like her “caste” and lack of wealth also do) that tears spill.*

*Rochester says they will never see each other again, and asks if she would remember him again if she went to Ireland. (He is testing her to discern her feelings toward him.) Jane weeps openly, telling him she will miss him, and that Blanche Ingram has stolen her chance at future happiness, that he should not marry her, and that if she were pretty or wealthy he would be upset if she left him.*

*Rochester says he will not marry Blanche, because he spread a rumor that his wealth was only a third of what it actually was, and she turned against him. He kisses Jane and asks her to marry him, almost defiantly, and she accepts.*

*The two return to Thornfield, as a storm is brewing, and the next day Adele informs Jane that lightning has split the chestnut tree in two.*

3. What plans are made? What does Jane ask Rochester about his play-acting about Blanche Ingram, and how does he respond?

*Rochester and Jane plan to marry in four weeks, quietly, and then travel the world. Jane asks Rochester why he tried to make her believe he would marry Blanche Ingram, and he says he was provoking Jane to jealousy.*

4. What are Mrs. Fairfax's thoughts on the plans?

*Mrs. Fairfax can scarcely believe it, saying the two are different "equalit[ies] of position and fortune"; and noting their age difference; and warning Jane, much to Jane's dismay.*

5. When Jane reflects on this time, what does she say she had wrongly done in regard to Rochester?

*She says that she had wrongly made Rochester into "an idol."*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 19, Day 1 (Chapters XXV-XXVI)**

1. Describe the weather and the chestnut tree.

*The day before the wedding, Jane packs. Rochester has mysteriously left the night before and not returned. A violent storm roars, and Jane walks out in it, seeing chestnut tree split down the middle, although the halves are not split from each other. The blood-red moon appears to come between the halves.*

2. What happens to Jane, and how does Rochester respond?

*An unknown woman came into her room, wearing a wedding dress, and took Jane's wedding veil, ripping it in half. The woman then placed a candle at Jane's face, looking at her, and Jane fainted from terror.*

*Rochester tries to convince Jane that it was a dream, but she found the veil ripped, and he is horrified, thankful that nothing worse has happened to her. He says it was Grace Poole, which satisfies Jane; but he makes her sleep in Sophie's room with Adele, with the door locked.*

3. Describe the wedding scene and its aftermath. What does Jane's outlook on her life recall earlier in the story?

*The next morning, Jane dresses and is hurriedly taken to the church by Rochester. Jane notices two strangers following them (Rochester does not see them).*

*Before the vows commence, one stranger says Rochester cannot be legally married, because he has a wife living: Bertha Mason, the sister of Dick Mason (whom she attacked in the house before). Bertha is insane, coming from a long line of crazies, and Rochester was tricked into marrying her 15 years before.*

*Rochester takes the clergyman and lawyer to show them Bertha; she tries to strangle him. Rochester has hired Grace Poole to be Bertha's ward, keeping her hidden in the house.*

*Mr. Mason rushed to stop the wedding, since he was a friend of Jane Eyre's uncle, who told Mason about his niece's upcoming wedding to Rochester. (Jane's uncle is close to death.)*

*Jane sits in her room, alone, taking off her wedding dress, completely devoid of all hope for happiness. (This recalls her earlier time at Gateshead, especially the misery of being locked in the red room.) She feels utterly destitute, and prays to God for help, repeating Psalms that reflect her misery.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 19, Day 2 (Chapter XXVII)**

1. Why does Jane refuse Rochester's proposition?

*Rochester asks Jane to come away with him, to a remote house where they could live, but Jane refuses, courageously, on principle, since Rochester is married; they would be adulterers. Jane also resolves not to become his mistress, as those before her, and make him hate her like he grew to hate them.*

2. Explain the situation that Rochester is in.

*He was tricked into marrying Bertha Mason, the daughter of his father's wealthy friend, because Rochester's father wanted money for him, giving all his property to Rowland, Edward Rochester's older brother. Bertha's mother and her brother were both in insane asylums, which was hidden from Edward. Bertha soon started acting violent and insane after their marriage, and his brother and father die, leaving him his inheritance and making the "necessary" marriage to his rich wife needless. After a particularly violent and foul-mouthed outburst from Bertha, Rochester moves to England, where no one knows his secret, so he can live as unmarried and hide Bertha from the world.*

3. What is Grace Poole's role? How has she endangered the entire Thornfield household?

*Grace Poole was hired by Rochester and paid to guard Bertha; Grace got drunk, though, several times, allowing Bertha to obtain the knife she stabbed her brother with, and to get out twice—once setting fire to Edward's bed, and once going into Jane's room and ripping her veil.*

4. Why does Jane do what she does, and what does she tell herself? Describe the vision she sees.

*Jane refuses to stay with Edward, although he begs her. She tells herself: "I will keep the law given by God, sanctioned by man" and "Laws and principles are not for the times when there is no temptation: they are for such moments as this." She then walks away from him.*

*After sleeping, and seeing a vision that says "Flee temptation!" she hurriedly packs and leaves in the middle of the night. She walks until she sees a coach, paying her entire savings to have the driver take her far away.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 19, Day 3 (Chapters XXVIII-XXIX)**

1. Sum up Jane's predicament in Whitcross.

*Jane is alone and destitute in a little area called Whitcross. She eats her last morsel and sleeps on the ground. She awakens and sees the stars, thinks of God's greatness, and prays for Edward. The next morning, she walks to town, drawn by a church bell, hungry and looking for work. She finds nothing and goes to a parsonage, but the clergyman is gone to bury his father and will not return for two weeks. She returns to a bakery and is refused, though a farmer gives her some bread, and she eats porridge intended for a pig.*

2. Describe the Rivers family. What do they do for Jane?

*They have lived in their house for about 200 years; St. John, Diana, and Mary all love to learn—St. John went to college to become a parson, and the girls wanted to be governesses. St. John is about 30 and handsome, but stern-looking. The sisters are cultured and kind-hearted. But their father lost everything to a man he trusted, and the three children had to provide for themselves. They all enjoy the little town they live in, and get along very well.*

*Jane drifts in and out of sleep for three days, hearing the sisters comment on her looks and bearing, never regretting their decision to take her in, which comforts her. The two and St. John comment on her "physiognomy" favorably, although St. John says she is "not at all handsome."*

*After several days of rest, Jane finds her clothes and stockings washed. They ask Jane about herself, and she says she has no friends or family, is single, and almost 19; she is upset and sheds tears when they ask her about marriage. She shares her whole background, leaving out details she wants to keep secret.*

*St. John realizes the “Elliott” last name Jane gives is false (which Jane confirms), and Jane thanks them and asks for work to help repay them and earn her keep. The Riverses agree to let her stay with them, and St. John says he will help her to find work.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 19, Day 4 (Chapters XXX-XXXI)**

1. How does Jane find the Rivers siblings?

*She gets along almost perfectly with the Rivers sisters, finding much in common. The girls are more well-read than Jane, but she is a better artist. St. John is difficult to get along with, moody, and distant. Jane is impressed with his preaching, although his stern Calvinism is depressing, and he seems unsatisfied, like Jane (who has lost her home and potential husband).*

2. What work decisions do the Rivers sisters and Jane accept? What news gives them temporary hope, then disappointment?

*Diana and Mary plan to leave home to become governesses. Jane approaches St. John about work, and he offers her a job teaching poor girls; she accepts.*

*St. John brings news that their uncle John has died (the uncle that gave the Riverses’ father bad financial advice. The three Rivers siblings hoped he would leave them an inheritance to atone for his error, but he leaves them almost nothing, leaving 20,000 pounds to another relative.*

3. Describe Jane’s work. What does St. John tell Jane about his life?

*Jane works with 20 ignorant, illiterate students, and looks forward to seeing the fruits of her labors with them. She feels more satisfied with this life than one living as a mistress of Edward Rochester, but she weeps, thinking about him. St. John comes and brings drawing materials from his sisters, noticing Jane’s tears.*

*St. John encourages Jane to be strong and stay with her job, telling her he struggled with being in the ministry a year ago, longing for adventure and glory, until he overcame this wanderlust, planning to become a missionary in the East.*

4. What is strange about St. John’s response to Rosamond Oliver?

*Jane is struck by Rosamond’s incredible beauty, as well as her pleasant personality (unlike Blanche Ingram’s), and she wonders if St. John is attracted to her, since she (Rosamond) seems to be to him. But he shows little interest, not even coming with her to visit her father, who wants to see him.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 20, Day 1 (Chapters XXXII-XXXIII)**

1. How does Jane’s work make her feel? What upsets this feeling?

*Jane sees success with her students, and realizes that they and their parents greatly appreciate being treated respectfully and to have someone care about their feelings; the town loves her. She feels happy and content with her work, but has numerous dreams about Rochester.*

2. Describe Rosamond’s personality and actions. What do you make of St. John’s reaction to her? How does he react to Jane’s drawing?

*Rosamond Oliver tries to win St. John, but he resists her, determined to be a missionary, and strangely, seeming to want to be unhappy in a way. Rosamond is pleasant, but not deep, a little spoiled, but not very much, and not arrogant because of her wealth. (Her fruitless attempts to win St. John recall Blanche Ingram’s similar attempts to win Rochester.)*

*Jane sketches Rosamond’s portrait, and Mr. Oliver comes to watch, telling Jane that the River family was once rich and highly regarded in Morton. St. John visits one day and is startled by Rosamond’s portrait, although he pretends not to notice. Jane is determined to get answers from him, and asks if he wants the portrait; he says he does, but he*

*shouldn't. He tells Jane that he loves Rosamond, but cannot marry her, because they would regret it soon. (This mirrors Jane's refusing to be Rochester's mistress.) He refuses to accept Jane's gift of the portrait.*

3. What unusual act does St. John perform with a piece of paper?

*As St. John is telling Jane that he is a hard, cold man, but determined to use his gifts in God's service, for His kingdom, he suddenly sees something on a piece of paper, looking strangely at Jane and tearing off the corner and putting it into his pocket.*

4. Sum up St. John's "story" to Jane during the hard snowstorm. What does Jane decide to do about this?

*St. John comes to Jane's house during a hard snow to tell her something, which he waits a long time to do. He finally relates Jane's entire history, saying that a Mr. Briggs has tried contact her to tell her that her Uncle John Eyre from Madeira has died and left her rich.*

*Jane is stunned, and asks St. John how he came to be told this business, and he replies that his mother was Jane Eyre's father's sister. Jane is thrilled to have "two sisters." (Diana and Mary are superior versions of Eliza and Georgiana.)*

*Jane decides to split the 20,000 pounds four ways, among herself and St. John, Diana, and Mary, and live with her "sisters." She tells St. John she will never marry, and has the money legally divided.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 20, Day 2 (Chapter XXXIV)**

1. Sum up Jane's new plans, and St. John's rebuke.

*Jane leaves her school (promising to teach at least once a week). She sets up her new life, asking St. John to let her and Diana and Mary have Hannah. St. John asks her what her life's ambition will be now. She answers that she will clean Moor House and make Christmas wonderful; St. John, of course, means for the rest of her life, warning her not to waste her talents on only earthly things, but for the kingdom of God.*

*Jane turns Moor House inside out, making it sparkle. She invites St. John, who barely mentions approval, which disappoints Jane, who believes he would make a difficult husband for any wife.*

2. What are St. John's plans? Why does he say he is thankful for Rosamond Oliver's news?

*His sisters ask him if he has changed his plans because of the inheritance that Jane split among them, and he replies that he has not, and will leave within the year for the mission field. He tells them that Rosamond Oliver is soon to marry someone else, and tells Jane later that he is thankful, since it clears him to go to the mission field without Rosamond.*

*St. John seems to watch Jane often, and comments that she has much strength and chides his sisters for not going out when the weather is bad, saying that Jane can do it. He asks Jane to learn Hindustani with him, and she finds herself losing her "liberty of mind" under him, and growing serious and cold as he is.*

3. Whom does Jane write? What does St. John request after her letters are not answered?

*Jane thinks of Rochester, writing twice to Mrs. Fairfax about him, but receiving no reply after six months. After receiving a letter which is only from Briggs, Jane weeps, and St. John invites/orders her to take a walk with him.*

4. How does Jane respond to St. John's request? What three things does he say qualify her?

*St. John asks Jane to be his wife and come with him to India. Jane says she is not qualified, but St. John says her humility is unwarranted—that she is qualified if she would be willing to let God use her. (The reference to humility recalls Brocklehurst's statement saying exactly the same thing before he took Jane to Lowood.)*

*St. John says that her (a) taking on the schoolteacher's job, (b) clear-headedness when she inherited great wealth, and (c) willingness to learn Hindustani qualify her to be a missionary's wife.*

5. Explain Jane's condition on which she will agree to St. John's request, and his answer.

*Jane agrees to go, but only as his sister, not his wife, since St. John is so hard and unfeeling, and she knows he doesn't really love her. This is intolerable for St. John, who says God needs her—to which Jane tells him he (St. John) does not. She tells him she scorns his idea of "love" and again refuses. He says he is going to visit friends for two weeks and will return, and that if she does not come with him as his wife, she is denying God—not him.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 20, Day 3 (Chapters XXXV-XXXVI)**

1. How does the final parting of St. John and Jane go? What stops Jane from accepting his proposal?

*St. John stays another week instead of leaving right away, as he said he would; he is cold and disapproving of Jane, which torments her. Jane attempts to leave on friendly terms with him, but he is shocked when she reiterates that she will not become his wife. Jane says he is pretending to be shocked and certainly knows better.*

*St. John tells her he will find a married couple to accompany to the mission field, so she won't break a promise, but she reminds him that no such promise exists, and that she might do more good in England. St. John chides her for wanting to find out what happened to Rochester and walks away.*

*Diana asks Jane what is happening, and Jane explains; Diana says that Jane wouldn't last three months, since St. John would work her to death. As St. John reads Revelation 21 at the evening meal, it is clear he believes Jane is bound for hell.*

*Later St. John asks Jane to marry him, and she is on the verge of accepting, when she hears Rochester call "Jane! Jane!" She rushes outside, sees no one, tells St. John to leave her, and kneels and prays.*

2. Describe the scene at the end of Jane's trip. What does she learn from the innkeeper?

*She travels 36 hours by coach to Thornfield, but doesn't ask anyone about Rochester, because she doesn't want her hopes crushed yet. She approaches Thornfield and sees it has burned to the ground.*

*A local innkeeper tells Jane the story: Bertha burned it down two months after Jane left (trying to set Jane's room on fire), jumped to her death, and Rochester has pined for Jane since she left. Rochester lost an eye and the sight of the other, as well as one hand, in the fire. Jane requests an immediate trip to his new home, 30 miles away.*

### **Jane Eyre, Week 20, Day 4 (Chapters XXXVII-XXXVIII)**

1. What is Ferndean like? How is this appropriate?

*It is dank, gloomy, and desolate, representing Rochester's outlook and "fate."*

2. Describe the reunion. How does Rochester say God intervened in their lives?

*Jane knocks on the door, and Mary and John are surprised. They announce her as a visitor, and she slowly reveals herself to the overjoyed Rochester. Jane tells him she is wealthy and offers to stay as his nursemaid forever, and she realizes Rochester wants to marry her, but doesn't want to chain her to himself, a "sightless block," as he says.*

*Rochester shows Jane his stump and remarks how ugly he is, with that and his scarred face (he can see dim lights out of his one good eye), but it doesn't matter to Jane. (When Rochester asks, "Am I hideous, Jane?" she answers, "Very, sir: you always were, you know.") He asks her about where she's been, and she gives short replies, so as not to stir him up, since she wants to cheer him that night, promising to tell him the rest the next morning.*

*She does so, and Rochester is especially interested in St. John, believing Jane loves him. When she says she does not, he is overwhelmed, and a tear trickles from his eye. He asks her to marry him, and she accepts gladly. (This, interestingly, puts Jane in a "helper" position somewhat, similar to what a marriage to St. John would have been. The difference: Rochester loves her, and St. John did not.)*



*Rochester tells Jane he is thankful that God took her away from him, to chastise his wickedness and pride of his strength, and that God was just. He has submitted to God, and prays for His guidance.*

3. What is eerie about Rochester's calling out for Jane several nights before?

*Rochester tells Jane that four nights ago, at around midnight, he called out "Jane! Jane!" and heard a voice saying, "I am coming; wait for me. Where are you?" This, of course, is what Jane dreamed she heard at the same time. Rochester kneels down and prays that God will guide his life.*

4. Sum up the conclusion of *Jane Eyre*. How much time has passed?

*Jane marries Rochester. Diana and Mary are overjoyed; Diana says she will visit soon. St. John never responds to Jane's letter saying she married Rochester, but does write six months later, not mentioning it. Jane takes Adele away from the harsh, strict school she is in (recalling Jane's stay at Lowood) and puts her in a closer, more comfortable school; Adele thrives.*

*Jane has now been married 10 years. She served as Rochester's vision, loving to do it, and their constant conversation draws them close. Rochester gains back some of the sight of one eye, and is able to see the son born to him and Jane.*

*Diana and Mary both are married and visit Jane and Edward yearly. St. John works on the mission field and remains unmarried, and never will, since he is near death. *Jane Eyre* ends with a quotation by St. John from the last lines of the Bible:*

*"Surely I come quickly! Amen; even so come, Lord Jesus!"*

### **Week 22, Day 1 – "On the Belief in a God"**

1. According to Newton, what has to be the origin of our solar system?

*A "voluntary Agent," meaning God.*

2. What does Newton say that the sun would be like if its formation were due simply to blind chance or natural gravitational causes?

*It would have been simply another planet, without the capacity to give off heat and light.*

3. How does Newton answer Bentley's second query?

*He says that the planets' orbits could only have arisen from God's design, or they would have been rotating around the sun at the same speeds, which would have affected their orbits.*

4. What does Newton say about the placing of Saturn and Jupiter so far away from the sun?

*It is important, because their great mass otherwise would cause disruptions in the other bodies of the solar system. This, again, shows planning by God.*

5. What last issue does Newton say shows divine planning?

*The axis of rotation of the earth, Newton says, doesn't give "extraordinary" proof of God's existence, but its monthly and yearly actions, as well as those of the other planets, shows "the effect of choice rather than chance."*

### **Week 22, Day 2 – "Ode to the West Wind"**

1. List the "deathly" words or phrases you find in "Ode to the West Wind." What do these "deathly" words do for the poem?

Some examples: “leaves dead,” “a corpse within a grave,” “earth’s decaying leaves,” “dirge,” “dying year,” and “a vast sepulchre.” These words set the mood as autumn ends and winter begins, with many living things (like leaves) dying.

2. What sound can be heard at the poem’s beginning and end?

*The call of a clarion (or trumpet).*

3. What verb is featured prominently several times in the poem?

*“Hear!”*

4. Write a list of the requests the poet makes of the west wind. What does his last request mean?

*To “lift [him] as a wave, a leaf, a cloud,” to “make me thy lyre,” to “be though...my spirit,” and to “drive my dead thoughts over the universe like withered leaves to quicken a new birth.” The last request means to help spread the thoughts he expresses in his poems and other writings to the world.*

### **Week 22, Day 3 – “The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton”**

1. Why does Holmes call Milverton “the worst man in London”? What is Milverton’s *modus operandi*?

*Because he is a despicable blackmailer, worse in Holmes’s eyes as a criminal because of his cold, calculated nature and heartlessness. Milverton’s modus operandi is to obtain embarrassing information about rich persons and blackmail them so he won’t publish the information, or publish the information of those who won’t pay, to make potential victims more willing to pay.*

2. What apt metaphor does Watson use to describe the safe?

*He calls it a “green and gold monster, a dragon which holds the secrets to many in its jaws.*

3. What surprise occurs during the attempt of Holmes and Watson to recover the documents?

*They are surprised by the appearance of a former victim of Milverton’s, who shoots him for ruining her life and causing her husband to die of a broken spirit.*

4. What is memorable about the story’s ending?

*There is humor in Holmes’s interaction with Lestrade, who “informs” Holmes about the murder and the two suspects, the description of one of which, says Holmes, is too vague and could describe Watson. The “final ending” shows Holmes struggling to recall the identity of the stately lady who kills Milverton, and when he does, he takes Watson to a photograph of her in a store window and indicates that he will never divulge her secret crime.*

5. List several of the unethical actions which Holmes undertakes during this story.

*Answers will vary, but here are a few: Holmes tries to ambush Milverton to take the letters, he breaks and enters his house, he pretends to love an employee of Milverton’s to gain access to his home (even getting engaged!), and he does nothing about a murder committed by a noblewoman.*

6. Do you see anything problematic about the publication of this story for Watson and Holmes?

*It gives away the fact that they are lawbreakers and know who killed Milverton!*

### **Week 23, Day 1 – “Ode on a Grecian Urn”**

1. What does the poet compare the urn to in the first several lines? Why does he use the last comparison?

*A bride, a foster-child, and a historian. He calls the urn a “sylvan historian” because it tells a tale about the past.*

2. What does the poet ask the urn? What does he mean by saying that “unheard melodies are sweeter”?

*He asks it what tales are told on its engraving—what people and “gods” and stories is it telling. By “unheard melodies are sweeter,” the poet is saying that not knowing what persons and tales are being told by the urn might be more fascinating than knowing exactly what they are.*

3. What do all the “canst not” and “never” and “cannot” lines mean?

*That the depictions on the urn will always stay the way they are; they are timeless and will not change.*

4. Explain the thought that the poet voices in the last stanza.

*That a great piece of ancient art is mesmerizing to the viewer, and it can continue to last—much longer than the present generation, always a “friend to man.” That is, it will continue to enrich the lives of those who see it.*

5. What is your take on the last two lines of the poem?

*Answers will vary, but for a Christian, “Beauty is truth, truth beauty” doesn’t quite cut it. Great art is interesting, and useful for determining facts about history, and shows great beauty. But Jesus Himself is actually the Truth, as well as the Way, and the Life (John 14:6).*

### **Week 23, Day 2 – “Mr. Lismore and the Widow”**

1. Why is the widow so interested in seeing Ernest Lismore make the speech at the story’s opening?

*It certainly isn’t the speech, which contains unexciting financial information; it is because she has fallen in love with him and is concerned about him.*

2. What does Lismore notice about the widow’s appearance during their first meeting at his office? What is the significance of this?

*He notices that the widow still retains some of her beauty and isn’t fat and doesn’t hide her gray hair, like many older women. Of course, this is because she really has retained much of her beauty, because she is not as old as she is made up to be, and she is trying to appear old, with gray hair.*

3. What is the widow’s connection to Mr. Lismore? What word does she tell him she has come to see him for?

*Lismore showed great courage and concern, saving her life in a fire several years ago (in which her older “husband” died), imperiling his ability to get on a ship for an important business appointment. The one word that sums up her business with him: gratitude.*

4. Why does Lismore think the widow asks him if he’s married or engaged? What is her real reason?

*He thinks she is going to try to set him up with her young daughter; her real reason is, of course, that she wants to know if he is “marry-able.”*

5. Upon what condition does the widow extend the loan to Lismore? What do you think about Lismore’s decision to accept?

*She will only lend him the money if he agrees to marry her in a “business marriage,” with each having one area of the house, just as a favor to him and for her to get control of the money her late husband left her.*

*Answers will vary on his decision to accept her condition. Some might feel this is abnormal or selfish, but Lismore seems very sincere when he tells her that her “great heart” has won him over.*

6. Explain the emotional change that Mrs. Lismore undergoes after their marriage, and the change that Ernest undergoes. What is the reason for each?

*She is depressed, naturally, because she loves Ernest and can't have him to herself as she wants, as a true wife; Ernest is shaken because he is attracted to a young woman he meets at the gallery and doesn't want to upset the "old lady" he is married to.*

7. How does the story's final resolution play out? In what ways is it satisfying to the reader?

*Mrs. Lismore tells Ernest to bring back the young woman to meet her. He does, but Mrs. Lismore has left. While they wait, the young woman needles Lismore about marrying "an old lady for her money" and about the "old lady's" looks. This angers Lismore, who turns to leave, but the young woman reveals herself to be his "old" wife, saying she is the actress Miss Max, a noble, upright woman who left her profession to marry an old man. Miss Max shows Ernest her husband's will, which says that he found her without friends or family, and lived with her as a father, and that after her life as an actress he made her free to marry. She has been disguising herself as old, hiding in her room. She came as herself to the art gallery and was overjoyed when Ernest noticed her. She opens a drawer and finds her false gray hair, which she tries to throw into the fire, but Ernest takes it from her, saying, "I must not forget my old wife." This is a very satisfying ending for the reader, because Ernest, a man with great character, is rewarded for his chivalry with a loving, devoted, wife.*

### **Week 23, Day 3 – "Ulysses"**

1. Why is Ulysses unhappy with his position?

*He wants to have more adventures and to travel the world; he is unhappy with his position as ruler of Ithaca, where he says he is relegated to "rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use."*

2. How much does Ulysses lament his "fate" and discuss his desire for more adventures, compared to the number of lines he gives to his family? What is your take on this?

*Much more; he barely mentions his wife Penelope at all (except to call her "aged"), and not even by name, and he mentions his son Telemachus only in a few lines, speaking of how he will be a good ruler. Answers will vary as to the take on this, but it seems reasonable to conclude that Ulysses is thinking a little too much of his own wants than those of his family and his subjects.*

3. What does the line "Some work of noble note may yet be done" mean? What is, in your estimation, the definition of "noble work"?

*Ulysses thinks there is still time in his life to do something "big" and important, like the wars he has fought in and the adventures he has partaken in. Definitions of "noble work" will vary among students, but any work that God puts before us and conforms to His word is noble, not necessarily just things that the world considers "great."*

4. What is the plea of Ulysses that begins with the words "Come, my friends" and continues to the poem's end? What do you think the most famous lines in this section are, and how do you think they affect readers?

*Ulysses asks his friends and fellow soldiers/sailors to go seek new adventures, and even though they are older and not as strong, their wills are sturdy and will carry them.*

*The most famous two lines of the poem are "Tis not too late to seek a newer world" and "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." These lines inspire readers to keep learning, keep seeking greatness, to keep accomplishing things.*

5. How does the overall theme of "Ulysses," especially the line "As though to breathe were life," compare to the main idea of John Milton's "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent," and its line "They also serve who only stand and wait"?

*The theme of “Ulysses” suggests that a man wants to accomplish “great” things instead of just sitting around spending his life doing nothing more than breathing. John Milton, who was blind, asserted that he could also do important things, even though he was blind, because he wanted to serve God.*

6. The Bible speaks of God as the One who does “great things” (Job 5:8-9, Psalm 71:19, Mark 3:8, Luke 1:49). How can Christians accomplish work for the kingdom of God? (See John 6:28-29 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.) How is their perspective different from that of Ulysses? (See 1 Corinthians 1:21-31.)

*Christians can accomplish God’s work by “believ[ing] on Him whom He hath sent [Jesus]” (John 6:28-29) and telling others about Jesus Christ. They can also be able to do God’s work by knowing God’s Word, which is able to complete them so they can be “thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:17).*

*A Christian’s perspective is different from that of Ulysses, since a Christian knows that “not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble” are used by God, “who hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and... the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1 Corinthians 1:21-31). God uses those who are not “great” by the world’s standards to accomplish his great purposes, to His glory and eternal purpose.*

### **Week 23, Day 4 – “The Magic Shop”**

1. Why does the narrator’s confusion about the location of the Magic Shop make more sense at the story’s end?

*Because at the story’s end, the shop “disappears” and seems to be truly a magic shop, which explains his confusion about the shop’s location.*

2. When does the narrator begin to realize that the Magic Shop is different?

*The proprietor takes magic very seriously, telling the narrator that his shop is “Genuine” and that there is no deception involved, even remarking to Gip that he is the “right sort of boy.”*

3. What do you make of the shop owner’s remark: ““We none of us know what the fair semblance of a human being may conceal, sir. Are we all then no better than brushed exteriors, whited sepulchres—”?”

*Answers will vary, but probably, humans have just as much to hide behind their false fronts and under the surface that they are willing to reveal. This is especially likely, given that the shop owner uses the words of Jesus when He pointed out hypocrisy and sinfulness of the religious leaders of His day.*

4. How does the creature he pulls from the narrator’s sleeve reinforce the idea of Question #3?

*The red demon he pulls from the narrator’s coat sleeve represents the evil that all men hide beneath their visible exteriors and are ashamed of—this is underscored by the narrator’s remark that “I was glad he hadn’t seen the thing,” and by the shopman’s insistence that the demon isn’t his; it’s something the narrator brought in himself.*

5. What disturbs the narrator about the magic shop?

*The apparently real magic, the shopman’s getting Gip to give him his finger (as he had only done for his father before), the assistant’s tricks with his nose, the shopman’s making Gip disappear under a drum, etc.)*

6. Name several concrete nouns and verbs that Wells uses to produce clear pictures in the reader’s head.

*Answers will vary.*

7. What message does the author offer through Gip’s (a) failure to see the demons or grotesque nose and (b) apparent ability to make his soldiers walk—without his father’s seeing it happen?

*Gip doesn't see the demons or the assistant's grotesque nose (children don't see evil as adults do; they're still innocent and fascinated by the wondrous things in the world).*

### **Great Expectations – Week 24, Day 1 (Chapters I-IV)**

1. Sum up Pip's family and home situation.

*Philip Pirrip ("Pip") is an orphan looking at his parents' (and five brothers') graves. He lives by the river with his sister and her husband, Joe Gargery, the blacksmith.*

2. What is Pip's "visitor's" situation? How does Pip assist him?

*A shackled criminal suddenly grabs Pip from among the tombstones, shaking him upside down and eating the bread that falls out of his pocket. The man orders Pip to get him "wittles" and a file from the blacksmith and bring it to him in the morning, and says if he doesn't, an unseen young man will tear out his heart and liver and eat it. Pip runs off to do so, and the convict runs off too.*

3. Describe Mrs. Joe. How would you sum up her relationship with Pip and with Joe?

*Pip's sister ("Mrs. Joe") is 20 years older than he, and rough on both him and Joe, constantly wearing an apron (which she wears as badge of her supposed hardships in life). Joe, her husband, is a strong but gentle man. Mrs. Joe comes in after looking for Pip, strikes him with "Tickler," a cane, and yells at him.*

*Mrs. Joe gives Pip bread and butter, which he sticks down his leg for the convict. Joe is worried Pip "bolted" his food, and Mrs. Joe force-feeds him and Joe tar-water. Pip's conscience starts bothering him, knowing he must "steal" food and a file from Mrs. Joe for the convict; he is also terrified of the young man who will supposedly tear his heart and liver out.*

4. How does Pip's assistance affect his "friend"? Who is the other man, and how does his presence affect Pip's "friend"?

*Cannons are heard in the distance, meaning a convict has escaped (a total of two) from nearby prison ships. That night, Pip creeps out of bed and takes food (including a pork pie), brandy, and a file to the convict.*

*Pip runs in the cold of night to the graveyard, waking up the convict—and it's someone else! The man swings at Pip, misses, and runs away. Pip finds his convict, and the man wolfs down the food and brandy, emotionally touched—even wiping a tear—at Pip's helping him.*

*Pip mentions that he saw the young man the convict was talking about, which unsettles the convict, who asks Pip if the man had a bruised cheek, which he did. The convict promises to find the other man and starts to file off the chain from his leg.*

5. What does Pip mean when he says, "Mrs. Joe was a very clean housekeeper, but had an exquisite art of making her cleanliness more uncomfortable and unacceptable than dirt itself. Cleanliness is next to Godliness, and some people do the same by their religion"?

*He means that people like Mrs. Joe make their religion an uncomfortable thing and miserable for everyone around them.*

6. Who are the Christmas guests, and what are they like? How do they treat Pip? What do Joe's attempts to make it up to Pip show about his character?

*The guests at dinner are Mr. Wopsle (the church clerk with a deep voice that he's very proud of), Mr. and Mrs. Hubble, and Uncle Pumblechook (Joe's uncle, who looks like a dull fish).*

*During the dinner, the guests and Mrs. Joe chide Pip on his supposed lack of thankfulness, and every time anyone scolds Pip, Joe tries to make up for it by spooning gravy onto Pip's plate. The guests and Mrs. Joe decide that pig*

*meat would be a great subject to talk about, and they use the subject to hassle Pip about his alleged offenses and causing trouble, with Joe heaping spoon after spoon of gravy onto Pip's plate.*

*Joe is shown to be a great friend to Pip, trying to ease his life and in his own way stand up for him*

7. Describe the pork pie incident.

*Joe goes to get the pork pie (which Pip has stolen for the convict), and Pip knows he's in trouble. He screams and tries to run away, but is intercepted at the door by soldiers looking for the convicts.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 24, Day 2 (Chapters V-VIII)**

1. What concerns Pip greatly when he goes with the men? What is surprising about his convict friend's behavior?

*After Joe fixes the handcuffs, Mr. Wopsle, Joe, and Pip accompany the soldiers to the hunt for the convicts. Pip worries that the convicts will think he is the one who led the soldiers to them. The convict says he could have escaped, but didn't, to make sure the other man got captured.*

2. Explain the convict's "confession." What does this event show about him and about Joe?

*After taking the convicts back to the ship, the one convict "confesses" to taking the food and brandy to keep Pip from getting into trouble. Joe says he was welcome to it, and the convict chokes up with emotion again. This shows both men to be considerate of others, which Pip no doubt notes.*

3. Why doesn't Pip confess to have taken the food and the file?

*He's afraid Joe will think lesser of him.*

4. Describe Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt's "evening school" Pip attends. What is Biddy like?

*Pip learns very little except for listening to Mr. Wopsle's orations and watching his great-aunt sleep. Biddy, Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt's granddaughter and an orphan like Pip (and roughly his age), runs the store there and helps Pip learn to read and cipher.*

5. What do we learn about Joe's background? How does it explain his marriage to Mrs. Joe?

*Pip writes a pathetically childish letter to Joe, who marvels at it, unable to read most of it—although he still says he loves "reading" a newspaper by the fire. Joe tells Pip he never learned to read, because his drunken father beat him and his mother so badly that they moved around to escape him, unable to make time to teach him. Joe is not bitter toward his father about this, even telling Pip he wrote a poem for his father's gravestone, which they couldn't afford to have on it, with Joe's mother in poor health and dying soon after.*

*Joe tells Pip that Mrs. Joe is a "fine woman" and that she raised Pip, and Joe was glad to take Pip along with Mrs. Joe when he asked her to marry him. Pip weeps, he is so grateful to Joe.*

*Joe tells Pip that they need to stick together because Mrs. Joe is "given to government"—inclined to boss the two around—and that she wouldn't like Joe's learning too much, fearing that it would cause him to rebel against her harshness. Joe says he doesn't stand up to Mrs. Joe because she reminds him of his poor mother, who had such hardships, that he doesn't have the heart to.*

6. What announcement is made regarding Pip?

*Mrs. Joe returns from shopping with Uncle Pumblechook and announces that Miss Havisham, a rich old widow, requests Pip to come play at her house—and might even make his fortune.*

7. Describe Satis House and Miss Havisham (and her room).

*It is a large but run-down mansion (also called Manor House). Estella leads Pip to a room where sits a lady—Miss Havisham—an older lady, skin and bone, dressed in a wedding gown and everything white (now yellow with age). The clock and watch in the room are stopped at 8:40.*

*Miss Havisham order Pip to play to entertain her (he can't), so she tells him to call Estella, whom she tells, "Break his heart!"*

8. How does Estella treat Pip? Why does this make Pip angry with his sister?

*She speaks down to him (calling him "boy"). They play cards, and Estella mocks Pip for being common and coarse until tears come to his eyes, which she enjoys seeing. When he leaves, Estella lets him out, mocking him one last time.*

*Pip thinks that his sister has been quite unjust to him, for being violent with him, and for bringing him up to be so "common" that Estella mocks him.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 24, Day 3 (Chapters IX-XII)**

1. Why do you think Pip makes up stories about Satis House for his relatives? What is Joe's reaction?

*They don't satisfy Mrs. Joe and Uncle Pumblechook.*

*Later Pip confesses his lies to Joe, and says he wishes he weren't so "common." Joe tells Pip to stop lying, and that "That ain't the way to get out of being common." He encourages Pip to confess his lies in his prayers that night, and encourages him that he can learn to read and write so he can be "uncommon," just like the king of England had to start with his ABCs too.*

2. Why does Pip ask for Biddy's help? What do you think about his reasons?

*Pip asks Biddy to teach him everything she knows, so he won't appear "common" to Estella. Usually people want to learn to better themselves or become knowledgeable, not to appeal more to snooty types like Estella, so students will probably point this out.*

3. Describe Pip's strange encounter at the Jolly Bargemen. How does this affect Pip?

*Pip goes by The Jolly Bargemen tavern to pick up Joe on the way home. Joe is with Mr. Wopsle and a stranger, who looks steadily at Pip and rubs his leg strangely. The stranger asks about their encounter with the convicts, then asks about Pip. The stranger then stirs his drink with a file, motioning to Pip that he knows what Pip did for the convict, and gives Pip two pound notes, which Joe tries to return.*

*The agent is obviously a friend of the convict whom Pip helped in the graveyard, and Pip is afraid the file incident will dog him forever, and he dreams of the file coming after him.*

4. What is your take on how Pip's demeanor is changing?

*Answers will vary, but many readers will notice a slight touch of snobbery.*

5. Sum up the events at Pip's next visit to Miss Havisham's house.

*Pip returns, this time in a different room (still with a clock stopped at 8:40), with three ladies and a man ("toadies" and "humbugs" to Pip) who are talking about him. Estella brings Pip to Miss Havisham, slapping him hard in the face, and Pip tells her he will never cry again about her.*

*The two meet a burly, dark man, balding and with bushy black eyebrows, whose hands smell of scented soap. Miss Havisham sends Pip across the hall to a room covered in cobwebs, spiders, mice, and beetles, and with a decaying wedding cake.*



*Pip rolls Miss Havisham around the room in her wheelchair, in front of Estella and the other guests; Camilla and Sarah Pocket complain of ill health, and the guests show themselves to generally be boot-lickers of Miss Havisham, there for her birthday party. She tells Pip she shall be laid on a certain table, in her wedding dress, to be buried—better yet if it's on her birthday.*

*Pip plays cards with Estella, is fed, and wanders outside the house. He sees a “pale young gentleman” and has a boxing match with him, knocking him down and winning. Estella is so pleased with this that she offers to let Pip kiss her cheek, which he does.*

6. Compare Bidly with Estella.

*Biddy is a gentle, caring girl who patiently listens to Pip's endless talking, a dramatic contrast to Estella's cold, cruel hatefulness toward Pip.*

7. What does Pumblechook speculate about Pip with Joe and Mrs. Joe? How do they differ on what Pip's future should be?

*Uncle Pumblechook regularly irritates Pip by endlessly discussing Pip's future with his sister and wondering if Miss Havisham will give Pip a fortune. Joe silently opposes Pip's being taken away from the forge, which angers Mrs. Joe.*

8. Explain Miss Havisham's action toward Joe, and how Mrs. Joe reacts. Why do you think Mrs. Joe acts this way?

*Miss Havisham asks Pip for papers committing him to be indentured to Joe, which angers Mrs. Joe so badly that she cleans the house for hours, shutting Joe and Pip out.*

*Answers will vary on why she does this, but it might be that she wants Pip gone from her house, or that she is angered at what she thinks is Joe's spoiling of Pip's potentially becoming a “gentleman.”*

### **Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 1 (Chapters XIII-XVI)**

1. What is your view of Pip's discomfort of being with Joe at Miss Havisham's house and unhappiness with his apprenticeship to him and his home?

*Answers will vary, but it is pretty low of Pip to be ashamed of Joe's behavior in front of two people—Miss Havisham and Estella—who are pretty despicable. It also seems that Pip is turning more and more into a snob, not even wanting to work with Joe in a respectable profession and being ashamed of his home, just because he thinks that a snit like Estella will look down on him.*

2. Describe Dolge Orlick. How does Joe's confrontation with him link him (Joe) to Pip?

*Dolge Orlick is a slouching, strong, moody, swarthy man who doesn't like Pip. When Pip takes a half-day off to visit Estella, Orlick demands the same half-day off. Joe agrees, Mrs. Joe objects, and Orlick sasses her. When she flies into a frenzy, Joe and Orlick fight, with Joe winning handily. (This recalls the fight between Pip and the “pale young gentleman.”)*

3. At this point in *Great Expectations*, what is your take on Miss Havisham's weird behavior?

*Answers will vary, but she seems to take a perverse delight in Estella's tormenting Pip, even hoping that he will “love” her and be rejected. More info to come....*

4. What happens to Mrs. Joe, and how is she affected? Whom do you believe to be the culprit?

*Mrs. Joe has been hit on the head from behind, seriously wounded, and never to be the same “rampager” again. She can't speak, and her hearing, memory, and vision are impaired. Her temperament is greatly improved, however, and Bidly comes to help take care of her. One day Mrs. Joe signals that she wants Orlick (only Bidly figures it out), and she makes motions to indicate that she wants to make sure that Orlick is happy and taken care of. Answers will vary as to who students believe the culprit is.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 2 (Chapters XVII-XVIII)**

1. Sum up the discussion between Pip and Bidley over Pip's desire to be a gentleman. What internal conflict does he have?

*Pip tells Bidley he wants to be a "gentleman." She objects, but he says he wants to become one to win over Estella, who sneered at his "common" qualities. Bidley remarks that to become a gentleman to spite Estella is easier done by ignoring her, and to win her over isn't worthy because she is not worth it. Pip admits she is right, but still admires her.*

*Pip tries to make himself happy with the thought of a life as a blacksmith, but every time he thinks he's won himself over, he thinks of Estella.*

2. In Chapter 17, what similarity do you notice between Pip and Orlick?

*They both heap unwanted attention on a female; Orlick just seems plain nasty, but Pip's fawning over Estella is irritating to watch.*

3. What news does Jaggers have for Pip? How is this news both welcome and sad for Pip?

*At an alehouse, a stranger who keeps biting his fingers (the lawyer Jaggers) asks for Pip, and Pip recognizes him as the man he met on the stairs at Miss Havisham's before (with the scented soap smell). He meets with Joe and Pip at the Gargery home, asking Joe to release Pip from his apprenticeship so that a secret benefactor can make a gentleman out of Pip.*

*Jaggers recommends Matthew Pocket as a tutor, and Joe refuses any present or money for the loss of Pip, even becoming emotional about their being friends. Bidley and Joe seem sad about Pip's leaving, and Bidley tries to explain to Mrs. Joe, who doesn't understand.*

*Pip feels inexplicably gloomy with himself (probably because he knows he puts too much faith and hope in the "gentleman" business). Pip looks around his room that night, thinking of the memories there.*

4. As a reader, what is your reaction to Pip's news?

*Answers will vary! Many readers might be glad; many might say, "Oh, no; this will turn Pip into even more of a snob, just to please Estella."*

### **Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 3 (Chapters XIX-XX)**

1. Describe Pip's last week at home. What is ironic about what he says to Bidley before he goes?

*Pip feels free during his last week home. He walks to the marshes and graveyard by the church, saying goodbye, thinking of the poor prisoner he met many years ago. He falls asleep and awakens to find Joe there.*

*Pip asks Bidley to teach Joe everything she can, so he will be acceptable in high society if Pip can help put him there. Pip's condescending tone greatly annoys Bidley. Pip accuses her of being jealous and showing a "bad side of human nature"—ironic, since HE'S the one showing a bad side of human nature!*

2. What event represents Pip's transformation into a "gentleman in training"?

*His getting a new wardrobe—although this is just an outward appearance, which is perhaps significant.*

3. Why does Pip walk alone to the coach? How does he himself react to this?

*Pip decides to walk by himself, ashamed of Joe's appearance. He leaves, and weeps, a little ashamed of himself.*

4. Describe London and Jaggers's offices. How do we know Jaggers is a respected man? What ominous words does he have for Pip?

*This area of London is crowded and dirty, and Pip doesn't like it. He reaches Jaggers's office and is greeted by the clerk (Wemmick). Jaggers's office is filled with weird weapons and two casts of swollen faces. Not able to stand it anymore, he leaves and sees Newgate Prison, so horrified by it that he returns to Jaggers. He sees many odd and downcast characters outside Jaggers's office, and he is impressed that Jaggers is an important person.*

*Jaggers arrives and talks roughly to several of his clients, warning them in various ways not to tell him too much (apparently he takes on rough and hopeless cases, not wanting to know much about the clients' probable guilt).*

*Jaggers tells Pip that he (Pip) will stay with Mr. Pocket at "Barnard's Inn" for a while, reveals his allowance, and hands him business cards for needs with various merchants. He tells Pip, "Of course, you'll go wrong somehow, but that's no fault of mine."*

### **Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 4 (Chapters XXI-XXIII)**

1. What is Wemmick like?

*Wemmick is a dry, chiseled bachelor with small black eyes, fortyish. He walks Pip home, remarking that London can be dangerous, but no worse than anywhere else. They reach Barnard Inn, which is shabby and dilapidated, and Wemmick leaves him.*

2. Compare Herbert Pocket to Pip. What does Pip learn from him?

*Herbert Pocket is the "pale young gentleman" Pip boxed with at Miss Havisham's many years ago! He is cheerful and content about his shabby circumstances, saying that he has to work, since his father has nothing to leave him. This is a marked contrast to Pip's creeping sense of entitlement and longing for the "better things" in life.*

*Pip learns this from Herbert:*

- *Estella was raised by Miss Havisham to be a man-hater.*
- *Jaggers is Miss Havisham's advisor.*
- *Herbert's father (Pip's tutor) is Miss Havisham's cousin*

*Herbert also tells Pip that Miss Havisham, whose mother died, was a spoiled, rich brat, thanks to her brewer father. Her father married again—a cook, Herbert thinks—and had a son by his second wife, a wayward, riotous son. The father died, leaving Miss Havisham rich, and she succumbed to a phony suitor, who took her for a huge sum of money, promising to marry her. She received a letter from him calling off the marriage (at 8:40, which she stopped her clocks and watches at), and went downhill from there. Miss Havisham's half-brother—who might have conspired with the phony suitor—has not been seen, nor the phony suitor.*

3. Describe the Pocket household, including Startop and Bentley Drummle.

*It is running over with seven children, with a befuddled, rather helpless Mrs. Pocket overseeing things through the aid of two maids. Mr. Pocket is a gentleman with messy gray hair.*

*Mrs. Pocket is eccentric, asking Pip weird questions, and useless in most normal situations, apparently because she was raised that way by an odd, wannabe-nobility father. Two other young men, Startop and Drummle, live there, and it is generally understood that the servants run the house.*

*The Pockets married young, and Mr. Pocket missed out on opportunities because of that (he is highly educated). Their neighbor, Mrs. Coiler, is a flatterer who excuses Mrs. Pocket's nuttiness.*

*Dinner is an odd occasion, with Mrs. Pocket acting loony, Bentley Drummle sulking, Mr. Pocket pulling himself up by his hair in distress, and so on. Mrs. Pocket carelessly imperils the baby, and her daughter Jane tries to save it, to Mrs. Pocket's irritation.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 1 (Chapters XXIV-XXVI)**

1. Explain Mr. Pocket’s offer to Pip.

*Mr. Pocket convinces Pip, honorably, to let him serve as Pip’s guide to becoming cultured in a proper way for someone who will become a gentleman.*

2. What kind of man is Wemmick, in your estimation, based on how he treats Pip and his father, and his home?

*He is a decent chap—kind to Pip (telling him not to worry about Jaggers’s roughness, and inviting Pip to dinner); gentle and doting on his “Aged Parent”; and his house looks like a castle, complete with flag, bridge, and moat! It is a haven from work for Wemmick, and he is proud of it.*

3. What do we learn about Jaggers from Wemmick and from seeing Jaggers at work?

*Wemmick tells Pip that Jaggers never locks his windows or doors at night, daring anyone to rob him, because he is such a threat to have them jailed or hanged. His watch is worth 100 pounds, but no thief would dare touch it, because all know that he would be turned in by the other thieves.*

*Wemmick also says if Pip ever eats with Jaggers, to look at his housekeeper, whom he calls a “wild beast tamed.” As a lawyer Jaggers tears apart witnesses and causes others in the court to fear him.*

4. Describe Bentley Drummle and Startop.

*Bentley Drummle is mopey and unfriendly; Startop is a little of a momma’s boy, but friendly.*

5. How does Pip’s meal with Jaggers go? Why do you think Jaggers seems to like Bentley Drummle? Why then does he warn Pip to stay away from him?

*Jaggers continually washes his hands after meeting with clients, apparently to wash off the taint of being around them. His house is a little dingy, and the wallpaper has loops which Pip thinks look like nooses. When Drummle and Startop arrive, Jaggers makes a note of Drummle, speaking to him.*

*Pip notices the housekeeper, a woman of about forty, with long hair, with an expression that reminds Pip of the witches from Macbeth. She watches Jaggers attentively, waiting constantly for his approval.*

*The dinner is magnificent, and Pip notices that Jaggers is able to wrench out of his guests more than they each want to admit about themselves.*

*Jaggers suddenly grabs Molly’s wrist and demands she shows them; she begs off, but he insists, and she displays thick, scarred wrists that Jaggers praises as extremely powerful.*

*Jaggers praises Drummle in a way that seems as if he wants to divide the young men, which works. They begin to argue, and Drummle makes it clear he despises them. Startop tries to turn the conversation, and Drummle tries to throw a glass at him, which Jaggers stops him from doing, announcing it is time for them to leave.*

*Drummle is so angry he won’t even walk home with Startop. Pip thanks Jaggers for dinner, and Jaggers says he likes Drummle (the “Spider”); Pip says he doesn’t.*

*Answers will vary as to the last question.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 2 (Chapters XXVII-XXIX)**

1. Joe tells Pip: “I’m all wrong in these clothes.” What is actually wrong? What is ironic about Joe’s statement?

*What is actually wrong is Pip's attitude toward Joe—ashamed and embarrassed at his coming. The irony in Joe's statement is that PIP is the one who is wrong in the gentleman's clothes; he's not acting like a gentleman at all. He has been spending more money, even to the point of outfitting a boy to be his servant (he calls him "Pepper" or "The Avenger").*

2. What about Joe's calling Pip "sir" do you think actually upsets him?

*He pretends to dislike it because he convinces himself that he has not changed and Joe is treating him differently, but Pip is the one who acts superior and condescending, and the "sir" moniker actually is fitting in light of this.*

3. Whom does Pip run into on the way to Miss Havisham's? What does he overhear?

*Two convicts ride with his coach, and he recognizes one as the man at the Jolly Bargemen who pretended to shoot him! The convict sits right behind Pip, breathing on him, and he hears them talking. The convict says he was commissioned by someone to give the boy that gave him food two one-pound notes, and Pip realizes he is talking about him!*

4. Describe Pip's trip to Miss Havisham's house. How has he become much like Estella?

*He thinks of marrying Estella, and to his surprise, Orlick opens the door; he was hired to guard the house, lives on premises, and is armed.*

*Estella is now a beautiful young woman. She is still proud and haughty, though, and Pip is again transfixed by her. She talks outside with him, mentioning that he is changed and no longer hangs out with "lower" company; Pip thinks guiltily of Joe.*

*Estella is cold and heartless, a fact she admits to Pip. Pip looks at her and is reminded of something he can't place his finger on. Estella warns Pip that she will remain cold and aloof if they are married.*

*The two return inside to Miss Havisham, and when Estella leaves, Miss Havisham says "Love her! Love her!" to Pip, relishing the fact that Estella is so cold toward him.*

*Pip goes back to the inn, thinking of how much he loves Estella, how grateful he is that they are to be married, and how ashamed he is that he wants to keep Joe away from her, since he is ashamed of him.*

*Pip has become much like Estella—proud, haughty, and superior-acting toward supposed "lower" classes—even to a beloved, kind man like Joe.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 3 (Chapters XXX-XXXIII)**

1. How does Pip's return home go?

*He walks around his hometown, people staring at him, except for Trabb's boy, who mocks him. Pip returns to London without seeing Joe.*

2. Describe Pip's conversation with Herbert about marriage.

*Pip tells Herbert that he loves Estella (Herbert already knows). He says he is unsure about his having to depend upon Miss Havisham's patronage to marry Estella, but Herbert reassures him, saying he heard his father comment strongly and surely upon the subject.*

*Herbert then asks Pip if he has to marry Estella (as in, "Why would you want to?"). He then tells Pip he is secretly engaged to a woman named Clara, who is poor; he can't marry her when he lacks the funds to support her. Pip resolves to help Herbert financially.*

3. Do you see a link between Mr. Wopsle's performing so terribly in *Hamlet* and anyone else?

*We laugh (and rightly so) at Mr. Wopsle's terrible performance in Hamlet, but it should occur to the reader that Pip is doing exactly the same thing—playacting his way through life, and not doing a very good job of it.*

4. What happens during Pip's time with Estella? How does Pip feel after being with her?

*Estella arrives, and Pip thinks again of something unknown he recognizes in her face. Estella says they "have no choice" and "are not free to follow our own devices." Estella is to live with a rich lady who will put her into society. She asks about Herbert, saying that the rest of the Pocket family despises Pip, writing letters to Miss Havisham about how rotten he is. Estella laughs heartily at this, saying they have failed, and that she especially enjoys their failure, since they have always done the same to her.*

*Pip is disheartened because of Estella's coldness and manner that indicates that although they might be married, it is out of her control. They leave and drive past Newgate, Estella expressing disgust and Pip vowing never to mention his visit.*

*Pip asks Estella if Miss Havisham has charge over her, and Estella says "God forbid!" She says she is to report often to her, however, about herself and Miss Havisham's jewels. Estella calculatedly calls Pip by his name for the first time, which Pip treasures.*

*Afterwards Pip thinks about how he is always miserable when he is with her. He arrives home, heartsick and more miserable. He thinks about asking Mr. Pocket for advice, but when he sees Mrs. Pocket "fixing" the problem of the baby's taking and possibly swallowing a number of sewing needles by sending him to bed, he thinks better of it!*

#### **Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 4 (Chapters XXXIV-XXXVI)**

1. How is Pip's money affecting him—and even Herbert Pocket?

*Pip realizes his money is affecting his behavior, and he misses being with Joe. He gets into debt with lavish spending and influences Herbert to do the same, causing some despondency in him as he looks for a better position. Both Herbert and Pip are miserable. The two know they are in trouble and make half-hearted attempts to do something about it, but it never amounts to anything.*

2. Describe the ceremony for Pip's sister. What is most disturbing to Pip about the whole event?

*It is oddly ornamental and overblown. Joe is heartbroken, Biddy supportive and steadfast, and Joe tells Pip he would rather have had a simple affair, but the others thought it should be more extravagant.*

*Pip talks with Biddy during a walk, asking her why she didn't tell him his sister was worse, and Biddy seems disappointed with him. (Mrs. Joe said the words "Joe," then "Pardon," then "Pip," and died soon after.)*

*Biddy has seen Orlick several times and is upset by it. She says she will leave Joe, but is concerned about him, and Pip says he will take care of him. Biddy doesn't put much faith in Pip, which upsets him.*

3. Sum up what Pip receives and learns on his twenty-first birthday.

*He goes to Jaggers's office to find out what he will receive. Jaggers asks him if he knows how much money he is spending. Pip doesn't know, and asks Jaggers if his benefactress will be revealed (No), and if he has anything to receive (Yes, 500 pounds per year, starting today, until his donor reveals himself).*

*Pip asks if his benefactor will soon come to London, and Jaggers replies that it might be years until that happens, and he refuses to answer anything more about it, saying it might compromise him and he doesn't want to know anything about it.*

4. How does Pip compare Wemmick and Jaggers? What is significant about the thought he has about them?

*Walking home, Pip asks Wemmick how he (Pip) can help Herbert start in business, and Wemmick says Pip might as well throw the money into the Thames River. Pip thinks of how much more intelligent and sharp Jagers is than Wemmick, but realizes he would much rather have Wemmick as a friend.*

*These thoughts should have put into Pip's mind how bad he is a friend to those who care for him and try to help him (Joe, Biddy, Herbert, etc.).*

### **Great Expectations – Week 27, Day 1 (Chapters XXXVII-XXXIX)**

1. Why does Pip say that his helping Herbert is the only good thing that has happened as a result of his expectations?

*Answers will vary, but it seems that Pip is starting to realize that his coming into money has not made him happy or helped him win Estella's heart, which he thinks will make him happy.*

2. What is your take on Pip's attitude toward Estella, especially in light of what happens in Chapter 38?

*It seems strange that he is still obsessed with her, especially in light of...*

- *Estella's toying with Pip's feelings, driving him crazy,*
- *Pip's misery around her,*
- *his somehow thinks being married to her will make him happy,*
- *her warning him not to love her because of her coldness,*
- *Miss Havisham's weird fixation on Estella's beauty and joy at her using Pip to get revenge on men, and*
- *her letting Bentley Drummle be around her.*

3. Why do you think Dickens chose to have violent weather surround the events in Chapter 39?

*It is a visual representation of Pip's world being torn apart with the return of Magwitch to him.*

4. Why is Pip so shocked at the visitor's revelation? What main truths does he face as a result?

*He thought his benefactress was Miss Havisham all the time. Now he realizes...*

- *Miss Havisham was simply using him for Estella to toy with,*
- *he has no chance of marrying Estella, and*
- *he has deserted Joe for no reason at all.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 27, Day 2 (Chapters XL-XLIII)**

1. What is Pip's constant focus and fear now? What does he trip over in the dark?

*To keep his convict, Abel Magwitch, hidden from the police. Pip trips over a man in the stairway in the dark, but comes back and he is gone.*

2. How are Magwitch and Joe linked in Chapter 40?

*Magwitch eats ravenously, which disgusts Pip. In this way Magwitch is linked to Joe, whose improper manners Pip grew to dislike—even though Joe, like Magwitch, is Pip's great beneficiary.*

3. Sum up Magwitch's plans and Pip's visit with Jagers.

*Magwitch says he plans to live in Pip's area permanently, disguised as someone else. They decide to tell Herbert, dress him like a rich farmer, and move him close by.*

*Pip visits Jagers, and Jagers warns him not to say too much, both pretending that Magwitch is still in New South Wales. Pip accuses Jagers of leading him to believe Miss Havisham was his benefactress, but Jagers denies this completely.*

4. Why does Pip's attempt to disguise Magwitch fail? How does this "clothing problem" link Magwitch with Pip himself?

*Pip clothes Magwitch, realizing it is almost impossible to disguise him, since he still behaves so much like a prisoner. This recalls Pip's day of getting all new clothes when he received his expectations—which only made him look different; it couldn't hide the real Pip.*

5. What do you think about Pip's decision not to take any more from his benefactor?

*Answers will vary.*

6. What is Herbert Pocket's advice to Pip what he should do? Do you think it is sensible? What do the two decide to do with Magwitch?

*Herbert advises Pip to help Magwitch get out of England first, then separate himself from him. Answers will vary as to its sensibility. The two decide to smuggle Magwitch out of London by water.*

7. Sum up Magwitch's back story.

*Magwitch was in and out of trouble and prisons ever since he was a little orphaned boy. Twenty years ago he met a man named Compeyson, the man he fought at the graveyard when Pip knew him many years ago. He first met Compeyson, a smooth-talking crook, at a bar, and he asked Magwitch to be his partner. (Compeyson's other partner, Arthur, was dying.)*

*Magwitch is later convicted for theft while with Compeyson and serves time; Compeyson gets off because of his smooth looks and ways. Magwitch threatens to smash Compeyson's face, and he does on a prison ship, escaping to Pip's graveyard. Magwitch gets life in prison, and again Compeyson gets off lightly.*

*Compeyson, Herbert reveals to Pip, was the man who jilted Miss Havisham at their wedding.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 27, Day 3 (Chapters XL-XLIII)**

1. Sum up Pip's next encounter with Miss Havisham and Estella.

*Pip asks Miss Havisham if it was kind to let him believe she was his benefactress, and she shouts, "Who am I, that I should be kind?" Pip asks her to help Herbert.*

*He then tells Estella he loves her, and chides Miss Havisham for torturing him with Estella for so long, which seems to affect Miss Havisham. Estella tells Pip she warned him of her coldness, and then surprises him by saying she will marry Bentley Drummle. Pip is devastated, and he begs her not to marry him, even if she marries someone else. She says she will certainly not be a blessing to Drummle, and Pip pours out his heart to her, which affects Estella not at all, but does wrench Miss Havisham's heart.*

*Pip walks all the way home, and the porter gives him a note from Wemmick that says: "DON'T GO HOME."*

2. What does Wemmick tell Pip?

*After reading the "DON'T GO HOME" note from Wemmick, Pip rises next morning and walks to Wemmick's castle. Wemmick tells Pip, in guarded words, this:*

- *Pip's apartment was being watched.*
- *Wemmick told Herbert to get Magwitch out of there.*
- *Herbert put him in his fiancé Clara's father's apartment.*
- *This is handy because it is remote, easily accessible, and close to the water, to facilitate escape.*
- *Go home and not go directly to the castle afterwards, and also to get hold of Magwitch's property.*



3. Describe Mr. Barley, Clara, and Mrs. Whimple. When Pip thinks of Clara and Mrs. Whimple, why does he become sad?

*Pip travels to the riverside building where Magwitch is staying, next to Herbert Pocket's fiancé's father, the irascible Mr. Barley. Clara is a sweet young girl of 20 whom Pip admires as gentle and kind (a stark contrast to Estella). As Pip leaves, he thinks of the sweetness of Clara and Mrs. Whimple, the house mother, and then thinks of Estella, and is sad.*

4. What is Pip's goal? What does he do to accomplish it?

*Herbert and Pip decide to practice rowing across the river so he can successfully row Magwitch across the river. Pip practices rowing day after day, worried about Magwitch's safety.*

5. List Pip's two main worries in Chapter 47. What shakes him after he attends a play starring Mr. Wopsle?

*He senses that Estella is married, and dreads finding out, living a life of double worry—about her and Magwitch's safety.*

*Pip goes to a play starring Mr. Wopsle, and seems to see Mr. Wopsle staring at him. Afterwards Mr. Wopsle tells Pip that he saw one of the prisoners on the marsh (Compeyson) sitting behind him.*

*Pip is shaken, tells Herbert, mails a letter telling Wemmick, and Herbert and Pip decide to simply be more careful.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 1 (Chapters XLVIII-LI)**

1. Explain the two revelations in Chapter 48. Which one is more surprising to you?

*Bentley Drummle has “won the Estella stakes,” and Molly, Jaggers's housekeeper, is Estella's mother.*

2. Whose background does Wemmick explain to Pip, and what is this backstory?

*Pip asks Wemmick about Molly, the “wild beast tamed,” as Wemmick once called her. Molly, Wemmick says, was acquitted of murder of another woman through Jagger's efforts. She was also accused of possibly killing her child—a girl—and Jaggers shreds both charges, and has employed her ever since.*

3. What two reasons does Miss Havisham have for seeing Pip? What happens to her, and what do you think this represents?

*She apologizes to Pip, and Pip asks her to give Herbert 900 pounds. She agrees and asks Pip to forgive her, kneeling in front of him and saying, “What have I done!” Pip forgives her and pities her foolish obsession, which has ruined her life.*

*The fire which burns her badly also burns Pip, to a lesser extent; this could represent her bitterness, which has destroyed her life, and to a lesser extent, hurt Pip.*

4. What does Pip realize in Chapter 50? How does Jaggers explain his actions to Pip?

*When Herbert nurses Pip's wounds, he tells Pip a story: Magwitch fathered a child with Molly, and after she killed a woman in jealousy, she threatened to kill their child, whom Magwitch think is as a result dead. Pip realizes that Magwitch is Estella's father.*

*Without admitting anything, of course, Jaggers tells Pip that he (Jaggers) had seen so many children of criminals going bad that he saved Estella by taking charge of her and giving her to Miss Havisham.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 2 (Chapters LII-LIII)**

1. What does Pip call “the only good thing I had done, since I was first apprised of my great expectations”? What does this say about his character?

*His arranging for Herbert to receive 900 pounds from Miss Havisham. Pip seems to be slowly returning to realize he isn't the big shot he's pretended to be.*

2. What other evidence is given that Pip's character is changing? What does his easily being able to find his way around the dark marsh represent?

*After Pip receives a letter telling him he better come alone to his old marshes, or Magwitch will be turned in, he leaves. He stays at an inn, learning from the innkeeper (who doesn't know him) that he, Pip, is ungrateful to Pumblechook, who supposedly made him. Pip thinks of Joe and knows Joe would never say anything like Pumblechook does, so stricken with his lack of gratitude that he can't even eat.*

*Pip feels at home and knows his way around the marshes, even in the dark. (This represents the fact that this is where he belongs, even in "dark" times.)*

3. What main thoughts bother Pip the most as he faces the dangerous situation? What suspicion of his is confirmed?

*When Pip is suddenly covered and pinned by Orlick (who is going to kill him, because he says Pip kept Bidly from him, and threatened to drive him out of the country), Pip's mind races with terrible thoughts:*

- *how Magwitch will think he deserted him*
- *how Herbert will not understand*
- *how Estella will hate him*
- *how Joe and Bidly won't know how sorry he was*

*Orlick tells Pip he tried to kill Mrs. Joe because she was easy on him and hard on Orlick; that it was he whom Pip stumbled over the stairs that one night; and that his friends will capture Magwitch.*

### **Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 3 (Chapters LIV-LVI)**

1. What happens with the escape of Magwitch? How does Pip's treatment of him change?

*The group rows Magwitch to safety; he is delighted at Pip, saying it feels good to be free again—better to him, who has been a prisoner.*

*That night the crew think they are being followed. The group gets off at an inn for the night. One man, Jack, tells Pip about another boat of four oarsmen who recently came by. Pip awakes to see two men looking into his boat.*

*Next day, Pip rows to the steamer that will take Magwitch out of the country, but sees another boat coming with one man wrapped up on it. The boat comes alongside theirs, and a man demands that the group release Magwitch to them. They stop Pip's boat, and Magwitch grabs the wrapped up man in the other boat (Compeyson) and falls into the water, killing him. Magwitch is chained and is wounded in the chest and head.*

*Pip stays with Magwitch, regarding him tenderly (a contrast to his former view); Magwitch says he was glad to see "his" gentleman. Pip realizes he is destitute, since Magwitch's property will be confiscated.*

2. Sum up some of the major developments in Chapter 55.

*Pip contacts Jaggers with the news of Magwitch's capture, and Jaggers is angry that Pip let the property slip through his fingers.*

*Herbert tells Pip he must leave him for a business trip to Egypt, and he worries about Pip's future, of which Pip says he has none. He asks Pip to join his company, and Pip says he can't now, but might in the future.*

*Wemmick tells Pip Compeyson fooled him into thinking he was away, which is why Wemmick told Pip that then was a good time to take Magwitch away; Pip forgives him. Wemmick asks Pip to take a walk with him that Monday, and Pip obliges; it is to witness Wemmick's wedding to Miss Skiffins!*

3. Describe Pip's time with Magwitch in prison.

*Magwitch's condition worsens; Pip visits him every day. Magwitch is forced to go to trial and is sentenced to death along with 31 others. Pip writes numerous petitions for Magwitch, haunting the places where he sends them.*

*Pip visits Magwitch daily, and Magwitch thanks him heartily, growing worse daily. One day Pip tells Magwitch, so weak he can no longer speak back to him, that his daughter is grown and beautiful, and that he loves her. Magwitch summons all his strength and kisses Pip's hand, then dies.*

**Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 4 (Chapters LVII-LIX)**

1. What is Pip's joyous discovery after his illness? What else does he learn?

*Pip falls seriously ill, deliriously imagining things and unable to move much. Creditors harass him, and he sees many people in his room, and after some time begins to imagine they are all Joe. Then he realizes Joe is there, who is overjoyed Pip recognizes him, walking to the window and wiping tears away.*

*Joe tells Pip he is married now, and that Biddy told Joe to go to Pip immediately. Joe then writes a letter to Biddy (who has taught him to write). Pip asks Joe if Miss Havisham is dead (Yes), and Joe tells him that upon Pip's recommendations, she left Herbert Pocket 4,000 pounds. Joe also says that Orlick was caught robbing Pumblechook's store, and he is now in jail.*

*Pip recovers, and he awakes one morning to find Joe gone and that Joe has paid off all his creditors. Pip decides to go to the forge and to ask Biddy's forgiveness and if she will marry him.*

2. What is ironic about Pip's hometown's reception toward him when he returns?

*They are cool toward him, which is only ironic/fitting, since he spent quite a bit of time looking down on them after his great expectations.*

3. Describe Pumblechook's demeanor. What does Pip, ideally, see in this about himself?

*Pumblechook laments dramatically over him, and he tells Pip in front of everyone to admit he was ungrateful to the one who put him in his high position (Pumblechook), and Pip blows him off. Ideally through this phoniness Pip can appreciate the purity of Joe's love, as well as how phony he himself has behaved.*

4. What surprise does Pip learn? How does he live the next number of years?

*That Joe and Biddy are marrying. Pip takes the clear position with Herbert and advances. He lives with the Pockets, pays off his debts, and writes Joe and Biddy often. Herbert learns that Pip was his benefactor, and they do well at the firm.*

5. Describe Pip's initial visit with Joe and Biddy after many years. What has happened in the meantime?

*Pip has not seen Joe and Biddy for 11 years. He surprises them with a visit and sees a little boy that looks just like himself, even named Pip! Biddy tells Pip he should marry, but Pip disagrees. She asks if he has forgotten Estella, and he says she is "gone by."*

6. What happens at the book's end? What is your take on the last line?

*Pip visits Satis House for old time's sake, having heard that Estella was cruelly treated by Bentley Drummle, who died two years ago. He finds everything torn down but a fence. He sees Estella there—older and not quite so beautiful, but warmer and friendlier—and they talk, with tears falling from Estella's eyes.*

*Estella owns the property and is visiting it once more before it is sold. She says she has often thought of Pip, knowing she threw away his love for nothing. She asks Pip to still be friends, though they must part, but Pip says he sees "no shadow of another parting from her."*

Answers will vary as to the interpretation of the last line, but it seems hopeful that Pip and Estella will one day marry.

### Week 29, Day 1 – “Old China”

1. What is it that Charles Lamb likes about “old china”?

*It’s simply his personal preference; he enjoys looking at the patterns and scenes on them, and just enjoys using old china in social settings.*

2. What does “Bridget” say when Charles remarks how much better it is to be able to afford luxuries like new pieces of china? What examples does she give as proof?

*She says she liked the old times better, when they couldn’t afford such things as easily, and to obtain something similar meant more enjoyment out of it when it wasn’t as easy to buy. She offers examples such as an old, worn suit Charles Lamb wore for much too long, because he couldn’t afford to replace it, having used the money to buy a precious book; a picture he bought; the times when they could barely afford to go to a cheap inn to eat, and relished their cheap food; their having to save up just to afford cheap seats at the theatre; eating strawberries; wondering how they would balance their finances at year’s end, and so on.*

3. How does Charles reply to “Bridget’s” take on the subject? What real pleasure, instead of the pleasure of being poor, is “Bridget” probably remembering?

*Charles replies that it was good to have little when they were younger, since it strengthened their bond with each other. “Bridget” is confusing the “pleasure” of being poor with the pleasure of being young, and building bonds with others who are also facing many of the same challenges.*

4. How does Charles Lamb’s writing style in “Old China” compare to other essays in this volume?

*Answers will vary, but Lamb’s essay seems more conversational, less formal, and more personal—which is one reason why they were very well received during his lifetime.*

### Week 29, Day 2 – “Sonnet XLIII”

1. List some ways in which the author loves her husband.

*As high and deep and wide as her soul can reach, freely, purely, daily, and with the “breath, smiles, tears, of all my life.”*

2. What do you think the author means by lines 9-12?

*She loves her husband with all the feeling that was previously used for grieving her losses. (Elizabeth Barrett Browning lost two brothers in 1840—one to fever, one to drowning—just a few years before this poem was written.)*

3. Give your take on the second half of the poem’s last sentence.

*The author looks forward to an even better love for her husband after she dies, and they spend eternity together in heaven.*

### Week 29, Day 2 – “The Charge of the Light Brigade”

1. What Biblical allusion is made in line three?

*The allusion is to Psalm 23’s “the valley of the shadow of death.”*

2. List some violent, brutal words and phrases that describe the battle.

*They include “Cannon,” “thunder’d,” “storm’d,” “shot,” “shell,” “jaws of Death,” “mouth of Hell,” “battery-smoke.”*

3. What is Tennyson’s view of the battle, as evidenced by the last few lines?

*He thinks it was gloriously brave of the soldiers who charged the Russian forces, which outnumbered them.*

4. What do you think is the poem’s most famous phrase? What idea does it suggest? Do you agree with this idea? Why or why not?

*The most famous line is “Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die.” It seems to suggest that soldiers have no say in anything, and that they should not try to reason or think about the practicality (or morality) of their superiors’ orders. It suggests that soldiers should simply do what they are told, even when it is to charge into an almost suicidal situation—and that their job is simply to die if they’re told to do something that will almost certainly result in their death! Answers will vary whether or not students agree, but certainly the implication that human beings—regardless of whether they are soldiers in a war—should simply blindly obey orders is questionable at best, especially for Christians.*

### **Week 29, Day 3 – “A Source of Irritation”**

1. What kind of man is Sam Gates? What is especially funny about the situation he finds himself in?

*Sam Gates is a solid, unemotional man who works the land and rarely gets irritated, except for with his niece Aggie constantly asks him, “Well, Uncle, is there any noos?” when there isn’t ever any news with him. What is so funny is how on this certain day, there is absolutely some “noos”!*

2. How do Sam’s emotions travel as he rides with the stranger? What are these emotions similar to?

*His emotions fluctuate (like the airplane he is riding in). Sam is terrified when he starts to fly, praying and reflecting upon his life as if he will die any second. He thinks of random, funny, disconnected events as he continues flying in the plane, even wondering if he is dead and this is how God takes people to heaven.*

3. What happens to Sam when the two arrive?

*They fly through gunfire and land safely, going into a building in which a man questions him, also pulling at his beard and hair. The Germans who captured Sam discuss how he is a perfect double of Paul Jouperts, a spy in their employ, and that it would put the English off their guard to shoot Sam and place him at a battle scene, allowing the English to find him and to think that Jouperts had died.*

*Sam is driven to an underground station on a battlefield, with bombs and bullets flying all around him. He is taken out, and a soldier aims a rifle at him, and Sam throws himself face-down, hearing an explosion. His would-be killer is killed, and he wakes up in the hands of his own people, who mistake him for Paul Jouperts, too.*

4. Underline or highlight several funny lines in “A Source of Irritation.” What is especially funny about the story’s ending? What additional funny lines or occurrences did you catch on your second read-through?

*Answers will vary on the first and last questions, but what is funny about the ending is (a) that Sam claims there is no news, even after the incredible events that happened to him that day, and (b) that Sam, after being captured, shot at, accused of being a spy, and almost blown up, he is irritated...at his niece for asking him about “noos”!*

### **Week 30, Day 1 – “Markheim”**

1. Having read “Markheim,” why do you think Markheim is so horrified when the dealer suggests he buy a mirror? How do mirrors turn up again later? What is the significance of mirrors?

*He doesn't want to look at himself (he even tells the dealer this and calls the mirror a "hand-conscience"), because he knows he is an evil man. After Markheim kills the dealer, he walks through the shop, reflected in many mirrors; he also looks at himself in the mirrors in the drawing room.*

*The significance of mirrors seems to be that they symbolically make known the sin of Markheim, and by extension, the fact of mankind's sin.*

2. How does the concept of time appear several times in "Markheim"? What is its significance?  
*As Markheim kills the dealer, many clocks are ticking. Markheim rationalizes his murder by comparing it to a clockmaker's simply stopping a clock from ticking.*

*The clocks signify the concept of time. The dealer has run out of time, Markheim doesn't have much time until his crime is discovered, and by extension, man has only a short time on earth.*

3. What is Markheim's initial feeling about his crime? How does he justify it to the visitor? How does his attitude change over the course of the story?

*He initially doesn't feel remorse or shame before God; he simply wants to escape the punishment of society. He tells the visitor that he is not responsible for his crimes, because he is a good person and has been driven to crime by hardships in his life. By the end of the story, however, Markheim is convinced of his own evil and brings about his own punishment.*

4. What deal does the visitor offer Markheim? Why is Markheim angry? How does the visitor respond to Markheim's anger?

*He offers to help Markheim find the dealer's money and escape in exchange for his soul. Markheim reacts angrily, saying that he is not a sinner, just someone who did evil and learned his lesson. The visitor tells Markheim that he has been sinning more and more for many years, and he will only grow worse.*

5. What does Markheim's last act represent?

*His redemption. He has accepted that he is a sinner, not just a victim of circumstance.*

6. What does the visitor's identity seem to be when he first appears? At the story's end, what do you believe he represents? How can this possible case of mistaken identity be explained?

*Answers will vary, but the visitor appears to be the devil at first, asking for Markheim's soul in exchange for telling him where the money is and urging him to kill the house servant who is coming to the shop, in order to protect himself from being discovered. But when Markheim refuses and says he hates evil (including the evil he has done, later turning himself in), the visitor's features "undergo a wonderful and lovely change" and are said to have "brightened and softened with a tender triumph." The relief and happiness of the visitor seem to indicate that he is actually an angel of the Lord sent to test Markheim, playing devil's advocate for the purpose of driving him toward his salvation. Note: It is possible that the visitor doesn't actually exist except for in Markheim's disturbed mind—that he is a representation of his conscience, or the other side of his "dual nature." (Keep in mind that Robert Louis Stevenson explored this topic in his novella Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.)*

7. What is the theme of "Markheim"? How does this relate to what God's Word teaches, for example, in Ezekiel 18:20-13, Mark 7:14-23, Mark 1:14-15, and Romans 6 (the whole chapter)?

*The theme of Markheim, in a nutshell, concerns the definition of evil and man's responsibility toward it.*

*Ezekiel 18:20-23 says that sinners will die and they are responsible for their own sins, but God wants the wicked to repent of (turn from) their sins, and He takes no pleasure at all that the wicked should die.*

*Mark 7:14-23 records the words of Jesus when he teaches that what comes out of a man "defileth the man"—evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, and so on. Man is responsible for his own sin.*

*Mark 1:14-15 records the commandment of Jesus to every man: "Repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

*Romans 6 contradicts Markheim's assertion that he can't help but continue to do evil—that it is the fault of his past. God judges mankind for his sin, and Christians, especially, are able to resist sin. Our “old man is crucified” and the “body of sin is destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin (6:6). The Christian is “free[d] from sin” (6:7, 6:18, 6:22) and is commanded to “let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body” (6:12) and told that “sin shall not have dominion over you” (6:14). Praise God!*

### **Week 30, Day 2 – “Jabberwocky”**

1. Find a “nonsense” noun, adjective, and adverb, write down each, and explain how you can tell each one is the part of speech you say it is.

*Answers will vary!*

2. Sum up the poem's plot.

*It is difficult, but as Alice (of Alice in Wonderland) says, “Somebody killed something: that's clear, at any rate.” A young man is warned of a creature (the “Jabberwock”), he takes a sword to find it, it comes at him, he kills it, and he returns in triumph.*

3. Can you find two nonsense words created by Lewis Carroll in “Jabberwocky” that we use today? What do they mean?

*The words are “galumphing” (it means “walking heavily or awkwardly”) and “chortled” (it means “laughed”; it is a mixture between the words “chuckle” and “snort”).*

4. Write a four-line review of “Jabberwocky,” in the same style as one of the stanzas in the poem. Be prepared to share this with your classmates!

*Answers will vary!*

### **Week 30, Day 2 – “If”**

1. List the difficult actions in Stanza 1.

*Keeping your head during difficulties, even when others are losing theirs; trusting yourself when others doubt you; waiting without getting weary; eschewing lying even when you are being lied about; resisting hatred when others hate you; avoiding trying to “look to good” or “talk too wise.”*

2. What does the poet say are the pros and cons of thinking and dreaming?

*They are worthy actions, but they can take over and become the goals themselves, instead of what they can produce for good.*

3. Why does he call Triumph and Disaster “impostors”?

*Because they are often temporary and not lasting; they fool ambitious persons into thinking that either everything will always be an easy success, or always result in failure.*

4. What kind of attitude does much of “If” encourage the reader to take? That is, what does he believe is the definition of “A Man”? How does this compare to God's Word in 1 Corinthians 16:13?

*Kipling believes “A Man” is someone who does not let defeats and doubts and the criticisms of others keep him down or discourage him from pressing on to conquer the goals he has. In 1 Corinthians 16:13, Paul tells Christians, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”*

### **Week 30, Day 3 – “The Adventure of the Second Stain”**

1. Explain the crisis. Why does Holmes at first refuse to help?

*A letter has been stolen from secretary Trelawney Hope; this letter could lead to war in Europe and involve England—with a loss of 100,000 men and a billion pounds—if it is not recovered before it gets into the wrong hands. Holmes refuses to help because Hope and Lord Bellinger, the Prime Minister, will not divulge the details of the letter to him.*

2. What is Watson’s astonishing news? What does it mean to Holmes?

*That one of the spies Holmes believes could be involved has been murdered; to Holmes, it means that this man’s circumstances must be investigated, since the odds are too great that this could be a coincidence.*

3. Describe the interview with Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope. How do you view her as a character at the story’s end, compared to her entrance?

*She attempts to get Holmes to divulge the contents of the letter, but he refuses. Answers will vary as to how students view her at the story’s end, but she seems less of a noble, stately woman deserving of praise.*

4. What, exactly, is the “second stain” and its importance?

*It is a second bloodstain on the rug. It means the rug was moved, which turns out to be by Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope, fooling the constable on duty that she had fainted, so she could recover the letter from the hidden flooring panel where Lucas hid it.*

5. How does Holmes wrap up the mystery in a way that causes no harm to anyone?

*He confronts Lady Hilda about her having the letter (which she gives to him), replaces it Trelawney Hope’s box, and claims to believe it is still in the box, so he will never know she stole it from him.*

6. What is quite outrageous and stupid (if you think about it) about the potential disaster that lies in the publication of a letter, no matter how “provocative”?

*Can’t heads of state apologize and resolve their differences without resorting to a war that will cost the lives of 100,000 Englishmen and cost the country a billion pounds in taxes? Good grief!*