

Classic Literature for Christian Homeschoolers

Answer Key to Review Questions

By Scott Clifton

Web: www.homeschoolpartners.net

Email: scott@homeschoolpartners.net

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Week 1, Day 1 – “A Scandal in Bohemia”

1. Who is the narrator for “A Scandal in Bohemia”? How does this compare to if the story were told using a third-person narrator?

The narrator is Dr. Watson. Using Dr. Watson as a narrator gives a more authentic feel to the events of the story, as it is more believable, coming from someone who was there at the time of the events. It also gives the story a more personal touch, as opposed to having been told by a third-person narrator.

2. Explain the story’s basic conflict.

To avenge the king’s unfair treatment of her years before, Irene Adler threatens to ruin him by making public his previous relationship with her, which will put his relationship to his betrothed wife in turmoil.

3. Why is Irene Adler compared to “grit in a sensitive instrument” near the story’s beginning?

Sherlock Holmes is impressed with her beauty and intelligence (which is unusual for him), and they threaten to “gum up the works” of his analytical machine-like mind, much like a stone or sand in an expensive piece of machinery.

4. Describe the character of Sherlock Holmes. What do his deductions of Watson’s recent circumstances do for the story?

Deeply observant, a little arrogant and impatient, a tireless worker, a master of disguise, and apparently possessing no end of quirky talents and gifts. His deductions of what has happened in Watson’s life recently—made solely by observing his appearance—both intrigue the reader and give reason to expect that Holmes will be able to make more logical deductions to solve mysteries that are presented.

5. Are Holmes’s first suggestions to the king morally sound? Why or why not? (Compare to Ephesians 4:28, Colossians 3:9, and Romans 13:9.)

No. Ephesians 4:28 says, “Let him that stole steal no more”; Colossians 3:9 says, “Lie not to one another”; Romans 13:9 says, among other things, “Thou shalt not bear false witness.” Yet in his first encounter with the king, Holmes suggests to him that he steal Miss Adler’s photograph and/or lie about or deny his previous involvement with her.

6. How does Irene Adler thwart Holmes? What little touch does she add to tweak Holmes after she realizes she has been tricked?

She realizes that she has been tricked into revealing the photograph’s hiding place, and flees to avoid Holmes’s retrieval of it the next morning. Before she leaves, however, she follows Holmes to his apartment and boldly says, “Good night, Mr. Sherlock Holmes,” to him, disguised as a man.

7. How are the king of Bohemia and Irene Adler similar? How do they differ?

Answers will vary. The two characters are similar in that they both seem to be a little too proud of themselves. They differ in that the king comes across as a clueless, snobbish oaf, while Irene Adler seems more cultured and refined. This is amply demonstrated at the story’s end, when the king (ironically) tells Holmes, “Is it not a pity that she was not on my level?” and Holmes replies, “From what I have seen of the lady, she seems, indeed, to be on a very different level to your Majesty.”

8. Do you think that Sherlock Holmes “loves” Irene Adler? Why or why not?

Probably he doesn’t “love” her, but respects her as a cultured beauty and worthwhile rival.

Week 1, Day 2 – “My Mysterious Foe”

1. How is the strange lodger of the house first described? How do you first picture him?

Standing “at the very foot of the stairway, motionless, as though he had been listening to our conversation.”

2. Why does Mrs. Hone, the landlady, say she wants to keep the encounters between Fanny and her “enemy” lodger quiet? Why does this make more sense later?

Mrs. Hone says she hates nothing more than a “stir” among her boarders, which makes more sense later, because she doesn’t want to admit to them that she has a rat in the house!

3. List some statements that Fanny makes that sound either amusing or clearer after you finish the story.

Answers will vary, but might include: Fanny says she would have fainted if her tormentor had spoken to her; that they were “born to be enemies”; loses the letter and says she is “certain that no other human being had been in the room since I had entered it with the letter” (which Mrs. Hone says was dropped by “that R—,” meaning “rat.”

4. Describe what happens that convinces Fanny she has to leave the boarding house. The first time you read this, what is strange about how the landlady reacts?

Fanny is attacked in the middle of the night, cut and bloodied, and the landlady only makes some mild remarks about having to do something about the problem!

5. At what point do you learn the identity of Fanny’s tormentor?

Answers will vary!

Week 1, Day 3 – “The Thinking Machine”

1. Describe how the author effectively and compellingly sets up the story in the first paragraph.

The first sentence is fantastic, compelling the reader to continue and wonder what could be so impossible. The first paragraph uses strong nouns and verbs to set up the story’s main event. It reads like a gripping newspaper story, written in the “inverted pyramid” style—giving the basic facts of the story, but captivating the reader into wanting to continue.

2. What is Professor Van Dusen like, both in physical appearance and in his personality?

He is a small man, physically weak, thin, with weak, “watery” eyes and a shock of yellow hair, about 50 years old. He is a scientific genius, however, with a steel-trap mind which he has trained to make logical deductions (although he is often grouchy and intolerant of those around him).

3. Explain how Van Dusen meets the challenge given him. How do you think this will set up the rest of the “Thinking Machine” stories?

He studies chess with a master for a few hours and defeats the Russian champion easily, using logic. This sets up any following stories by showing Van Dusen’s relentless thinking ability.

Week 1, Day 4 – “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”

1. What does the speaker’s friend trick him into doing?

Into asking Simon Wheeler about a man named Leonidas Smiley, when he knows Wheeler will be reminded of Jim Smiley, and go off on a long, boring story about him, trapping the speaker.

2. Describe Wheeler’s storytelling “style.”

It is long and boring, and Wheeler constantly gets sidetracked into other, often ludicrous points and side issues that his own stories remind him of. He can’t stay focused and tell a concise story; he wanders off and makes the story much longer than it needs to be.

3. Name some things that add humor to the story; give some specific examples.

- *Wheeler speaks in long, rambling sentences that seem to go nowhere, and pronounces words wrongly and (unintentionally) humorously.*
- *There is a dog, Andrew Jackson, whose legs were “sawed off with a circular saw.”*
- *Jim Smiley is an obsessive bettor, who bets on random events and ridiculous things.*
- *Wheeler uses colorful phrases to describe things; for example, he portrays “Daniel Webster” the frog as “solid as a gob of mud.”*
- *The story about the stranger filling Daniel Webster with quail shot.*
- *Wheeler gets interrupted, tells the author to stay there until he returns, then starts some crazy story about Jim Smiley’s having a “yeller one-eyed cow” with a stump tail “like a bannanner,” until the author escapes.*

Week 2, Day 1 – “The Problem of Cell 13”

1. What three things does The Thinking Machine request before he is locked up, and why?

Tooth powder, to keep the acid from spreading; money, to make outsiders he contacts more inclined to help him get what he wants inside Chisholm Prison; and polish for his shoes, to use as ink in writing notes.

2. List some key traits of Chisholm Prison. How does the Thinking Machine put this information to use?

It is made of granite, contains several locked doors, high and smooth walls, lighted at night by electric lights, etc. The Thinking Machine knows he can forget escaping certain ways, but concentrates on using the particular characteristics of his cell to help him escape, using the fact that the wires are close to his cell to help him escape by burning through them and using the cover of darkness.

3. Were you able to decipher the Thinking Machine’s first coded message?

Answers will vary. (“Yes,” for example. Or possibly, “No.”)

4. Explain the reason for the other prisoner’s screams during the night.

He hears The Thinking Machine saying the word “acid” to Hutchinson Hatch (his request for acid). The prisoner had been jailed for throwing acid in a woman’s face, and he feels guilty.

5. Were you able to guess how the Thinking Machine escaped before you read Section VI?

Answers will vary!

6. What role do rats and electricity play in the Thinking Machine’s plan?

The rats’ entrance into Cell 13 tells The Thinking Machine that there is a link to the outside world, which he uses to contact others and bring items into his cell. Electricity (which was much less omnipresent in 1905) is critical, because the prison is lighted by it. Turning it off using acid, again, provides The Thinking Machine with cover through darkness.

7. How does the Thinking Machine write notes, and ultimately, escape?

He uses the polish on his shoes and the tips of his shoelaces. His escape is effected by using acid to weaken his cell’s bars, and he walks out disguised as an electrician hired to fix the lights.

8. At the end of “Cell 13,” The Thinking Machine says that had his initial plan failed, there were “two other ways out.” What do you think these could be?

Answers will vary.

Week 2, Day 2 – “Marjorie Daw”

1. How do the opening letters between Flemming and Delaney compare to their final few exchanges? How does this affect the story?

The first several letters are long and relaxed, and reflect Delaney’s attempt to calm Flemming down and reduce his irritation at being cooped up immobile. As the letters continue, they become more rushed and shorter, reflecting Flemming’s heated interest in Marjorie Daw, until finally, the rapid telegrams come so quickly the entire affair explodes into its unexpected climax.

2. What hints can you find that point to the story’s conclusion about Marjorie Daw?

Delaney says that even though Marjorie Daw is perfectly ideal in every way he doesn’t love her (?). Delaney’s repeated warnings to Flemming not to come to see her are suspicious, as are his delays in securing a photograph of Marjorie Daw for Flemming to see.

3. Look up the poem “See Saw Margery Daw.” How does it fit into “Marjorie Daw”? (Recall the Longfellow poem referenced in the story, and the other literary references Delaney sprinkles throughout his letters to Flemming.)

Delaney calls the imaginary girl “Marjorie Daw” probably because he just read—or remembers reading—the poem. Delaney references many other names in his letters to Flemming, including another poem about another girl (Longfellow’s “There Was a Little Girl”). To anyone familiar with the poem this is a hint that the girl across the street from Delaney is made up.

4. What is Flemming like? When you discover the truth about Marjorie Daw, how do you feel about how Flemming will react? Why?

Answers will vary. Flemming seems short-tempered and impatient with others (throwing books at his servant, driving his sister away in tears, and so on). Many readers will respond with something like, “I know he will be upset, but it’s hard to feel too sorry for a man who ‘falls in love’ with a supposedly perfect girl, especially when before he knew about her he behaved so rudely and despicably to those around him, just because he was having to recover from a leg injury.”

Week 2, Day 3 – “The Adventure of the Speckled Band”

1. Why does Watson say he waited for a period of time before he wrote the account of this mystery?

He promised Helen Stoner he would not write of it, but she died and now would suffer no embarrassment by the story’s publication.

2. Describe Helen Stoner’s appearance and personality. Why is she so afraid?

She is dressed in black, with a veiled face, and prematurely gray hair. She is frightened to death because her stepfather is violent and acts as if he were insane. Her sister died under mysterious circumstances two years earlier.

3. Whom does Sherlock Holmes begin to suspect of a crime? Why? What is the suspected criminal’s motive?

Dr. Roylott. He has every motive to want his stepdaughters dead, since part of his late wife’s inheritance will go to them if they marry (which each was about to do).

4. List some characteristics of Dr. Roylott. Why does Sherlock Holmes say a man in his profession can be so dangerous?

He is violent, huge, and unpredictable. Holmes says that doctors like Roylott are dangerous if they turn to crime, because they have the scientific knowledge to carry out murders and the nerve to carry them out.

5. Name several sounds heard by various characters in “The Speckled Band” that are critical to the story’s plot.

Answers will vary, but might include the whistle used to train the adder, the clank of the metal safe which houses the adder, and the sound “like that of a small jet of steam escaping continually from a kettle” (the hiss of the snake).

6. Sum up Holmes’s investigation and his plan to put an end to the doings in the Roylott household.

He discovers the bed bolted to the floor, the vent leading the doctor’s room, the dummy bell-rope, the saucer of milk (for the snake), the marks indicating Dr. Roylott had stood on the chair (to put the snake into the vent), and so on. He stays the night with Watson in Helen’s room to thwart Dr. Roylott’s next attempt at killing her.

7. Could Julia have died from fright, since there were no marks found on her by the coroner?

Answers will vary, but it is possible, since it seems unlikely the coroner would miss bite marks, however small, in his investigation. Also, it seems likely that Julia would have had swelling and discoloration if she had been bitten to death by a poisonous snake.

Week 2, Day 4 – “The Cop and the Anthem”

1. Why doesn’t Soapy want to go to city or private charities for help through the cold of winter?

His pride won’t allow him to lower himself, which to him seems a condition of accepting help.

2. List Soapy’s attempts to gain accommodations in the Island.

He tries to go to an expensive restaurant and eat without paying, but is thrown out because he looks too shabby to be there; he breaks a store window and tells a policeman he did it, but the policeman does not believe him because most window-breakers run away; he eats a meal in a restaurant and doesn’t pay, but the owner throws him out instead of having him arrested; he tries to “mash” a woman, but she unexpectedly accepts his proposal; he yells in front of a policeman, who dismisses the thought of arresting him for disorderly conduct; and he steals an umbrella, and the owner acknowledges it might not be his.

3. Explain the sardonic ending to “The Cop and the Anthem.” Why do you suppose O. Henry titled his story this way?

After repeatedly failing to be arrested, Soapy hears church organ music playing, reminding him of days before he became a bum, and is inspired to start his life afresh and find work. O. Henry titles his short story “The Cop and the Anthem” because the two are in such opposition to each other when it comes to enabling Soapy to start his life over.

4. What is ironic about how Soapy’s attitude changes from the story’s beginning to its end?

He is proud, even though he’s a bum, at the beginning of the story, but no one pays attention to him or treats him like he’s worth bothering with; but at the story’s end, he humbles himself and sets out to turn over a new leaf—and he’s arrested by the first cop who sees him!

Week 3, Day 2 – “The Adventure of the Red-headed League”

1. Give a few pieces of evidence that demonstrate what Watson thinks of Jabez Wilson.

He portrays him as a ridiculous and pathetic client of Holmes, even describing Mr. Wilson as “obese, pompous, and slow.”

2. Why does Holmes say to Watson, “Omne ignotum pro magnifico”?

Because once he explains his methods of deducing various characteristics of Jabez Wilson based upon his appearance, Mr. Wilson laughs and says Holmes isn’t so clever after all, which nettles Holmes a little.

3. Whom does Sherlock Holmes begin to suspect of a crime? Why?

John Clay, because of Jabez Wilson’s physical description of him; his disappearance into the cellar, supposedly to develop pictures; and his willingness to work so cheaply, even though he is a skilled employee.

4. What is the ruse of the “Red-headed League”?

It is a plan to get Jabez Wilson out of the way so that Clay and his accomplices can dig a tunnel under the pawn shop to the bank vault.

5. Why does Holmes visit Mr. Wilson’s shop and ask for directions?

He wants to see John Clay’s pants, to see if his knees are dirty from kneeling to dig underground.

6. Give at least one example of humor in “The Red-headed League.”

Answers will vary!

7. John Clay’s plan was made more attractive because of the bank’s recent acquisition of French gold. How do you think Clay knew about this?

Answers will vary, but it is possible that he had inside information somehow. It has been speculated by Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts that Mr. Merryweather was in on the scheme, even trying to warn Clay by striking his walking stick on the floor before Holmes chides him.

8. What could Clay and his accomplices have done to make their crime and getaway more likely to succeed?

Answers will vary, but one way would be to continue to pay Jabez Wilson at his phony job for another week, even after the bank robbery was completed. This way, Mr. Wilson would not have contacted Holmes when he did, allowing Holmes time to reason out the mystery in time to stop the robbery from occurring.

9. What do the last four paragraphs of the story say about the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and about their relationship? How can Holmes’s lament here speak to the present generation?

Watson is an encouraging friend to Sherlock Holmes, telling him he is a brilliant reasoner and a “benefactor to the race.” Holmes reveals himself a sad man, in some ways, since he feels as if his life is one long attempt to escape boredom, unless he is on a case. Sadly, our generation often feels the same way, with people of all ages living their lives as pleasure-seekers in one long attempt to attain a physical or mental “high,” instead of living in an obedient relationship to Jesus Christ.

Week 3, Day 3 – “The Man on the Train”

1. What is Grandma Sheldon like? What about her reading the newspaper is inconsistent with her personality and appearance?

A little worried, but a pleasant, typical, white-haired and rosy-cheeked grandmother. She revels in stories of gory murders, unlike her gentle, sweet demeanor.

2. Describe the stranger who sits next to Grandma Sheldon on the train.

He looks respectable, black-haired, clean shaven, and with blue eyes (like Grandma Sheldon’s late husband).

3. What ideas do Grandma Sheldon and the man on the train exchange about the local murderer?

That his conscience will be bothering him (Grandma Sheldon); that he might have had a reason to commit the murders (the man); that Grandma Sheldon would like to see a murderer’s face (at which point the man on the train takes her paper and folds it up in his pocket).

4. In what two ways does the man help Grandma Sheldon? What do you make of these scenes? How does his aiding her to the home help himself?

He pays for her ticket, which she lost, and he walks her in the dark to the home where she is staying. It might be that he is trying to do a good deed to “make up” for his murders. By helping Grandma Sheldon to the home, he escapes his pursuers.

5. How does the encounter on the train change (a) the man, and (b) Grandma Sheldon?

Something about her gentle, trusting spirit reaches him, which is a significant reason why he offers to help her. He also breaks down emotionally when he reads her letter to him in prison. Grandma Sheldon sees the good in everyone now, even a murderer like Hartwell. She writes to and prays for him...and never rides on a train again!

Week 3, Day 4 – “A Literary Nightmare”

1. How does the narrator’s refined, courteous character add to the humor of this story?

It makes it even more ridiculous when he says the idiotic words of the jingle.

2. How does the narrator “get rid” of the irritating jingle?

He discharges it by teaching the jingle to the minister, who picks it up, gets the words down, and can’t get rid of it.

3. At the story’s end, what does the writer claim is the purpose of his writing the story? What is ironic in this claim?

He says it is to warn readers to avoid the “Punch, brothers, punch with care” rhymes, so the words won’t get stuck in their heads, which is ironic, since the entire story is filled with examples of the rhymes being repeated over and over, which surely has the opposite effect.

4. What humorous remark does the narrator make about university students?

That the minister is able to get rid of the jingle by passing it on to the brainless, non-thinking students.

5. Bring an example of a song that is catchy, but annoying, that got in your head.

Answers will vary!

Week 4, Day 2 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Story of the Door

9. Describe the character of Utterson.

He is a lawyer, rather cold-natured, a poor conversationalist, and friends with Richard Enfield, though they have little in common.

10. What sets into motion the story’s plot?

Enfield and Utterson are on a walk and pass an apartment that reminds Enfield of an incident he witnessed some time before.

11. What incident does Enfield relate to Utterson? What is Utterson’s response?

The house reminds Enfield of his encounter with a nasty, ugly man named Hyde, who ran over a little girl without stopping. Hyde went into that particular building and gave £100 to the girl’s family, drawing a check from a highly respected man (whom Enfield doesn’t name), and he suspects the ugly man of blackmailing the payer.

Utterson knows who the other man is, and Enfield feels bad for revealing the secret. The two agree not to reveal this to anyone else.

Week 4, Day 2 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Search for Mr. Hyde

1. How does Utterson know about Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?

He is Dr. Jekyll's lawyer.

2. Explain Jekyll's will and Utterson's view of it. Why does he (Utterson) decide to visit Dr. Lanyon?

The will gives all property to Mr. Hyde if Jekyll disappears or without explanation is not seen for three months, which disturbs Utterson, because of Mr. Hyde's character. Utterson sees his college friend Dr. Lanyon for advice about the will. Lanyon says Jekyll became too "fanciful," and he doesn't take to him anymore. Lanyon knows nothing about Hyde.

3. Sum up Utterson's encounter with Mr. Hyde.

Utterson dreams about the ugly face of Hyde, wanting to see it again to get a better look to figure out what mystery is behind his friendship with Jekyll, so he hangs around Jekyll's office until he sees Hyde again. He asks Hyde to let him see Jekyll, but Hyde says Jekyll is out. Utterson asks Hyde to see his face, and Hyde obliges. Hyde asks how Utterson knew his name, and Utterson says Dr. Jekyll told him, to which Hyde says Jekyll never would have told him, and leaves Utterson.

4. Compare Dr. Jekyll's home with Mr. Hyde's apartment. What do you think this represents?

Jekyll lives in a large, lavish, beautiful house, in contrast to the one Hyde goes into, which is squalid, dark, and dirty, in a low-rent area of London. This is a visual representation of the characters of the two men.

5. What are Poole's orders from Dr. Jekyll regarding Hyde? What does Utterson think is happening?

The servant, Poole, says he and the other servants have orders from Dr. Jekyll to let Hyde come in and obey his orders. Utterson worries that Hyde is blackmailing Dr. Jekyll into letting him have his way. He worries that if Hyde finds that Jekyll's will gives him all his property, he might to kill Jekyll.

6. What about himself does Utterson reflect upon when he thinks about the character of Mr. Hyde?

He reflects upon his own sins and moral shortcomings

Week 4, Day 3 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Dr. Jekyll Was Quite at Ease

1. What does Utterson confront Dr. Jekyll about at the party?

About Hyde, and is especially upset about Dr. Jekyll's will because of what he has seen of Mr. Hyde.

2. What does Dr. Jekyll claim about Mr. Hyde?

That he can get rid of him any time he wants to.

3. What does Dr. Jekyll ask Utterson to agree to?

Jekyll gets Utterson to promise to help Hyde any time he needs it, and Utterson agrees.

Week 4, Day 3 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – The Carew Murder Case

1. What is especially malicious about the murder of Danvers Carew?

Carew is beaten to death, which is itself a cruel, vicious way to kill someone, but the fact that Carew is an old, distinguished man who posed no threat to Hyde makes it particularly cruel.

2. How does Utterson know a crucial piece of evidence?

He recognizes the broken piece of the walking stick as one that he gave Dr. Jekyll.

3. Describe the unusual condition of Hyde's apartment that Utterson and the inspector find.

It is richly and tastefully furnished, but looks as if Hyde left in a hurry, and burned many papers. The stick is found, and his bank says Hyde has several thousand pounds in deposit.

4. How does the inspector plan to catch Hyde? What difficulty does this pose?

The inspector says he will simply wait for Hyde at the bank to catch him, but all agree that this will be difficult, as no one has seen Hyde very often, although they agree his look entails deformity.

Week 4, Day 4 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Incident of the Letter

1. Describe Dr. Jekyll's condition. What does he say in response to Utterson's news of Hyde's murder of Danvers Carew?

Jekyll looks terrible—weakly and sick. Utterson asks Jekyll if he's heard about the murder of Danvers Carew, and Jekyll says Hyde will never be seen again by anyone.

2. What does Mr. Hyde say in the letter he sends to Dr. Jekyll?

In his letter, Hyde apologizes to Jekyll for not repaying Jekyll's kindness to him, and says he (Hyde) will escape and never be found.

3. Sum up what Utterson tells Dr. Jekyll about the terms of his will.

Utterson asks Jekyll if Hyde was the one who dictated the terms in Jekyll's will that if Jekyll disappears for several months, the money would go to Hyde. Jekyll squirms for a second, but says yes. Utterson tells Jekyll he is lucky, because Hyde meant to murder him.

4. What does Utterson deduce from Mr. Guest's comparison of the writing samples? What does Utterson realize is happening from this realization?

Guest compares the writing to a note by Dr. Jekyll, and tells Utterson they are the same writing, just changed a little. Utterson locks the Hyde note in his safe, sick at the thought that Jekyll is forging for a murderer

Week 5, Day 1 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon, Incident at the Window

1. How does Dr. Jekyll's life go after Mr. Hyde leaves town? What alerts Utterson that something is wrong?

The police can't find Hyde for months, and Jekyll is renewed, lively, full of "religion" and charity, and at parties and gatherings. Suddenly, several times, Jekyll refuses to see Utterson, even though the two had got used to seeing each other almost every day.

2. What happens when Utterson visits Dr. Lanyon? How does Dr. Jekyll respond to Utterson's letter?

Utterson visits Lanyon, who looks almost dead, and when Utterson asks him, he says "I am a doomed man," saying he has had a shock and won't recover. He refuses to talk about Dr. Jekyll when Utterson brings up his name, saying Jekyll is dead to him. He is not surprised when Utterson says Jekyll won't see him, and he refuses to tell Utterson anything he knows about Jekyll or talk about him anymore.

Utterson writes Jekyll to complain of his exclusion, and Jekyll writes back saying they can never see each other again, and that he is the "chief of sinners" and sufferers, but not to doubt his friendship.

3. Sum up the letter Utterson receives from Lanyon upon Lanyon's death.

Within the letter is another sealed letter that says it is not to be opened until Jekyll is dead or disappeared—like Hyde’s letter!

4. How has Dr. Jekyll changed? What happens when Utterson tries to visit Dr. Jekyll? Describe the “incident at the window.”

Utterson tries to visit Jekyll, but Poole says Jekyll keeps to himself, rarely goes out, doesn’t read, and is totally altered in behavior and habits. Enfield and Utterson walk by Hyde’s, and see Jekyll through a window. They speak to him, but he won’t come down, and suddenly has a look of horror, shutting the window to the men.

Week 5, Day 2 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – The Last Night

1. Why does Poole seek out Utterson?

Poole comes to Utterson and says Jekyll is worse, and that he (Poole) is afraid of foul play.

2. How are the streets on the walk to Dr. Jekyll’s house? Why might this be significant?

The wind blows so hard on the streets that it is hard to talk. The streets are also deserted. This is another visual representation of man’s isolation from his fellow man, and an ominous sign of what Utterson will find at Dr. Jekyll’s home.

3. Describe the situation in the Jekyll house. What is Utterson’s explanation, and why does Poole disagree?

At Jekyll’s the whole group of servants is glad to see Utterson, and all afraid. Poole leads Utterson to Jekyll, warning him not to go in if invited by the doctor. Jekyll refuses to see Utterson, and Poole asks Utterson if that sounded like Jekyll. He believes Jekyll was killed eight days before, when he heard Jekyll cry out loudly. Utterson disagrees, since he doesn’t believe the murderer would stay there. Poole says the man in the office has been crying for medicine constantly, sending Poole to druggists again and again, refusing to take food until no one can see him.

Utterson asks if the note he is given is in the doctor’s handwriting, but Poole says it doesn’t matter—that he’s seen Jekyll looking differently, before running away from Poole. Utterson thinks Jekyll is suffering from some sickness that distorts his appearance and has been avoiding people for that reason. Poole says it can’t be Jekyll, because the man he saw was much shorter.

Utterson asks if the man was Hyde, and Poole says it was. The two plan to break down the door, admitting that there is danger, and enlisting the help of two other servants. They hear Jekyll’s footsteps instead of Hyde’s, and Poole says he’s heard terrible weeping inside at times.

4. What do the men find? Describe the note from Jekyll.

Utterson warns Jekyll that they are coming in, but Hyde answers, “have mercy!” and they break down the door. They find a beautiful room, but Hyde lying on the floor, in Jekyll’s clothes (too big for him), dead. Looking around the room, Utterson is shocked to find a religious book with blasphemies written in it in Jekyll’s own hand.

Utterson finds Jekyll’s will, with himself as the beneficiary! He then finds a note from Jekyll dated the same day, so Utterson says he must still be alive, and they must find him. Jekyll’s note tells Utterson to read Lanyon’s account first, and then Jekyll’s confession if he must.

Week 5, Day 3 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Dr. Lanyon’s Narrative

1. Sum up what Dr. Jekyll requests of Dr. Lanyon in his letter to him.

Dr. Jekyll tells Dr. Lanyon to go to Jekyll’s lab, break into it, bring a certain drawer to his consulting room, and give it to a man coming in Jekyll’s name (Mr. Hyde).

2. What does Lanyon think about Dr. Jekyll upon receiving this letter? What does he find in Dr. Jekyll’s journal?

Lanyon thinks Jekyll is crazy, but obeys. He finds chemicals, one of which is red and smells strongly. The journal, Lanyon notes, begins recently to contain the word “double.”

3. What does Dr. Lanyon see happen when he delivers the drawer to Mr. Hyde? How does it affect him?

He meets Hyde, whom he finds detestable and revolting, and Hyde demands the chemicals, which he mixes before Lanyon. Hyde warns Lanyon about what he will see, calling him to keep his vow of secrecy. Hyde turns into Jekyll, and Lanyon screams and screams and is so shaken he is a broken man.

Week 5, Day 4 – Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Henry Jekyll’s Full Statement of the Case

1. Briefly sum up Dr. Jekyll’s “two-sided” personality, by his own admission.

Jekyll says he was a happy-go-lucky type who pretended to be serious, already beginning to become a fraud. He mentions the “good and ill which divide and compound man’s dual nature” and discusses his frivolous nature, which contrasted with his serious medical work. He believed he had a dual nature, and that through science, these two personalities could live peaceably, the evil side doing its evil without bothering or burdening the conscience of the “good side.”

2. How does the potion affect Dr. Jekyll? What does the “Hyde side” begin to do?

Jekyll takes the potion, experiences a horrible pain and agony, and feels free, although he is smaller. The totally evil “Hyde side” eventually wins over the part good, part evil Jekyll. Jekyll sees himself growing older, and wants to live it up a little, so he starts taking the potion more and more. He feels safe in that he—Dr. Jekyll—isn’t doing anything wrong, but Hyde.

3. What unexpectedly happens to Dr. Jekyll two months after the murder of Danvers Carew? What decision does he face? *Two months for Danvers Carew’s murder, Jekyll realizes that he has awakened unexpectedly as Hyde. This makes Jekyll think Hyde is taking over completely. He has to decide which he will be.*

4. What will Dr. Jekyll lose if he never becomes Mr. Hyde again? What will he lose if he stays Mr. Hyde?

Staying as Jekyll means he will have to cast aside his indulgent, sinful appetites, but to stay as Hyde means losing his goals as a doctor and being hated by everyone. The key: Jekyll would know what he had lost, but Hyde would not, which made becoming Hyde more appealing.

5. What finally convinces Dr. Jekyll never to become Mr. Hyde again? Why does he fail to abide by this decision?

After not becoming Hyde for months, he drinks the potion, and finds that evil has built up to such a great point that he kills Danvers for basically no reason. When he reverts to Dr. Jekyll, he cries and repents of his crime, and realizes he is saved, because he cannot become Hyde any more (since the police are after him). He then locks the door and breaks the key. He feels the “Hyde side” beckoning to him and does not resist the urge to become Hyde again.

6. Explain what happens to Dr. Jekyll in the park. What is the ultimate “fate” of the doctor?

Dr. Jekyll, in a park, feels himself turn into Hyde without taking any potion. He writes to Lanyon in his own handwriting to get him to bring the potion. Jekyll becomes Hyde more and more involuntarily until he struggles to stay Jekyll at all. He finds the dual natures warring against each other, hating each other. Jekyll is unable to get the right kind of slightly impure salt for his potion, and his mixtures fail to turn him back into Jekyll any more, and he ultimately dies.

Week 6, Day 1 – “The Shed Chamber”

1. What style is “The Shed Chamber” told in?

It is a first-person account, given by Nora as if she were addressing a group of girls, even naming certain friends, including “Lottie” and “Sue.”

2. What is the speaker’s name? When do we finally find this out? What is she like? How can the reader tell?

Nora is the speaker’s name; we find out when Mrs. Bowles tells her husband she feels safe with Nora there when he leaves for business for a few days. Nora is kind, good with children, a hard worker, sensible, and brave, based on how she takes care of the dangerous situation the family faces. Nora is probably in her late teens or very early twenties.

3. Describe the Bowles home and family.

It is a long, “rambling,” yellow house. Mr. Bowles is kind and sensible, the children are shy, and Mrs. Bowles is an invalid, gentle and sweet.

4. What bothers Nora about the shed chamber windows? Why doesn’t she tell Mrs. Bowles?

They don’t fasten properly; Nora doesn’t tell Mrs. Bowles because she doesn’t want her to be afraid.

5. What does Annie want? How does Nora feel about her when she meets her? Explain Annie’s real reason for coming back to the house.

Annie says she left something in the shed chamber; Nora doesn’t like the way she smiles and doesn’t trust her. Annie actually comes to let in a man, hide him in a large trunk, and help him steal from the Bowles family when everyone is asleep.

6. How does Nora bravely—and smartly—address the dangerous situation? What do we find out about George Brett by one of Nora’s offhand comments?

She locks the man in the trunk, and asks Mrs. Bowles if she can take a walk (so she won’t upset her), instead of running for help. George Brett is a young man she asks for help, and at this point of Nora’s telling the story he is her husband.

7. How does Nora change the reader’s perception of Annie? Who do you think are the “two others” mentioned in the last paragraph?

Nora excuses Annie’s part in the shed chamber plot by saying Annie was young and motherless, and that she has repented, becoming friends with Nora. The “two others” is interesting—it could refer to Nora’s husband George and George’s father, both of whom ran back to the house with Nora when the incident occurred; or it could refer to Sue and Lottie, the names of the “girls” to whom Nora is telling her story.

8. How would you describe the story’s tone? How could a different tone have made the story less interesting or less effective?

The tone is light-hearted and exciting, partly because it is told from Nora’s point of view. It could have been told by a third-person narrator, which might have made it less exciting or heavier in tone.

Week 6, Day 2 – “The Mouse”

1. What emotions from the reader are evoked by the way Saki sets up the character of Theodorick Voler?

Voler is described as a prissy momma’s boy who is unprepared for even small inconveniences that come upon him, like having to harness a horse. This makes the appearance of the mouse in his pants even more amusing to the reader, since Theodorick seems to be the last person who able to deal with such a nuisance.

2. How does Theodorick finally get the mouse out of his pants? What disaster occurs as he does?

He is able to set up a makeshift curtain made of a rug, so he can take off his pants and get rid of the mouse, but the rug comes loose and falls to the floor before he has a chance to put his pants back on, and he pulls the rug around himself to hide the fact.

3. How does Theodoric try to explain his situation to the girl passenger? What misunderstanding occurs when he says, “It was getting rid of [the mouse] that brought me to this”?

He claims he has caught a chill, possibly malaria, to explain why he is covering himself with the rug. The girl, who is blind and does not see him wrapped in the rug, thinks he means that the mouse has given him a chill.

4. Why is the revelation of the girl on the train surprising to both Theodoric and the reader?

Saki focuses on Theodoric’s plight so heavily that the reader is (most likely) surprised; certainly Theodoric himself is so focused on his problem that he does not realize the girl is blind.

Week 6, Day 3 – “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

1. What does Sherlock Holmes note about the cases that Dr. Watson has chosen to write about?

That “crime is common” and “logic is rare,” so he would have preferred that Watson focus more on the logical deductions Holmes uses in solving the cases than the crimes themselves.

2. What is unusual about the salary offered to Miss Hunter? What odd request does Mr. Rucastle make of her as part of her duties?

It is three times more than the normal governess salary. Rucastle requests that Violet Hunter obey any whims or odd notions that he or his wife have as part of her duties, which turn out to be things (like wearing a certain dress and cutting her hair) that are to make her more believable in impersonating their daughter.

3. Sum up the chilling comment about the countryside that Holmes makes when Watson remarks upon its beauty.

Unlike Watson, who remarks upon the countryside’s beauty, Holmes says that the countryside holds dark secrets more than the average location because it is isolated, and thus criminals and evil can hide more easily.

4. Describe the various concerns Violet Hunter has about several members of the Rucastle household.

The six-year-old boy is wicked, tormenting animals and such; Mr. Rucastle seems capable of violence and uses veiled threats; Mrs. Rucastle is moody, weepy, and withdrawn; and the butler couple seem off, with the husband often drunk.

5. What is the real reason for Violet Hunter’s hire?

To impersonate the Rucastles’ daughter so they will keep her inheritance.

6. Are there any key questions you can think of that “The Copper Beeches” leaves unanswered?

Answers will vary, but might include things like “Do the Rucastles think they can keep their daughter locked up forever?” and “Were there other governesses?”

Week 7, Day 1 – “About Barbers”

1. What kinds of things, according to Mark Twain, “always” happen in barber shops, and always will?

Some other person gets there just before you, getting the best barber, while you’re stuck with the worst; the men waiting to get haircuts are “silent, unsociable, distraught, and looking bored”; the barber doesn’t listen to his requests;

2. In what ways does the barber poorly perform his job?

Among other things...

- *The barber stares at himself in the mirror, inspecting pimples and combing his hair while he should be shaving the author.*
- *The shaving lather, the author says, has stayed on his face so long that it feels like it's eating into his vital organs.*
- *The barber rakes his fingers roughly across the author's face, and sticks his mouth in the customer's mouth to use as a handle (where the author can smell the kerosene lamp gas).*
- *He takes bets instead of finishing shaving his customer.*
- *He keeps "hawking and expectorating" (making a "hawking" sound and spitting).*
- *He cuts the customer with a razor blade.*
- *He slaps him with a towel and throws powder into his face.*
- *He tries to sell the customer "quack nostrums."*

Week 7, Day 2 – "The Doomdorf Mystery"

5. What kind of man is Doomdorf, based on the author's initial description of his looks, background, and actions?

He is a rough man, savage, tough to be able to take a rough piece of land and build a house on a rock on it and plant peach trees. His character is low, since he uses the peaches to manufacture liquor, which contributes to much unsocial and dangerous behavior of those who drink it.

6. What is Uncle Abner, Randolph, and Bronson's business with Doomdorf? As representatives of the law (and the church), how far should their authority extend over the "Doomdorf problem"?

Uncle Abner and Randolph come to Doomdorf to try to stop him from manufacturing and selling alcohol. It is, however, is legally questionable to put the blame on Doomdorf for acts that others commit, even if he does sell them the liquor.

Bronson, claiming to speak for God, is similar. Certainly It is noble idea to try to reduce drunkenness and resulting violence, and Christians should certainly oppose both, but Bronson really has no right to destroy Doomdorf's property.

7. Which two persons claim to have perpetrated the crime, and why? What facts about the scene make their claims doubtful or impossible?

The old woman and Bronson both claim to have killed Doomdorf, but the door is still bolted from the inside, and it is impossible to get out from a window, since there is a drop of more than 100 feet down sheer rock (and the windows have not been opened). Doomdorf could not have killed himself, since the gun has been put carefully into forks in the wall. Also, Doomdorf was killed at 1 PM, according to his stopped watch, and Bronson was still on the road, and the old woman in the grove at that time.

8. What is ironic about *how* Doomdorf meets his...doom? (Recall what Bronson prays against him.)

Bronson prays God would send "fire from heaven" to kill Doomdorf, and essentially, that's what happens, since the sun's light activates the firing mechanism of the gun on the wall that kills Doomdorf.

9. What would you say is the *theme* of "The Doomdorf Mystery"? (See for example Proverbs 26:27 and Proverbs 28:10.)

Answers will vary, but something like "he who lives by the sword must die by the sword," which is quoted in the story itself; or, as Proverbs 26:27 says, "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him." Proverbs 28:10 says, "Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit."

Week 7, Day 3 – "Bernice Bobs Her Hair"

1. Explain how the opening country club scene sets up the story.

It pits the younger crowd against the older, disapproving dowagers; it suggests that girls are angling for wealthy, unattached men;

2. Give examples of how the reader initially learns that Bernice is a social outcast. What makes her want to change her image?

Marjorie asks Warren to please dance with her, although he doesn't want to; Bernice goes to fix her hair, and Otis jokingly talks about how horrible she is to be with; Bernice can't hold conversations with others, and so on. She hears Marjorie complaining about what a social misfit Bernice is, withstands Marjorie's brutally honest (in her mind, anyway) assessment, and agrees to let Marjorie guide her.

3. What results from Bernice's transformation? How does it affect Marjorie?

She becomes the belle of the party, the most sought-after young lady at social events. Marjorie is upset that Warren begins paying more attention to Bernice than to her, and she angrily confronts Bernice, telling her to forget about Warren.

4. How does Marjorie trick Bernice? What happens to Bernice's social standing as a result? What lesson might the author be expressing?

Marjorie tricks Bernice into bobbing her hair, and when Bernice does, she loses much of her gains in social circles, because she appears too radical, and has lost much of her physical beauty. This seems to express the idea that fickle crowds who claim they like certain things—or who egg on others to go to extreme lengths—often don't actually support those who do.

5. How do Marjorie's and Bernice's ideas of "femininity" differ? What are the flaws in each character's portrayal of the ideal woman?

Bernice is initially more of a Little Women type—demure, shy, reserved, polite, and so on; and Marjorie is brash, outspoken, and blunt—behaving in many ways like her male peers. (Fitzgerald even says that Marjorie "considered girls stupid," and that Bernice has the same trouble talking to her that she has talking to men.) Marjorie has a good point when she says that a typical woman like Bernice really isn't all she pretends to be—that she's putting on an act to try to win male suitors with a weak version of femininity. But Bernice is correct in some areas, too, pointing out that Marjorie is often simply rude and aggressive.

6. What does long hair represent for Marjorie and Bernice? Is Bernice's final act portrayed as positive, negative, or neutral? How does it give another layer to the story's title?

Answers will vary, but long hair could simply represent being a woman, or femininity. When Bernice bobs her hair, and Marjorie's, the reader realizes that something has been lost for both women. Bernice's short hair is a visual sign that the "new Bernice" has strayed too far away from some of the positive feminine ideals she had, and her cutting off Marjorie's braids is a visual reminder that in many ways Marjorie has already begun to "act like a man."

The author portrays Bernice's bobbing Marjorie's hair as something that Marjorie probably deserved, but he also expresses the probability that Bernice will be in trouble for it (it "carried consequences"). It gives another meaning to the title "Bernice Bobs HER Hair"—referring also to Marjorie's braids.

7. What Biblical account does "Bernice Bobs Her Hair" allude to? In what way is it like that story?

It reminds the reader of Samson, who had his hair cut by a woman. It was foolish of Samson to let it be done, and he lost his strength because of it. Similarly, Bernice loses much of her beauty and social standing when she has her hair bobbed.

8. How does the "ideal woman" as advocated by Marjorie, and to a lesser extent, Bernice, compare to the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31?

Answers will vary.

9. Write a short summary of what you think happens to Bernice within a month of the end of the story.

Answers will vary!

Week 7, Day 4 – “The Final Problem”

9. Why does Watson say at the story’s opening he has “no choice but to lay the facts before the public”?

Moriarty’s brother has in print defended him through untrue statements, and Watson feels he must counter with the truth.

10. Describe the character of Professor Moriarty. Why do you think Doyle chose “Moriarty” for his name?

He is brilliant in his mathematical abilities, a diabolical criminal, head of a London crime syndicate; a genius, a philosopher, an abstract thinker. He acts strangely, weaving his head from side to side like some kind of snake, is ruthless, and does not hesitate to threaten to kill anyone who gets in his way. Doyle likely chose “Moriarty” as a name because it closely resembles the Latin root “mors, mortis,” which means “death” (the root of English words like “mortal,” “mortuary,” “mortician,” and so on), since Moriarty is such a deadly threat.

11. How is the first meeting between Holmes and Moriarty different from most confrontations between adversaries?

Moriarty warns Holmes to back off; the behavior is not quite friendly, but each respects the other’s intelligence. It differs from many confrontations between adversaries, because there is no fight or physical battle with loud shouting or maniacal threats; in fact, very little is said, because each man anticipates the other’s answers.

12. What precautions does Holmes take in preparing to leave for Europe?

He disguises himself as an Italian priest, orders Watson not to take the first or second hansom in case it is driven by a confederate of Moriarty’s, hides from Moriarty’s special train, and so on.

13. What comments does Holmes make to indicate he believes he will be killed?

He says he would gladly bring his own career to a conclusion if society was rid of Moriarty; he says if he can he would not “lived wholly in vain”; he tells Moriarty he would gladly sacrifice himself if he knew that doing so would assure that Moriarty and his gang would be brought to justice.

14. What is the purpose of the note to Dr. Watson from the dying lady?

It was to get Watson out of the way, to assure that Holmes had no other person for assistance or protection, so Moriarty could get at him.

15. Do you think Holmes deliberately sacrificed his life to lure Moriarty into a trap?

Answers will vary.

16. Professor Moriarty is one of the most famous villains in the history of literature, although the reader barely gets to know him. Why does he make such an impact?

He is so well described by Doyle. Holmes himself introduces the reader (and Watson) to the character of Moriarty, and since we know Holmes has worked so long to fight evil and injustice using his detective skills, we take him seriously when he talks so respectfully of Moriarty’s powers. The two famous confrontations between Holmes and Moriarty add to Moriarty’s reputation as Holmes’s greatest adversary.

Week 8, Day 1 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 1, Chapters 1-5

1. How does the narrator open the tale? How do his references to various scientific theories and scientists give authority and weight to the story he tells? What does he see in the telescope?

The author explains that Martians were watching Earth as men watch bugs under a microscope, and that life on Mars is possible because of several of its features (air, water, volume). The Martians are supposed to have reacted to their planet's extreme cooling by looking at Earth for a new home.

The author refers to various scientists around the time who saw supposed evidence that Mars was filled with lights and explosions, and that these were evidence that Mars was about to attack, and that the Earth should have known. By naming scientific theories and actual names, it lends an air of realism to the tale.

The narrator says he saw a "reddish flash" of a burst of gas from Mars while watching it through a friend's telescope. The process repeats for 10 nights in a row, then stops.

2. What does the narrator's description of the calm, carefree nights on Earth do for the story?

It provides a stark contrast to the jolt of the spacecraft and the bizarre appearance of the Martians, which shakes the area out of its seeming sleepiness.

3. Describe "The Thing." How does the reaction of the nearby people differ from what would happen in today's society?

The Thing lands with a crash, almost buried in sand, and is about 30 yards in diameter. When Ogilvy and the narrator spread the news to the town, newspapers pick it up, and a small crowd gathers. The way this is described is drastically different from what would happen today: Police would block it from viewers, the government would take the investigation completely over, thousands would gather around (but not as closely), and it would be on the news 24 hours a day.

4. What happens when the top is unscrewed from the cylinder?

Sounds can be heard from the cylinder as it unscrews from within. The Martian comes out—bear-sized, with a round head, two eyes, and grey tentacles, struggling to breathe, glistening—disgusting to look at. The creature falls into the pit, and another comes out. The narrator sees the shopman, who is trying to get out of the pit, fall back in and scream.

5. What does the heat ray do? List several things that demonstrate that the people are confused and volatile about their situation.

It destroys anything in its path, melting metal, turning water into steam. The people in the town are confused and unreliable, not understanding what is going on and not reacting appropriately. They seem ignorant of the seriousness of their danger, they crowd close to the dangerous cylinder in the pit, they barely miss being killed, and they stampede away (killing several persons),

Week 8, Day 2 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 1, Chapters 6-10

1. What is the narrator's state of mind? What reactions does he receive when he tries to warn others?

The narrator runs until he is exhausted, lying by the bridge near the gasworks. He feels isolated from others. He then tries to ask locals about any more news, but they laugh at his story of Martians, which angers him (and confirms his isolation from others!). Reaching home, the narrator warns his wife, who is worried about their coming there.

2. Why does the narrator think the Martians are not a serious threat? What factors does he admit he has not taken into account?

The narrator says they won't because they can't travel around easily. Also, he says, earth's gravity (three times that of Mars) will impede the Martians' progress, since the Martians will weigh three times what they weigh on Mars. The narrator says, however, that he overlooked two things: the increased oxygen in the earth's atmosphere, which

energizes the Martians, and the fact that the Martians have enough scientific knowledge not to be dependent upon their muscles to move themselves around.

3. Explain the meaning of this statement: ““So some respectable dodo in the Mauritius might have lorded it in his nest, and discussed the arrival of that shipful of pitiless sailors in want of animal food. ‘We will peck them to death tomorrow, my dear.’”

This statement compares the now-extinct dodo’s imaginary conversation with his fellow dodos about running off sailors arriving to their island to overconfidence in himself about man’s chances in easily shooing away the Martians.

4. What sounds are heard from the pit? Why? What is seen in the skies again?

Hammering sounds, as the Martians are building machinery. Another cylinder is seen falling from the sky.

5. What are the military’s plans? Why does the narrator leave town suddenly?

A neighbor tells the narrator the soldiers won’t kill the Martians unless necessary. The narrator discusses the Martians with military engineers, who suggest ways of killing them. Attempts are made to communicate with the Martians without success. The army attempts to destroy the second cylinder, but can’t.

The narrator is startled by close-range destruction of the heat ray, and secures a dog cart to take items from his home.

6. How is the countryside away from the Martians described yet again by the narrator?

Again, the countryside away from the Martians is “peaceful and still.”

7. Describe the tripod-like object the narrator sees. Where does he go to hide?

The narrator sees the third cylinder fall to the earth close to town. He then sees a huge metallic tripod-shaped object, taller than several houses, then another, until he drives into water avoiding the second one. He finds the man who rented him the dog cart dead on the ground. The narrator goes back to his house.

Week 8, Day 3 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 1, Chapters 11-13

1. What does the narrator learn from the artilleryman? Describe their journey.

The artilleryman says the Martians “wiped us out,” and he barely escaped the attack and saw the Martians killing others and destroying everything in its path.

The narrator plans to go to Leatherhead indirectly, so he won’t be in danger from the third cylinder. The artilleryman goes with him, and they meet several soldiers, but very few living persons.

2. Describe the still-confused and disoriented crowds. What does the narrator do to escape the heat ray? What gives him and the others hope?

Soldiers are evacuating citizens, many of whom still don’t seem to understand the danger they’re in; they treat the Sunday like a party or fun excursion. The crowd of fugitives hears a battle, then sees five armored Martians coming. He dives into the water for protection (as do the others), and sees one Martian hit by gunfire and killed. The noise and confusion is deafening and overpowering.

3. What makes the situation look dire for Earth? What about the author’s worldview is revealed by the conversation between the narrator and the curate?

New cylinders arrive every day from Mars, which is discouraging and makes the battle seem hopeless.

The curate encounters the narrator, has no water to give, and asks him, "What do these things mean?" He seems to have lost his reason, and the narrator has his. This might reflect a belief of the author's that religion has little to offer when danger and discouragement come—at least not as much hope as science offers mankind.

Week 9, Days 1-2 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 1, Chapters 14-17

1. How is the story affected by including an account of events told from the perspective of the narrator's brother?

It gives the reader another viewpoint, and makes it a little clearer as to what happens during the battles. It also gives it more realism, filling in details that were not available to the narrator from his position.

2. How does the overall attitude of Londoners toward the threat of the Martians change?

There are little important details in the newspapers—even the fact that trains are disrupted isn't attributed to the Martians—and Londoners seem strangely unconcerned on the whole. The newspapers finally reveal the danger of the Martians' size and strength and firepower, people move to get out quickly, especially after the warning alarms in the middle of the night.

3. What are the black tubes carried by the Martians? How do they affect the people's reaction to differently than the heat ray?

They are poisonous gas canisters; they are in many ways deadlier than the heat ray, because they spread out and kill anyone who breathes the gas. The people must flee this gas or be certainly killed, as the gas slowly spreads out near the ground.

4. What is the journey out of London like? How do the people leaving London come across, as opposed to the Martians?

London is in a panic. People pour out of the city in a mad rush, knocking others over, even killing one man, in one big push. The narrator saves a woman and her sister-in-law from thugs trying to steal her carriage; the procession is dirty, ill-dressed, confused, and animalistic. The Martians look like higher beings, with their advanced mode of transportation and weapons, compared to the people of London.

5. Sum up the narrator's brother's experiences in the boat he which hires to take him away.

The narrator's brother presses eastward, and the fifth, sixth, and seventh cylinders are seen to fall to earth. He reaches the sea with the two women, and sees many ships and vessels on the shore. Mrs. Elphinstone is growing hysterical. They pay to board a ship, which leaves as gunfire is heard. The group sees several Martians coming, as if to block their escape to sea. But Thunder Child, an iron-fortified vessel, takes down two Martians. Smoke blocks the third Martian from seeing the narrator's brother's ship, and the ship escapes. The captain points up, and the people see a flat, broad, large object fly up into the sky.

Week 9, Day 3 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 2, Chapters 1-2

1. Sum up the predicament of the narrator and the curate. What happens when they venture out?

The narrator and the curate are still hiding in the empty house, the narrator worrying about his wife. The curate acts selfishly and irritates the narrator, so he avoids him.

The narrator leaves the house with the curate to go to Leatherhead, who at first doesn't want to come, and encounters dead bodies and destruction. They are almost spotted by a Martian, but hide in a shed. They see the Martian pick up three persons and put them into his metal carrier.

2. Explain what happens to the house they are in.

The two men enter houses and take water, a hatchet, and food. Suddenly a blinding light flashes, breaking up the house and injuring the narrator. The fifth cylinder has landed on the house, burying the two men and resulting in a Martian guard outside the door. The men lie quietly until the narrator needs food, and the two crawl to the scullery.

3. How does the narrator describe the Martians' physical appearance?

They have round heads about four feet in diameter, dark eyes, a beak, and 16 tentacles, which are unable to support themselves. They have a brain, lungs, and a heart, with no digestive organs.

4. Sum up the Martians' feeding procedure and reproduction.

They "eat" by piping the blood of victims into their own veins. The narrator remarks that this is more highly developed, since he believes humans' bodies are taken up by wasteful organs because we have to eat and turn food into energy, which often saps our strength and dims our moods. Martians are born attached to their parents like lily bulbs. Ain't evolution wonderful?

5. What about plant life and microorganisms is different on Mars?

To Martians, microorganisms that cause disease are unknown. The Martians' plant life is dominantly red instead of green, as is on our planet. They brought the "red weed" and were able to grow it on earth.

6. List some other unusual characteristics about the Martians.

The Martians seek out humans to "eat," since they closely resemble their own food source, which they brought on their ships. They do not sleep, constantly keeping in motion. Martians make no sounds except for "hooting" before feeding, which might be to expel air before eating. The narrator believes the Martians communicated telepathically. The Martians, he says, have evolved into brainy beings, even with no invention like our wheel.

Week 10, Day 1 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 2, Chapters 3-5

1. Why is the narrator frustrated with the curate?

The narrator is frustrated with the curate, who cries, eats too much, and behaves childishly, and he even comes to blows with him.

2. What does the narrator see the Martians doing?

He watches the Martians build more machinery and manufacture many aluminum bars from clay, and he sees them kill and "eat" a man in the pit.

3. What dangers does the curate pose for the narrator (and himself as well, of course)? How does the narrator say the curate actually is a benefit to him?

The curate foolishly tries to eat and drink too much, and the narrator has to guard the food to make it last longer. The curate goes mad slowly, which, the narrator says, kept himself sane by warning him. The curate speaks loudly, scaring the narrator (who thinks it will draw the Martians).

4. How does the author build tension in the scene after the narrator hits the curate?

The curate noisily walks toward the opening, the narrator knocks him unconscious with a cleaver to quiet him, and the Martian takes the curate. The Martian puts a tentacle in the house, feeling around, even opening a door, and narrowly misses finding the narrator, who prays frantically. The author builds tension by slowly describing the Martian's deliberate actions—even touching the boot of the narrator!

5. What makes the narrator finally leave the house? What does he see outside?

The narrator finds water and drinks it, having heard no noises outside for some time. He sees red weed growing, meets a dog in the house, and finds the pit empty of Martians and machinery. Climbing out, he sees smashed houses, much cactus-shaped red weed, but no people. He is relieved to be free to move around and breathe fresh air.

Week 10, Day 2 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 2, Chapters 6-7

1. What are the narrator's two main goals?

He determines to (a) find food, and (b) get out of the dangerous area by the pit.

2. Give some details about the red weed that the narrator sees.

Red weed is growing profusely in the area. The narrator relates how the red weed disappeared rapidly, killed by bacteria. (The reader will recall from a previous chapter that bacterial microorganisms that cause disease are unknown on Mars.)

3. What three topics does the narrator think seriously about?

He spends the night in an inn, and takes time to think rationally about his predicament. He struggles with his thoughts about the curate's death, where the Martians are, and the fate of his wife.

4. Why does the artilleryman believe the Martians can't ever be stopped? What are his grim predictions?

The artilleryman hasn't seen Martians for five days, but believes they are learning to fly. This sobers both men, who believe the Martians can't be stopped, and will end humanity, because even without flight, they defeated the "greatest power in the world" with the loss of only one of their warriors. The soldier says that the Martians will soon be rounding up and harvesting people for food. He says the Martians are simply building their machinery up to be able to do this when the time comes, which is why they haven't bothered to attack for several days.

5. Sum up the soldier's plans to survive. Why does he rail against the average person who succumbs to the Martian's attack?

The soldier resolutely says he will survive and not be turned into food. He means to be tough and ruthless to survive. He also plans to go live underground and find others of his resolution and toughness to live as a community. He wants to multiply the race and learn from science and spy on the Martians to learn from them. He says the survivors must stay out the way of the Martians to survive, so the Martians will know the humans don't mean to bother them. One day he believes the humans will learn enough to operate the fighting machines and heat rays and turn them against the Martians.

The soldier rails against typical nine-to-five workers, living what he considers are useless and complacent lives during the week, topped off by going to church because they're afraid of life after death. The soldier says they will be perfect for the Martians, and they'll even be used to their cages used to fatten them up for food; he also believes humans will be turned into pets and even trained to hunt other humans by the Martians.

6. What does the narrator ponder while playing cards with the soldier? What does he resolve to do?

The narrator and the soldier take a break and play cards, and the narrator muses on how the mind of man can play games in the midst of such danger and gravity. The narrator reflects on his game-playing and is disgusted with his excess, feeling it to be foolish when he thinks about the fate of his wife and humanity. He resolves to go to London to learn more about the Martians.

Week 10, Day 3 – *The War of the Worlds* – Book 2, Chapters 8-10

1. Describe the sights the narrator sees in London.

The narrator travels to London and sees much red weed dying from disease. He sees many dead persons covered by black dust (apparently from the poisonous gases). The stillness in London is disturbing—a stillness of waiting, of expectation.

2. What is the source and reason for the howling sounds? How does the narrator respond to what he sees?

It is a Martian. He comes upon a fallen handling-machine, and inside is part of a Martian, which has been mostly eaten by dogs. Later he sees another motionless Martian, and a third. He resolves to die at the hand of that Martian

and runs to it, but sees birds gathering around it and eating a dead Martian. He realizes that the Martians have died from bacteria, like the mass of dead red weed.

The narrator looks at the destruction of London, the city he loves, and envisions its rebuilding, envisioning how much better it will look in a year. He raises his hands in the sky and thanks God. He thinks sadly that his life with his wife is over forever.

3. Explain the aftermath of the narrator's discovery and his own journey back to Leatherhead.

The news of the Martians' deaths had been telegraphed before the narrator discovered them, and the world rejoices. Food is shipped en masse to relieve hungry Englishers. The narrator has no memory of this, because he loses his senses for several days and is brought in by kindly people who find him wandering around and raving. They inform him that Leatherhead was totally destroyed, with no survivors, by a Martian. The narrator returns to his hometown to see the destruction, and many of the people are dirty and haggard. He buys a newspaper and learns that the Martians had, indeed, learned "the secret of flying."

People hover over the pit containing the sixth cylinder, and a British flag flies defiantly over it. The narrator goes to where he saw the Martian, looking at the remains of that struggle. He discovers his house empty, in a state of ruin, and still containing the writing he was working on when the first cylinder was discovered. Then he discovers his wife! She says she came back because she "knew" to, then faints in his arms.

4. What explanations are given in Chapter 10? What is the narrator concerned about? What does he say the peoples of earth have learned from the Martian attacks?

The Martians are examined, and only earth-originating bacteria are found on them. The black smoke and heat ray are unexplained. One almost complete Martian specimen is being held in the Natural History Museum.

The narrator believes that not enough attention is being given to the possibility of another Martian attack. He says that our people should consider direct attacks upon the cylinders or upon the Martians when they first emerge from them. He believes there is evidence that Mars has landed on Venus.

The narrator states that from the Martian attack that peoples on earth have learned that (a) Earth is not perfectly secure, (b) there might be dangers from other aliens, (c) it has humbled us, slowing a turn toward "decadence," (d) given man scientific knowledge, and (e) promoted unity among peoples.

5. What does the narrator predict about the sun and Venus?

The narrator believes that one day the sun will cool to a point of uselessness to our planet, and that the peoples of earth might have to inhabit Venus too.

6. Describe the contrast of emotions the narrator undergoes after his ordeal with the Martians.

He still has haunting dreams and visions of the death and destruction he saw, but is comforted by having his wife by his side when both thought the other was dead.

Week 11, Day 1 – "An Act of God"

1. Why do you think Uncle Abner studies and seems deep in thought about the *girl* and not the mountebank at the story's opening?

He recognizes that the "gypsy girl" looks like either the mountebank, or Blackford, or both men, thinking what this could mean.

2. What change comes over the mountebank's face when Uncle Abner goes to see him in his wagon? What does this change indicate?

The mountebank goes from looking “dull and stupid” to “keen and bright,” indicating that he was pretending to be clueless and clumsy when he killed Blackford, but actually is an intelligent man who plotted Blackford’s death.

3. What clues does Abner reveal to the mountebank? What does the mountebank reveal to Abner?

Abner tells him the murder knife that killed Blackford was the only sharpened one; the gypsy girl is Blackford’s daughter; the letter from Blackford to Rufus (Abner’s brother) was not written by Blackford. The mountebank admits that Blackford is the girl’s father (and the mountebank’s daughter was her mother) and that he deliberately killed Blackford. He also says that Blackford wooed the mountebank’s daughter, and that the law would have left her penniless, with a child, which was unjust. He wanted to kill Blackford openly, but feared he would leave his granddaughter alone after he was hanged for the murder, so he arranged to do it so it looked accidental. Also, he has arranged for Blackford to leave his daughter (the mountebank’s granddaughter) her rightful inheritance.

4. How does Uncle figure out the incident of the letter and the handwriting?

That is was not written by Blackford, a deaf-mute who would not misspell words based on their phonetic sounds, but instead by the similarity to letters that resemble each other.

5. Uncle Abner calls floods, earthquakes, and tornadoes “acts of the devil,” but the story’s central event “an act of God.” Is he correct? Why or why not?

Answers will vary, but certainly not every act that seemingly rights a wrong or punishes an evil person is an act of God. Christians are forbidden to seek vengeance, and are told to return good for evil. If we believed like Uncle Abner says, everything any man did generally regarded as just would be excused and encouraged! To call the deliberate murder of a man, foul as he might be, “an act of God,” contradicts the whole of Christian teaching. Besides, just because a man treats his wife and child badly doesn’t mean anyone has the right to murder him!

Week 11, Day 2 – “How the Widow Won the Deacon”

1. How does the author reveal information about Widow Stimson and Deacon Hawkins? How would it have worked in comparison had their background been told in a story form by an omniscient third-person narrator?

The backgrounds of the Widow Stimson and Deacon Hawkins are revealed by a group of ladies at a sewing club. If this information had been simply told by the narrator, it might not have been as interesting, since we get to hear the ladies’ own interest and concerns through their own words.

2. How does the Widow Stimson’s mood appear as she tells the sewing society she can’t stay because she’s riding with Deacon Hawkins?

She sounds excited to be going, although she controls her emotions, and runs off “like a lively schoolgirl.”

3. Why does Deacon Hawkins tell the Widow Stimson he wants to take her out for a ride?

He wants her to judge a horse he has bought, hoping she will confirm that it is good enough to beat in a race with Squire Hopkins, whom Deacon Hawkins has lost to repeatedly over the years.

4. How does the Widow Stimson prove her worth to the deacon more than he hoped? What does her act represent? In light of this, do you think the story’s first sentence is true?

During a race with Squire Hopkins that Deacon Hawkins is losing, she hurls herself out of the carriage into a snowbank, lightening Deacon Hawkins’s horse’s load, so he has a better chance to win.

This act symbolically represents (a) the widow’s support of Deacon Hawkins in wanting to help him achieve his goal (which to a bachelor looks a good quality for a prospective wife!) and (b) the realization of Deacon Hawkins that a union between himself and the Widow Stimson will not “weigh him down,” and will be good for him.

Answers will vary on whether students still agree with the first sentence, but it seems like the Widow Stimson did try to win the deacon!

5. Give some examples of humor in the story.

The ladies sewing club members hush themselves quickly when the Widow Stimson comes in late, since they are talking about her; the Widow Stimson resolves never to speak to Squire Hopkins or his wife after he races the deacon when the widow weighs down the carriage; the whole act of Widow Stimson to throw herself out of the carriage; the fact that Deacon Hopkins doesn't even realize she's gone until the race is over; and the sewing society sisters' saying twice about Widow Hopkins that "she must be getting mighty anxious" to get married.

Week 11, Day 3 – “To Build a Fire”

1. Sum up how the author provides the setting and the man's demeanor with the first paragraph.

London describes the day and weather and trail as “cold,” “gray,” “dim,” “little-travelled,” and “dark.” Even in the face of this, the man is not worried, which gives slight concern to the reader, even from the beginning.

2. What is the mentality of the traveling man? How does this differ from the dog's instinct?

Logical, not excitable, “not given much to thinking,” and somewhat lacking a sense of urgency about potential dangers. He regards the extreme cold, for example, not as dangerous, but as something that must be dealt with. The dog, on the other hand, realizes that this extreme cold is not suitable for traveling, and acts discouraged and distressed during the trip.

3. List several concrete examples that demonstrate how incredibly cold it is.

The man spits, and it freezes before it hits the ground; he has to hold his lunch next to his skin to keep it from freezing; his fingers almost immediately go numb if he takes his mittens off; and so on.

4. What changes the man's mindset in regard to the cold? When is he first “keenly aware of his danger”?

The man's awareness of the possibility of danger begins when he takes out his lunch and his hands go immediately numb, and his toes go numb when he sits down to eat. He is “keenly aware of his danger” after he wets his feet after stepping into a creek.

5. What causes the man to fail at his attempts to build the needed fire?

He builds one under a tree, and snow falls from it, putting out his fire; the cold numbs his hands, so he can't use them properly to light a match; when he manages to light a match with his teeth, the smoke goes up his nose, making him cough and put out the fire.

6. What style and tone does Jack London use to tell this story? How does his style and tone compare to nature itself that the man struggles against?

London's style is matter-of-fact and rather cold; he simply tells what happens casually, without fanfare. This indifferent tone mirrors the indifference of nature to the plight of the man who freezes to death.

7. How does the man's relationship to the dog reflect the man's relationship to nature?

The man looks down on the dog, as he (the man) is its master, not giving it much thought. London says at one point after the dog realizes there is danger: “there was no keen intimacy between the dog and the man...so the dog made no effort to communicate its apprehension to the man.”

This is similar to the cold, unfeeling quality of nature, which—as an impersonal force—does not regard the survival of man as any importance. At the story's end, the man tries to kill the dog to ensure his survival, but fails, which recalls his basic struggle in the story—to overcome nature during his walk, which also fails.

8. What does Jack London seem to be saying in “To Build a Fire”? Compare his worldview of nature as portrayed in “To Build a Fire” with the God of the Bible. (See for example Psalm 40:5, Psalm 103:8, John 3:14-17, Romans 8:35-39, James 5:10-11, 1 Peter 5:6-7, and 2 Peter 3:9.)

London seems to be saying that nature is an unmatched, heartless force that cares nothing about mankind. His view of life as having been created by an impersonal, unfeeling nature (he was a strong Darwinist/evolutionist) contrasts strongly with the Christian view of a personal God who...

- *can't even number the thoughts toward those who trust in Him (Psalm 40:5),*
- *is merciful, gracious, and slow to anger (Psalm 103:8),*
- *loves the world so much he sent Jesus to die for our sins (John 3:14-17),*
- *will allow nothing to separate Christians from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35-39),*
- *is filled with pity and tenderness toward mankind (James 5:10-11)*
- *cares for those who trust Him, and wants us to cast our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:6-7), and*
- *is patient, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).*

What a difference!

Week 12, Day 1 – “The Nice People”

1. When you first read it, what do you make of the misunderstanding of the number of children at the story's opening? What other misunderstandings and story variances are there? How does it become clear what has happened later in the story?

The reader wonders who is right about what the narrator and his wife have heard from Mr. and Mrs. Brede, whose stories don't match (the number of children they have, who is minding the children while the couple vacations, how Mr. Brede came to climb the Matterhorn without his wife knowing about it, not knowing if their children have had the measles, the whereabouts of the marriage license). But at the end, the reader understands that the couple was just making up stories so they would not be suspected and treated as newlyweds.

2. What does writing this story in the first person accomplish?

It makes it more humorous, since the reader gets into the mind of the narrator and “hears” directly what he thinks about various odd things that happen, and what he thinks about the things his wife says to him.

3. Who are Mrs. Tabb and Miss Hoogencamp? What do you make of their names?

Two “middle-aged gossips,” as the narrator puts it. Mrs. Tabb is apparently a nosy person, “keeping tabs” on everyone at the resort, and Miss Hoogencamp's name is so ridiculous that the reader pictures her as the same.

4. Why does the entire company at the resort start to avoid and condemn the Bredes? What does Mr. Jacobus ask the Bredes for? How do they Bredes react?

It is clear after a day or two that their stories don't add up, and everyone suspects them of treachery. Mr. Jacobus wants to make sure they are married while staying under his roof, and Mr. Brede indignantly demands the bill so they can leave. Mrs. Brede goes off and cries.

5. What incident as the Bredes are packing to leave gives them away?

Mrs. Brede opens her umbrella, and a cascade of rice falls out, revealing the couple to be newlyweds.

Week 12, Day 2 – “The Private History of a Campaign That Failed”

1. What is Twain’s position on the “value” of the story both at the beginning and end?

That it has value—maybe not as much as stories of “heroes” of the war—but since it tells about doings of a good deal of young men during the war, it should be told.

2. How does Mark Twain’s personal example of his friend show the way that war scrambles the rationality of many who experience it? Can you give another example of this phenomenon?

Mark Twain’s friend is a New Yorker and angry at him because Twain’s father owns one slave; then his friend becomes a “rebel” and is angry at Twain because Twain’s father wanted to free his slave; then his friend becomes a Union soldier and refuses to pay a debt he owes Twain, even though up to then he had been a morally upright man.

Answers will vary on the second question.

3. Describe the Marion Rangers? How do they view the war at first? What soon happens to upset this view?

They are a group of rag-tag young men, goofy, not disciplined, rowdy, and irresponsible, although pleasant enough, for the most part. They march around pretending to be soldiers, viewing the war as a fun vacation, until they hear about a group of Union soldiers in the area, and run off like scared rabbits.

4. Give several examples of humorous occurrences and statements in the story.

Answers will vary, but here are a few examples:

- *Dunlap changes his name into something he thinks sounds more elite.*
- *The Marion Rangers wander around like idiots, not knowing what to do.*
- *When the Rangers hear a rumor about Union soldiers, the author says, “We were equal to the occasion. In our response there was no hesitation, no indecision. We said that if Lyman wanted to meddle with those soldiers he could go ahead and do it, but if he waited for us to follow him he would wait a long time.”*
- *The Rangers’ first “military movement” is nothing more than marching around a farmhouse.*
- *The horses the young men ride throw them, bite their legs, and run under low-branched trees, knocking them out.*
- *Two of the Rangers argue about whose rank is greater, and since no one knows, they’re made equal.*
- *The Rangers fall into a river on top of each other while trying to retreat.*
- *Thinking they hear the enemy coming, the Rangers “heard a sound and held our breath and listened, and it seemed to be the enemy coming, though it could have been a cow.”*
- *A dog latches on to the backside of Bowers and won’t let go until scalding water is thrown on the dog, which burns Bowers; and Stevens devises a kind of overall that lets Bowers show his “battle scars.”*

5. Why do you think the author uses so many long, rambling sentences to tell his story?

It sounds more authentic; it makes the story sound as if it were being told by a participant.

6. How does the killing of the man deeply affect the author? What point does he make about war after it happens?

It makes him hate the war and what he has done. He points out that war is really senseless, since it involves the murder of others whom you would otherwise help and be friends with, but don’t, simply because the government tells you they’re the “enemy.”

Week 12, Day 3 – “The Adventure of the Empty House”

1. How does Watson try to imitate Sherlock Holmes’s methods after Holmes’s death?

He tries to solve mysteries using logical deduction, but is not successful.

2. Describe the old book collector Watson encounters. What does Watson learn in talking to him after he comes up to Watson’s apartment?

The old book collector is Holmes in disguise! After he reveals himself, Holmes tells Watson how he escaped from the falls, and explains that he is there to capture the man who tried to kill him on the ledge of the falls, who is the same man who killed Ronald Adair.

3. What kind of man is Colonel Moran?

A large, powerful, masculine man who is England's greatest shooter and hunter, and an evil criminal who is willing to work for Moriarty and murder, if called upon to do so.

4. How is the empty house used to bring about justice? In what way is the empty house even more useful than hoped for?

Holmes wants to catch Moran trying to "kill" him by shooting at his effigy, but he doesn't realize that Moran will come into the very same empty house in which he and Watson are hiding.

5. What is the connection between the house and the death of Ronald Adair?

Moran apparently killed Adair to keep him from ousting him from the club for cheating at cards, which is how he lived.

6. To what is the perpetrator of the crime compared to near the story's end? Why is this ironic? What is the criminal's motive?

He is compared to a tiger in Holmes's "tree" (the empty house), which is ironic, since Moran was known as a tremendously successful big-game hunter of animals, including tigers, and used traps to lure tigers, just as Holmes lured him into a trap using the dummy of himself.

7. What evidence in the story suggests that Doyle held to an evolutionist point of view when it came to the problem of evil in mankind?

Moran, says Holmes, is a biological oddity, like a tree that grew wrongly, which is what gave him such a criminally evil mind. He speaks of Moran as more of an animal, or evolutionary mutation, that had to be dealt with than a fully conscious moral agent who behaved as an evil person.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Describe the Ghost of Christmas Past.

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

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

He sees himself as a boy, deserted in a building, and weeps, watching himself reading books to escape into different worlds.

He then sees himself a little older, and his sister Fan (his nephew Fred's mother) says their father has changed and wants him to live with them; they pack and leave the boarding school. (It is Christmastime again.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To demonstrate how others all around the world celebrate Christmas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Describe Scrooge's Christmas Day.

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

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

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

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

Week 15, Day 1 – "Papa Panov's Special Christmas"

1. Leo Tolstoy enlivens "Papa Panov's Special Christmas" with specific nouns and verbs. List some of these.

Answers will vary.

2. How do Bible passages like Psalm 146:5-9, Isaiah 1:16-17, Matthew 25:31-46, and James 2:14-17 relate to this story?

They all refer to God's love for the poor and oppressed, like Papa Panov's love for them. God cares for orphans and widows and blesses those who feed the hungry and help the oppressed (Psalm 146:5-9, Isaiah 1:16-17); Jesus rewards those who feed the hungry, help the sick, visit the prisoners, gave drink to the thirsty, and clothe the naked (Matthew 25:31-46), and this is the main passage referred to in "Papa Panov's Special Christmas"; James 2:14-17 instructs Christians that their works should include meeting the physical needs of others, to show our faith is genuine.

3. What makes Papa Panov's actions so praiseworthy?

He gives to the needy, even when he is trying to save his giving until Jesus comes to him. He acts simply and generously, with no expectation of reward.

4. Papa Panov's work was for Jesus; what does Jesus say a person must do to do "the work of God" in John 6:27-29?

Jesus says in John 6:27-29 that the work of God is to "believe on him [Jesus] whom he [God] hath sent." Christmas is a great time to put your faith in Jesus Christ and believe on him for salvation!

Week 15, Day 2 – "A Defender of the Faith"

1. How does Dunbar use the first paragraph of "A Defender of the Faith" to (a) set up the story, and (b) personalize it, so the reader is interested in what will happen next?

(a) He tells where the story is happening, that it is near Christmas, and that the inhabitants of "D" Street are by and large hopeless and poverty-stricken.

(b) He personalizes the story by making the reader wonder what, exactly, is the "very animated discussion" going on

at the specific location on “D” Street.

2. Why is Tom called an “old man of ten years”? What does he preach to the other boys and girls?

He is a boy wise for his age, with a paper route, who has seen and heard many things; he tells the other children there is no Santa Claus.

3. Why doesn't Arabella write her story immediately after she overhears all she needs for it?

She is too affected by the faith and innocence of the children she has overheard, and decides instead to take the money she was saving for new boots and buy presents for them, and a dress for the mother.

Week 15, Day 3 – “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

1. What does Holmes deduce from the hat he finds? Were you able to deduce anything from the hat's description before his explanations?

Among other things, the man is intelligent (the hat size is large, and so is, presumably, the man's brain), he was previously well off, but his fortunes have declined (the hat was fashionable when it was bought, but has deteriorated without being replaced), he still has self-respect (he covers stains on the hat with ink), he is middle aged and recently had a haircut (clean-cut gray hairs found), he is not in good shape (perspiration marks found in the hat), and his wife does not love him any more (the hat has not been brushed of dust for weeks), and he has not had gas for heat (several candle tallow stains are found).

2. Sum up the circumstances of the carbuncle's loss. What interesting comments about precious stones in general does Holmes make?

It was lost after John Horner was called to fix a grate, and suspicion fell upon him. Holmes remarks that precious stones are beautiful, but are “responsible” for evil—murders, robberies, suicides, hangings, prison sentences—since men crave them so much.

3. How does Holmes test Mr. Baker? How does Baker “pass”?

Holmes says they have eaten the bird, but still have the leftover parts. If Baker had stuffed the carbuncle down the bird's throat, he would have wanted those parts, but he doesn't care, as long as he has another bird to replace it, so he knows nothing about the stone.

4. Sum up Holmes's method of finding out where the bird came from.

He traces it to where it was sold by a salesman, then tricks him into showing him where he (the salesman) bought it by pretending to bet it came from the city, not the country.

5. Why does Holmes release James Ryder as he did? What reasons does he give for doing so?

Holmes releases Ryder because he thinks it will do him worse to go to prison, and that Ryder is truly too scared ever to run afoul of the law again. Answers will vary on whether students believe he was right to do so.

6. Do you think it would reflect the Christmas spirit for an instructor to do something similar to Holmes's act—say, to release students from having to take a quiz covering their Week 15 Christmas-themed readings?

Answers will probably NOT vary....

Week 15, Day 4 – “Aunt Cyrilla's Christmas Basket”

1. Sum up how Lucy Rose's feelings about the basket progress during the story.

She thinks it's silly at first at too countrified and old-fashioned, and doesn't want her aunt to take it with them because it embarrasses her, but by the story's end Lucy Rose wants to carry it herself, meaning she has learned its value.

2. When Aunt Cyrilla puts herself and the basket on the train, she “looked beamingly around her at her fellow travelers.” What does this show about her? What could the term “fellow travelers” also represent, more than just train travelers?

This shows Aunt Cyrilla's genuine love and concern for those around her, and her interest in their lives. “Fellow travelers” can also mean in this sense “fellow travelers in life itself.”

3. What do you think the basket represents?

Answers will vary, but many students might say something like “love for others.”

4. Can you think of something your parents did which embarrassed you at the time—something about which you can look back on now and feel foolish that you were embarrassed? Or, is there a similar situation in the present that you think you should trust your parents' judgment on until you're a little older?

Answers will vary!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 16, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter III

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 16, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter IV

1. Why does Robinson Crusoe return to the ship?

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

2. Describe the island.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See book for side-by-side comparison.

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

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

Week 16, Day 4 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter V

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. How does his wall doubly provide security?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fasting, praying, and thanking God for his deliverance.

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

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

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

Week 17, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter VIII

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 17, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter IX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 17, Day 4 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter X

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He sees the footprint again and realizes it can't be his, because it is in a different spot where he got out of his boat, and it is considerably larger than his. This terrifies him, and he resolves to tear down some of his enclosures and corn fields so no one will realize a human lives here and therefore won't look for him. Later he thinks calmly, reasoning that although there are other humans who might live somewhat nearby, it is very unlikely that anyone will ever come back. He fortifies his home, however, with an outer wall with holes in which to stick guns pointing out, which takes several months, and a thick grove of trees, which further covers his home over the next few years.

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

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

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

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

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

Week 18, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XIII

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One day he hears a ship's cannon fire offshore and keeps a fire going all night to attract their attention. He wonders what is going on when the ship doesn't come to shore, fearing that they cannot reach it, or possibly that all those onboard were drowned, and longs more greatly than ever in his life for human companionship, wishing that if only one person were saved, he would be happy. He never knows what became of all those on board except for a boy, whose body he finds on shore.

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

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

Week 18, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XIV

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

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

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

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

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

3. Describe Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

Week 18, Day 3 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They talk about sailing to Friday's tribe, and Friday is upset at his telling him he will leave him with his people. He tells Robinson Crusoe that that he wants to stay with him and not return to his tribe forever, and that Robinson Crusoe can help tell his tribe about Jesus like he did to Friday. Over the several months, they cut down a large tree (nearer the shore this time), make a boat and sails, and get it down to the water. He ends his 27th year with the same ceremony, thanking God and praying for deliverance, although still working on his food supply.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 19, Day 2 – Robinson Crusoe – Chapter XVIII

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. What does he find out regarding his plantations?

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

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

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

5. What happens on his land travels?

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

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

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

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

behind felled trees and fire upon the creatures, and set off gunpowder, which kills many wolves and sends the rest into retreat.

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

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

3. Sum up the story's conclusion.

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

Week 20, Day 1 – *The Invisible Man* – Chapters 1-5

1. Describe the characters of Mrs. Hall and the stranger. What irritates her about him?

Mrs. Hall is a fairly hard worker, conscientious, and inquisitive about the lodger (as most anyone would be). The stranger is covered from head to toe, keeps to himself, pays his bills, and is prone to occasional outbursts of anger. Mrs. Hall figures he's been in an accident and been disfigured. She is irritated because he brushes her questions aside and will not open his room up to her prying.

2. What does Mrs. Hall think she sees when she enters the man's room? How does Mr. Henfrey play into this? Why does Mr. Hall tell his wife to look at the lodger's luggage?

Mrs. Hall thinks he sees the lodger with a giant mouth that covers the entire lower part of his face, but puts it to seeing shadows. Mr. Henfrey, the clock repairman, tries to engage the man in conversation, but fails, and he is irritated. He tells Mr. Hall that a strange man is staying at their hotel, and that he might be trouble. Hall goes to investigate, and tells his wife to look closely at the man's luggage as it arrives, for clues as to what he is doing in his room.

3. Describe the stranger's supplies that arrive. What do the Halls hear upstairs in his room? How does the stranger promise to make it right?

Boxes, crates, books, bottles—and the cart owner's dog bites the man, who rushes up to his room. Hall goes to check on him, sees what looks like an arm with no hand, and is roughly pushed out of the room. The man unpacks many multi-colored and differently shaped bottles, which are filled with various fluids and powders. He promises to pay for any damages he causes, which he is heard causing by various outbursts and smashed glass.

4. Why do the Halls continue to tolerate the lodger? Describe his habits.

The Halls tolerate the man for a few months because he pays well. He does not go out, works in bursts or fits, with fits of inactivity, and has outbursts of anger and frustration. The man rarely goes out, except for at twilight, and always wrapped up, even on warm evenings, and only at the least-traveled paths.

5. What do the townspeople think of the lodger? Describe Dr. Cuss's encounter with him.

He becomes the talk of the town, and everyone offers theories on his identity and reasons for living as he does. Henfrey says he is a criminal trying to escape detection, but no crime was committed immediately prior to his moving to the Halls' hotel. People don't like him because he is so irritable and secretive. The town doctor, Dr. Cuss, is intrigued by his bandages and bottles; he finds that Mrs. Hall doesn't even know the man's name. He visits the man, comes out shaken, and visits the vicar and asks him if he thinks he's crazy. He asks the man, who is sniffing from a cold, what he

is researching. Cuss sees the man's arm as empty as he reaches to grab a prescription, and he asks why there is an empty sleeve. The man comes close to his face and with his empty sleeve, tweaks Cuss's nose with no visible hand.

6. Sum up the events in the vicarage and the beer cellar.

The vicarage has been robbed, and the vicar and his wife hear someone in their house fumbling, walking, and sneezing. They cannot see the robber, and they see the back door open, but no one leaving. Mr. Hall finds that his beer cellar has been broken into, and connects it to the robbery of the vicarage. He enters the stranger's room, finds it empty, and finds the stranger's only clothes in the room. Mrs. Hall joins him, and they see the stranger's clothes flying around the room, along with other objects.

Week 20, Day 2 – The Invisible Man – Chapters 6-10

1. How do the Halls explain the strange occurrences? What might the author be saying by their explanation?

They take the occurrences for evil spirits, and several townspeople go up to see. The stranger surprises them by opening the door first, and the group wonders what is going on.

Wells, a noted atheist, might be poking fun at persons who take scientific occurrences (such as the man's invisibility) and ascribe religious meanings to them—painting Christians and other religious persons as silly or superstitious.

2. Describe the memorable scene after Mrs. Hall demands payment from the lodger.

Mr. Hall seeks the magistrate's advice after wondering if the stranger burgled the vicarage, and more violent outbursts are heard in the stranger's room. The stranger asks Mrs. Hall for food, but she demands payment, and he offers her gold, which she all but accuses him of stealing.

The stranger yells "Stop!" violently and begins taking off his bandages, nose, and glasses, revealing emptiness. This causes pandemonium, with 40 people rushing up to the inn and wildly shouting speculations. Mr. Hall, the magistrate, and a constable arrive with a search warrant and struggle to capture the stranger. The Invisible Man, as the author now calls him, wants to know why he's being hounded, and the constable says he's under arrest for burglary. The Invisible Man undresses and disappears, chokes Jaffers (the constable), and escapes.

3. What does the experience of Gibbons indicate?

The coughing and sneezing Gibbons hears indicates the presence of the invisible man in his area.

4. Describe Mr. Marvel. What is the only part of the Invisible Man that he can see? Sum up what the Invisible Man orders him to do.

Thomas Marvel: big-faced, with a big beard, fat, and not well dressed. He speaks about boots to an unseen stranger, and can't find him when he finally turns around; he thinks he's drunk or evil spirits. The Invisible Man convinces Marvel that he is real by throwing rocks at him, then grasping his wrist. Then he sees undigested bread and cheese in the Invisible Man's system.

The Invisible Man asks Marvel's help in obtaining food and clothes, saying he sees Marvel as a social outcast like himself. Marvel agrees, feeling threatened, especially when the Invisible Man warns him not to betray him or do anything contrary to what he orders.

5. What does Mr. Marvel steal, and why?

Marvel takes some books, and Mr. Huxter chases him, but is knocked to the ground by an unseen hand. The books are for the Invisible Man.

Week 20, Day 3 – The Invisible Man – Chapters 11-15

1. What do Dr. Cuss and Mr. Bunting find in the Invisible Man's room? Why does Marvel open the door?

They find a diary written in code. Suddenly the door opens, and Marvel looks in, and is told to leave. (He has let the Invisible Man into the room.)

2. From whose point of view is Chapter 12 told? List several incidents that demonstrate the Invisible Man's destructive nature.

The events as Mr. Hall and Mr. Henfrey hear them are told in Chapter 12 (the same events covered in Chapter 11). Mr. Cuss comes out dressed in sheets, having had his clothes taken from him (as has the vicar). The Invisible Man strikes and knocks down many around him. Mr. Bunting has to run home naked, rather than face the Invisible Man, who is coming for him. The Invisible Man turns destructive—breaking windows, cutting telegraph wire—and vanishes from the town.

3. What kinds of characters do Mr. Marvel and the Invisible Man show themselves to be?
Selfish, self-destructive, weak, only looking out for their own interests when possible.
4. Describe the conversation between Mr. Marvel and the mariner. What is the Invisible Man using Marvel for?

Marvel sits the next morning, listening to an old sailor telling him that the newspapers say there is an invisible man nearby. Marvel gets an idea, asking the mariner whether the Invisible Man is known to have any friends, which the mariner denies. Marvel starts to tell the mariner something, but is stopped by an unseen hand, and resolutely tells the mariner that it is all a hoax. The mariner walks away, but later hears many tales of bags and rolls of money traveling by themselves (which end up in Marvel's pockets), and he realizes he has been close to the Invisible Man. The Invisible Man is simply using Marvel to help him get what he wants—money, food, and his books.

5. Describe Dr. Kemp.

Dr. Kemp is a young medical man who believes he will earn a spot in the Royal Society because of the experiments he is working on.

Week 21, Day 1 – *The Invisible Man* – Chapters 16-19

1. Why does the Invisible Man try to kill Marvel? How does Marvel escape, at least temporarily?

The Invisible Man tries to kill Marvel because Marvel tried to get away. Marvel runs into a bar, screaming that the Invisible Man is chasing him. The barman locks the doors, and the window to the bar is smashed. The Invisible Man sneaks in anyway, and grabs Marvel. The men in the bar fight back, and he releases Marvel; one man takes five shots at the Invisible Man, telling the others to help him search for his body.

2. What happens in Dr. Kemp's home? What information do we learn about the Invisible Man?

Dr. Kemp hears the shots and wonders what's going on. The doorbell rings, but no one is there when the servant answers. Kemp finishes work late, sees a spot of blood on the floor, and then sees blood on his study doorknob. The Invisible Man speaks to Kemp; he has been shot, and has bandaged his wound. Kemp tries to get away, but the IM holds him.

The IM identifies himself as Griffin, a man who went to college with Kemp, and a near-albino with a gift for chemistry.

3. Discuss Dr. Kemp's thoughts about invisibility. What does he decide to do about the Invisible Man, and why?

Kemp ponders the possibility of invisibility, thinking of "invisible" animals of the animal kingdom. He reads newspaper accounts of the strange happenings concerning the IM, realizing he is crazy and a killer. He wonders what to do, starts writing a note to Colonel Adye, and is interrupted by the sounds of the IM awakening and angrily smashing a chair upstairs.

4. Sum up Griffin's story. What do you think that the scientific jargon in this section does for the story?

He is fascinated by light as a young man, vows to devote his life to its study, and finds a geometric formula for lowering the refractive property of substances so they are not able to be seen. Griffin says that glass, powdered, is more visible than a sheet. Kemp says, "But a man's not powdered glass!" and Griffin replies it's easier to make a man more transparent because he is made of transparent, colorless tissue.

Griffin says his mentor, Oliver, tried to steal credit for Griffin's ideas, but Griffin kept his work secret. Then Griffin discovered that blood could be made colorless and retain its functions. He worked for three years on the secret of invisibility, but found himself at a standstill because he lacked money to continue. Griffin robbed his father of money that wasn't his to give, and his father shot himself.

The scientific jargon in this section gives weight to the possibility of turning invisible, and makes the story seem not-so-fantastic, giving it some credibility.

Week 21, Day 2 – *The Invisible Man* – Chapters 20-23

1. Explain why Griffin tells Dr. Kemp that they must get the books from Mr. Marvel.

The secrets are hidden in code in books Mr. Marvel hid for him.

2. How does Griffin test the invisibility drug? What advantages does he think invisibility will offer him? What does he think about being invisible once he walks around London?

Griffin explains his first success—turning a piece of fabric invisible. He turns a cat—except for its eyes—invisible as well, a process that takes several hours. The cat runs off, is heard meowing, and Griffin's landlord complains, suspecting some illegal activity by Griffin, especially when he hears the engine vibrating. Griffin throws the landlord out, then becomes desperate, fearing his work will be interrupted and he will be discovered.

Griffin takes the "invisibility drug," and then his landlord serves him an ejection notice. The landlord gasps when he sees Griffin, since his face is white. Griffin undergoes great pain through the process, finally becoming invisible. The landlord breaks into the apartment the next morning, tries to make sense of the situation, and suffers the loss of his building, since the IM sets fire to it to destroy the evidence of his experiments. The IM begins to think of the advantages of being invisible.

In London, while invisible, the IM gets knocked around a few times inadvertently by those who can't see him, and escapes. A dog smells him and follows him. Children notice his footprints and almost catch him. It isn't the fun and freeing experience he thought it would be.

3. Explain Griffin's experience in the theatrical store. What does he tell Kemp he plans to do? How does he feel about ordinary, average people?

He goes into a theatrical store to get a disguise, and accidentally alerts the shop owner of his presence, who locks him in a room when he hears him. Griffin knocks him unconscious, ties him in a sheet, and escapes, and Kemp chides him for not following "the common conventions of humanity." To this Griffin answers that they are "all very well for the common people." Griffin is angry that Kemp chides him for robbing and tying up a man in his own house, so Kemp plays it cool and doesn't further anger Griffin.

Griffin finds all he needs to make a disguise for himself—clothes, a wig, a mask, a false beard. He orders a meal at a restaurant, but remembers he can't eat without exposing an empty space for his mouth, and leaves.

Griffin tells Kemp he plans to get his materials and reverse the invisibility. He learns the constable and others he attacked in Iping will recover. He expresses his extreme frustration at ordinary people who get in his way and bother him.

Week 21, Day 3 – *The Invisible Man* – Chapters 24-27

1. What disturbing conclusion does Griffin tell Dr. Kemp he has reached? How does Dr. Kemp counter?

Griffin says invisibility is a great advantage in approaching and leaving, and says he and Kemp must kill to complete their business. Kemp disagrees, saying Griffin should publish his results and help the world.

2. Sum up Dr. Kemp's warning to Colonel Adye after Griffin's escape. How does he suggest the town fight back?

Kemp warns Colonel Adye that the IM means to create a reign of terror, killing anyone in his way. Kemp says they must lock up food, bar doors, get dogs to help, hide weapons, and keep searching (since he has to eat, and food is visible).

3. Sum up the fate of Mr. Wicksteed. Why do you think the author included this incident?

He murders Mr. Wicksteed, who apparently stumbled upon the IM accidentally by seeing a rod floating in the air. The IM sees the locked houses and men searching and sets himself up for a great struggle against the world. The author most likely included this murder to erase any of the reader's remaining sympathy for the IM.

Week 21, Day 4 – *The Invisible Man* – Chapter 28 and Epilogue

1. What do you think about Mr. Heelas's actions toward Dr. Kemp after he witnesses what happens to Kemp? What is Griffin's fate?

He basically locks him out! This seems...un-neighborly, to say the least. Probably a commentary on man's self-preserving nature.

Kemp tries to organize the people who come to his aid and is struck savagely by the IM. He strikes back and is helped by others. Kemp yells that the IM is hurt, and the crowd sees his body slowly begin to become visible—veins and arteries, bones and sinews. He becomes fully visible, and his face is distorted with anger. Griffin is carried off to the Jolly Cricketers and dies in a bed there.

2. What do you take from the Epilogue? (That is, what does the author seem to say?)

Mr. Marvel has grown rich from the events, keeping money that can't be proved to belong to anyone in particular, and for those who come to hear the story of the IM. He claims he knows nothing about the three books that Kemp says he has, but later locks up and brings them out, trying to discover what the code in them means. Marvel says the IM meant the secrets for evil, but he would never, of course, use them for that.

This is unlikely, as Marvel has shown himself to be not much better in character than the IM. Probably the author's point is that if Marvel—or most anyone else—discovered the secret, he would be destructive, just like Griffin, with this power.

Week 22, Day 1 – “Dr. Heidegger's Experiment”

1. How does the reader view the “four venerable friends” after the author describes them in the story's first paragraph?

Answers will vary, but probably somewhat with pity, since they are very old (nearly “in their graves”) and in pitiable conditions, but also with scorn, since all four lived lives of sin and selfishness.

2. What does the description in the third paragraph of Dr. Heidegger and his study suggest?

It sounds like a mad scientist's lair! (The study is dim, covered in cobwebs, dusty, filled with ancient books, a skeleton, and so on). Dr. Heidegger supposedly holds “consultations” with Hippocrates, and has a book of magic that supposedly brings to life the skeleton and a painting of a young lady in the study.

3. Explain the significance of the rose.

It is 55 years old, dead (of course), and was given to Dr. Heidegger by Sylvia Ward, the woman in the portrait he was to marry (and who killed herself). The rose's revival under the “magic water” of the Fountain of Youth demonstrates the ability of the water to revive anything, including the old people with Dr. Heidegger.

4. Why do Dr. Heidegger’s friends laugh at his suggestion that they should “draw up a few general rules for your guidance, in passing a second time through the perils of youth”? How does their laughter prove foolish?

They ridicule the idea that they would ever repeat the same mistakes they made as young persons, but when the elixir takes effect, the three men fight each other for the hand of the Widow Wycherly—while she encourages it—until they spill the water from the Fountain of Youth.

5. What lesson does “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” teach? Do the four friends of the doctor learn their lesson? What does this say about mankind?

Answers will vary, but the idea is that man has an appointed time for each stage of life, and it would be foolish or impractical to attempt to go back to any previous stage of life; in fact, the experience would probably be disappointing, like the disappointment the four friends’ experience.

The four have not learned their lesson, because as soon as the magic elixir of youth wears off, they resolve to go to try to find the Fountain of Youth anyway.

As to the lessons Hawthorne seems to say about mankind, answer will vary, but might include these: First, the common, misplaced belief among many that being young again would solve all of their problems, or make them happy, is untrue. Second, people often say if they had another chance to live their lives over, they would do things differently, not making the same mistakes they made—but they don’t.

Week 22, Day 2 – “The Boom in the Calaveras Clarion”

1. Sum up the story’s setting and the purpose for the conversation that the temporary editor overhears in the print room.

The setting is California, in a wooded town, where a temporary editor is running a newspaper. He hears the men in the print room discussing the power of the press and violent altercations between newspapermen and the subjects that they criticize in their articles. This threat of violence sets up the initial confrontation between the editor and Mr. Dimmidge, providing a little suspense.

2. Describe Mr. Dimmidge. What contrast is there between his appearance and his behavior? What does he want from the editor?

Dimmidge is a huge, muscular miner who carries a shotgun into the newspaper office, but he seems gentle and speaks intelligently. He wants to put an ad in the paper that says that unless his wife comes home within four weeks, he will not take her back.

3. Why does Dimmidge want a large, full-page ad? What “cut” does he choose to include with it, and why is his choice ironic?

He wants it to look impressive. He includes a woodcut of a runaway slave.

4. What second ad does he want to place privately? How do these ads do for the newspaper and the newspaper employees?

The second ad is place so he can catch a man that he thinks is the reason why his wife left his (Mr. Dimmidge’s) home. The ads prove of great interest to the public, the newspapers sell out quickly, and ad rates increase, making the paper more profitable. The temporary editor and printers are treated like celebrities by the public, who endlessly discusses the situation (what caused it, whether the husband or the wife is in the right, and so on); the temporary editor even receives an offer for a job working for a San Francisco paper.

5. How does the ad and the ad by Mrs. Dimmidge eventually backfire?

Some people accuse the newspaper of creating the entire ad up in order to sell more newspapers. Then, when Mrs. Dimmidge places her own ad, people believe it’s just another trick—even the paper’s own editor and foreman!

6. What is Mrs. Dimmidge’s complaint against her husband? Describe her ad and “cut.”

Mrs. Dimmidge says that she was treated like a slave by Mr. Dimmidge, and she ran away. Her ad notifies Mr. Dimmidge that unless he is back to his home in Sonora in a week, he’d better watch out! She chooses a woodcut of an arm holding a hammer.

7. How does Mrs. Dimmidge react when she finds out about the second ad placed by Mr. Dimmidge?

She laughs uproariously, because she knows Mr. Dimmidge is jealous—though he has nothing to be jealous of. She then places her own ad, which teasingly tells Mr. Dimmidge to keep following R. B.

8. What happy, long-term effect do the ads have?

They bring Mr. and Mrs. Dimmidge back together!

Week 22, Day 3 – “The Last Leaf”

1. Describe how the characters of Sue and Johnsy are alike and different.

The two are both struggling artists. Sue is stronger than Johnsy, who is from California and not as used to the cold in New York City; consequently, she makes an easier victim for “Mr. Pneumonia.” Johnsy is a little dramatic and theatrical about her illness; Sue takes a no-nonsense, but thoughtful, approach to helping Johnsy get over her pneumonia.

2. Why, specifically, does the doctor initially say Johnsy’s chances of survival are low? How does he say Sue can help Johnsy increase her odds?

Johnsy, who seems to be playing up the role of a suffering artist, has decided she’s not going to live, and has lowered her chances. Sue can help by improving Johnsy’s mood, talking about life, getting her interest up in things like fashion, and so on.

3. Explain Johnsy’s apparent belief about the leaves. How does Sue respond to her theory?

Johnsy says she will die when the last leaf falls off the vine against a brick wall across the street. Sue pooh-poohs the idea, and tells Johnsy not to look out the window until she gets back, and leaves to go get Behrman to be a model for her.

4. What is Behrman like? What is his “masterpiece”?

He is over 60, a “failure at art,” always claiming he is about to paint a masterpiece, but not ambitious enough to actually do it, and a drunk. Behrman’s “masterpiece” is the last leaf, which he painted on the vine, to keep Johnsy from willing herself to die.

Week 22, Day 3 – “How I Killed a Bear”

1. Give several examples of humor in “How I Killed a Bear.”

Some examples include these:

- *The author’s friend could use a shotgun to hit a tree, only if there was no wind, the tree was close, and the tree was large.*
- *The author used a shotgun and incompetently killed a robin.*
- *Cows occasionally walk up to the author while he is berrying and look at him stupidly.*
- *The author thinks of an unintentionally hilarious story about a girl whose father kills a bear who has raised her, with the moral being “be kind to animals.”*
- *The bear’s manners are said to be “thoroughly disagreeable.”*
- *The author’s thoughts race through his head while the bear chases him—he writes a book, has it illustrated and published, sells 50,000 copies, and goes to Europe on the money he makes before the bear reaches him. He also*

thinks of sins he's committed.

- *The author worries about getting eaten by a bear because his wife will wonder what happened to him, and his children will wonder where their blackberries are.*
- *The author composes mock epitaphs for his tombstone, first in English, then in German.*

2. How does the author initially react to the bear? How does the bear react?

He backs away and gives him the bucket of berries he has picked. The bear gets angry and begins chasing him through the brush.

3. How does repeating the phrase “The bear was coming on” affect the story?

Answers will vary, but it adds to both the humor and suspense.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. What kind of character is Casca?

Witty, moody, cynical. Cassius calls Casca’s rudeness a “sauce to his good wit.”

10. What do Brutus and Cassius plan?

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. What does Cassius mean when he says, “Our fathers’ minds are dead”?

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

4. Why does the conspiracy so desperately want Brutus?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Why does Calpurnia want Caesar to stay home?

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

2. How does the augurers’ interpretation of the “beast without a heart” differ from Caesar’s interpretation?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. What argument does Brutus make before the crowd?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cinna the poet, who unfortunately shares the same name as one of the conspirators, is interrogated and attacked by the mob (possibly the same mob that listened to the speeches of Brutus and Marc Antony). They attack and kill him for no other reason than he has the same name as Cinna the conspirator, despite his protests. Shakespeare clearly

shows mobs in a negative light here, portraying them as brainless groups of people who don't think before they act, often to the detriment of others who are innocent.

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

1. Summarize the plans of the triumvirs.

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

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

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

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

1. What has happened between Brutus and Cassius?

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

2. Explain Brutus's man/horse comparison.

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

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

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

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

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

2. How do the two men differently view friendship?

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

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

Portia has killed herself in grief and despair.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 26, Day 1 – "The Flaming Phantom"

1. Describe the house and the old constable's story about the house's background.

It is old, broken down, by the sea, and looks "haunted." The constable reveals to Hutchinson Hatch that the house has not been lived in for years, and used to belong to a man who is rumored to have hidden jewels in the house.

2. List the questions that The Thinking Machine asks Hutchinson Hatch. Based upon these, can you make a guess about the solution to the mystery? (There are a few other clues as well.)

The Thinking Machine asks Hutchinson Hatch if the ghost's handwriting was a man's or woman's, if Hatch smelled anything, what he heard that sounded like a rat running across the floor, how far away the house is from water, and if any of the mirrors were dusty (among other things).

3. How do the disappearance of items play into the mystery of the house and phantom?

The jewels are still suspected of being in the house by the culprit (George Weston), and the flaming phantom is a ruse to keep others away from the house until he can find the jewels.

4. Did you guess any of the explanations that The Thinking Machine gives for the mystery of the phantom?

Answers will vary.

Week 26, Day 2 – "Journalism in Tennessee"

1. With what comment does Twain begin and end the story?

By remarking that he came to the South for his health, which is ironic, since he has to leave for the same reason.

2. How do the names of the area newspapers hint at what is to happen?

They're named things like Avalanche, War-Whoop, Earthquake, Thunderbolt, Battle-Cry of Freedom, Morning Howl, Dying Shriek for Liberty, and so on, indicating possibly violent or excitable publishers, and giving a clue of the violence that follows.

3. How does the editor of the *War Whoop's* appearance contrast with his "duties" as editor?

He is neatly dressed and appears cultured, but engages in deadly combat with other editors.

4. Compare the assistant editor's "Spirit of the Tennessee Press" to the editor's version after he rewrites the assistant editor's.

It isn't "mush and milk journalism," but it goes too far in insulting every person, town, or institution related to the topics the assistant editor writes about in his summaries.

5. Give some examples of how Twain's matter-of-fact tone adds humor.

Answers will vary, but they might include these:

- *A shot “marred the symmetry of the editor’s ear.”*
- *“Smith dropped, shot in the thigh.”*
- *“Merely a finger shot off.”*
- *The editor says, “That stove is utterly ruined” (instead of worrying about the assistant editor).*
- *The brick gave the associate editor “a considerable jolt in the middle of the back.”*
- *“The colonel’s bullet ended its career in the fleshy part of my thigh.”*

6. What is ironic about the editor’s behavior and some of the pieces he writes?

He says that the duty of newspaper editors is to civilize the readers (in between insulting everybody under the sun and shooting at other editors), and while dueling the Colonel, he puts off writing a piece on encouraging the moral development of America.

7. What idea(s) might Mark Twain be suggesting with “Journalism in Tennessee”?

Answers will vary, but might include the ideas that newspaper editors take themselves too seriously, that they are hypocritical, that there are better ways to write than by insulting others, and so on.

Week 26, Day 3 – “The Ransom of Red Chief”

1. Why do Bill and Sam decide to go to a small town, rather than a large city, to put into motion their latest “business venture”?

They think townspeople generally love their children more, and they believe there is less of a chance of many police getting after them.

2. Why do they select the boy? What is he like?

He is an only child, and his father is a wealthy, prominent citizen. The boy is about 10, red-haired, freckled, and a complete nuisance!

3. In what ways are Bill and Sam injured by the boy?

He hits Bill in the eye with a rock, kicks him until he is covered in bruises, he tries to scalp Bill, he puts a hot potato down Bill’s back, he slingshots a rock and hits Bill in the head, and so on.

4. What unexpected reaction do Bill and Sam receive from the boy’s parents and the citizens of the town? What is the reason for this reaction?

They don’t care at all that the boy has been kidnapped, because they can’t stand him!

5. Why does Bill say his favorite Bible character is King Herod?

Because King Herod had many children killed, like Bill wants to do to the Dorset boy.

6. How does the story’s title prove ironic?

The ransom that Bill and Sam ask for “Red Chief” turns out to be a ransom that they pay the boy’s father so they can be rid of him!

Week 27, Day 1 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters 1-2)

1. What does the exchange between Holmes and Watson regarding the walking stick do for the story?

It gives the reader a good example of Holmes’s deductive reasoning, shows the friendship between Holmes and Watson, and provides humor in showing how erroneous Watson is in his assumptions about the owner of the stick.

2. What is Dr. Mortimer like?

He is a reasonable doctor, interested in anthropology (to the point where he asks Holmes if he can run his fingers over his skull!), and was a friend of the late Sir Charles Baskerville.

3. Briefly sum up the letter Mortimer reads, and the recent news of Sir Charles Baskerville, including Mortimer's incredible find.

There is a supposed "curse" on the Baskerville name because of the wickedness of Sir Hugo, who is supposed to have been killed by a gigantic hound on the moor. Sir Charles's recent death has upset Mortimer greatly, not just because Sir Charles was a friend and patient, but because Mortimer saw some footprints of a "gigantic hound" near Sir Charles's body.

Week 27, Day 2 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters 3-4)

9. Explain why Dr. Mortimer believes the ghostly hound is a real creature.

He saw the prints, and he interviewed several locals, who confirmed that they had seen a ghostly hound on the moor.

10. What does Sherlock Holmes think about the events Dr. Mortimer has described?

He doubts it is supernatural, but believes there is a danger.

11. What two things does Holmes deduce from the information Mortimer gives about the night of Sir Charles's death?

First, that Sir Charles was running for his life, since his footprints changed, and second, that Sir Charles was waiting to keep an appointment with someone, since otherwise he would not have stepped foot on the moor at night (because he feared the legend of the hound).

12. List the odd things that happen to Sir Henry upon his arrival, and Holmes's deductions.

Two of Sir Henry's boots (one old, one never worn) go missing, and he receives a letter made of pasted Times words warning him to stay away from the moor. Holmes deduces, among other things, that the message is cut from the Times, pasted with gum, cut with nail scissors, and that the sender is disguising his writing because it might be known by Sir Henry.

Week 27, Day 3 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters 5-6)

1. Describe the man following Sir Henry in the cab. Why is Sherlock Holmes extremely concerned about danger for Sir Henry?

The man following Sir Henry is tall, with a black (possibly false) beard, and clever enough to escape. Sherlock Holmes is convinced he is an extremely dangerous man because (1) he audaciously tells his cab-man his name is Sherlock Holmes, knowing Holmes will ask it, and (2) because Sir Henry's fortune is worth roughly a billion dollars in today's money, which makes it more likely that someone will resort to treachery or even murder to get it.

2. Why does Holmes entrust Sir Henry to Watson? How does he instruct Watson?

Holmes has business in London to take care of, and cannot go with Sir Henry, so he sends Watson, telling him to stick closely to Sir Henry.

3. Sum up Holmes's instructions to Watson.

To stay with Sir Henry and report to Holmes, most importantly of any new developments between Sir Henry and his neighbors.

4. Why are there a number of armed watchmen and police in the area as the group arrives?

Selden, a notorious murderer, has escaped and is on the loose.

5. Describe Baskerville Hall and the Barrymores. What news do they have for Sir Henry?

It is a huge, old, majestic home, with ivy running up some walls and rich furnishings. The Barrymores are a married couple serving Sir Henry—Mr. Barrymore with a black beard and handsome. They tell Sir Henry that they intend to leave, even though their family has served the Baskervilles for generations, because Sir Charles's death has upset them and he left them money enough in his will to help them start up a business for themselves.

6. What does Watson hear in the middle of the night?

The sounds of a woman sobbing uncontrollably.

Week 28, Day 1 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapter 7)

1. Give some reasons why suspicion begins to fall upon Barrymore.

He lies about his wife's sobbing, because Watson sees her eyes red and swollen. There is also no real evidence Barrymore was not in London, since the telegram he was supposed to have received in his own hands didn't go to him directly.

2. Describe Stapleton and his sister. What does he say about the rumors of a ghostly hound?

He is 30-40 years old, a naturalist specializing in butterflies and moths, and gently mocks the rumors of a ghostly hound upon the moor. He tells Watson he was formerly a schoolmaster and ran a private school. His sister is darker than he, beautiful, "slim, elegant, and tall."

3. What is the Grimpen Mire? What is Stapleton's specialty concerning it?

A dangerous place on the moor, because of quicksand-like spots that suck down anything that steps on it (including horses, one of which we see die in the mire). Stapleton is able to get across the Grimpen Mire without being pulled in because he knows special landmarks and which steps to take.

4. What do Watson and Stapleton hear? To what do they attribute the sound?

An awful, terrifying howl. Stapleton attributes it to the wind, or an almost-extinct bird, but Watson insists it is a living voice of some kind.

5. What odd thing does Beryl Stapleton tell Watson? What misunderstanding occurs? How does she try to correct the situation?

She tells him to leave the moor immediately, but thought he was Sir Henry, so the message was meant for him. Later she tells him, alone, to ignore her warning, but Watson believes it is important. He asks her why she wouldn't repeat the warning in front of her brother, and she says that her brother doesn't want Sir Henry to be scared away, because having him at Baskerville Hall is good for the poor folk around the moor.

Week 28, Day 2 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapter 8)

1. Sum up Watson's news about (a) Selden, the escaped convict, (b) the situation between Sir Henry and Miss Stapleton, (c) Mr. Frankland, (d) the Barrymores.

(c) *Selden has not been seen for weeks and is presumed long gone.*

(d) *Sir Henry is strongly attracted to Miss Stapleton, but her brother seems to disapprove.*

(e) *Mr. Frankland is a fiery old man who brings lawsuits for fun and has a telescope.*

(f) *Barrymore is upset at being suspected by Sir Henry, and Sir Henry mollifies him by giving him his old clothes. Mrs. Barrymore seems burdened and upset about something, and Watson observes Barrymore walking in the middle of the night down the hall and shining a candle out of a window onto the moor.*

2. Do you think having Watson writing a report for one of the chapters of *Hound of the Baskervilles* is an effective idea? Why or why not?

Answers will vary, but it does seem effective in that it puts the recent facts in a very understandable, concise fashion. It also is a creative way to vary how the story is written, instead of simply having a number of chapters written about events, as has been done up to this point.

Week 28, Day 3 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapter 9)

1. Explain the argument between Stapleton and Sir Henry regarding his seeing Miss Stapleton.

Sir Henry and Miss Stapleton are interested in each other, but one day when they meet on the moor, Stapleton breaks them up, angrily denouncing Sir Henry. Stapleton later apologizes, explaining that his sister means much to him (and he would hate to lose her), but the incident has left a strange feeling in Sir Henry's mind.

2. What do Watson and Sir Henry do about Barrymore's sneaking around at night with the candle? What is his reaction, and what do they discover?

They follow him and catch him signaling someone on the moor. Barrymore refuses to tell Sir Henry what he is doing, and Sir Henry asks him to leave, until Mrs. Barrymore explains that the man Barrymore is signaling is her brother, Selden, the escaped criminal.

3. Describe Watson and Sir Henry's trek upon the moor.

They go to catch Selden, but hear the terrifying howl of a hound. Selden attacks the men, and they are unable to catch him as he flees. Watson looks up and sees the silhouette of a man against the full moon rising upon the moor.

Week 28, Day 4 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapter 10)

1. What does Sir Henry agree to do in regard to Selden, to please Barrymore? How does Barrymore do a favor for Sir Henry?

Sir Henry agrees to do nothing about Selden until the Barrymores make arrangements to ship Selden to South America, where they say he will do no more harm. Barrymore shares with Sir Henry that the reason Sir Charles went out on the moor on the night of his death was to meet a woman whose initials are L. L.

2. Who is "L. L.," and what is her situation? How is she important to the case?

She is Laura Lyons, Frankland's daughter. She married against her father's wishes, and her husband left her. Frankland has given her a pittance, and Stapleton and Sir Charles gave her some money to set up a typewriting business. Lyons was supposed to meet Sir Charles on the moor on the very hour of his death.

3. What does Watson learn from Barrymore about the man on the tor? What does Watson resolve to do?

Selden has seen him. He is a "gentleman" and lives out on the moor among the houses on the hillside, and he has a boy bring him his needs regularly. Watson resolves to find the man the next day.

Week 29, Day 1 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters 11-12)

1. Explain what is suspicious about Laura Lyons's answers to Watson in his interview.

She admits to having asked Sir Charles to meet her on the moor on the hour of his death, but says she did not go, and will not reveal why she did not go.

2. What news does Frankland have, and how does Watson trick him into showing him?

Frankland knows where the “man on the tor” is, although he thinks it is the convict. Watson knows it is not the convict since Frankland says a boy bring him things (which is what Barrymore told Watson the “man on the tor” had done). Watson pretends to disagree with Frankland and feigns indifference to the story, until Frankland angrily tries to prove he is right by showing Watson where the man stays.

3. What evidence in the hut does Watson find?

The man has apparently been spying on them. He has information, and even a note that says, “Dr. Watson has gone to Coombe Tracy.”

4. What surprises does Watson learn from Holmes (Chapter 12)?

- *Holmes himself was the “man on the tor,” watching closely the events on the moor; he never was staying in London.*
- *Stapleton’s “sister” is actually his wife, and he is the villain in the plot—the man with the black bear who followed them in London. He is using his wife to lure Sir Henry so he can get the Baskerville fortune.*
- *Laura Lyons is being used by Stapleton on the hopes she will become his wife.*

5. Sum up the next death on the moor, and the circumstances around it.

The hound chases Selden on the moor, attracted by the scent of his clothes (which still have the scent of Sir Henry, who gave them to Barrymore). Selden dies of a broken neck, and Watson and Holmes initially think he is Sir Henry, by his clothes. Stapleton guiltily arrives on the scene (he was the one who sent the hound), and pretends to be shocked at “Sir Henry’s” death, but really is shocked to see that it is Selden.

Week 29, Day 2 – The Hound of the Baskervilles (Chapter 13)

1. What is Holmes’s assessment of Stapleton, and why?

Holmes tells Watson that Stapleton—who is able to gather himself quickly—is possibly the most formidable foe he has ever faced, capable of anything, since he was able to gather himself so coolly in the face of learning that it was Selden, not Sir Henry, who died on the moor.

2. What unintentionally ironic remark does Sir Henry make? What is Holmes’s ironically humorous reply?

Sir Henry says if he hadn’t sworn not to go out alone, he would have had a more “lively evening.” Holmes says, “I have no doubt that you would have had a more lively evening,” meaning that if Sir Henry had gone out, the hound might have killed him.

3. What does Holmes notice about the painted portraits in Baskerville Hall?

The portrait of the evil Sir Hugo looks just like Stapleton, which confirms that he is a Baskerville and is there to get rid of Sir Henry so he can take the inheritance.

4. What strange instruction does Holmes have for Sir Henry? What is its purpose?

He tells him to accept the Stapletons’ offer for dinner, and to walk home across the moor by himself in the dark afterwards. The purpose of it is to convince Stapleton that he is gone, so Stapleton will feel freer to act.

5. Sum up Holmes’s interview with Laura Lyons.

He tells her Stapleton does not intend to marry her, that he is already married to his “sister,” and that their name is “Vandeleur.” Lyons reveals that he used her to get Sir Charles out on the moor with promises of marriage, but that she didn’t know it would lead to his death.

Week 29, Day 3 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapter 14)

8. How is the evening dangerous for Sir Henry? How is the hound dispatched or for good? What do we learn about the hound?

He is attacked on the moor after leaving the Stapletons’ home. Holmes and Watson kill the hound with their revolvers. The hound has been painted with phosphorous to give it a ghostly glow.

9. Why couldn’t Watson see Mrs. Stapleton in the house?

She was locked up in a room and gagged, having been abused by Stapleton, fearing that she would warn Sir Henry of her husband’s plans.

10. What is Stapleton’s “fate”?

He gets lost on the moor because of the fog and apparently sinks down, not being able to clearly see the markers showing where it is safe to step.

11. What evidence do Holmes and Watson find?

One of Sir Henry’s boots, which Stapleton flung away in his flight; a chain and gnawed bones where Stapleton kept the hound; and the remains of Mortimer’s curly-haired spaniel, which the hound apparently killed and ate.

Week 29, Day 4 – *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapter 15)

1. Where and why are Dr. Mortimer and Sir Henry going after they discuss the details of the case?

They are going on a trip to Europe to help Sir Henry recover from his “shattered nerves.”

2. What facts about Stapleton are revealed to the reader in this chapter through Holmes’s explanation?

- He was Sir Henry’s nephew, the son of Rodger Baskerville, who was forced to flee to South America.
- He married Beryl Garcia, stole public money, changed his name to Vandeleur, and fled to England, where he set up a school.
- He bought a savage hound and hid it, setting himself up by the Baskerville estate and attempting to lure Sir Charles out to kill him with the hound, using Laura Lyons to help him.
- He stole Sir Henry’s boot in London to give the hound Sir Henry’s scent, but had to steal a second one when he realized Sir Henry had never worn the first (newly bought) boot.
- Stapleton apparently was involved in various other crimes in London, including a murder.
- Stapleton had a confidant, Anthony, who took care of the hound while Stapleton was in London.

3. List Holmes’s explanations for various other case points, including (a) his holding close to his face the warning letter made of *Times* words, (b) the reason for his deceiving Watson about staying in London, (c) the reason for putting Sir Henry through the ordeal of walking on the moor at night alone, (d) the reason for Mrs. Stapleton’s being tied up in their house, and (e) how Stapleton could announce he was the heir to the Baskerville fortune if he were already known around the area under another identity.

The explanations are (a) Holmes smelled perfume on the letter and knew it was a woman’s doing, (b) he deceived Watson because Stapleton would be more on his guard if he knew Holmes were near, (c) Holmes wanted to catch Stapleton in the act of letting the hound loose on Sir Henry, (d) Mrs. Stapleton was a threat to warn Sir Henry about her husband, and (e) Stapleton could claim the property from South America or disguise himself or claim the property through an accomplice

Week 30, Day 1 – “Three Questions”

1. List the three questions the king wants to know the answers to.

When is the right time to begin everything? Who are the right people to listen to, and whom should I avoid? What is the most important thing to do?

2. What three questions did you write down that, as a Christian, you believe are even more important than the king’s questions?

Answers will vary.

3. How are the king’s questions answered?

“When is the right time to begin?” is answered when the hermit tells the king that the most important time is “now,” when something important—like digging, or saving a man’s life—needs to be done. The answer to “Who are the right people to listen to?”, the hermit tells the king, is “he with whom you are.” And the answer to “What is the most important thing to do?” is to do good to those who are with you, because that is the reason man was sent into this life.

4. In comparison with what the hermit says is man’s purpose in life: What does God say is man’s duty and purpose? (See Ecclesiastes 12:13, John 6:27-29, and John 14:1-6.) For what purpose did Jesus come to earth? (See Matthew 5:17, Luke 19:10, and John 12:46.)

Man’s duty and purpose is to fear God and keep his commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13), and to do the work of God by believing in Jesus Christ (John 6:27-29, John 14:1-6).

Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17), to seek and to save lost people (Luke 19:10), and to give light to those who believe on him (John 12:46).

Week 30, Day 1 – “A White Heron”

1. Describe Sylvia’s age, personality, background, and feeling for living in the woods. Why do you think the author named her “Sylvia”?

She is nine years old, quiet and shy (“afraid of folks,” say her parents), and lived until she was eight in a busy city. She lives with her grandmother in the country because Sylvia’s parents gave her up so she could thrive in the country, with so many other children. Sylvia loves living in the woods, thinking that it seemed as if she never had been alive at all before she came to live at the farm,” whispering that “this was a beautiful place to live in, and she never should wish to go home,” and pitying a former city neighbor of hers that had one paltry geranium too look at.

The author names her “Sylvia” most likely because it sounds like the word “silva,” the Latin word for “forest,” and the root for English words such as “sylvan” (like or having to do with the forest).

2. What does the young man want? How does Sylvia feel about this? Describe the young man’s relationship with Sylvia.

He wants to capture and stuff a snowy egret (little white heron). This makes Sylvia’s heart beat fast, because she likes the bird, and doesn’t want it captured and shot. Sylvia is fascinated by the young man and has a girlish crush on him, but she is afraid of him at first (“afraid of folks” again). After traveling the woods with him for a day, she becomes more comfortable, to the point where she is pleased about the progress she has made since the previous day when she first heard him whistle in the woods.

3. What decision does Sylvia have to make when the young man asks about the white heron? What guides her in making the decision? What guides a Christian in making a difficult decision like Sylvia’s?

Whether or not to please the young man—of whom she is smitten—by showing him where the white heron lives, or to save the heron’s life. Her own feelings on loving nature lead Sylvia to decide to keep the white heron’s nest secret. A

Christian's guide to making difficult decisions comes from following what God has had written for Christians to live by—the Bible—as well as obedience to promptings from the Holy Spirit.

4. Explain the significance or symbolism in (a) the “wretched dry geranium” that belongs to a neighbor Sylvia knew in town, and (b) Sylvia’s climb up the pine tree, and (c) the white heron itself.

Answers will vary, but might touch on these ideas: The geranium, which struggled to survive in the crowded town, is like Sylvia, who thrived in the natural setting of the Maine woods. Sylvia’s climb up the pine tree represents her passage to maturity, overcoming a difficult obstacle—the climb, or the awkwardness resulting from her decision to keep silent about the heron—to do what she believed was needed to save the bird. The white heron represents nature itself, which Sylvia has grown to love dearly since moving to the country. Sylvia tries to protect the heron/nature from outsiders like the young man who would destroy it only for their own uses (unlike Sylvia’s grandmother, who talks about killing birds for food, for example).

Week 30, Day 2 – “For Better or Worse”

1. What kind of man is Ben Davis at the story’s opening?

Down on his luck a little, but not too poor to buy a friend a drink. A little shabby, getting old, and having lived a rough sailor’s life.

2. Why does George Wotton get confused at Ben’s story of how Ben and his wife separated years ago?

Ben claims he walked out on his mean wife, but then says she walked out on him, and can’t keep straight whose fault it was.

3. What is the shock Ben receives? Why is Mrs. Smith mistrustful of Ben’s motives for wanting to find his wife?

His wife, whom he left 35 years ago, has been living it up as a result of inheriting a great deal of money—and never bothered to look for him!

The “old lady at the door” (Mrs. Davis) thinks Ben wants her back for her money.

4. Why do you think the house goes up for sale?

Mrs. Davis probably just wants to escape being around her husband, to keep him from bothering her, since she thinks he’ll never change, and always be mean to her.

5. What about Ben Davis gets through to Mrs. Smith?

He looks so miserable and poor that it touches her, and afterwards he compliments his wife when he thinks the “old lady” is his wife’s servant, as well as promises to behave when Mrs. Davis asks him!

Week 30, Day 3 – “Naboth’s Vineyard”

1. When you finish “Naboth’s Vineyard,” reread the first paragraph. What does it mean, and how does it make a little more sense once the story is ended?

It means that in this case, the people are supposed to be “sovereign,” and that even if “the forms and agents of the law are removed,” the people can exercise judgement, like what is done in “Naboth’s Vineyard.”

2. On whom does suspicion fall for the crime? Why?

Taylor, the farm hand is suspected. He is an uncommunicative stranger, he left town at about the same time as the murder of Elihu Marsh, his gun has been fired, and he refuses to answer why he suddenly left town.

3. How is Judge Simon Kilrail initially described? Why is this significant?

He's described as just as land-hungry as anybody else, desirous of being part of the "landed gentry," and heartless and cruel as a judge. It hints that he is capable of doing wrong, and explains why he murdered Elihu Marsh.

4. On whom do Uncle Abner and Dr. Storm focus on during the trial? What does this person do during the trial at first, then surprisingly claim?

Kilrail's housekeeper; she is very nervous and upset, much more than is normal. Suddenly, she confesses to Marsh's murder, which brings the house down and stirs Taylor to deny her claim and take responsibility himself.

5. What do Dr. Storm and Uncle Abner reveal to the judge when they visit his house?

That they never believed Taylor killed Marsh, because they found poison in Marsh's system and believe the gunshot wound is a cover-up.

6. List the three clues Uncle Abner tells the courtroom about. What is the significance of each one?

Unknown to Kilrail, his watch key fell to the floor as he shot Marsh; a book on his shelf was almost unused, except for the very page in which a poison was described (the same kind that killed Marsh); and the deed book gave Kilrail Marsh's lands upon Marsh's death.

7. How do the story's opening and closing point to the story's theme of aristocracy and common people? What other incidents in the story also contribute?

The story opens with a declaration that "the people" are "sovereign" and capable of making fair, just decisions; the story ends with Kilrail's suicide, suggesting that important, wealthy citizens aren't necessarily superior.

Dr. Storm criticizes the prosecutor as not being a "gentleman," and therefore unworthy of holding office. Randolph, although a pompous, proud-of-his-ancestry type, does show courage in standing at Uncle Abner's call at the trial's end. Other men, who are not big-shots or loudmouths, stand up for Uncle Abner, showing the quiet strength that many men possess.

The point the author is making about "gentlemen" and common people seems to be that there is nothing inherently superior about "gentlemen" like Judge Kilrail, who wanted to be a part of the "landed gentry," over good, solid people like Taylor and Kilrail's housekeeper, who are just simple laborers, but have loyalty and honor. Both "classes" are capable of both honor and moral failure.

8. How is the sovereignty of the people in "Naboth's Vineyard" different from the sovereignty of God?

The sovereignty of the people refers basically to their self-reliance and ability to rightly judge matters and govern themselves, BUT this ability is tempered by the good and evil that men do. Various degrees of this good/evil battle are shown in "Naboth's Vineyard" (Marsh is a mean man, but is wrongly killed; Taylor and the housekeeper are good people, but lie in court; some townspeople are arrogant about their ancestry, but courageous enough to stand up with Uncle Abner).

The primary example, however, is Kilrail himself, who commits suicide with a "dueling pistol," which suggests the good/evil sides of man. As evil as he was to kill a man for his land, he does pronounce a just judgement upon himself—the death penalty for murder—although the way he does it is morally wrong.

9. Why is the story titled "Naboth's Vineyard"? (See 1 Kings 21:1-16.)

Just like King Ahab—a man in high authority—had Naboth unjustly killed to get his land, Judge Kilrail murders Elihu Marsh for his land.