

***World Literature for
Christian Homeschoolers***

Answer Key to Review Questions

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Aesop's Fables, Part 1 – Week 1, Day 1

1. Compare “The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse” to Proverbs 15:17 and Proverbs 17:1.

Both proverbs say that it is better to have a simple meal in peace than a fancy meal in the middle of a house filled with trouble and strife.

2. Compare “The Fox and the Stork” to Proverbs 25:21-22 and Matthew 5:44.

The Bible teaches a different approach to evildoers: that we should return good for evil, unlike the Aesop's fable.

3. Compare “Androcles” to Luke 17:11-19.

Both include thankfulness of a recipient of a good deed.

4. Briefly define the phrase *sour grapes*.

It refers to a person's downplaying the importance or desirability of something, simply to make himself feel better about not being able to obtain or achieve it.

1. Compare “The Ant and the Grasshopper” to Proverbs 6:6-11.

Both teach the lesson that the ant is a model for hard work and avoiding poverty and tell the reader not to be lazy.

2. Compare “The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing” to Matthew 7:15-20 and Acts 20:28-30.

In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus teaches His followers to beware of “wolves in sheep's clothing,” and to test men by their fruits. In Acts 20:28-30, Paul warns the church that right away false prophets, whom he calls “grievous wolves,” would try to draw Christians away from the true church.

3. Compare “The Ass in the Lion's Skin” to Proverbs 17:28 and Ecclesiastes 5:3.

Proverbs 17:28 says that even a fool is thought of as wise if he keeps his mouth shut, so people aren't aware he's a fool! And Ecclesiastes 5:3 says that a fool can be discovered since fools often talk too much and/or give themselves away with foolish talk. Similarly, the ass gave himself away as not being a lion with his voice.

4. Give another example you have seen or been a part of that demonstrates the lesson of “The Crow and the Pitcher.”

Answers will vary.

Week 1, Day 2: “Quench the Spark”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Old Testament Prophecies of Jesus Christ – Week 1, Day 3

1. Write a brief paragraph (two or three sentences) that sums up the prophecies of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament, and bring this to class.

Answers will vary.

2. What does Genesis 22:13's description of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac (middle of page 38) have to do with Mark 15:17?

God provides a substitute for Isaac as a sacrifice, a ram caught by its horns in thorns, which will remind the reader of Jesus, who wore a crown of thorns while he became a substitute for the sins of the world.

3. Look up the term “Rod of Asclepius,” describe what it is, and explain how it relates to Numbers 21:5-9.

The Rod of Asclepius is the symbol of the medical profession; its origin is the serpent on the pole made by Moses that healed the Israelites who had faith that looking up at it would heal them of the bites of the venomous snakes sent by God to punish them.

4. How do prophecies of Jesus Christ strengthen both the reliability of the Bible and the truthfulness of Christ as the way to God?

Answers will vary, but the God who spoke these prophecies and gave them to men to write down is surely deserving and worthy of our faith.

Week 1, Day 4: “How to Be a Doctor”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Early Christian Writings – Week 2, Day 1

1. What differentiates Christians from non-Christians, according to "The Epistle of Mathetes"?

They dwell in their countries as travelers, looking for heaven; they share their worldly goods with their fellow Christians; they don't kill their children; they do not commit adultery; they don't live "after the flesh"; they not only obey laws, but do better than that with their lives; they are persecuted and hated and evil spoken of, but never fight back or insult in return or seek revenge.

2. What does the very last part of the last sentence mean?

It means that although Christians are often hated, the ones who hate them have no reason to do so. This is a good commentary on the behavior and character of Christians.

1. Name several examples that Athenagorus gives to prove that Christians are not guilty of murder or cannibalism.

Christians would never be murders or cannibals, because they refuse to go to murderous gladiator contests, and they don't even want to watch someone executed (even justly). Athenagoras also points out that no one who is around Christians can give examples of supposed murder or cannibalism.

2. What does Athenagoras say about the practice of abortion?

That it is murder, it is evil, that God will judge those who commit it.

1. What does a typical Christian worship service include, according to Chapter XXXIX of "Apology"?

Christians pray for each other and for rulers, they read the Bible, they encourage and rebuke and judge each other.

2. What does Tertullian say about the giving among Christians? What is the money used for?

Believers donate to a "treasure chest," putting in money if they are led to and are able, and all voluntarily. The money is used to support the poor, orphans, the elderly, and those banished or put in prison for their Christian faith.

3. Describe the “Lord’s Supper” or “feast of charity” (Jude 1:12) practiced by the Christians.

It honors the poor, there is not overeating or drunkenness, it is done modestly, it involves hymn-singing, and it opens and closes with prayer.

4. How does Tertullian close this chapter?

By stating that non-Christians have nothing to complain about Christians—that Christians are pious and gentle, and they do not harm or trouble anyone.

Week 2, Day 2: “Abolition of Slavery”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Selected Sayings of Confucius – Week 2, Day 3

1. Compare Saying #1 with 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Confucius says that fancy speakers rarely are virtuous. Similarly, Paul’s presentation of the gospel wasn’t effective because he was a brilliant speaker, but that he spoke the truth of God; God’s message doesn’t need the “wisdom of men.”

2. How does Saying #2 match up with God’s Word in Hebrews 12:14; Proverbs 1:10,15; and 1 Corinthians 5:9-11?

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not....My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path (Proverbs 1:10, 15).

I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat (1 Corinthians 5:9-11).

This is similar to Saying #2, but Christians are not told to avoid all sinners; they are told to mingle with the sinners of the world, to give them the gospel.

3. How is Saying #3 similar to James 1:19-20 and Proverbs 17:28?

[L]et every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God (James 1:19-20).

Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding (Proverbs 17:28).

Both these Bible passages teach us to be slow to speak—and that even a fool sounds wise when he keeps his mouth shut!

4. Compare Saying #4's exhortation to "keep aloof" from supernatural beings with what the Bible says in James 4:8 and Romans 5:8.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you (James 4:8).

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

The Bible teaches that God, as a supernatural being, does not desire man to stay aloof from Him; rather, He draws near to those who draw near to Him, and sent His Son Jesus to die for us, even when we were sinners and far from Him.

5. How is Saying #5 similar to Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Peter 5:6-7?

Be careful [anxious, "full of care"] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Both the above Bible passages teach Christians not to be anxious and worried, since we can make our requests known to God, have God's peace, and cast our cares upon Him, since he cares for us.

6. Compare Saying #6 to Romans 12:10-11, 17b.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord....Provide things honest in the sight of all men (Romans 12:10-11, 17b).

Similar to Saying #6, the Bible admonishes Christians to honor each other, to work hard at our business, and to be honest with all men.

7. How do Jesus' words in Luke 6:32-35, as well as 1 Thessalonians 5:15, match up with Saying #7? Compare Saying #8 to the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:12.

For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil (Jesus in Luke 6:32-35).

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

The words of Jesus and Confucius are similar, since Jesus tells His followers to do good to those who do evil to them, to show that we are “children of the Highest.” Confucius says to return “good for good” and “justice for injustice.” This might, however, be Confucius’ way of saying we should strive for justice in the face of injustice, for the good of society.

Saying #8 and the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:12 are very similar: Jesus says there, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

1. Give an example of how Saying #9 can be put into practice by a government.

Answers will vary.

2. Sum up what Confucius is saying about participating in government in Saying #10.

He says that it isn’t necessary to hold office to take part in government—that being a moral part of one’s family strengthens a nation’s virtue, which affects the way the government is run.

3. What does Confucius say about rulers in Saying #11? Do you agree with him?

Confucius gives great credit to the influence of good government rulers, which he says could practically erase all crime within 100 years! Answers will vary on whether readers agree with him, but it seems extremely unlikely that crime would be completely unknown just because a nation had good rulers for 100 years.

4. Compare what Confucius says in Saying #12 with what Jesus says in Matthew 7:1-5.

Both say that a person should reform himself before he tries to reform others.

Week 2, Day 4: “The Fountain of Youth”

1. Describe the characters of Hans and Greta.

They are a simple young married couple.

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

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

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

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

The Odyssey, Introduction – Book II – Week 3, Day 2

1. What main point about man's troubles does Zeus make in his address to the "gods"? Do you agree with his assessment?

That humans blame the "gods," but their troubles are actually more a result of their own sins and weaknesses. Answers will vary, but most students will probably say "Yes"; people tend to bring most of their own troubles upon themselves. Job 5:1-7, for example, says among other things that "wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one," and "man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

2. Sum up the predicament that Odysseus is in.

He has been trying to get home for 10 years. Poseidon is angry at him for blinding his son Polyphemus, a Cyclops, and is delaying Odysseus.

3. What does Athene do for Telemachus? What situation are Telemachus and Penelope in at their home?

She goes to Telemachus at Ithaca—disguised as the man Mentos—to encourage him, telling Telemachus that his father is not dead but trying to return. Suitors are living off of the property of Odysseus, trying to woo Penelope, who refuses them.

Additional Notes:

- The polytheism of the Greeks is in full display, with the "gods" arguing on Olympus about how to intervene in the lives of the mortals.
- Telemachus gains boldness after speaking to Athene, and starts to become "a man."

1. Describe the address by Telemachus to the suitors at his parents' home. How do they blame Penelope for their staying there so long?

He tells the suitors they should leave his home and stop eating up all his family's sustenance. They accuse her of delaying in choosing a new husband; she promised to pick when she finished weaving a robe, but each night she unravels the weaving so she doesn't have to marry any of them.

2. Why does Telemachus embark upon a journey?

He wants to sail away to search for his father at Sparta and Pylos with a ship and 20 men.

3. Whose form does Athene take to assist him? What is the significance of this person's name?

Athene takes the form of Mentor, a family friend and advisor to Telemachus. The word "mentor" is commonly used now to denote a trusted friend or advisor.

Additional Notes:

- This chapter contains the first instance of dawn's being described as "rosy-fingered." *The Odyssey* is filled with various other adjective-laden names of events and persons (a list is provided at the end of this document).
- Telemachus first embarks upon a ship in this chapter, which serves to link him to his father, who is often seen sailing and landing in *The Odyssey*.

The Odyssey, Books III-IV – Week 3, Day 3

1. What are the citizens of Pylos doing as Telemachus arrives?

They are sacrificing to Poseidon.

2. What does Telemachus ask of Nestor?

To tell him the truth of what happened to his father.

3. How does Nestor advise Telemachus? Where does Telemachus set sail to?

To ask for Athene's aid and visit Menelaus. Telemachus sets sail for Sparta.

Additional Notes:

- Nestor's example of hospitality to Telemachus is one of many displayed in *The Odyssey*.

1. How do Telemachus and Menelaus view the wealth of Menelaus that is on display at the chapter's opening?

Telemachus is very impressed, but Menelaus would trade most of it for the lives of the men who fell in Troy, especially Odysseus.

2. What does Menelaus predict what will happen to the suitors at the home of Odysseus?

Odysseus shall bring "ghastly doom on these."

3. Sum up the difficulties that Menelaus had trying to get home after the Trojan War.

He is unable to escape an island after fighting the war. The daughter of Proteus (the old man of the sea) tells Menelaus to ask Proteus how to escape the island. Menelaus and three men "jump" Proteus by wearing seal skins, and Proteus tells them they must travel to Egypt and offer a sacrifice to the gods.

4. What does Proteus inform Menelaus of regarding the predicament of Odysseus?

That Odysseus is on the island of Ogygia, in the hall of Calypso, who holds him there by force.

5. Explain the latest plans of the suitors at the home of Odysseus.

The suitors are having a party. They find out that Telemachus has sailed off, and they plan a journey to find and kill him.

Additional Notes:

- The generosity of Menelaus toward Telemachus is sharply contrasted with the ugly, evil plans of the suitors to murder Telemachus when he returns home.

The Odyssey, Books V-VI – Week 3, Day 4

1. Sum up what is decided at the latest council of the "gods."

That Hermes will send a message to Calypso to free Odysseus.

2. What happens to Odysseus when he sails away from Ogygia?

Poseidon tries to kill Odysseus with a storm. Ino tells Odysseus to swim for the shore of Phaeacia. Odysseus drifts for two days and finally makes it to shore, with the aid of Athene.

Additional Notes:

- More polytheistic bickering among the "gods" is here, and more meddling in the "fates" of mortals.

1. How does Athene assist Odysseus when he awakens in Phaeacia?

She visits Nausicaä, the daughter of Alcinöus, and gives her a dream of her need to wash clothes. Nausicaä comes upon Odysseus while washing clothes in the stream.

2. How does Odysseus avoid frightening Nausicaä?

He uses “winning words” to win her favor and trust.

3. Regarding the appearance of Odysseus, (a) what animal is he compared to as he decides whether to approach the maidens, and (b) how is his appearance described after he finishes bathing?

He is (a) compared to a lion, and (b) his appearance is described as when “a man lays gold on silver.”

Additional Notes:

- Nausicaä is shown as a sensible young girl (probably what we would call a “teenager”).
- The importance of tact and “winning words” is emphasized in this chapter; it is what helps Odysseus not to scare off Nausicaä.

The Odyssey, Books VII-VII – Week 4, Day 1

1. In what two ways does Athene assist Odysseus as he walks into the city?

She shows him the way in the form of a little girl, advising him to keep to himself. She also hides him in a mist to keep the leery Phaeacians from questioning him, a stranger.

2. What special skills are the Phaeacian men and women known for?

The men are good shipbuilders; the women are expert weavers.

3. Give the two significant comments on human nature that Odysseus observes about (a) young persons, and (b) “we sons of men on earth.”

Young people are often foolish, and humans are generally suspicious of one another.

4. What do Alcinöus and Arete promise Odysseus?

Any ship or sailors he needs to get home.

Additional Notes:

- More hospitality to a visitor is shown here, this time from Arete and Alcinöus.
- Odysseus’s comment, “Suspicious creatures are we sons of men on earth,” is still true today.

1. How is Odysseus affected by the songs of Demodocus? How does his reaction affect Alcinöus and Arete?

He weeps because they remind him of his participation in the Trojan War, and the things that happened. Alcinöus and Arete are deeply affected by it, and it increases their trust in him and their willingness to help him in his journey.

2. Describe the conflict Odysseus has regarding whether or not to participate in the athletic games during the banquet. How does the situation reflect upon the young men participating?

At first he is too sad and tired to think of games, but Euryalus is so rude to him, laughing at his assumed lack of ability, that Odysseus agrees to play. Their reaction to Odysseus is rude, and it contrasts markedly with the hospitality of Alcinöus and Arete.

Additional Notes:

- There is a tradition that Homer was blind. Many think that this idea came from the description of Demodocus, the blind bard who sings songs of the Trojan War. Some think that this was Homer’s way of slyly inserting himself into the story of *The Odyssey*.

The Odyssey, Books IX-X – Week 4, Day 2

1. Summarize the troubles that Odysseus has with the Ciconians and at the land of the Lotus-eaters.

His men do not leave quickly after defeating the Ciconians, and a few are killed. Zeus sends a storm, bringing Odysseus's ship to the land of the Lotus-eaters, who strongly tempt some of his men to stay after they eat the lotus.

2. Give details of what happens during his encounter with Polyphemus the Cyclops.

He eats two men for every meal and locks the men in a cave with a huge stone. Odysseus and his men get the Cyclops drunk and blind him, escaping under sheep and rams so he can't feel them. Previously Odysseus had told the Cyclops (Polyphemus, the son of Poseidon) that his name was "Noman." When Polyphemus cries out for help, he says "Noman" is hurting him, so the other Cyclopes think nothing is happening. (This is an example of brainpower that the Greeks appreciated.) Odysseus taunts Polyphemus, and Polyphemus hurls great stones at the ship, pushing it back to shore so they can't leave until the next morning.

3. How does the defeat of Polyphemus lead to more trouble for Odysseus?

Polyphemus calls upon his father, Poseidon, to avenge him, and Poseidon, we will see, makes more trouble for Odysseus.

Additional Notes:

- Odysseus shows his quick thinking by saying his name is "Noman," which keeps other Cyclopes from coming to Polyphemus's aid.
- The lack of trouble Telemachus has on his journeys over the seas serves to show how badly Odysseus is suffering with all of the awful troubles he is experiencing with his sails toward home.

1. How does Aeolus attempt to help Odysseus, and how is this attempt spoiled?

Aeolus sends him home with a favorable west wind. The bag of winds, which some crew members think is treasure, is opened, releasing the winds and pushing Odysseus farther back. The men come to the land of the Laestrygonians, who attack Odysseus's crews, and only one ship escapes.

2. Who is Circe? What does she do to the men of Odysseus, and how is he able to fight back? What duty does she give him?

Circe is a "goddess" on the island of Aea, and she turns Odysseus's men to pigs. Odysseus escapes because Hermes gives him a drug that prevents Circe's spell from working. He threatens her, and she turns the men back, allows the crew to stay there for a year, and tells him he must travel to the land of the dead before he goes home.

Additional Notes:

- With all the rough-and-tumble fighting and killing and difficulties Odysseus has endured, the "bag of winds" seems a little silly-sounding.
- Even without having gone there yet, the dark, foreboding nature of the "land of the dead" is palpable.

The Odyssey, Book XI – Week 4, Day 3

1. Make a short list of those whom Odysseus sees in Hades.

Wailing, miserable dead persons, some of whom he knew in life (his mother Anticleia and Elpenor, his friend in battle), including old, young, brides, unwedded, men killed in battle, and so on.

2. List the predictions of Teiresias.

Odysseus will be able to get home only if they resist taking cows and sheep from the island of Thrinacia. He will find trouble at home, but will overcome it, and should offer sacrifices to Poseidon to pacify his anger. Odysseus will then live to be old and prosperous.

3. What does Odysseus learn from his "mother"? What other women does he encounter?

Penelope is still unmarried, his father is waiting for death, his mother died brokenhearted about Odysseus. Odysseus sees wives and daughters of the great men and “immortals” throughout history.

4. How does the audience of Odysseus react when they finish hearing his story? What do they judge about his character, and why?

They beg for more of his story and promise him gifts to take back with him. Based on his storytelling abilities, they judge him to be honest and upright.

Additional Notes:

- The “land of the dead” reminds the Christian of hell. There seem to be very few who ever are able to leave it or not end up there after death, which is a sharp contrast to the Christian view of the afterlife (see Question #7 in “For Additional Thought” at the end of this answer key).
- Tyro is the name of the first woman Odysseus sees in Hades. The word “tyro” in modern usage is a synonym for “beginner” or “novice” (or “newbie” in modern slang).

The Odyssey, Book XII – Week 4, Day 4

1. What advice does Circe offer to Odysseus regarding (a) the Sirens, (b) the Scylla, (c) Charybdis, and (d) the island of Thrinacia?

To stop up the men’s ears from hearing the Sirens, beware the Scylla, avoid the Charybdis, and leave the sheep and cows of the island of Thrinacia alone.

2. What happens to Odysseus and his men during their encounters with the four challenges above?

He passes the Sirens, and the Scylla eats six of his men. They go to the island of Thrinacia, and Zeus sends winds to prevent their leaving. Eurylochus leads the men in a mutiny, deciding to slay the forbidden sheep and cattle. The winds stop, they leave the island, Zeus strikes their ship with lightning, all are killed but Odysseus.

3. Where does Odysseus end up after his difficulties above?

He drifts until he comes to Ogygia (and Calypso), and this is where he is held captive for seven years.

Additional Notes:

- The saying “caught between the Scylla and Charybdis” is an axiom that originates from this chapter. It describes a situation in which a person is forced to choose between two unpleasant alternatives.

The Odyssey, Books XIII-XIV – Week 5, Day 1

1. How is Odysseus sent off by Alcinöus, and how is his journey?

With rich gifts loaded onto a beautiful, swift Phaeacian ship. Odysseus quickly reaches Ithaca; his men place him, still sleeping, with his gifts onto the sand, hiding the gifts so they won’t be stolen.

2. Where does Odysseus awaken? How does Athene again come to his aid?

He doesn’t know where he is. Athene places a cloud around him until she can set up his return. She comes to him as a shepherd, assuring him that he is in Ithaca. She then shows her true form, tells Odysseus of the situation at his home, turns him into an old man to hide his identity, and goes off to assist Telemachus in Lacedaemon.

Additional Notes:

- The Phaeacians again show their hospitality by loading up Odysseus with wonderful gifts and getting him to Ithaca, and his men are even careful not to wake him when they reach the shore!
- Odysseus doesn’t recognize his home when he wakes up (although this is partly because Athene puts a cloud around him). This is also a phenomenon felt by people in today’s world. Often when you return to a place you knew long ago, it has changed dramatically. American author Thomas Wolfe even wrote a novel titled *You Can’t Go Home Again*.

1. Describe the encounter of Odysseus with Eumaeus. What does Odysseus learn from this encounter about (a) his home, (b) Telemachus, and (c) the character of Eumaeus himself?

Eumaeus is kind to Odysseus (who is disguised as an old man), feeding him and protecting him from the herd dogs. Odysseus learns (a) that the suitors are draining his wealth, (b) that Telemachus has gone searching for him, and (c) that Eumaeus is wise, compassionate, and faithful to Odysseus.

2. How does Odysseus test Eumaeus?

He lets Eumaeus know subtly that he needs a coat by telling a tale of how he needed a coat long ago while fighting with Odysseus. Eumaeus understands the message and gives “the old man” a coat.

Additional Notes:

- The interaction between Eumaeus and Odysseus (as an old man) underscores the appreciation that the Greeks had for friendship and loyalty.
- Odysseus again tells a good story that wins him trust with a “stranger,” but it is a false one.

The Odyssey, Books XV-XVI – Week 5, Day 2

1. Explain the specific directions that Athene gives Telemachus.

Go to Ithaca, the suitors plan to kill him, so to go through Eumaeus so they won't get to him.

2. What sign appears to Telemachus as he thanks Menelaus? How does Helen see this omen?

An eagle carrying a white goose appears. Helen says it is an omen of Odysseus: As he came from the hills, so shall Odysseus, coming through hardships, come home.

3. How does Odysseus again test Eumaeus?

As the “old man,” he says he should not burden Eumaeus, but Eumaeus begs him to stay.

4. Where does Telemachus send Theoclymenus, and what sign appears?

Telemachus sends Theoclymenus to Eurymachus, one of the suitors, because he doesn't think it safe at home. A hawk tears a dove, which is a sign that the returning Telemachus will regain his home and property.

Additional Notes:

- Again we see more signs from the “gods” in the form of birds.

1. What is unusual about the dogs' behavior? What is the explanation for it?

They do not bark; it's because they recognize Odysseus as he arrives.

2. How does the “old man” exhort Telemachus when he hears of his troubles?

That Telemachus should go face the suitors, and that it is better to die fighting alone against them than to allow them to take his property and home.

3. How does Odysseus instruct Telemachus after he reveals himself to him?

Go home; wait for him to show up (and don't interfere if the suitors mistreat him); collect armor, spears, and swords; and wait for the right moment to attack the suitors.

4. Describe Penelope's address to Antinoös.

She upbraids him for plotting to kill Telemachus, warning him of Zeus's judgment, especially since Odysseus was kind to his father.

Additional Notes:

- Penelope's harsh words for Antinoös are well spoken; Antinoös comes off looking as despicable, because as Penelope points out, he is returning evil for good.

The Odyssey, Book XVII – Week 5, Day 3

1. How does Telemachus get his father to the family home?

He takes him to his home as a beggar, still looking like an old man.

2. Sum up the meeting between Telemachus and Penelope upon his return. What prediction does Theoclymenus make?

Telemachus is careful not to give away the fact that Odysseus is on Ithaca; Theoclymenus says he saw an omen that Odysseus is now at Ithaca.

3. Describe the confrontation with Melanthius.

Melanthius ridicules the appearance of Eumaeus and the "old man," wishing for the death of Telemachus. He is obviously disloyal.

4. How does Odysseus test the suitors, especially Antinoös? How do they respond to him?

He begs to see who will be generous. Antinoös is not even generous with food that isn't his, and he throws a stool which strikes Odysseus.

Additional Notes:

- Odysseus is taking careful note of who is for him and who is against him. This will come up again later in the book as to how to treat those who are involved in his household.

The Odyssey, Book XVIII – Week 5, Day 4

1. Describe the fight between Odysseus and Irus.

The beggar fights Odysseus for "rights" to the house. Odysseus attempts to avoid a fight, but Irus attacks him, and Odysseus beats him badly.

2. What does Athene do for Penelope? How does this affect the suitors? Why does Penelope tell Eurymachus that she has decided to marry one of the suitors?

She makes Penelope sleep soundly, and improves her beauty as she sleeps. The suitors are stricken with "love" for her. Penelope readies to marry again because Odysseus told her that when Telemachus was old enough to grow a beard, then she would be free to marry, and the returned Telemachus is bearded. She is actually plotting against the suitors.

3. How do Melanthe and Eurymachus treat the "old man"?

Melanthe insults the "old man," and Odysseus rebukes her. Eurymachus insults his bald head and speaks rudely to him.

Additional Notes:

- What is it with the stools? Odysseus again gets a stool thrown at him, which further demonstrates that the suitors are not just troublemakers, but violent, even to an "old beggar."
- The great strength of Odysseus is on display here; there is no question as to if he will beat Irus—the only question is "Will he accidentally kill him?"

The Odyssey, Books XIX-XX – Week 6, Day 1

1. What does Penelope ask the “old man,” and how does he pass the test? What news does he share about Odysseus?

Of his past and his work with Odysseus. Odysseus describes clothing that Penelope gave him. That he has heard that Odysseus is on his way home.

2. How does Eurycleia recognize Odysseus? Why doesn't Penelope recognize him?

As she bathes “the old man's” feet, she sees a scar a boar gave him when Odysseus was a boy. Athene draws Penelope's attention elsewhere, and Odysseus prevents Eurycleia from telling her.

3. Describe Penelope's recurring dream, and its meaning.

A single eagle breaks the necks of twenty geese she keeps at her house. Meaning: Odysseus will return and kill all the suitors.

4. What contest does Penelope propose to determine which of the suitors she will marry?

She will marry the man who can shoot an arrow through a row of axes, like Odysseus used to do.

Additional Notes:

- Again we see an athletic contest that young men are eager to join in.
- The scene with Eurycleia is a great one when she discovers the “old man's” true identity.

1. With what two dilemmas does Odysseus wrestle? How does Athene reassure him?

Whether to kill the suitors now or give them another night, and how he is going to stand up against all of them. Athene promises that she will help, and that he will defeat all suitors.

2. Who else demonstrates his loyalty to Odysseus?

Philoetius, the cowherder.

3. Describe how Telemachus displays his newfound boldness.

He warns the suitors not to insult “the old man,” and threatens Ctesippus after he throws an ox-hoof at Odysseus.

Additional Notes:

- For the third time, Odysseus has something thrown at him. This just serves to make Odysseus (and readers) more sure that justice should be served to these evil suitors.
- There is suspense here—not knowing exactly how Odysseus and Telemachus can beat the suitors.

The Odyssey, Book XXI-XXII – Week 6, Day 2

1. Whom does Odysseus enlist as allies in his upcoming battle with the suitors?

Eumaeus and Philoetius.

2. Describe what happens when the suitors try to bend the bow.

They are unable; Odysseus asks for a chance, they ridicule and want to deny it to him, but Telemachus and Penelope insist he must be given a chance. Odysseus strings the bow and shoots through all twelve axes.

3. Why do Eurycleia and Philoetius lock the doors?

The doors are locked so the suitors cannot escape.

Additional Notes:

- Odysseus again shines in an athletic contest (like he did earlier in *The Odyssey* against the young men of Phaeacia). The stage is set for the even bigger “contest” that will pit Odysseus and Telemachus against the suitors.
1. Describe the battle.
Odysseus and Telemachus slaughter the suitors, Antinoüs first.
 2. How does Athene aid Odysseus and Telemachus?
She appears as Mentor, encouraging him; she also helps in the battle.
 3. What is the “fate” of Leiodes, Phemius, Melanthius, and the disloyal maids?
Leiodes – beheaded; Phemius – guiltless, spared; Melanthius – nose, ears cut off; disemboweled; hands, feet cut off; disloyal maids – hanged.

Additional Notes:

- Odysseus does show mercy to Medon and Phemius, but all the other suitors are killed.
- Although Odysseus does stop Eurycleia from joying in the slaughter, the gruesome way that Odysseus kills and mutilates his enemies is disturbing, especially to the Christian.

The Odyssey, Book XXIII – Week 6, Day 3

1. Discuss Eurycleia’s revelation to Penelope that Odysseus has returned.
Penelope doesn’t believe her; she thinks that Eurycleia has gone mad or that a god has killed the suitors.
2. How does Penelope test Odysseus?
To find out if it really is Odysseus, she speaks to him and then asks Eurycleia to move his bed frame. Odysseus says, harshly, that this is impossible, since a tree had grown through the bed frame and it would be immovable. Penelope knows then that he really is Odysseus, and runs to him.
3. What tasks does Odysseus explain to Penelope that he still has before him?
He must make a sacrifice to Poseidon and go to his father’s house to reveal himself.

Additional Notes:

- The test that Penelope puts Odysseus to—to prove he really is Odysseus—echoes the earlier test that the suitors failed and Odysseus passed. How different he looks to Penelope after 20 years is not directly addressed, but it’s a fascinating question: Would we recognize a wife/husband/child if we had not seen him/her for 20 years?

The Odyssey, Book XXIV – Week 6, Day 4

1. What scene opens this book?
The suitors are in Hades, bemoaning their fate.
2. Describe the reunion between Odysseus and Laertes.
Odysseus visits Laertes as he farms, disguising his identity. He tests his father, who he finds is still mourning his death. He reveals himself to his father, proving his identity through the boar tusk scar.
3. What happens with Odysseus and the families of the slain suitors?

They demand vengeance on Odysseus and gathering arms against him; they fight and Laertes and Odysseus begin to badly beat them. Athene stops the fight and encourages peace.

Additional Notes:

- Again we see the woe and despair of those in Hades.
- The reunion between Odysseus and his father is touching, with Odysseus gently breaking the news.

The Odyssey: For Additional Thought/Essay Topics

1. Write a list of the “repeated phrases that describe characters or events” mentioned in the “Suggestions for Reading *The Odyssey*” at the beginning of the book.

*Here is a non-exhaustive list of phrases used in *The Odyssey* to describe events or persons:*

- *rosy-fingered dawn*
- *Aegis-bearing Zeus*
- *passed the barrier of your teeth (describes words spoken someone)*
- *long-trying/princely/royal/high-born Odysseus*
- *princely/discreet Telemachus*
- *winged words*
- *revered Alcinöüs*
- *clear-eyed Athene*
- *heaven-descended/light-haired Menelaus*
- *heedful Penelope*
- *noble swineherd (Eumaeus)*

What effect do you think this has on *The Odyssey* as a literary work?

*Answers will vary. Students might think it adds consistency to *The Odyssey* and helps establish characters as certain types.*

2. Hospitality toward friends and strangers is an important part of *The Odyssey* (and, it can be inferred, in ancient Greek culture). Briefly describe the hospitality shown by the following examples:

- (a) Book I – the treatment of Athene/Mentor by Telemachus
 - (b) Book III – the treatment of Telemachus by Nestor
 - (c) Book IV – the treatment of Telemachus by Menelaus
 - (d) Books VI-VIII – the treatment of Odysseus by Alcinöüs, Arete, and the Phaeacians
 - (e) Book XIV – the treatment of “old man” Odysseus by Eumaeus
 - (f) Book XVI – the treatment of “old man” Odysseus by Telemachus
-
- (a) *Telemachus welcomes Athene/Mentor into his home, apologizing for the suitors.*
 - (b) *Nestor welcomes Telemachus, telling him stories of the warriors in the Trojan War.*
 - (c) *Menelaus receives Telemachus, welcoming and feeding him.*
 - (d) *Alcinöüs and Arete welcome Odysseus, prepare him for his journey, and furnish him with a ship and rich gifts.*
 - (e) *Eumaeus treats the “old man” (Odysseus) kindly.*
 - (f) *Telemachus gently treats the “old man,” even refusing to take his seat.*

How do the following examples of “hospitality” compare to the ones above?

- (a) Book VIII – the treatment of Odysseus by Euryalus regarding the athletic games
 - (b) Book IX – the treatment of Odysseus and his men by Polyphemus
 - (c) Book XI – the treatment of Odysseus and his men by Circe
 - (d) Books XVII, XVIII, XX – the treatment of the “old man” Odysseus by the suitors, Melanthe, and Melanthius, respectively
-
- (a) *Euryalus mocks Odysseus for his supposed lack of athletic prowess, which is in sharp contrast with how Odysseus has otherwise been welcomed.*

- (b) *Even though he is asked respectfully by Odysseus for help, Polyphemus still kills and eats a number of his men and tries to kill the rest before being blinded.*
- (c) *Circe turns Odysseus's men into pigs when they land on her island (and tries to do the same to Odysseus), which is another strong contrast to the hospitality shown by others when Odysseus (sometimes with his men) land on unknown islands.*
- (d) *The suitors, Melanthis, and Melanthius are all rude and inhospitable to Odysseus.*

How is the situation with the suitors at the home of Odysseus an especially revolting reversal of the examples of generous hospitality in *The Odyssey*?

They arrogantly and rudely impose themselves upon the home of Odysseus, Penelope, and Telemachus, which looks especially terrible in contrast to the free and generous hospitality shown by others in The Odyssey. And even though the suitors are essentially stealing from Odysseus, they are still greedy about sharing it with others like beggars (how Odysseus appears to them).

3. What are some character traits admired by the Greeks? Give examples in *The Odyssey*.

Answers will vary, but might include

- (a) *loyalty – Odysseus's shipmates, servants, son, friends, and wife all show degrees of loyalty that are praised; Aegisthus is condemned for killing Agamemnon, a family member.*
- (b) *strength – Odysseus, just as one example, fights numerous enemies, overcoming them with physical strength; he performs well at the athletic games at Phaeacia; he strings the bow and shoots through the axes with an arrow.*
- (c) *brainpower – Odysseus outwits the Cyclops and successfully plans how to take back his home from the suitors, Circe tells Odysseus how to get past the Sirens with wax in the men's ears and by tying him to the mast,*
- (d) *tact – Odysseus graciously speaks to the Phaeacian young women when he lands there, and he tactfully reminds Alcinöus that he needs to leave.*
- (e) *storytelling ability – Alcinöus and Arete judge Odysseus to be honest and upright mainly based upon his storytelling ability, and Eumaeus helps Odysseus partly based upon the "story of his life" (a false one) that he tells.*

4. List some examples of the belief in "fate" or the idea that events were preordained to happen to different characters in *The Odyssey*.

A few examples are as follows (these are not exhaustive, of course).

- *"The gods delay his [Odysseus's] journey" (Athene in Book I).*
- *For nine years long we plotted their destruction, busy with craft of every kind; yet still the son of Kronos hardly brought us through" (Nestor in Book III).*
- *"Now it is appointed you to see your friends no more nor reach your stately house and native land till you have gone again to Egypt's waters" (Proteus in Book IV).*
- *"Zeus himself distributes fortune to mankind and gives to high and low even as he wills to each" (Nausicaä in Book VI).*
- *"Let me tell you of the grievous journey home which Zeus ordained me on my setting forth from Troy" (Odysseus in Book IX).*
- *"We shall not, friends...go to the halls of Hades until our destined day" (Odysseus in Book X).*
- *"These are the threads of destiny the gods themselves have spun" (Odysseus in Book XI).*

5. In Book XVI Eumaeus the swineherd puts the "old man" (Odysseus in disguise) in Telemachus's hands. Telemachus is concerned about the "old man's" safety because of the suitors, and he responds, "Hard is it even for a powerful man to act against a crowd; because together they are far too strong."

How is this still true in our day? How should a Christian act in a situation similar to the one that Telemachus faces?

Answers will vary, but there are numerous situations in which a person who is right is faced with standing up to a crowd. Teenagers will be able to name various pressures from peers to do wrong. A Christian's response must be based

upon not what the crowd—or a majority—does, but what God’s Word says is the right thing to do. A few examples in the Bible:

- God told the Israelites, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2).
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego resisted the dictate of the king to worship the idol (Daniel 3).
 - Peter told the high priest and council, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
6. Odysseus tells Alcinoüs upon being taken to him, “Upon the shore I saw your daughter’s maids, playing a game, and she among them seemed a goddess. To her I made entreaty, and she did not lack sound judgment, such as you could not hope that a young person meeting you would show; for usually the young are giddy [foolish].”

Apparently in the time of Odysseus, many teenagers or young persons were foolish. Are teenagers or young adults even in today’s society too foolish or immature? Give examples of why you do or do not think so.

Answers will vary, but most readers will probably be able to think of examples of foolish teens or young adults!

7. The concept of death and being consigned to Hades was an event that Greeks dreaded, and the abode of Hades is a depressing, gloomy, horrible place, as described in *The Odyssey*. Achilles, for example, tells Odysseus, “Mock not at death, glorious Odysseus. Better to be the hireling of a stranger, and serve a man of mean estate whose living is but small, than be the ruler over all these dead and gone.”

How does what a Christian has to look forward to in the afterlife contrast with this view? (See for example 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 23:35-43, John 14:1-3.)

For a Christian, to be “absent from the body” is to be present with Jesus Christ. The thief on the cross who believed Jesus was told by Him, “Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.” Jesus told his disciples, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” and that when he left earth, he would prepare a place for those who believed in Him, so they would be together.

Week 7, Day 2: “The Father”

1. What is the last thing the priest says to Thord before he leaves after requesting baptism for his son?

That Thord’s son will be a blessing to him.

2. What do you make of Thord’s request to have Finn baptized by himself, and later to have Finn be the first to be “confirmed” at age sixteen, and then later Finn’s being engaged to marry the richest girl in town?

AWV, but it seems as if he’s spoiling Finn, which hints at trouble; there seems to be an inordinate focus on money and/or pride.

3. For each of his meetings with Thord, the priest “looks gravely” at him, “fix[es] his eyes upon Thord,” and sits for a while “as if in deep thought.” What do you think these actions hint at ?

AWV, but the priest probably knows that Finn is heading for trouble—or more trouble.

4. What does the appearance of the man to the priest differ on the second and fourth appearances?

The second time, sixteen years after his first, finds him looking very young, almost unchanged, to the priest. The last time he comes, he looks so old and haggard that it takes the priest a long time to recognize him.

5. When the priest asks Thord at the story’s end what he’s going to do now, Thord says, “Something better.” What do you think he means?

AWV, but might mean that he’s going to take his faith seriously, given the tragedy that has befallen him.

6. Does Finn become a blessing to Thord, as the priest says he hopes for the first time he sees Thord? If so, how?

AWV.

7. How would you briefly explain the moral of this story?

AWV.

Week 7, Day 2: “Patient Griselda”

1. What first attracts the Marquis to Griselda?

Her exemplary behavior.

2. Why do the people rejoice in Griselda’s becoming the wife of the Marquis? How do they credit him for brilliance?

She is a thoroughly friendly and wonderful person to everyone, and the people declare that the Marquis must be the smartest prince in the world for seeing her features despite her rough outward appearance.

3. Describe the tests that the Marquis puts Griselda through. Why does he do this?

First, he tells her that she must give up their children to be taken away, because he claims the people of the kingdom would never have a poor farm girl’s children as rulers. Second, he claims that he shouldn’t have married her, and he pretends to divorce her, sending her back to her father. Third, he requests that she prepare the palace for his new bride! He puts her through these tests of character to see how she will react.

4. How does Griselda respond to these tests? How do the people respond to Griselda?

Griselda responds to these tests with the utmost class and dignity in all areas. The people love her even more, and they blame the Marquis for being cruel and unjust.

5. How does the story’s last line sum up everything?

It says that the Marquis was too cruel, but Griselda completely transcends every test.

6. How do Ecclesiastes 7:8 and 1 Peter 3:1-4 compare to “Patient Griselda”?

Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.” 1 Peter 3:1-4 says, “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

7. To repeat a question from the introduction: What lessons can someone in our day—specifically, a Christian—take from a story like this, which seems outrageous (and rightly so!), especially to our modern ears?

AWV.

Week 7, Day 3: Stanley and Livingstone

1. How does Stanley let Livingstone’s group know they are coming?

They fire volleys of guns, display the American flag, and blow a horn.

2. Describe the scene when Stanley enters Ujiji.

Thousands possibly are running around in a state of excitement all around; the procession is “grand” and “triumphal.” All the resident look at the entering procession. He sees Livingstone, the only white man, and says, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume.”

1. How does Stanley describe Livingstone’s character?

Without deceit, exactly on the inside as he is on the outside, without fault. He respects him, is drawn to him, and admires him greatly.

2. Describe Livingstone’s appearance.

He’s 60, but back in health he looks about 50, with brown hair streaked with gray, weak teeth due to the poor diet of the land. He has keen eyes and good eyesight, and he walks laboriously. He wears a distinctive naval cap and patched clothes, but is very clean.

3. What misconceptions of Livingstone does Stanley correct?

That he has changed greatly, that he is grumpy and irritable (he has a sense of humor), that he married an African princess, that he takes no notes of his work, that he talks too much.

4. How does Stanley describe Livingstone’s faith?

As not “theoretical,” but practical in everyday life. It causes him to treat all others around him considerately, and Stanley says it makes his company “pleasurable.”

5. What other admirable traits of Livingstone does Stanley notice? Are there traits you are inspired by this account to change in yourself? (See, for example, 2 Timothy 2:5-8 and Philippians 2:14-16.)

He is friendly, gentle, hopeful, not a complainer, and with a will of steel, will not turn from his work. AWW, but in 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Paul tells Timothy, “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” Philippians 2:14-16 says, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

Week 7, Day 3: “The Emperor’s New Clothes”

1. The rogue weavers claim that only what kinds of persons have the power to see the invisible cloth? Why do they say this?

Only those who are competent officials, and those who are perceptive and wise. The purpose of their saying this is to make those who question this nonsense worry about what others will say about their intelligence or worthiness.

2. What effect does this have on the king, his attendants and advisors, and the people?

The government officials and the people alike are afraid to say anything to contradict the charade, and even the king doesn’t want to be thought of as stupid, so he pretends to see the clothing.

3. Write a short sentence that sums up the moral of this tale.

AWV.

4. How is “The Emperor’s New Clothes” still appropriate in our day? Give a specific example.

AWV.

Week 7, Day 4: “The Silver Mine”

1. Why is King Gustav “making the rounds” of Sweden?

He faces war from outside and treason from within his army, and he wants to appeal to the people and their desire to help the nation.

2. What does King Gustav think about the people in the poorest region as he steps out while the carriage is being fixed?

He sees them as strong and is less worried about the security of Sweden in case of war.

3. What mistake does King Gustav make about the minister, and how does the minister use this to his advantage?

He mistakes the minister for a farmer, who goes along with it not to embarrass the king at first, but later so he can speak more freely.

4. How does Gustav treat the minister, not knowing who he is?

He treats him condescendingly, barely thinking that he’s worth listening to.

5. What bad news does the minister receive about the landlord, Pers Persson, and the Svard brothers after he tells them of their discovery? How does the minister himself put a bad spin on the discovery of the mine?

The landlord has been drunk for days, believing he’ll never have to work again, and is killed when he falls in a drunken stupor. Pers Persson believes his share was worth little, so he sells it for \$100, and later takes his own life. Olaf Svard quarrels with his brother about the mine, and he accidentally kills him. Even the minister, after envisioning the changes that would happen after mining the silver for the church’s good, is miserable, thinking about how these changes will eat up most of his share of the silver.

6. How does news of the mine affect the townspeople?

They loaf around, expecting to be rich by it when it is found, and they even spy on the minister, thinking he’ll lead them back to it.

7. What does the minister decide about the mine, and why?

He will never tell where it is, because he is afraid it will ruin the town.

8. List some Biblical admonitions about money or riches that you can recall.

AWV.

Week 8, Day 1: “The Sayings of Erasmus”

1. Pick two of the adages of Erasmus and tell why they are still quite true today.

AWV.

2. What does Erasmus mean by saying, “In the kingdom of the blind, the one-eyed man is king”?

When everyone, or most everyone, is clueless about a situation (Erasmus might be talking about anyone from ignorant citizens to “blind” politicians), a person with even half his wits about him has an advantage.

3. What is Erasmus’s main idea in “On Princes and Pontiffs”?

That princes and theologians are often smug, arrogant “little men” with no real skills or virtues—just ones who have sold their souls to gain power, enrich themselves, or make themselves feel better about their poor “morality” by looking down upon others.

Karma and Nirvana – Week 8, Day 2

1. What does the householder/treasurer do to create both “good karma” and “bad karma” for himself? What are the good and bad results?

He creates “good karma” by giving food to a “Buddha,” and receives “good karma” in the form of being born seven times in a higher state of existence and obtaining the high position of treasurer seven times as well.

He creates “bad karma” by repenting of his generosity and murdering his nephew for money, and he receives “bad karma” in the form of going to hell, being without sons in seven different lives, and therefore forfeiting his property to the king seven times.

2. Sum up the meaning of the poem that concludes this selection.

A man can take nothing of his life with him in death, but he does take his deeds with him to the next life, and they affect how his next life turns out.

3. Look up the following passages, and evaluate how God’s Word compares or contrasts with the belief in karma.

Proverbs 28:27 – Those who give to the poor will not lack, similar to the belief in “good karma.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 – Everyone appears at Jesus’ judgement seat, to answer for our deeds on earth. This is similar to “karma,” but different from reincarnation, since when we die the first time, we must make an account of our deeds.

Galatians 6:8-9 – Those who follow fleshly desire will reap “corruption,” but those who follow spiritual pursuits will gain everlasting life. This is similar to karma, but different in that it directs people to follow Christ, not just some vague pursuit of “good.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 – God’s grace is what saves us, through faith in Jesus, not anything else (including good works), so no one has a reason to boast.

Hebrews 9:27 – Man dies once, then is judged, unlike the belief in reincarnation held by many Buddhists, where a man dies and is rebirthed numerous times.

4. Write the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. Now, compare or contrast them, along with the general notion of nirvana with these passages from the Bible:

Experiencing suffering, realizing that the world is temporary, removing all desires, and following the “Eightfold Path.”

Job 5:6-7 – Man is “born unto trouble,” and will experience hardship and sin in his life, which is a similar teaching to Buddhism’s belief that evil comes upon men.

Psalms 37:4, 42:1-2 – Unlike the Buddhist teaching that nirvana is attained partly through removing all desires, the Bible teaches that if you are able to “delight in the Lord” then He will give you “the desires of thine heart” (Psalm 37:4). David wrote that his soul thirsted after God (Psalm 42:1-2).

Matthew 24:35 – This compares favorably to the idea in Buddhism that the world is temporary, since Jesus said that “heaven and earth shall pass away” (which is not to say that Christianity is the same as or even similar to Buddhism, of course!

Luke 23:39-43 – Unlike the idea of nirvana, which is attained by human works, Jesus tells the thief on the cross he would be with Him in paradise as soon as he died. Also, unlike the idea of nirvana as extinguishing the soul, Jesus said the thief would live again in heaven.

John 3:36, 14:6 – Unlike Buddhism, Jesus says that anyone who has faith in Him will have “everlasting life” (John 3:36), and that He is the only way to God (John 14:6).

Romans 8:11 – Unlike the state of nothingness promised by nirvana, the Bible says that Christians will live again, raised up by the Spirit of God.

James 5:10 – Christianity agrees with Buddhism is that there will be suffering in the world, and says that Christians should work to endure it, looking at the prophets of old as examples of being patient under suffering.

1 Peter 2:19 – The Bible again teaches that Christians will suffer, and that it is “thankworthy” if a Christian endures suffering wrongfully.

Week 8, Day 3: “Spanish Armada Speech”

1. How does Elizabeth compliment her English subjects?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 8, Day 3: “The Foreign Policy of Washington”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Early Christian Writings, Part 2 – Week 8, Day 4

1. What is Justin Martyr's main point in "Folly of Idol Worship"? What does he point out about those who make "gods"?

That it is ridiculous to build "things" out of materials and call them "gods," since they require constant attention and fixing and upkeep—that God is the only God, and that the one built by the Romans are devils.

Justin Martyr points out that those who are supposedly trying to honor "gods" by building idols actually commit sins with the girls who work with them, and therefore show by their immoral behavior that they're not trying to really honor any "god" or the true God.

2. Write a brief summary of Justin Martyr's argument in "Christ Taught Civil Obedience."

Christians obey government rulers, pay their taxes, and pray for those in authority, just as Jesus taught them to do.

1. List the main predictions of the Old Testament that Justin Martyr relates about the coming of Jesus.

That Jesus would be a ruler, He would be the desire of nations, He would be a descendant of the tribe of Judah, that He would be a descendant of Jesse, and that His blood would be shed for His followers.

2. What does listing such predictions prove about the person of Jesus?

That He is more than just a nice man or moral teacher—He is the one that the Old Testament is written about, the Son of God, which is great evidence of God's divine power—His ability to predict the future, showing He is the one true God.

Week 8, Day 4: "Ungo-Zenji"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter I – Week 9, Day 1

1. What do the Romans in the coliseum, regardless of “class,” share in common? What does this say about the culture?

Their enjoyment of blood sport. It speaks of the absolute decadence of the culture.

2. What happens to the Mauritanian and Batavian fighters?

They fight to a draw and are sent back to fight again later against a weakened group of single fighters. The Mauritanian is wounded, but the Batavian is not allowed to finish him off.

3. What is Macer known for, and how is he used to entertain the crowd? How does he surprise everyone present?

Macer is a skillful fighter. He is placed with only a small sword to defend himself against, first, a hungry tiger, and second, a lion. He surprises everyone by refusing to fight the wounded Mauritanian, since, as he says, he is a Christian and cannot harm others.

4. What is troublingly ironic about the crowd’s reaction to Macer’s refusal to fight the Mauritanian?

Instead of rejoicing or seeing Macer’s refusal to harm a wounded man as noble, they are angry!

5. What is learned about the Christians in Rome from the conversation between Marcellus and Lucullus after Macer is killed?

That Christians refuse to fight and accept death willingly, and that Emperor Decius has been killing them to reduce their numbers and enforce adherence to the Roman religion.

6. Describe the scenes with Alexander and the Christian young women.

They are killed by wild beasts, willingly dying for Jesus and praising Him with their last breaths.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter II – Week 9, Day 1

1. Describe the characters of Marcellus and Lucullus.

Marcellus has traveled much and is a Praetorian guard. Lucullus is from a wealthy family and has not been outside of Italy.

2. Why does Marcellus oppose the Coliseum murders of the Christians?

He calls them butchery, and opposes the killings of old men, women, and children..

3. Why does Lucullus accuse Christians of? How does Marcellus answer?

Lucullus calls the Christians evil and dangerous because he says they undermine the government by opposing fighting and the falseness of the Roman religion of many “gods” and “goddesses,” and by supposed immoral conduct. Marcellus replies that the Christians he has seen are calm and noble as they face death, pure in conduct, and obedient to laws.

4. Explain Marcellus’s new duty and how he reacts to it.

He is ordered to hunt down Christians in the catacombs; he is gravely disturbed by this.

5. Give some information about the catacombs, including fossors, that Lucullus explains to Marcellus.

They honeycomb under the city; they are complicated and difficult to find people in; they are used to hide Christians from their persecutors. The fossors are the experts in the catacombs, and are mostly Christians, and will not betray their brothers and sisters.

Additional Notes:

- Marcellus's opposition to the murders of the old, women, and children show that he has not been totally debased by his military or Roman training. He still has common decency to oppose these types of wanton acts against humanity.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter III – Week 9, Day 1

1. One description of the great tombs Marcellus sees reads this way: "The epitaphs of the dead showed not faith, but love of life, triumphant; not the assurance of immortal life, but a sad longing after the pleasures of the world." What does this mean?

That the great tombs do not give real meaning to a person's existence other than his "accomplishments" in his earthly life—an indictment of the hopelessness of the belief system of the ancient Romans.

2. What two characteristics of the Christians is Marcellus curious about regarding their approach to death?

First that they have "conquered the fear of death," and second, that they "die rejoicing."

3. What about a man's appearance leads Marcellus to pick him out? What is the suspected reason for his appearance?

The man is pale-skinned, which makes Marcellus think he is a fossor.

4. Explain how Marcellus determines that Pollio is a Christian. How does he convince the boy to take him down into the Catacombs?

He asks Pollio to help him sacrifice to the "gods," and he cannot. Marcellus swears that he will not betray any Christians if Pollio leads him down into the Catacombs.

Additional Notes:

- Marcellus in this chapter doesn't seem to be a one-track minded Praetorian guard bent on the persecution of Christians. He seems genuinely curious and a seeker of truth, especially in light of his thoughts on how Christians approach death, which contrasts how the Roman religion dealt with the subject.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter IV – Week 9, Day 2

1. Why does Marcellus have little fear about being led into the Catacombs into the mercy of the Christians, even though he will be rightly seen as a persecutor?

His experience with them indicates that they are not violent or vengeful, and he feels safe.

2. What does Marcellus notice about the wording on many Christian tombs?

They speak of the Christians' being dead "in peace."

3. Describe the appearance, demeanor, and actions of the Christians in the small room that Pollio leads Marcellus to.

They are pale and thin, but their eyes reflect hope, not despair. They are singing praises to God.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter V – Week 9, Day 2

1. How does Marcellus assure the Christians that he does not mean to harm them?

He reminds them that he can never leave the catacombs without their help, and that he is helpless and in their hands.

2. What does Marcellus say about his religious training and his opinion of the “gods”? What questions and sights lead him to seek out Christianity?

He was trained in the Roman and Greek religions and philosophies, but he despises the “gods” and “goddesses,” who behave worse than he does. His questions about life and death and truth and knowing God, as well as his observation of Christian behavior, lead him to seek out Christianity.

3. How does Honorius answer Marcellus’s questions? What about Jesus does he explain to Marcellus?

He explains the true God and Jesus Christ to him—his mentions in prophecies, his birth, death, and resurrection.

4. Explain what happens to Marcellus.

Marcellus is converted, and becomes a Christian.

Additional Notes:

- Honorius answers Marcellus’s questions by referring to Bible prophecies of Jesus Christ. This is an effective way of witnessing; no other book supposedly divine in origin is like the Bible in this way.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter VI – Week 9, Day 2

1. How do the many grave inscriptions that Marcellus reads affect him?

They read that Christians died bravely and without fear because of their faith, and this strengthens Marcellus’s faith.

2. What does the “fish” symbol represent?

The Greek letters represent “Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior.”

3. What do the pictures of Jonah and Lazarus represent to the Christians, as Honorius explains?

The resurrection of Christ and of the dead.

4. What does the officer’s tombstone inscription represent to Marcellus? What about the other inscriptions of Christians?

An example for him to follow by dying for Christ if necessary. The other Christians’ tombstones demonstrate their love for each other.

5. Why does Marcellus call the death of a Christian “sweet”?

Because the fear of death is gone, and a Christian goes to a blessed reward from Christ.

6. What major difference does Christianity have from other religions, as does Honorius explain?

Unlike pagan religions, Christians need no priest; Jesus is the mediator between God and man.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter VII – Week 9, Day 3

1. What is your reaction to the general’s words to Marcellus: “A soldier’s feelings have no right to interfere with his duties”?

Answers will vary, but there will no doubt be a realization that the general is wrong in this case, and in many other cases, because a soldier should not obey an order simply because it is an order.

2. Why does Marcellus tell Lucullus about how he (Marcellus) feels about the philosophies that he has been apparently satisfied with before?

That he has not been satisfied with them, because of their emptiness, and that the Christian faith has satisfied his soul.

3. What does Lucullus tell Marcellus he (Marcellus) must choose between? How does Lucullus tell Marcellus he can be “forgiven” by the general?

He can either be a soldier or a Christian. The only way Marcellus can be “forgiven” is for him to forget his conversion, and to go again to arrest the Christians in the catacombs.

4. Why do you think that the richness and opulence of Rome is described in such detail as Marcellus walks through the city at the chapter’s end?

It is to provide a similarity to Babylon, which the disturbed man speaks about (quoting Revelation 18), which Rome and the Roman religion will play a part in during the last days.

Additional Notes:

- There is a notable contrast in how Lucullus’s appeals to Marcellus to resume his military career repeatedly focus on this earthly life’s benefits and rewards, while Marcellus’s focus has shifted to the eternal.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter VIII – Week 9, Day 3

1. How does the state of Christians in the catacombs compare with the condition of the Roman Empire?

The peace and harmony underground contrasts strongly with the ugliness of the culture of the Roman Empire, with its “plots, rebellions, and treasons” and hearts of people dulled into feeling no compassion for others.

2. How does the corruption of the empire affect those who are Christians?

Persecution grows, becoming a Christian often means death, and Christians must make choices between their faith and everything else they have.

3. How are the catacombs, paradoxically, both a source of comfort and gloom?

They are a safe refuge for Christians, who can worship and bury their dead, but they are also without light, and Christians who stay too long underground lose their color and health.

4. How are the catacombs decorated? What is the effect of these decorations?

With pictures of great Christians who stood strong in their faith. This brightens up the dark underground and encourages Christians in the catacombs.

5. List several positive effects that the Roman persecution has upon Christians.

It gives them “zeal, faith, and love,” it shows who is truly a Christian, it made them brave, it brought the Christians closer to each other, and it makes Christianity more than just a belief system, but a way of life and devotion to Jesus Christ.

Additional Notes:

- It is ironic that in the midst of so much darkness in the catacombs, the area is filled with so much “light” of the truth of Jesus Christ, and the love the Christians have for each other.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter IX – Week 10, Day 1

1. Explain how the increased persecution of Christians affects the catacombs.

More Christians are persecuted, which includes those who helped those living in the catacombs, so life is more difficult for those who receive less aid. Christians are more reliant upon “neutrals” for aid. Also, there are more Christians crowding the spaces below.

2. What are the thoughts of Marcellus as he completes his task in the Coliseum?

He wonders how long it will be until he is not gathering the bodies of slain Christians, but being gathered by someone else.

3. Why are the Christians allowed into the Coliseum, instead of simply being captured by the gatekeeper?

They help the empire by burying their dead, and those who would try to force them to betray their Christian brothers and sisters know it is nearly hopeless, because the Christians will refuse, and the persecutors would be lost in the catacombs.

4. What bad news does Marcellus learn about Lucullus?

That another of the Praetorian guard converted to Christianity, and the emperor is so angry that he put Lucullus in charge of rounding up Christians.

5. Why is Marcellus recognized for who he is by a crowd?

He commands the crowd to step aside in his soldierly manner (and even says he is of the Praetorian guard), and they recognize him as the member who converted to Christianity.

Additional Notes:

- Christians are shown often quoting Scriptures to each other to strengthen one another. This is a good lesson for us today!

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter X – Week 10, Day 1

1. How does the outlook of Marcellus affect the other Christians?

His resolve and courage inspire them, especially when he quotes Scriptures to them.

2. What two items of bad news do the Christians receive?

The death of Chrysippus, and the capture of Pollio by the Praetorians, with Lucullus in charge.

Additional Notes:

- The introduction of Lucullus in this chapter sets up a possible confrontation between his old friend Marcellus and himself.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter XI – Week 10, Day 2

1. What surprises Lucullus about Marcellus's report on how he has been?

Lucullus is surprised that Marcellus is happier than he has ever been, because Lucullus expected more unhappiness from the persecution.

2. To what does Lucullus attribute Marcellus's courage? How does Marcellus respond?

Lucullus attributes it to madness, but Marcellus says it comes from God.

3. What request does Marcellus make of Lucullus?

To release Pollio in exchange for himself.

4. How does Lady Caecilia react to Marcellus's news?

She dies from grief.

Additional Notes:

- Lady Caecilia’s reaction is an example that Christians are subject to the same emotional reactions as non-Christians. The difference is the hope that they have in the face of sorrow or danger.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter XII – Week 10, Day 2

1. How does Pollio face the inquisition? How does he answer their questions?

He faces it bravely, answering questions truthfully and making the inquisitor look foolish, with his comments about “crime” and “treason.”

2. How does the examiner’s offer to Pollio reflect the difference between his (or the Roman government’s) worldview and the Christian view?

His offer of clemency if Pollio recants demonstrates his love of the power and wealth of earthly life, instead of eternal considerations.

3. Explain Pollio’s statement to the examiner: “The death which you threaten me with has no terrors; but the life to which you invite me is more terrible to me than a thousand deaths.”

To live as a non-Christian, with no eternal hope, is much more frightening than dying for his faith.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter XIII – Week 10, Day 3

1. How does Pollio hold himself in the arena? What delays his killing by the tiger?

Fearlessly, awaiting death and his reward, praying to God. Cinna is thrust into the arena after he shouts to the crowd, and is killed first.

2. How does Marcellus enter the scene? What does he resolve?

He shouts in anger at Pollio’s murder and is surrounded by the crowd. Lucullus attempts to let him go, but he refuses.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter XIV – Week 10, Day 3

1. What options does Lucullus give Marcellus? What is Marcellus’s response?

To give up Christianity for a short time, until the lust for persecution subsides, or to still be a Christian, but to pretend he isn’t. Marcellus refuses.

2. How is Marcellus more severely treated? Explain his last words and their importance.

His death is by being burned at the stake. His last words, praising God and proclaiming victory, magnify God and speak highly of the Christian faith.

The Martyr of the Catacombs, Chapter XV – Week 10, Day 4

1. How has Marcellus’s death affected Lucullus?

He is deeply saddened, but curious about Marcellus’s way of facing his torture and death.

2. Sum up the conversation between Lucullus and Honorius.

Honorius asks for Marcellus’s remains, which Lucullus refuses initially. Lucullus comments on the strong impression that Marcellus made during his death, and asks if he can take his ashes down to the catacombs.

3. Describe the service for Marcellus. How does it affect Lucullus?

Honorius reads 1 Corinthians 1 and prays. Lucullus is deeply moved by the Christians' devotion even in the face of death, and feels that he can never be happy again. He now appreciates the devotion of Marcellus toward the poor Christians, whom Lucullus feels have the only virtue left in Rome. He becomes a friend to Christians, helping them escape persecution, and eventually becomes a Christian himself.

4. How does the author compare the Roman Empire to the faith of the Christians?

By comparing the ruins of ancient Rome, which is dust, to the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Martyr of the Catacombs: For Additional Thought/Essay Topics

1. Even more disturbing than the fact that the Roman government would allow and even promote such bloody murders in the Coliseum is how the general public reveled in the violence. Are there modern-day parallels in our society, in which large numbers of people—not just a twisted few—get thrills from violence? What does this say about our society?

Answers will vary, but students might mention the great number of Americans, even those who call themselves Christians, who engage in “killing” while playing gruesomely violent video games, or those who pay to see gory films where people are killed and tortured by monsters, serial killers, or soldiers.

2. The songs the Christians sing in the Catacombs reflect their joyous hope in the midst of tribulation, and are based upon actual Scripture passages. Are there songs that use the Scriptures that encourage you in times of trouble?

Answers will vary.

3. Marcellus is open-minded and dissatisfied with the “gods” the Romans worship. (Maybe he had been exposed to *The Odyssey*!) In what ways do modern non-Christians also try other “gods” and become dissatisfied, and more open to salvation through Jesus Christ?

Answers will vary, but many modern “gods” that people worship are different ways to worship and please themselves—money, power, prestige, illicit relationships, and so on. The emptiness that this kind of life and pursuit brings can lead a person to seek the true God and salvation through Jesus Christ.

4. In Chapter VI, Marcellus sees that Christianity is different from other religions in that (a) there is no priest class, and (b) by the way Christians live their lives. Sum up what 1 Timothy 2:1-6 has to say about these two topics.

1 Timothy 2:1-6 says, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

This passage says that Christians are to live a life of peace, honesty, godliness, and prayer for others, including government authorities. Christians also have no “priest class”—they have direct access to Jesus Christ himself, the only mediator between God and mankind.

5. The “splendid arms” and “gorgeous armor” Marcellus wore as a soldier contrast with his “simple tunic,” which he later wears. What might this change of clothes represent?

This is a visual representation of his decision to simply follow Christ and leave behind his former life.

6. The murder of Pollio underscores in a more personal way the gruesome evil and desperation of the Roman government, who would interrogate and execute a boy who is barely more than a child. In what ways are modern governments and the average person also hostile—and even a threat—to children and teenagers?

Answers will vary, but for the government, they might include the government school system's focus on anti-Christian teachings and sexualizing children, its apparent tendency to kidnap children from good parents and put foster children

in bad environments, the empty promises that military recruiters make to impressionable young persons in high school, and so on.

Society in general also seems bent against children in many ways. Homeschooling families can attest to the number of times they've been disdainfully asked, "Are those all YOUR children?" There is a general lack of kindness and enthusiasm for the idea of having children, an "I can't wait until school starts so I can get rid of the kids" mindset, and of course, the heinous evil of abortion.

The Hippocratic Oath – Week 11, Day 2

1. What items would Christians agree with in the Hippocratic Oath? Disagree with?

Answers will vary, but Christians would obviously abhor taking oaths to Roman "gods," and they would approve of statements advocating helping patients and refusing to provide abortions.

2. What specific types of harm does a doctor taking the Hippocratic Oath swear to abstain from?

He swears to abstain from doing anything to harm a patient, to give a patient medicine to commit suicide, to perform an abortion, to keep from corrupting himself or those under his care.

3. What do you think is the importance of doctor-patient confidentiality, as expressed in the second-to-last paragraph?

It keeps the patient's condition private, in case it is embarrassing or would produce sorrow for his family or possibly give an advantage to his enemies. It also makes it more likely that a patient will be open about his symptoms to a doctor, instead of avoiding going to a doctor because he (the patient) is worried that details of his condition might be revealed by the doctor.

4. Look up online the "Lasagna Oath" (mentioned in the headnote, and compare it to the ancient Hippocratic Oath. What main differences do you note? Why do you think these differences exist?

Answers will vary, but the Lasagna Oath omits references to "gods," and, sadly, it also eliminates any promise not to kill patients or give abortions to women.

The Law of Hippocrates – Week 11, Day 2

1. Why does Hippocrates claim medicine is "far behind all the other arts"?

Many who practice it are "ignorant," and are judged "inconsiderately" by others. Also, many physicians are unqualified, and the law does not punish them for malpractice; only societal disgrace affects these quacks.

2. How does Hippocrates' list of requirements for doctors really apply to all vocations?

It explains that success in a certain career in whatever field is greatly aided by natural talent, a desire to learn more, and a willingness to work hard at it.

3. Explain the meaning of Hippocrates' statement "Inexperience is a bad treasure."

It hurts the effectiveness of a physician, who needs experience to improve and become proficient.

4. What do you make of the last paragraph? Do you agree or disagree?

Answers will vary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 – Week 11, Day 3

1. What word would you use to describe the *tone* of this chapter?

Answers will vary, but probably somber, serious, weary, and so on.

2. How does Solomon’s use of contrast affect how this chapter reads?

Answers will vary, but it makes the things of the world seem starkly good or bad, worthwhile or worthless, and righteous or unrighteous. It brings into clarity many significant activities in life.

3. Keeping in mind Solomon’s time of life and experiences before writing Ecclesiastes, write three “lessons to be learned” from this chapter.

Answers will vary, but certainly something to the effect of “Do good,” “Obey God,” “Don’t put too much emphasis on material goods that won’t last,” or something similar.

1 Corinthians Chapter 13 – Week 11, Day 3

1. Explain in your own words what the first verse of this chapter means.

Great speakers who use great words, if they don’t have charitable love for their fellow man, make their words into nothing more than noise.

2. How does charity compare to prophecies, tongues, and knowledge, according to 13:8?

Charity never fails, unlike prophecies, which will discontinue; languages, which will stop; and knowledge, which will vanish. Charity is everlasting!

3. Why do you think verse 11 is included in this chapter?

Answers will vary, but the quality of charity is something that adult Christians should work to improve and practice, being unselfish and seeking the good of others, unlike a little child's tendency to seek only to please himself.

4. Explain briefly what the following verses say about *charity* (use a King James Bible to look them up):

1 Corinthians 8:1 – Charity edifies others, unlike knowledge, which can cause arrogance.

1 Corinthians 14:1 – Christians should seek to better practice charity.

Colossians 3:14 – Christians should “put on charity,” which is the epitome of Christian perfection.

1 Timothy 1:5 – The final aim of the commandment of God is charitable love.

1 Peter 4:8 – Charity should be the top priority of Christians, and it “covers a multitude of sins.”

Week 11, Day 4: “Miss Calista’s Peppermint Bottle”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 12, Day 1 (Chapters 1-2)

1. Sum up the Foreword.

Patrick was neither Roman Catholic nor Irish. The myths about him were created because he was a simple, praying, faithful man, and to many medieval tale spinners and “Christians” who used force to spread “Christianity,” they couldn’t understand the power of the Holy Spirit’s work in Patrick’s life, so they made him out as a man who did miracles constantly.

Chapter 1:

1. Give details of the story’s setting. What happens to Patrick? Who is Marcella, and what effect does she have on him?

Patrick is 16, living on the west coast of Britain. His village is attacked, and he is kidnapped by Irish invaders. Marcella is Patrick’s old nursemaid; her words are optimistic and have a calming effect upon Patrick.

2. What does Patrick see hanging on the wooden gate around the king’s castle? How do you think this affects him?

Five human heads. It is a gruesome sight, probably upsetting and intimidating Patrick, as it was no doubt intended to do.

Chapter 2:

1. Describe the Irish king’s courtyard. Why are Patrick and others led to another courtyard?

It isn’t kingly—just a plain, dirty log cabin and enclosure. Patrick and others are taken to a courtyard where they are sold as slaves.

2. Who is Cedd? What hypocrisy of Patrick’s family does he point out?

An older, gray-haired British slave who works for Patrick’s master. He comes from a fisherman’s family and is a Christian. When Patrick denounces the Irish for owning slaves, Cedd points out that Patrick’s family owns slaves too.

Week 12, Day 2 (Chapters 3-4)

Chapter 3:

1. What does Milchu have planned for Patrick?

He is going to make a shepherd out of him. Patrick protests, but Cedd says it’s a good opportunity, because he can be outdoors and with Cedd.

2. Sum up Cedd and Patrick’s discussion about God.

Patrick is angry that God let him be kidnapped, even after he prayed for help. Cedd replies, “What have you ever done for Him?” He suggests that God allowed Patrick to be captured because He loves him.

3. What does Patrick pray after running away? How does he plan to pray?

After running away, Patrick later asks God to forgive him, and to let him be His slave, returning to Cedd. He confesses to Cedd, who says he knew the whole time. Patrick plans to pray for his release 100 times a day!

4. What does Cedd wonder out loud at the end of Chapter 3?

Whether God is preparing Ireland for something, since there are thousands of British slaves that have been brought there.

Chapter 4:

1. Who were the Druids? How does Cedd warn Patrick about Lughnasa?

Druids were Irish priests who practiced human sacrifice. Cedd warns Patrick not to get mixed up in this pagan celebration of the “god” Lugh.

2. What does Patrick decide about his prayer for deliverance? Why? How is his character changing?

He will pray for two years, like Cedd said he did. Patrick becomes less irritable and apt to complain.

3. What does Patrick learn about Irish religion? Why does Cedd compare them to slaves?

They worship many gods and goddesses. Druids are their priests, and the most powerful men in Ireland, since even kings fear their religious “magic,” and they are the only literate people in the country. Their other basic beliefs: (1) They think water is sacred; (2) they think the number three is holy; (3) they believe souls wander from body to body after death.

Cedd compares the Irish to slaves because they are in bondage to what he calls their “dark, demonic religion.”

Week 12, Day 3 (Chapters 5-7)

Chapter 5:

1. Describe Ireland’s chieftains.

They are “small kings”; each of them (there are around 1000 in Ireland) rules a small “kingdom.”

2. List some of what Cedd says are Irish traits.

A love of fighting; a good sense of humor; excellent hospitality; skill at farming, shepherding, and crafting.

3. What results from Patrick’s 4 ½ year prayer for freedom? How has his view changed on the Irish?

God still has said “No.” His love for the Irish people has grown.

Chapter 6:

1. What does Patrick hear after six years of praying?

“It is good that you are fasting, for soon you will return to your own country.” Then he hears, “Look, your ship is ready.”

2. Describe his escape.

He runs away in the night, sleeping and hiding during the day. He travels east, covering over 200 miles. When he sees what he thinks is the ship God told him about, the shipmaster growls at him to get away, which Patrick can’t understand.

Chapter 7:

1. What does Patrick talk to the crew about? What shock do they have for him?

Jesus; he sees them praying to a wooden “god.” They ask where he is from, and then tell him that he’s their slave now.

2. Describe Patrick’s next dream. How do the men come to him for help?

God tells him he will only be with them two months. The men can’t find any town with people, and they are starving, so they ask Patrick for help. He prays, and God sends pigs for them to eat.

3. How is Patrick tested?

He is offered honey sacrificed to the sun “god” and refuses. Satan attacks him with pain, and he cries out to God for deliverance.

4. Sum up Patrick’s journey home. How has he changed?

He sails to France, then to Britain, then walks a week home, joyfully running to his parents. He has changed in the way he treats his servants, which they notice.

5. Explain the chapter’s last line.

There is no way Patrick says he’ll be back in Ireland unless God makes it happen!

Week 13, Day 1 (Chapters 8-9)

Chapter 8:

1. What do the people of Patrick’s native village notice about him?

How much he has changed—his bearing, his desire to worship and read the Scriptures.

2. Explain Patrick’s dream and its meaning.

He dreams that Victoricus, an old hermit, sails from Ireland with a bag of letters from the Irish that read “We beg you, young man, come and walk among us again.” Patrick interprets this to mean that God wants him to return to Ireland.

Chapter 9:

1. Why does Patrick believe God wants him to return to Ireland? What does his church advise him, and why?

To share the gospel of Jesus with them. His church leaders advise him not to return, because they claim that Ireland is not ready for the gospel, and that Patrick needs more seminary training.

2. For what six reasons does Victoricus say the church leaders are wrong? What two things does he counsel Patrick to work on?

Victoricus counters that Patrick is perfectly qualified to return and preach the gospel by noting that Patrick is (1) a man of prayer, (2) loves the Irish people, (3) has strong faith in God, (4) is willing to lay down his life for the Irish, (5) knows the language, and (6) can endure hardships. Victoricus does say, however, that Patrick needs (1) more knowledge of the Bible, and (2) the church’s blessing.

3. What do the church’s leaders say when Patrick tells them of his dream?

That he has their blessing to return to Ireland, but that he needs to study the Scriptures more.

Week 13, Day 2 (Chapters 10-11)

Chapter 10:

1. What does Patrick confess to Marcus?

Some serious sin he was involved in when he was 15 years old.

2. What state is the nation of Britain in?

Since the Romans left, it is under attack from the Irish, the Saxons, and the Scots. The Romans inform a council that Britain is no longer a part of the Roman Empire, and not under its protection.

3. How long does it take for the presbyters to recommend Patrick's return to Ireland? What are his sermons like, and how are they received?

Six years! His sermons are fiery and rebuke the "Christians" for worshiping other "gods" and for being materialistic. They are overall not very well received.

Chapter 11:

1. Who is Vortigern? What does the delegation suggest Britain should do?

He is a brutal Saxon leader successful in warding off attacking Scots. A British delegation suggests that Britain make an alliance with the Saxons, give them land for farming, and count on their military strength to stop various tribes and peoples from attacking Britain.

2. How does Patrick see this idea? What Biblical example does he refer to?

Patrick loathes the idea, saying that Britain should trust God instead of pagans to protect them. As an example, he points to the example of Israel losing God's blessing when that nation made alliances with pagan nations.

3. How do the presbyters answer Patrick's repeated requests to go to Ireland?

"Not yet."

Week 13, Day 3 (Chapters 12-13)

Chapter 12:

1. How long has Patrick been back in Britain? What do Lomman and Crispus tell him?

He has been there 20 years. Lomman and Crispus tell Patrick they are going to accompany him to Ireland when he returns, and they vow never to marry so that God can use them to do this.

2. Explain Patrick's dilemma regarding Armorica.

He isn't sure whether to go, because if he does he might be passed up for the position of bishop. He goes anyway and ministers to many.

3. What shock does Patrick receive? What does his father say this means for his return to Ireland?

Marcus has revealed Patrick's confidential confession, which led the church to choose someone else as bishop. Patrick's father says now the church will never give Patrick their blessing to return to Ireland.

Chapter 13:

1. Describe Patrick's latest dream.

God says, "We have seen the face of Marcus with displeasure."

2. Name some things that Marcus's betrayal does for Patrick.

It makes him struggle to forgive Marcus. It also makes it harder for his preaching to be effective in Britain, so he thinks more and more about returning to Ireland.

3. What does Rome's sending a bishop to Ireland mean (a) to Patrick, and (b) to his church's leaders? What do they decide?

To Patrick it means God could be close to sending him, since Britain hasn't sent help to Ireland, although Rome has. To the church, it means that God is rebuking them for not sending Patrick years ago to the Irish. They decide to send Patrick to Ireland.

4. What happens to Patrick before he sails for Ireland?

He hears from Lomman and Crispus that they will go with him, he has an ordination service, and he forgives Marcus for betraying him.

Week 13, Day 4 (Chapter 14)

1. What does Patrick wonder about his former master in Ireland? What does he decide about this?

Whether he will reclaim him or kill him. Patrick decides that God has not sent him to Ireland to be killed before He finishes using Patrick for His work.

2. How does Patrick announce himself to the guards of the village? How is he received?

He says that he is the messenger of a mighty king who would like to speak to the king of the village. He and his missionaries are invited to a feast given by the king.

3. Describe Patrick's speech that night.

He says that he has good news—that Jesus is God's Son, and more powerful than the Irish "gods," who are actually demons. He tells the crowd that Jesus—and by extension, those who trust in Him—has power over these "gods."

4. What does one of the king's attendants ask Patrick, and how does Patrick answer?

"How do we know this is true?" Patrick says that he is proof—that God sent him to Ireland to learn Gaelic; that God told him to run away and provided a ship; and that God told him through a dream he would only be with his captors two months. He also shares how God provided food for his captors and sent him back to Ireland to spread the gospel.

5. Describe how Patrick ends his speech.

Someone asks him how he can become a son of God, and Patrick says that only the courageous can. He says he will explain how the next day.

Week 14, Day 1 (Chapters 15-16)

Chapter 15:

1. What four basic religious beliefs of the Irish does Patrick use to explain the gospel?

(1) Their belief in an immortal soul, (2) their belief that pools and springs are sacred (a connection to baptism), (3) their belief that certain trees are sacred (like the Tree of Life and the cross of Jesus), and (4) their belief that the number 3 is sacred (like the Trinity).

2. How does Patrick warn those who wish to become Christians?

That they can't still worship other "gods," war against their neighbors, steal from others, and live as drunks.

3. What does Patrick do for those who still wish to become Christians?

He baptizes them and puts a sign of a cross on their foreheads.

Chapter 16:

1. Why does Patrick present Jesus as a hero? In what ways does he not represent a typical Irish hero?

To appeal to the Irish sense of hero worship. Jesus, however, altogether doesn't fit their ideal of a hero, since he is not a military conqueror (yet), and he is not handsome.

2. How have Irish women been affected by the gospel?

Many have become Christians and given up common practices of Irish women, such as sexual promiscuity, an extreme focus on beauty, and an aggressive manner.

3. Why doesn't Patrick leave Ireland to visit his home? What does Lomman commit to?

The Holy Spirit has told him that his work in Ireland will be great danger if he ever leaves. Lomman commits to pray for Patrick for a chance to visit home.

Week 14, Day 2 (Chapters 17-18)

Chapter 17:

1. What does Patrick learn about Britain?

They had peace with Saxon help for several years, but the Saxons saw the Britons were weak and wanted more land, so they allied with the Picts and Angles to take over the entire nation, burning and killing and looting everywhere. His parents fled, but died of plague, and left him money from his inheritance.

2. Why does Patrick command such respect in Ireland? How is he like Jesus?

He is an honorable man of God; the Irish respect him as a hero, since they have a tradition of honoring them. He never marries, has no home, owns little or no property, and loves and forgives his enemies.

3. What perils do Patrick and his fellow ministers face?

Non-Christian clans, wandering tribes, kings who demand ransoms, being kidnapped as slaves.

Chapter 18:

1. How does Patrick handle backsliders? How do they react, and why?

He is tough on them, often excommunicating them from the church. But they often submit to his leadership, because of the influence of the Druids and their power over the Irish.

2. Sum up the treasure box incident.

A king tries to buy his way back into church by offering Patrick treasure, which Patrick refuses. Quintus, visiting from Britain, arrogantly orders him to take it, and Patrick refuses his order, saying Quintus and the other British presbyters have no more authority over him.

Week 14, Day 3 (Chapters 19-20)

Chapter 19:

1. What event begins Chapter 19? How does it soon turn for the worse?

New converts are being baptized. Soon, however, a British ship arrives, and the sailors come out and cold-bloodedly murder the men, take the women and children captive, and plunder the homes.

2. How does Patrick react to this horror? What does he order the Irish to do?

He is broken hearted about the slaughter, but sees that the women and children were kidnapped, and orders a boat to be sent to tell the sailors to release the prisoners and return the stolen property.

Chapter 20:

1. Who is responsible for raiding Ireland? Why is this disturbing?

It is Coroticus. This is disturbing, because he is the “leader” praised so highly by Quintus during his last visit to Ireland, and also because the kidnappers call themselves “Christians.”

2. How does Patrick respond? (Look at his strong actual words on page 151.) How does Britain react? Explain Bishop Brannoc’s words.

He excommunicates Coroticus in a letter delivered to him, accusing him of bloody brutality and treachery, and of being a citizen of demons instead of Christ. He calls Coroticus an enemy of God, and forbids other Christians to associate with him in any way. When the letter is read, there is an uproar. Quintus ridicules Patrick, but Brannoc says that the British “Christians” have chosen Barabbas over Jesus.

3. Explain Quintus’s lie about Patrick, and Patrick’s response.

Quintus says Patrick charges for baptisms. When Patrick finds out, he is crushed, but finally writes a response, which is ignored, so he is forced to simply press on and forgive his enemies.

Week 14, Day 4 (Chapter 21, Epilogue, Appendix I)

Chapter 21:

1. List some “final lessons” from Patrick as he approaches death.

He has done nothing on his own strength, but God’s; he admonishes his assistants to accept whatever good or bad that happens, and to thank God either way.

2. What final request does Patrick make of his fellow ministers? Why?

He realizes he is revered in Ireland, so he asks to be secretly buried, so people won’t give him undue honor and make pilgrimages to his tomb.

Epilogue:

1. How did Patrick help the British far more than Coroticus?

Because many Irish became Christians, they (1) stopped attacking Britain’s coast, (2) befriended the British, (3) helped the British church, which was in trouble, (4) let British settle in Ireland, safe from the Saxons, and (5) sent out missionaries to Britain. In short, Patrick’s work helped to bring true Christianity to England and Scotland.

2. List the author’s main lessons to learn from Patrick’s example. Why does he believe no one has heard of the “next Patrick”?

To pray faithfully, to wait on God. The author believes that the “next Patrick” won’t be a famous author or speaker, but someone who is faithfully praying and following God’s leading.

Appendix I: Was Patrick a Roman Catholic?

1. Who is mainly responsible for the myth of Patrick’s Roman Catholicism? List Roman Catholic practices that Patrick never followed.

Medieval authors who wished to elevate the status of Roman Catholicism. Roman Catholic practices that Patrick never followed include Mary worship, purgatory, indulgences, praying to “saints,” papal infallibility, transubstantiation, relics, statues, rosaries, forbidding marriage, wearing clerical costumes, masses for the dead, and so on.

2. What elements of primitive (early) Christianity was Patrick known for?

Obedience instead of theology, separation of church and state, not using force to spread the gospel.

3. Briefly sum up how Ireland became largely Roman Catholic.

- *The Roman Catholic Church opposed the independence of the Irish Church.*
- *The Pope encouraged the Norman William the Conqueror to invade England in 1066 to bring England under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.*
- *Pope Adrian “gave” Ireland to Norman Henry II of England, who invaded Ireland and brought down the Irish churches.*
- *Ireland eventually became independent again, but “Protestant” Henry VIII tried to rein them in.*
- *When Henry VIII broke with Rome, the Irish, to break with Henry VIII, stayed with Rome; this mindset was solidified when Queen Elizabeth I punished Ireland for having Roman Catholic services.*
- *Ireland’s independence from Britain is now in the minds of Irish closely associated with its Roman Catholicism, causing conflicts between the two peoples even to this day.*

Let Me Die in Ireland: For Additional Thought/Essay Topics

1. Cedd patiently explains to Patrick during their discussion about the Lord (page 21) that “sometimes God uses calamity to bring people to Him,” and says, “Patrick, you can choose to be hardened by what has befallen you, or you can choose to be softened by it.” How does God sometimes use calamity to bring people to Him? How are people both hardened and softened by God’s chastening or allowing hardship? List some personal examples or examples from the Bible.

Answers will vary. Some might include the example of the Pharaoh who was hardened by God’s plagues upon Egypt, or David’s repentance after God killed his child conceived by Bathsheba, among many other examples.

2. After his conversion to Christianity, Patrick is careful not to get involved with idol worship or to eat food sacrificed to “gods.” Although very few Christians in America worship stone or wooden “gods,” in what ways can Christians stay pure of forms of idol worship?

Answers will vary, but Christians can refuse to follow a life of pursuit of money or prestige; they can refuse to participate in activities that exalt men or institutions above God or demand blind allegiance; and they can eschew pursuits that tend to glorify ungodly behaviors above a Christian’s calling to be separate from the world.

3. After Coroticus leads British invaders in slaughtering and enslaving Irish, Patrick cries (page 151), “Paul says the kingdom of God becomes nothing when Christians take each other to court. What would he say about Christians slaughtering other Christians—merely because they belong to a different nation?” Are there parallels to this in the modern age? That is, are Patrick’s words still meaningful today? Give examples.

Answers will vary, but yes, there are still examples of Christians (or at least those who call themselves Christians) who do ungodly things, even to others who are Christians. Christians still sue each other in court, and they fight publicly over issues that should be dealt within the church. And in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, hundreds of millions

of lives were lost in world wars, often with one “Christian nation” at war with another “Christian nation,” with millions of soldiers who were Christians (or at least called themselves Christians) killing others of the same.

Aesop’s Fables, Part 2 – Week 15, Day 1

1. How can both the lesson of “The Man, the Boy, and the Donkey” and Proverbs 11:14 be true?

Proverbs 11:14 teaches that a person can often make a wiser decision if he listens to wise counsel. This can be true, just as it can be true that a person has to simply decide sometimes, without going back and forth trying to please everyone.

2. Give modern examples of the lesson in “Belling the Cat,” “The Old Man and Death,” and “The Milk-maid and Her Pail.”

Answers will vary!

Acts 17 vs. Greco-Roman Philosophy – Week 15, Day 2

1. What makes the Epicureans and Stoics call Paul a “babbling”?

Paul preaches about Jesus and His resurrection, which was not like any other stories of “gods” or philosophical arguments they had heard.

2. Who is the “unknown God” the Greeks refer to, according to Paul? How is He different from the Greek “gods” (verses 24, 25, 28, 29)?

The “unknown God” is the God of the Bible. He is different from the Greek “gods” in that he does not live in temples, doesn’t need upkeep, gives life to all mankind, and is not made by men.

3. How does verse 31 contrast with the Stoics’ view of the earth, similar to evolutionists’ view, that the world is endless and will last forever?

The world was made by God, and God will also judge the world at an appointed time.

4. List the three main reactions that Paul’s audience has to the gospel.

Some mocked, some told him they would like to hear more another time, and some believed.

5. Write a brief summary of what the Bible says about idol worship, according to 1 Corinthians 8:4 and 10:20.

1 Corinthians 8:4 says that idols are not “gods” at all, and 1 Corinthians 10:20 says that when men sacrifice to “gods,” they are actually participating in the worship of demons.

6. Sum up 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, and how it applies to the Greeks.

The gospel of Jesus is not done by worldly “wisdom,” and it can appear foolish to the unsaved, but to those who believe the gospel, it is the power of God.

God’s wisdom makes the world’s wisdom seem foolish. Often Jews who hear the gospel require a “sign” of its proof, and often Greeks seek the world’s wisdom. But instead of trying to provide signs and indications of worldly wisdom, Christians should preach the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Even so, Jews often stumble at this message, and it sounds foolish to those who seek other man-centered philosophies, like the Greeks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answers will vary!

The Bible vs. The Quran – Week 16, Day 1

1. How does the Quran’s description of the Israelites contrast with what the Bible says? How do you think this contributes toward Arab/Israeli conflict?

The Quran says Allah has cursed Jews and made them pigs and apes; the Bible calls them God’s chosen nation. Obviously, when Muslims read this in the Quran, their view of Jews is twisted.

2. How does a Christian's approach to those who refuse to believe the Gospel differ from the teachings of the Quran regarding what to do about those who refuse to believe in Allah?

The Quran advocates using violence against "non-believers," unlike the Bible, which simply says to leave alone those who refuse to believe the gospel; Christians are not commanded to kill them and kidnap them, but to pray for them and to be gentle and harmless.

3. Give several examples of the Quran's teachings about Jesus that differ from what God's Word says.

In contrast to the Bible, the Quran teaches that Jesus is not God's Son, is not a part of a Triune God, and did not actually die on the cross for the sins of the world.

Week 16, Day 2: "Indian Folk Tales"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 16, Day 3: "The Japanned Box"

1. Describe Thorpe Place and Sir John.

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

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

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

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

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

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

He sympathizes with Sir John, supportive of his attempts to avoid alcohol, but is disgusted when he hears a woman’s voice inside the room when Sir John is there. When Mrs. Brown is fired by Sir John for touching the japanned box, Colmore is even more sure there is something fishy going on.

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

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

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

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

Week 16, Day 4: “The Necklace”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 17, Day 1 (Preface, A Word of Introduction, Chapters I-II)

1. What startling statement does the old man make to the author during their tour of Warwick Castle? What does the Yankee reveal to the author about how his (the Yankee's) story began?

That he believes in time travel, and that he made the bullet hole that is in the armor of Sir Sagramor le Desirous. The Yankee reveals that he was an engineer who was struck on the head during a fight in 1879, and woke up in Camelot, where his tale begins.

2. How does the Yankee direct the author to continue the story?

He points him to a manuscript, and the author begins to read the Yankee's story from where he was captured by the knight and told he was in Camelot.

3. Where does the Yankee think he is at first? Name some strange sights that he sees.

He thinks he's near a circus, then near an asylum named "Camelot." He sees children who stare at him instead of the colorfully-dressed knight, poverty-stricken villagers, and a troop of knights driving up to a castle—a scene of frantic activity and confusion.

4. What does the Yankee learn from "Clarence"? What gives the Yankee a chance to see if the page is, indeed, telling the truth?

It is the year 528, and he is in the time of King Arthur. The page tells the Yankee that he is a prisoner of Sir Kay and will be thrown in a dungeon after being presented to King Arthur. The Yankee happens to remember that an eclipse is due soon, so he reasons that if he sees it this will confirm that "Clarence" is telling the truth.

5. Describe the banquet scene.

Knights, ladies and a king in colorful outfits eat, surrounded by dogs, shouting, laughing, talking merrily of bloody conquests. Twenty prisoners, wounded and starving, stand in chains by the group.

Additional Notes:

- Right away the differences between the knights and commoners are established. The knight threatens to attack the Yankee simply because he doesn't like his attitude, and the villagers salute and bow before the knights, who refuse to even acknowledge their presence. And the Yankee notes that the prisoners are trained to accept horrible treatment without complaining or expecting anything else.
- Twain's humor is already in sharp display, with the Yankee's saying Clarence "ain't no more than a paragraph" (a pun on the word "page"), describing Clarence as looking like a carrot (with his orange tights), and concluding that a man who uses phrases like "Marry, fair sir, me seemeth" belongs in an asylum.

Week 17, Day 2 (Chapters III-VI)

1. Describe the Yankee's take on the knights' tales. Why does he still say the knights are endearing?

They're childish and brainless, making obviously inflate, lying boasts on killing and fighting when there really was little reason to do so. The Yankee still likes the knights because they're so childlike.

2. Describe the crowd during Merlin's tale. What is the tale like? Why do they allow him to go on?

Many fall asleep, because the tale is so boring and has been told so often, although the Yankee says it wasn't bad, probably because it was the first time he had heard it. (Even "Clarence" falls asleep.) They allow him to retell the same tale because they are afraid of his "magic."

3. Describe Sir Dinadan's "humor." What is "Clarence's" take on his jokes?

It is unfunny, using stories and gags that are old and clichéd, although most of the crowd laughs as though it is hilarious. “Clarence” doesn’t think Sir Dinadan is funny at all, and neither does the Yankee.

4. What lies does Sir Kay tell, and what happens to the Yankee?

He grossly exaggerates his capture of the Yankee, and the Yankee is stripped and thrown into prison.

5. What does the Yankee note about the talk of the knights and ladies? How does this affect him personally?

They are vulgar and crude in the topics they talk about, but apparently don’t realize it. When he is stripped naked before he is thrown in the dungeon, the shame of it hardly registers to the crowd.

6. Describe the plan the Yankee hatches in prison. Why is he confident that it will work?

He realizes through talking to Clarence that everyone is afraid of Merlin’s magic, so he pretends he is a magician himself and will cause the sun to be blotted out, coinciding with the solar eclipse he knows is due the next day.

7. What two shocks does the Yankee receive in Chapter VI?

That his execution date has been moved up, and that “Clarence” had the wrong date, so that day is actually the day of the eclipse.

8. How does the Yankee’s eclipse trick affect the people and him?

They are frightened out of their wits because of their gullibility, and he is made second in command, treated like a king, and stared at by many who journey just to see him.

Additional Notes:

- Again Twain disparages the character of the Knights of the Round Table, and by extension, England’s history and culture of the time. (This is one of the reasons many British readers were offended at *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*.)
- Twain makes an additional jab at the people of this era, calling them brainless, since they (a) seem to believe the ridiculous tales told by these knights, who supposedly kill 50 other knights with no problem and kill seven giants with one sweep of a sword; and (b) allow Merlin to continue with a long, boring story because they are afraid of his “magic.”
- The threat of being a “magician” pits for the first time the Yankee’s knowledge of science against the people’s superstition. This is to be a recurring theme throughout the book.

Week 17, Day 3 (Chapters VII-X)

1. What “little” then-modern conveniences does the Yankee miss?

Sugar, tobacco, coffee, carpets, mirrors, and so on.

2. Describe the Yankee’s next “miracle” and how it affects (a) the people, (b) him, and (c) Merlin.

He blows up Merlin’s tower. This astounds and terrifies the people, exalts him as a powerful and great magician, and greatly reduces the prominence of Merlin (since Merlin was given a chance to try to stop it).

3. How does the Yankee compare himself to Joseph? What power is he wary of?

Both are powerful in the kingdom they are helping rule, but the Yankee has all the real power in his position. He is wary of the Roman Catholic Church.

4. Explain the Yankee’s take on nobles and the aristocracy. Why does he call most English citizens “slaves, pure and simple”? Why does he say that the people regarded him as they would an elephant?

He ridicules kings and noblemen as foolish and generally no-good losers throughout history who wouldn't be able to make much of themselves if they had to produce and compete like normal people.

He says most English citizens are slaves to the aristocrats because of how they are treated, looked down upon, taxed, and oppressed by them. The Yankee says the people regarded him as an elephant because they feared him, but didn't respect him, because he had no "noble birth" or title of nobility.

5. What nickname does the Yankee pick up? Explain this saying, which closes Chapter VIII: "I didn't charge for my opinion about them, and they didn't charge for their opinion about me: the account was square, the books balanced, everybody was satisfied."

The Yankee is now regularly called "The Boss." The closing line of Chapter VIII means that he doesn't highly regard the nobility, and they don't regard him highly, either, so they're "even."

6. The Yankee's disdain for the noble class is matched by his disgust at the Roman Catholic Church's promotion of the "divine right of kings." What do Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-14 teach about earthly authority? How does a Christian balance this idea that whatever rulers do is right (simply because they are rulers) with what a Christian is commanded to do in God's Word?

Obviously a ruler's being in power doesn't mean everything he does is Biblical, but Christians are still commanded to submit themselves to those in authority, and to be subject to the higher powers. This, of course, doesn't apply when rulers command Christians to do act against God's Word.

Mark Twain, speaking through the Yankee, is rightly disgusted at the Roman Catholic Church's abuse of these passages, which are not ingrained in the people to encourage them as Christians to live godly lives under sometimes oppressive rulers. Instead, the Roman Catholic Church used these admonitions to keep the common people ignorant, submissive, and oppressed by those in power—which enriched the RCC with material wealth and power itself.

7. What major items does the Yankee say in Chapter IX are necessary to a new nation? Do you agree or disagree, and why?

A patent office, a school system, and a newspaper. Answers will vary as to agreeing or disagreeing, but most homeschoolers will disagree that a school system is necessary—we have seen what a disaster it is in educating citizens to be independent-minded, critically thinking, godly people!

8. Why does Sir Sagramor challenge the Yankee to a duel?

He overhears the Yankee hoping Sir Dinadan will be killed in a duel, and thinks the Yankee is referring to him.

9. List the cultural and technological advances that the Yankee has set into motion. Why does he say he is "afraid of the Church"?

Factories, telegraphs, telephones, tax reform, Protestant churches, teacher schools, Sunday schools, a military academy, and a naval academy. The Yankee is afraid that the Roman Catholic Church will try to squash his advances in technology, which could threaten its power hold on England.

10. Explain the Yankee's statement: "I was afraid of a united Church; it makes a mighty power, the mightiest conceivable, and then when it by and by gets into selfish hands, as it is always bound to do, it means death to human liberty and paralysis to human thought."

When a religion becomes the official state religion, it oppresses the people by using the power of the government to enforce beliefs that should be up to the individual. It is also dangerous because it can threaten those who disagree with big government with danger regarding their souls, which keeps people in fear and more subservient to the state.

11. What talent does Clarence demonstrate?

Just about anything he tries, especially working as editor of a newspaper.

12. Explain the Boss's restructuring of the tax code and the results.

He makes it more fair and evenly distributed, and as a result, tax revenues quadruple.

13. Why does the Boss interrupt his several years of work on progress?

To go on an adventure, to make himself more worthy of dueling Sir Sagramor.

Additional Notes:

- The eclipse in Chapter VI is an effective visual reminder that represents the superstitious “darkness” that the people here live under.
- The difference of opinion between the king and Merlin is on display in Chapter VI, with Merlin wanting to burn the Yankee, and the king stopping him.
- The Yankee says he is a Presbyterian, but his real faith seems to be in technology.
- The colorful clothing of the nobility makes another visual contrast with the drab, dull clothing and existence of the peasants.

Week 18, Day 1 (Chapters XI-XII)

1. Explain (a) how “Sandy’s” answers to the Yankee undercut her tale, and (b) what her answers demonstrate about the general public. How does Clarence say “Sandy” will be able to show the Yankee the way to the castle?

She backtracks a little, indirectly answering his questions, avoiding telling him where the supposed castle is and how far away. The fact that her tale is so readily believed by all the people demonstrates the gullibility of the public. Clarence says that Sandy will want to accompany the Yankee on his trip to show him the way.

2. Explain the humor in the Yankee’s knight getup.

He gives a long and detailed explanation of how uncomfortable and ridiculous and complicated a suit of armor is, saying he feels like a ship’s anchor, and telling how the boys around him mocked him and threw dirt clods at him.

3. What irritations does the Yankee suffer while riding to the castle?

The armor is heavy and hot and clanks constantly, he can’t reach in to wipe sweat out of his eyes, he itches terribly, and flies get into his helmet and annoy him. Also, Sandy talks constantly, so the Yankee is unable to think, and worse, she never really says anything of substance.

Week 18, Day 2 (Chapters XIII-XIV)

1. What does the Yankee mean by saying about the common people, “By a sarcasm of law and phrase, they were freemen”?

Those regarded as “freemen” are in many ways not free, and under the subjection of the nobility and the Roman Catholic Church.

2. How does the Yankee comment upon the French and American revolutions?

He says that only the short, violent French Revolution is remembered, not the thousand-year violence against common people by the nobles. He also says that it is different in America, where there is no “noble class.”

3. Sum up the Yankee’s thoughts on revolution in England.

He thinks it is necessary because of the inequalities between the nobles and peasants. He doesn’t, however, think the time is right because the common people are so conditioned to believe in their inferiority that they would never follow through with a revolt.

4. What does the Yankee do for the man of whom he says, “This one’s a man”? What comment on the state church (RCC) does the Yankee make?

The Yankee sends the man to his “Man-factory,” where he will be educated and taught about technology and how to be useful. The fact that the man doesn’t believe Clarence can read without being a priest is a zinger at the fact that the church discouraged and even fought against the common people’s right to be literate, in order to keep its power.

5. How does Sandy prove useful to the Yankee?

She handles a situation where knights attack the Yankee’s group, but are scared by the smoke from his pipe, better than the Yankee could have himself. This results in their safety, and in the knights turning themselves in as servants of the Yankee.

Week 18, Day 3 (Chapters XV-XVI)

1. Describe Sandy’s storytelling “style.” What does the sing-songy fashion of Sandy’s voice remind the Yankee of?

Boring and long-winded, which causes the Yankee to often fall asleep in the middle of her tales. Her sing-songy style reminds the Yankee of a barker on a train robotically calling out news to passengers.

2. What does Sandy’s description of a fifteen-year-old girl remind the Yankee of? How does this affect him?

It reminds him of his “hello-girl” sweetheart in Connecticut; he is homesick afterwards, longing to be back in his century.

3. For what two reasons does the Yankee use knights as advertising billboards for soap? Why do you think he calls them “missionaries”?

First, to make them look ridiculous and undermine the custom of knighthood. Second, to introduce the idea of using soap throughout the nobility, then the common people, both of whom are generally dirty. Calling them “missionaries” is an ironic joke to underscore the fact that the Yankee hates the state (Roman Catholic) church.

4. Who is Morgan le Fay? What is she like?

She is the sister of King Arthur. She is wicked, but beautiful, a criminal who committed murders, and who convinced the people that she was a powerful sorceress.

5. How does Sandy again save The Boss?

Morgan le Fay is angered at his compliment of her brother, whom she hates, and she orders him to the dungeon. Sandy, however, reminds Morgan le Fay that he is The Boss, and a powerful magician, so Morgan le Fay pretends to have been joking.

Additional Notes:

- The Yankee’s disgust at the knights is underscored by his disgust at the fact that so many *horses* are killed in jousts, not caring much for what happens to the knights themselves.
- It is strange, although apparently common, that a person like Morgan le Fay, who claims to be a powerful sorceress (though she knows she is not), can be intimidated by someone like The Boss, simply because he has a reputation as a great magician. (Although admittedly, she no doubt heard about his eclipse trick and blowing up of Merlin’s castle.)

Week 18, Day 4 (Chapters XVII-XVIII)

1. Explain the irony in the reason Morgan le Fay is unable to give the Yankee a chance to kill someone.

She can’t finish her plan, because she is called to prayers. This is the Yankee’s (or Mark Twain’s) zinger of the phoniness of the religion of many.

2. How do the nobles and priests behave at the banquet?

They are rude, loud, and filled with crude stories.

3. What is the significance of the muffled screams heard below? How does Morgan le Fay explain the situation to the Yankee? How does the accused explain his reluctance to confess?

The queen tries to justify her torture of the man accused of killing the stag by saying it's OK because she's just trying to save his soul from hell by getting a confession out of him. The man DID kill the deer, but refuses to confess, the Yankee learns, because a confession would put his wife and child out of their home.

4. What observations on religion does the Yankee make in the beginning of Chapter XVIII?

That he noticed many priests speak out against abuses, which gives him hope; but that a state religion is the worst institution there is, and that denominations are the best thing for a nation, since they tend to police each other and keep power from consolidating.

5. How does Morgan le Fay try to justify her murder of the page? What belief about “training” does this get the Yankee to write about?

She says it was acceptable to murder the page because she intended to “pay for him.” The Yankee gives up trying to explain it to her, saying that her training in that belief system makes it impossible for her to change.

6. What comments does the Yankee make about his conscience?

That he thinks it is useless, since it just bother him all of the time.

7. What does the Yankee discover in Morgan le Fay's dungeon? What does she do when he says he would like to photograph the prisoners?

The Yankee frees 47 prisoners in the queen's dungeon, most of their “crimes” being little or nothing: A man and wife whose only crime was refusing to allow a noble to assault her on her wedding day; a man imprisoned for 22 years because he called the queen's hair red, and so on. In that case she invented funerals to torture the man into wondering who had died in his family. When he says he would like to photograph the prisoners, Morgan le Fay says she will do it for him—and goes after the freed prisoners with an axe!

Additional Notes:

- Much of the disgust that the reader feels in the account of torture in these chapters is directed at Morgan le Fay, and rightly so, but the reader should not forget that she is not the torturing the suspect—the torturers bear much blame for simply following immoral orders. They have no right to say, “I was just following orders.” They bear the blame as well.
- Sandy is slowly becoming less useless and annoying to The Boss, and more of an asset.

Week 19, Day 1 (Chapters XIX-XX)

1. What does the Yankee ask Sandy to get her to stop talking?

He asks her how old she is.

2. What image does the knight on a horse with a toothbrush ad present? Why is he angry?

The knight looks ridiculous. He is angry because another knight who was selling stove polish (even though there are no stoves yet) told him there were potential customers across swamps and fields—but didn't tell him that they were recently released prisoners with no teeth!

3. What strikes the Yankee most strongly about the situation of the man who has been released from prison after serving 50 years? How does this affect his plans for revolution?

He is appalled that the man's family is not angry at all at those who unjustly imprisoned him; they are just grateful that he has been released. The Yankee does not think he can start a revolution against the nobles when the average commoner feels this way about injustice.

4. Who are the “ogres” and “princesses”? How does the Yankee “defeat” the “ogres”? Why does Sandy still believe that they are ogres and princesses?

Swineherds and pigs. The Yankee simply buys the pigs off the farmers. Sandy thinks that some magic enchantment has made them only appear to be swineherds and pigs.

Additional Notes:

- The Yankee/Mark Twain again takes aim at a state church by ridiculing its policy of forcibly taking “tithes” from poor farmers.
- The Yankee/Mark Twain is troubled much by the gratefulness of the commoners at being let out of jail after being unjustly imprisoned. This makes him greatly question whether or not his planned revolution will actually work, since the peasants are so ingrained in their belief that it is the right of nobles to treat them this way.

Week 19, Day 2 (Chapters XXI-XXII)

1. What does the Yankee believe about Sandy’s sanity, and why?

He doesn’t believe she’s crazy for believing in magic; he just believes that’s the way she’s been trained. He compares it to his telling someone in the sixth century about hot air balloons, trains, and telephones, and says they would say he is crazy, too.

2. Describe the groups of pilgrims the Yankee encounters.

The first seems colorful and lighthearted; the second is gloomy and silent, because they are slaves being sold. The first group is going to the “Valley of Holiness.”

3. Explain the situation at the “Valley of Holiness.”

It is a place where supposedly miraculous water flows from a spring unless anyone takes a bath. The Yankee follows them because he wants to be informed about the kinds of people in the country.

4. What news does a knight bring, and how does The Boss respond?

A knight comes to tell the Pilgrims that the spring has run out. The monks and nuns are all torturing themselves to try to bring it back, and everyone is upset, so the Yankee sends orders to one of his men to bring some chemicals and two trained assistants.

5. What is the Valley of Holiness like?

It is pallid in appearance, and so are the citizens there, because of their fear and distress over the well’s drying up.

6. Why does the Yankee delay in fixing the fountain? What is the problem with it?

The Yankee delays fixing the fountain, despite the pleas of the monk, saying he can’t mix magic with Merlin or be disrespectful by showing him up (he’s really buying time). The well has a leak, which the Yankee finds by lowering himself and using a candle to observe it.

7. How does the Yankee view the “pious” hermits? How does he put one to good use?

He is disgusted with them, whom he describes as dirty, self-satisfied, and always attempting to draw attention to their own “holiness.” He uses one who bowed in a pedal-like motion—he hooks up cords and a sewing machine to him, and makes linen shirts, which he sells as “perfect protection against sin.”

Additional Notes:

- The Yankee is still irritated by Sandy’s long-winded speaking, but realizes he is hard to understand from her perspective. After he loses patience with her inability to understand his 19th-century slang, she responds with a typical 299-word

sentence apologizing for her inferior intelligence, and he is ashamed of himself. So he tries to communicate more effectively and be more patient with her—and their relationship is strengthened.

Week 19, Day 3 (Chapters XXIII-XXIV)

1. How does Merlin explain his failure to restore the well? Describe the show that the Yankee puts on in restoring the well.

Merlin explains his failure to revive the well by saying it has been cursed by a powerful evil spirit which nothing on earth can overcome. The Yankee and his assistants fix the well and provide a “miracle” at night complete with colorful fireworks for the crowd.

2. Describe the “bath situation” in the valley. What does the Yankee mean when he says he would like to see “at least one layer of [a monk’s] real estate removed”?

Baths seem to be forbidden. One knight the Yankee talks to hasn’t taken one since he was a boy. The Yankee convinces the Brother that taking baths wasn’t the reason that the fountain dried up. The “real estate removed” means the Yankee would like to see this monk take a bath and then lose some of the dirt that has accumulated on him.

3. What does the Yankee learn via telephone from Clarence?

That the king and queen are coming to make a pilgrimage to the fountain, and that the king has assembled a standing army without the Boss’s input or without choosing any of the Boss’s “West Point Military Academy” graduates.

4. What is the fraudulent “magician’s” game? How does the Yankee expose him?

The fraud claims to know what anyone in the world is doing, which is unverifiable, of course. The Yankee exposes him by asking the magician what he (the Yankee) is doing with his hand, and by using his telephoned information to announce that the king and queen are coming, not sleeping, as the “magician” claims.

Additional Notes:

- The Yankee is baffled at the gullibility of the people, and their lack of reason, when they believe the fraudulent “magician” and his claim to know what is totally unverifiable. He is also distressed that even though he just produced a huge fireworks show and fixed the well, that the people don’t have sense enough to trust him over a “magician” they know nothing about.

Week 19, Day 4 (Chapters XXV-XXVI)

1. Describe how the king judges legal cases that come before him. What example is given?

The king arrives and judges cases as fairly as he can, given his preference for nobility over peasants regarding disputes. He rules against a young couple, whose property goes to the state church.

2. Sum up the difference between the Yankee’s requirements for a man fit to be in the army, and the king’s requirements. Give an example.

The Yankee has some of his West Pointers go before the king to be examined for candidacy for the army. The king and his company are horrified that Webster, a weaver’s son, is even considered, since he’s a commoner, but he awes the crowd with his knowledge of war, science, and mathematics. The Yankee makes mincemeat out of the king’s candidates, who can’t read, write, do arithmetic, or anything else of substance, but the king says that candidates are ineligible unless they can prove four generations of nobility.

3. How does the Yankee solve the problem of potentially having an army filled with the king’s candidates?

The Yankee suggests to the king that they continue as the king has started, fill this first regiment of the army entirely with nobles, and increase the number of officers to accommodate all the nobles who wish to be in the army. This regiment has freedom to act as it chose. The other regiments would be officered with commoners chosen solely for their effectiveness and would bear the brunt of military duty. The Yankee hits on the idea of making the regiment up entirely

of officers, the lower ranks filled by nobles who serve free and at their own expense, and the higher ranks filled by Arthur's many royal relatives, who would be paid a good salary and given an impressive title in return for renouncing their royal grants.

4. Explain how King Arthur "cures" sick commoners who come to him. How does the Yankee save the government a great deal of money?

Arthur lays his hands on the sick and "cures" them by his touch, which works for many because of psychological benefits of seeing and being touched by the king. The Yankee mints new coins to give out to the sick (which is the custom) that are worth less but look better, saving the kingdom money.

5. Describe the newspaper. How does the Yankee feel about it?

Clarence has put out a newspaper called the Camelot Weekly Hosannah and Literary Volcano (a ridiculous name that parodies self-important newspaper titles of Mark Twain's time). The Yankee is generally pleased at the paper, but a little disturbed at its flippant tone. He feels like a mother does at a baby's birth.

Additional Notes:

- The newer, less valuable coins the Yankee mints could represent the knights in the story, which he is turning into men who are less and less valuable (making them look ridiculous by parading them around the country holding soap advertisements, and asking them numerous questions about their qualifications for the army, which they have no idea how to answer).

Week 20, Day 1 (Chapters XXVII-XIX)

1. How does the Yankee prepare the king's appearance for their secret trip to observe the peasants of the kingdom? How does the king struggle with this?

The Yankee cuts the king's hair and beard, gives him common clothes, and gets him used to sitting when others sit, so he'll not be found out. The king has difficulties acting like a commoner, and at one point a procession of nobles gets angry that the king doesn't bow, which angers him.

2. What does the Yankee have to do to keep his place above Merlin with the king?

He has to convince the king that he is a greater prophet than Merlin to secure his place, bragging about his ability to foretell the future for 1300 years.

3. How does the Yankee save the king when the king insults two knights on horses for almost running him over?

He kills two knights that come to punish him and the king for not stepping out of the way for them and for hurling insults at them by blowing them up with dynamite.

4. Describe the various "drills" that the Yankee puts Arthur through.

How to properly act like a peasant who is hungry, oppressed, overworked, and so on.

5. Describe the "smallpox hut." What does the king show about himself?

The Yankee and king see a desolate landscape and a house. In it is a family dead and dying of smallpox. The king proves himself gallant and noble in his actions to bring comfort to the wife, who is caring for her still alive family members.

6. List some examples of pointed remarks the woman makes about the king and the Roman Catholic Church.

First, she tells the Yankee and Arthur that there's nothing left for them to steal, thinking that they're priests. Then she is relieved that her husband is dead, even if he is in hell, because there there'll be no abbots or bishops. Then she talks about the "heavy hand of the Church and the king."

Additional Notes:

- The Yankee's drilling the king offers commentary on how hard life is for peasants, and how different it is for nobles to get used to.
- King Arthur is shown not to be just a one-note character here, gallantly assisting with the people in the smallpox hut (even though he knows he is immune to it, having had it before), and showing concern for their troubles.

Week 20, Day 2 (Chapters XXX-XXXII)

1. Why is Chapter XXX titled "The Tragedy of the Manor House"?

The sons of the family in the "smallpox hut" who were wrongly imprisoned escape prison, only to find their family dead of smallpox.

2. Describe the manor house situation.

The Yankee sees a fire (he's making money on fire insurance—which the priests oppose—and is starting to build steam fire engines, and is selling accident insurance to knights injured in tournament). The fire was started by a peasant to protest his master.

3. How is the Yankee both discouraged and encouraged by what he sees in the peasants around the burned-down manor house?

First, the fact that the peasants run after the perpetrators and hang many people, letting the prisoners in the manor burn to death rather than free them, greatly discourages The Boss. But he is greatly encouraged by his talk with one peasant named Marco (whose cousins started the fire), who says the only reason he helped was to show his loyalty, and that he opposes the master, talking freely about it.

4. Why do you think the author includes a scene of children playing "mob" and almost killing another child by hanging?

Answers will vary, although possibly to show the negative effects of common events, like hangings of peasants, on children.

5. Explain the proposal that the Yankee offers to the relatively wealthy blacksmith Dowley. Why does this upset Marco so much?

The Yankee invites Dowley to Marco's for dinner and tells Marco he will cover the entire expense. This distresses Marco because of the great expense.

6. How does The Boss cover any possible odd behavior by King Arthur?

He tells Marco that King Arthur is a successful farmer named Jones, and that Jones has several odd quirks of habit that he (Marco) should ignore—in case the king acts kingly.

7. Describe Dowley. How does the banquet at Marco's house affect him and the rest of the crowd?

He is a self-made man who tells about his hard life up to now. To set up the meal, Marco brings one fine item out after another for effect. The guests are impressed, and Dowley is humiliated, because his own wealth pales in comparison.

Additional Notes:

- Regarding the conflict between the nobles and peasants, this section demonstrates the Yankee's disgust at (a) the king, who is unwittingly brutal in suggesting that they should return the "smallpox hut" sons to the lord from whom they escaped, and (b) the peasants, who for some reason gladly help track down the arsonists for their lord, who is brutally oppressing them.

Week 20, Day 3 (Chapters XXXIII-XXV)

1. Why doesn't the Yankee have the complete respect of Dowley, even though he is tremendously wealthy?

He doesn't have a title of nobility.

2. Sum up the frustrating “wages” discussion that the Yankee has with Dowley.

Dowley proudly tells how much higher the wages are in this kingdom than in Arthur's realm, which the Yankee has moved away from protection to free trade. The Yankee explains that because of the average prices for consumer goods, Dowley's area actually pays less, even though they technically make more wages. He expects this to stifle Dowley's arguments, but he and the other guests are too confused by the concept of real wages to understand what the Yankee has proved.

3. Why does the Yankee argue that the pillory should be abolished? Why does he think he might have gone too far in his speech about it?

The Yankee argues that the pillory should be abolished, as it is cruel and many die by stoning while locked in it and that it is unfair for people to be pilloried for not turning in an offender if they know of his crime. Then, he declares that they are all in danger of the pillory, since the smith admitted earlier to sometimes paying his laborers more than the wage set by the magistrates, thereby breaking the law. The whole company is stunned; they are even too frightened to beg the Yankee not to turn them in as he expected them to do.

4. What turns the crowd against the Yankee and King Arthur?

The Yankee knows that he has lost the trust of the crowd with his talk about illegally paying wages, and is upset when the king prattles on, making humorously ignorant mistakes about farming, which arouse the suspicions of the others.

5. What is the irony in the slave auctioneer's oration about British liberties?

It is in the middle of a slave auction!

6. Explain the logical fallacy of what the slavemasters do concerning the status of the Yankee and the king as freemen. What does the Yankee remark after this incident affects him personally?

The Yankee and king say they are freemen, but instead of someone proving that they're not, they're told they must prove they are freemen. The Yankee remarks that this also happened in America, and that although he hated slavery, the horror never affected him until it came to him personally.

7. Why does the king “brood” constantly after being sold as a slave? How does it affect his feeling toward slavery?

He brings only \$7, when others who are lower in rank bring much more, causing him to lament that he wasn't thought of as more worthy. The whole incident, of course, makes him a fierce opponent of slavery.

8. What is the “pitiful incident” of Chapter XXXV?

The group of slaves comes across a young mother being hanged for stealing to feed her child after her husband was impressed into service at sea.

Additional Notes:

- It doesn't seem wise for the Yankee to make such a big show of spending a huge amount for a feast, because he and King Arthur are traveling incognito, and an event like this might raise suspicion as to their identity and where they got the money.
- The Yankee's belief about the worth of people is again shown here, when he argues that geniuses of science and technology are worth much more than those who are regarded as highly as kings, for no other reason than that they are born into a royal family.
- Two more incidents in this section underscore the injustice Twain believes about sixth-century England: (1) the incident in which, again (in addition to the “prove you're not slaves” argument), someone is wronged because she is accused of a crime (a woman accused of being a witch); and (2) the practice of impressing young men (kidnapping them into slavery on British ships).

- The king's bringing only \$7 is probably Mark Twain's sly way of again stating his opinion that kings throughout history have been pretty worthless. The king, however, again proves his worth as a man, refusing to break, even under brutal whippings.
- The Yankee once again says of a brutal person he runs into: "I got his number," meaning that, if he gets back to his position as The Boss, he will get his revenge.
- It seems odd that there are so many laws—like the one prescribing hanging for stealing food—that people of the time know are unjust, yet no one does anything about it besides admitting that they are unjust, but that they have to go ahead and execute them anyway.

Week 21, Day 1 (Chapters XXXVI--XXXVIII)

1. What is the Yankee's escape plan? How does it go wrong, and how does he get back?

The Yankee's plan of escape is to get a piece of iron to pick his lock, change places with the slave master, and parade the slaves to the king's palace for a dramatic touch. Trying to escape, however, he attacks the wrong man in the dark, is caught, and is marched off to prison. He is, however, able to make up a story in court about being the slave of Earl Grip, who was just trying to get a doctor for his master when he was attacked.

2. What has happened in the Yankee's absence? What is his next plan of action? How is his plan seriously threatened?

He discovers that the king has escaped, enraged the master, and caused him to die by the hand of the other slaves, who are beaten by the master when he discovers the king is gone. The slaves are all condemned to die for the riot. The Yankee disguises himself and sends a telegraph to Clarence to send 500 knights (led by Launcelot) to London to save him. His plan is put in deep jeopardy by the fact that the hanging is scheduled for that day at noon, too late for the knights to save him, and that the "other slave" was also caught.

3. How do the knights come and save the Yankee and King Arthur?

On bicycles!

Additional Notes:

- The first sentence of Chapter XXXVI is Mark Twain's zinger at the British; it was this kind of thing that made many English readers angry with him.
- The knights' arrival on bicycles is another example of "technology over tradition" in *A Connecticut Yankee*. The Yankee's method surpasses the old method (horses), and it's the only way he would have been saved in time.

Week 21, Day 2 (Chapters XXXIX-XL)

1. Describe the Yankee's fight with the knights. What does this duel actually represent?

The Yankee jousts Sir Sagramor, who is armored, but the Yankee is not. The Yankee lassos Sir Sagramor and yanks him off his horse, greatly pleasing the crowd. The Yankee lassoes one knight after another, ending with Sir Launcelot.

Merlin steals the Yankee's lariat, and the Yankee has to joust again. He takes a dragoon revolver out of his pocket, shoots Sagramor dead, and holsters it before anyone realizes what has happened. Nobody else challenges him, until he challenges ALL the knights. They all come, and he picks them off one by one. Then they stop coming, and the Yankee declares knighthood to be defeated permanently.

The contest is actually a contest between the Yankee and Merlin. For the Yankee, his purpose is to destroy knight errantry.

2. What is the situation in England three years later with regard to (a) technology and culture, (b) knighthood, and (c) the Yankee himself?

(a) The Yankee exposes his telegraphs, telephones, factories, schools, and mines, thinking he has nothing to fear. England is changed: colleges, schools, and factories appear; railroads and telephones are everywhere. Slavery is abolished, and all citizens are equal before the law.

(b) *Knighthood is reduced to almost nothing; the knights are put to productive use. The Yankee introduces baseball to the nobles to keep them from killing each other in jousts. Amazingly enough, the knights regularly disagree with the umpire.*

(c) *The Yankee has married Sandy and has a daughter named “Hello Central”!*

3. What are the Yankee’s two main goals?

To destroy the Roman Catholic Church and replace it with free Protestantism, and to introduce universal suffrage upon King Arthur’s death.

4. What are the Yankee and Sandy forced to do, and why?

Hello Central has become sick, and they are ordered by their doctor to take her to the French countryside to get better.

Additional Notes:

- Hank takes a huge risk in continuing to challenge the knights; he could have been killed had he run out of bullets.
- The surprise of Hank’s marriage to Sandy and their daughter is touching and funny, especially their naming her “Hello Central”!

Week 21, Day 3 (Chapters XLI-XLII)

1. Why don’t the ships return to pick up the Yankee and his family?

The Roman Catholic Church has taken over England once again, and they do not want the Yankee to return with his innovations and advances.

2. What is an interdict? What has it done to England? Why is this method of takeover effective?

An interdict is a decree from the Roman Catholic Church forbidding the church’s offering the “sacraments” to the people until their demands are met. It has turned England back to its previous sixth-century state. The interdict works because the people are so ignorant and under the heel of the RCC that they believe salvation can only come through the sacraments delivered by it.

3. Sum up what Hank learns from Clarence about what has happened in his absence. What has the Roman Catholic Church been up to?

Sirs Mordred and Aglovalle, after Launcelot beat them at stocks, told Arthur about Guenever’s love for Launcelot. Arthur and Launcelot have killed each other in battle. The RCC has taken power, and it has been working against them all along; that the doctors who advised the Yankee to take his daughter on a sea cruise were in the Church’s employ. The RCC has destroyed the Yankee’s nineteenth-century technology, and the Yankee’s trained employees have reverted to their previous superstitious mindsets.

4. What has Clarence done with 52 boys? Why are these chosen, being so young?

Clarence selected a group of 52 faithful boys who grew up under the Yankee’s system and fortified a cave of Merlin’s, which contains an electric plant with electrified fences, Gatling guns, and land mines, so they can be ready when the knights attack. The boys are only 14 to 17 years old, and they are chosen because they have not been raised up in the superstitious, state-church fashion, but are literate, used to technology, and not superstitious.

5. Sum up the Yankee’s proclamation.

He declares all the old institutions of the monarchy, aristocracy, and the established Church to be null and void. He also calls for the people to assemble and elect representatives to govern them in a new republic.

Week 21, Day 4 (Chapters XLIII, XLIV, Postscript by Clarence, and Final Post Script by Mark Twain)

1. When the knights, slaves, and church come against Hank and the boys, why do the boys approach him and say they can't fight? What is Hank's answer?

They say they can't attack their own people, but Hank tells them the 30,000 knights will be first to attack, and when they approach the mines they'll be blown up, and the peasants will be too frightened to continue.

2. Describe the final battle.

The knights charge and the first line is blown up by mines. The Yankee also blows up his factories so they can't be used by the knights or church. The knights attack that night under cover of darkness, but are killed by the thousands by the electric fences; then by water, drowning as the ditch fills up; finally, by Gatling guns.

3. How is the Yankee wounded? What happens afterwards? How does *A Connecticut Yankee* end?

He is stabbed by a wounded knight, and later he is put under a spell by Merlin, who is disguised as an old woman. Merlin touches an electric wire and is electrocuted soon after. Some of the Yankee's boys hide him in a cave with the manuscript. The story ends with Mark Twain finishing reading Hank's story at dawn. He then hears the Yankee mumbling deliriously about Sandy and being in the king's castle, and then Hank dies.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court: For Additional Thought/Essay Topics

1. What tone is the ending of *A Connecticut Yankee*? What does Mark Twain seem to be saying about progress, technology, and mankind?

The ending of A Connecticut Yankee is famously cynical. In keeping with his theme of scorning humanity, which he does throughout the book, Mark Twain doesn't seem to be very hopeful that technology can offer much hope to a race that he thinks is beyond hope. In fact, it's the technology itself (the dynamite and electric fences)—made by members of humanity itself—that ends up hurting the conquerors, because it works too well, surrounding them with thousands of dead and thereby threatening their health. Twain is probably arguing that technology and science will never be able to overcome superstitions that are ingrained in the people. In addition, the Yankee says several times that he hopes for a peaceful revolution, without bloodshed, which doesn't come to pass.

In a book titled The Mysterious Stranger, which was not published until six years after his death, Mark Twain writes, "There is no God, no universe, no human race, no earthly life, no heaven, no hell. It is all a dream—a grotesque and foolish dream." Twain's own personal hardships, including the death of several family members, apparently contributed to his cynicism and hatred for the human race. This point of view is clearly shown a number of times via the mouth of Hank Morgan in A Connecticut Yankee. It's possible that Twain's cynicism at technology evident in the novel stemmed also from his recent bankruptcy, which he experienced after putting all his money into investing in a new typesetting machine that did not compete well on the market.

2. Because of the various wrongdoings and beliefs of others, Hank Morgan mentions several times throughout the novel that he is "ashamed of the human race." In what ways is he a flawed member of the human race as well? Give several examples.

Hank Morgan does not always behave in a seemly, fair, and enlightened manner; in fact, he contradicts his own beliefs and standards a number of times in A Connecticut Yankee:

- *He ridicules the superstition of the peasants, but he contributes to it by pretending to do a number of "miracles" that are simply technological advances (the eclipse trick, fixing the well, blowing up Merlin's castle, shooting the knights, and so on).*
- *He chastises Morgan le Fay for capriciously killing a page for accidentally touching her, but later on he has the band hanged because he doesn't like the music. (In fact, Hank shares a name with her, since his last name is Morgan—which serves to link the two.)*
- *Throughout the tale, Hank decries the whole idea of the nobility's being inherently better than the peasants, but*

he takes a title of “The Boss” and enjoys all the privileges of royalty, even at one point saying, “I made up my mind to two things: if it was still the nineteenth century and I was among lunatics and couldn’t get away, I would presently boss that asylum or know the reason why; and if on the other hand it was really the sixth century, all right, I didn’t want any softer thing; I would boss the whole countryside inside of three months.”

3. What is baffling about Merlin’s putting a spell on Hank Morgan, making him sleep for 1300 years until he wakes up in the present? What alternative explanation of the old man’s *Connecticut Yankee* tale does this present?

It is unusual that a fraudulent “magician” like Merlin is apparently able to get his magic to work for once, putting a spell on the Yankee that puts him back to sleep for 1300 years. Of course, it is possible that the Yankee’s entire manuscript is just a story of a dream he had, and that getting knocked on the head with a crowbar caused it, and he woke up later and wrote down the story.

4. When King Arthur takes charge of comforting the family in the “smallpox hut,” the Yankee says about him, “He was great now—sublimely great.” What makes a king or president or other type of ruler great?

Answers will vary, but the focus probably will be on his morality and goodness, not his wealth or power or the fact that he is ruler simply because of hereditary laws.

5. Research the 1887 Francis Bellamy novel *Looking Backward: 2000-1987* and read a summary of the story. How does Bellamy’s view of humanity in *Looking Backward* contrast with Mark Twain’s in *A Connecticut Yankee*? Which one do you think is a more accurate description of how humankind has behaved over the millennia?

Bellamy’s novel is a prediction (or hope) that by the year 2000 (the novel, of course, was written in 1887), American would be a socialist paradise, with the government distributing wealth to all citizens, and that everyone would live an ideal life because of the combination of technological advances and government benevolence and wisdom. A Connecticut Yankee is almost the opposite, with a more cynical view of the possibilities of salvation through technology. Of course, both deny—or at least don’t acknowledge—the power of Jesus Christ to transform people, and by extension, society itself.

6. How should a Christian respond to someone like Hank Morgan, who says or believes that the solution to mankind’s ills is either education (“training”) or technology?

Answers will vary, but the focus should be on the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to change a person, and mankind is made up of persons!

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court: Quotations—Agree or Disagree?

For the following *Connecticut Yankee* quotations by Hank Morgan, tell whether you agree or disagree, and why.

1. “Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.”

Answers will vary, but students might mention things like frivolous things that children and adults alike “have” to have after they seen an ad for them.

2. “Intellectual ‘work’ is misnamed; it is a pleasure, a dissipation [indulgence].”

Some students might agree that enjoying your work makes it “not work,” but many will say that thinking is work, and just because a person doesn’t have a hoe in his hand doesn’t mean he’s not working. Those who tax their brains to invent machines to save lives, make work easier, relieve suffering, and so on can certainly be credited with working. Inventors like Thomas Edison are examples, of course.

3. “In a country where they have ranks and castes, a man isn’t ever a man, he is only part of a man, he can’t ever get his full growth.”

Some students might agree, that ranks and castes stifle a man's potential. Others might say that regardless of laws, a man is a man because of who he is inside, not how he is officially categorized or whether he is recognized as "good enough" by governments or society.

4. "Men write many fine and plausible arguments in support of monarchy, but the fact remains that where every man in a State has a vote, brutal laws are impossible."

Answers will vary, but students might mention that just because a majority votes for something doesn't mean it's going to benefit everyone. Democracy as a form of government was famously scorned by America's founders, for instance. Also, if a majority votes in favor of abortions, does that make that law any less brutal?

5. "Training—training is everything; training is all there is to a person....We have no thoughts of our own, no opinions of our own; they are transmitted to us, trained into us."

Answers will vary, but while no doubt training is important, every person has thoughts of his own, and opinions of his own. Millions of persons have "undone" their training as children—sometimes to their benefit, sometimes to their detriment.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Describe the deal the Bashkirs offer Pahom.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 22, Day 2: "Honest Kyūsuké"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colossians, Chapter 2 – Week 22, Day 3

1. What “conflict” does Paul have for the Colossian and Laodicean Christians, and the others who haven't seen his face (verses 1-2)?

That their hearts will be comforted, knit together in love, and “unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding,”

2. Compare verse 8 to 1 Timothy 6:20-21. Then give an example of how a Christian today could be “spoiled” through “philosophy and vain deceit,” “the tradition of men,” or “the rudiments of the world.”

Verse 8 warns Christians who can be “spoiled” through “philosophy and vain deceit,” and 1 Timothy 6:20-21 says, “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith.” Both warn Christians to follow Christ and the Bible's teachings, not whatever is popular among current philosophies and ideas, as well as false scientific teachings.

Answers will vary on the second part of the question, but any Christian who tries new theories, new teachings, new philosophies instead of Christ is setting himself up for trouble.

3. How could you refer to verses 10-23 to respond to a fellow Christian who tells you that you have to follow the same dietary and sabbath-keeping rules that the Israelites had to follow?

Answers will vary, but Paul says that these are just a “shadow of things to come,” and that Christ has fulfilled these requirements, and Christians are “dead with Christ” (20) to the ordinances given to the Israelites in the Old Testament.

4. Briefly sum up the use of the word “all” in verses 2, 3, and 9. Explain, then, how you could answer a Christian who says to you, “I have to have psychological counseling or modern methods to help me control my anxiety/anger/lack of self-control.”

All means “all”—ALL riches of understanding (2), ALL wisdom and knowledge (3), and ALL the fulness of God (9). When a fellow Christian claims he “needs” something other than Christ to get him through some kind of personality issue or anger, he is denying that Christ is all that Christians need to sustain their hard times and personal struggles.

Week 22, Day 4: “The Fly”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. What do you make of the last paragraph?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Captain Veneno has turned out to be a doting father!

Week 22, Day 4: “The Open Window”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 23, Day 1 (Book the First, Chapters I-IV)

1. Why do you think the first chapter is titled “The Period”?

The book begins with a description of the unstable period of 1775 in both England and France. England's troubles include troubling religious prophetesses, supposed ghost sightings, trouble from the British colonies in America, and excessive use of capital punishment against accused criminals. France's troubles include increased government spending, violence, and the new guillotine.

2. Explain the tense situation involving the mail coach.

Night robbers have constantly threatened the Dover road, and a mail coach with several passengers and two guards tries to climb a steep hill. The passengers and guards don't trust anyone—even each other—and the coach is stopped by a man on horseback.

3. Who is the man who calls for someone in the mail coach? What does he want?

The man is Jerry Cruncher, an odd-jobs man working for Tellson's Bank in London. He gives the message “Wait for Mam'selle” to passenger Jarvis Lorry, a long-time employee for the bank. Lorry then gives Cruncher this message: “Recalled to life.”

4. What is the message of the opening to Chapter III?

The author wonders about the secrets that every person holds within himself, and how each person is a mystery to another.

5. What dreams or visions does Jarvis Lorry have?

He dreams about Tellson's Bank, but he also imagines he is talking to a ghost, asking him questions, and that he has to dig him out of the grave he has lain in for 18 years. He imagines telling the ghost, "Shall I show her to you?" Sometimes the ghost replies that he couldn't possibly because he might die, and other times he begs to see "her" right then.

6. Describe Jarvis Lorry's age, his looks, and his manner.

He is about 60, dressed in brown, "orderly and methodical," businesslike (since he has long since been a Tellson's Bank man), and a bachelor.

7. What do we find out from what Jarvis Lorry tells the hotel drawer?

He expects to meet a young lady, and that Tellson's Bank has been in business for more than 150 years in London and Paris, working with clients who go back and forth from one city to the other.

8. Describe Lucy Manette and her meeting with Lorry.

She is about 17, blonde-haired, polite and cultured, an orphan, and anxious to meet Lorry. When he sees her, he is reminded of a small child he held many years ago. Lorry tells Lucy that as a representative of Tellson's, a doctor he had worked with before that was thought dead has been discovered in Paris, alive. (This man is Lucy's father.) He gently breaks the news to her slowly, in pieces, so she won't be shocked, but she is anyway, and faints. Lucy's attendant (Miss Pross) comes in, shoves Lorry against a wall, berates him for upsetting Lucy, and takes care of her.

Additional Notes:

- The opening lines of *ATOTC* are among the most famous of any work of literature. The opening paragraph immediately sets up a "doubles" motif—two cities, two sets of contrasting possibilities, and so on. The events in this chapter will be recalled in later ways at other points in the book, revealing themselves as "doubles" as well.

Week 23, Day 2 (Book the First, Chapters V-VI; Book the Second, Chapter I)

1. In what city does the chapter "Wine-shop" take place? What does the wine casket scene represent? Describe the common people of France at this time.

It takes place in Paris. The wine casket's falling and breaking, and the townspeople's ravenous acts toward it, represent the poverty and hunger suffered by the people. The people themselves are not only hungry and poor, but angry and close to revolting.

2. What does Gaspard write with his finger? How does Defarge, the wine-shop keeper respond?

He writes the word "blood." Defarge wipes it off, telling him that now is not the time—but soon it will be.

3. What kind of people are Monsieur Defarge and Madame Defarge?

Monsieur Defarge is about 30, "bull-necked and martial" looking, "implacable" and tough. Madame Defarge is cold, stout, no-nonsense, and constantly knitting.

4. Why are Lucy Manette and Jarvis Lorry at Defarge's wine shop? Describe what happens with the three.

Defarge is holding Doctor Manette, his old master, in a room above the shop, and Lucy and Lorry are there to bring him home. They wind up a long, steep stairway and reach the doctor, who is locked in an attic room.

5. Describe Dr. Manette's appearance and manner. What does he say when he is asked his name? What is the significance of what he carries around his neck? What does the group do for Dr. Manette?

He has a long white beard, is thin and hollow, speaks weakly, and is dressed in rags, bent over a cobbler's bench, making shoes. He answers "One Hundred and Five, North Tower" when asked his name, and he carries a rag around his neck, inside of which are a few strands of golden hair. Dr. Manette is confused at first, believing Lucy is his dead wife, because of her similar hair. Defarge, Lorry, and Lucy immediately get Dr. Manette out of France.

6. What is Tellson's Bank like?

A small, dark, ugly, cramped bank that does a good business keeping precious objects for people who store them there. Those who work there are gray, gloomy, old-looking and acting men.

7. What does the phrase "death was a recipe much in vogue" mean?

Governments of the time favored just executing anyone who was convicted of committing a crime, regardless of how serious.

8. Describe Jerry Cruncher and his relationship to his wife and son. What does young Jerry Cruncher notice about his father at the chapter's end?

He is an odd-job man for Tellson's Bank, and is a cranky, easily upset man. He takes his son to work with him, sitting outside Tellson's waiting for a job, and he yells at and hurls boots at his wife for "praying agin' him," blaming her prayers for making him lose work—which suggests his work is not always honest. Young Jerry notices that his father's hands are always rusty.

Additional Notes:

- "Jacques" is revealed as a name that revolutionaries in France call each other.
- There are several examples of "doubles" already evident in *ATOTC*, but in this section another is revealed: two trips up steep hills (one up the Dover road in the mail coach, and one up the steep stairs to retrieve Dr. Manette).
- Dickens is setting the stage for the French Revolution by painting a picture of the poverty-stricken, enraged French common people.

Week 23, Day 3 (Book the Second, Chapters II-IV)

1. What is the Old Bailey like? Why is Jerry Cruncher there?

It is a gruesome place where people pay to see accused persons convicted and hanged—and drawn and quartered if convicted of treason. It is assumed that all accused persons will be found guilty. Cruncher is there to deliver a message to Jarvis Lorry, who is watching the trial of the young man.

2. Describe the man on trial for treason. Who are the two persons he looks at in the courtroom?

The man on trial is Charles Darnay—about 25, good looking, with good bearing. He looks at a pretty young woman and her father, there for the trial, and reportedly witnesses against him.

3. List some of the ridiculous statements made by the prosecuting attorney to the jury at the beginning of Chapter IV.

That the witness for the prosecution is a saint; that the prosecutor admires and loves him more than his own family for turning in the "traitor" Charles Darnay; that the witness is such a great man that should have a statue erected in his honor; that the note Darnay is supposed to have written is not in his handwriting, but that only shows how clever he was to have written it in someone else's writing.

4. How does the defense attorney expose witnesses John Barsad and Roger Cly?

He gets them to admit that they have between them been in debtor's prison several times, been involved in fights due to gambling, owe money to Darnay, know each other, have stolen items before, and so on.

5. What argument turns the jury in favor of Darnay's innocence? Why do you think Chapter III is titled "Disappointment"?

Sydney Carton, Stryver's assistant attorney, helps Stryver point out that Darnay's identity cannot be positively established, because Darnay bears a striking resemblance to Carton himself. Chapter III is probably titled "Disappointment" because the bloodthirsty spectators don't get to see another execution of a prisoner.

6. What does Dr. Manette do while looking at Darnay after the group gets together after the trial?

He freezes, looking intently at Darnay with suspicion and fear. It is not explained why.

7. Describe the characters of Sydney Carton and Stryver. What does Carton tell Darnay in their talk over dinner? What does Carton tell himself in the mirror?

Carton is sloppy, rude, melancholy, and not at all businesslike like Mr. Lorry. Stryver is a go-getter (hence the name “Stryver”), and heads the law firm, working tirelessly, and a little self-important. Carton tells Darnay he doesn’t like him very much, because he knows Lucie was very concerned for him (Darnay) during the trial, and that no one cares for him (Carton). Later Carton tells himself in the mirror that he wishes he could change places with Darnay so Lucie would care for him.

Additional Notes:

- The description of the Old Bailey is Dickens’s way of depicting the brutality and excessive hand of the law—executing so many, finding everyone guilty, still employing torture and brutality in executions, and so on. It is also his way of depicting the coldness and animal-like natures of the common people, who pay to see accused persons found guilty and hanged or otherwise punished.
- Jerry Cruncher, the messenger to Jarvis Lorry, is the same man, of course, who gave a message to Lorry at the story’s beginning, while Lorry’s mail coach was making a treacherous trip down the Dover road.
- Again the “doubles” theme pops up, with Carton’s close resemblance to Darnay.
- The off-hand remark Darnay tells Lucie on the boat—that possibly the name of George Washington could be honored more than King George II—of course is humorous to the modern reader, since contrary to the Old Bailey court’s ridicule of this idea, it has come to pass!

Week 24, Day 1 (Book the Second, Chapters V-VII)

1. Why are Stryver and Carton nicknamed “The Lion” and “The Jackal”? What does their late-night conversation while working tell the reader?

Stryver has always pushed to get ahead; Carton has not realized his potential. He works around “The Lion” like a “Jackal,” using his skills to put together pieces of cases like a jackal cleans up after the lion has made the kill. In their conversation we learn that Carton has all the abilities that Stryver has, but doesn’t use them to full effect, and he (Carton) feels a little sorry for himself. The conversation also reveals that both men see Lucie as beautiful, but only Stryver admits it.

2. Describe the Manette house on the corner. How is Dr. Manette’s practice?

It is quiet and peaceful, with very few people who stop by or are in the area. Lucie has very economically decorated it so it is charming and comfortable. Because of where the house is situated, many echoes of people walking to and fro are heard, even though they are not necessarily near the house. The doctor does a nice business, earning as much as he wants.

4. Why is Chapter VI titled “Hundreds of People”? What is Miss Pross like?

It’s titled so because Miss Pross uses this phrases to exaggerate the number of people who come in and out of the Manette home. Miss Pross is a slightly wild acting woman with fiery red hair, jealous, and somewhat quick-tempered, but a loyal, unselfish, and devoted attendant of Lucie, and a good cook.

5. Explain Lorry’s concern about Dr. Manette’s shoe bench. What does Miss Pross say about it?

He worries that it is a reminder of his imprisonment. Miss Pross says she believes he is afraid of being sent back to prison, because he doesn’t seem to know or remember why he was there, or he might be suppressing memories of his stay there. She also says that sometimes he walks back and forth in his room in the middle of the night, as if he were back in prison, but he never talks about his time in prison.

6. What incident that Darnay relates seems to upset Dr. Manette?

News that excavators in the Tower found a message: “DIG,” and unearthed ashes of paper and ashes of a leather bag.

7. What does Sydney Carton seem to bring to the gatherings at the Manette home?

He is melancholy and pensive, and adds a touch of solemnity to the proceedings.

8. Describe the scene of the Monseigneur taking his chocolate, and his general lifestyle, along with the lifestyle of the crowd he socializes with.

It requires four attendants to bring him his breakfast hot chocolate, and he lives a lavish lifestyle, with every convenience and expensive taste gratified. Those he socializes with are the aristocracy, living lavishly and wantonly, full of sin and devoid of natural affection (for example, the mothers who do not want to be seen as mothers, because it makes them look “unfashionable” or old).

9. What is the Marquis who leaves the party like? Describe the incident in his carriage.

About 60 years old, haughty, aristocratic, with a treacherous and cruel face. He drives his carriage home recklessly, without regard to the common people in the streets, killing a small child. He is simply annoyed that his horses might have been injured, instead of caring for the child, and throws a few gold coins to the father of the child (Gaspard, whom we met at Defarge’s wine shop earlier) and Defarge, who comes out to help. But Defarge flings the coins back at the Marquis, and Madame Defarge stares steadily at the Marquis, knitting the whole time.

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: Carton is up, then he’s down; Stryver and Carton are two men with different personalities; Dr. Manette’s home is like a second prison to him sometimes.
- The luxury and pomp that describe the aristocracy makes the poverty-stricken commoners in France look even worse. This section, along with the wine casket scene, seems designed by Dickens to make the reader sympathize with the commoners and loathe the aristocracy. The scene with the Marquis seems particularly galling and infuriating.

Week 24, Day 2 (Book the Second, Chapters VIII-IX)

1. What does the road-mender tell the Marquis?

That he saw a man holding on to the bottom of his carriage.

2. How does the Marquis respond to the woman asking for help to give her husband a tombstone?

With characteristic coldness, he simply drives away and ignores her.

3. How are Charles Darnay and the Marquis related? Sum up their conversation.

The Marquis is Darnay’s uncle, the twin brother of his father. Darnay has come to tell his uncle that he renounces his name and title and wealth. The Marquis is disdainful of his nephew, all but admits that he was responsible for getting him put on trial for treason, and threatens him by mentioning Lucie Manette and Dr. Manette.

4. What is ironic about the Marquis’ words when he says, “My friend, I will die, perpetuating the system under which I have lived”?

He does that very night!

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: two fountains (one in the poor section of Paris, one in the courtyard of the Marquis); the opposite philosophies of Darnay and the Marquis; and the death of a peasant at the hands of the Marquis, which is “doubled” by his death at the hands of a peasant (the child’s father).

- The setting sun at the beginning of Chapter VIII is a symbol of the aristocracy, and even the Marquis himself. It is seen going down, and Dickens says “the sun and the Marquis [were] going down together.” The Marquis even says himself about the sun: “It will die out directly.” And, of course, the Marquis does die that night.
- There are a number of “stone faces” at the chateau of the Marquis; these are representative of the hard hearts of aristocrats like him, who is himself described as having a face like a “fine mask.”

Week 24, Day 3 (Book the Second, Chapters X-XII)

1. What are the “two promises” of Chapter X? To what condition does Dr. Manette relapse into? What do you make of this?

Dr. Manette promises to tell Lucie that Darnay loves her and will vouch for his earnestness, and Darnay promises he will tell Dr. Manette his true name on the day of their wedding, if they marry. After their conversation, Lucie finds him again working on his cobbler’s bench, apparently having lost his wits. Something about Darnay strikes Manette, perhaps unconsciously, the wrong way, and brings up memories of being in prison.

2. What does Stryver tell Carton about his marriage plans? What does he advise Carton to do?

He tells Carton he is going to marry Lucie Manette, and he advises Carton to find some rich girl with property and marry her, so she can take care of him.

3. Sum up Stryver’s conversation with Jarvis Lorry.

He tells Lorry he intends to marry Lucie, and Lorry advises against Stryver’s asking her. When asked why, Lorry says he believes Lucie will reject his proposal. Stryver is stunned, because he is a successful lawyer, and a prime catch, he believes. Lorry asks Stryver to wait until he (Lorry) finds out from the family what Lucie thinks, he finds that Lucie will reject Stryver’s proposal, and Stryver tries to save face by pretending he never wanted to ask Lucie, partly because he thinks she is just an empty-headed young lady who doesn’t know a good opportunity.

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: Dr. Manette and Charles Darnay both (a) love Lucie, and (b) are refugees from France; Stryver and Darnay both propose marriage to Lucie;

Week 24, Day 4 (Book the Second, Chapters XIII-XIV)

1. Sum up Carton’s speech to Lucie.

He says that he is hopelessly beyond repair as a human, and that he still would like to make something of himself if possible. He promises Lucie that he will do anything for her, include giving up his life for her.

2. Describe the funeral that Jerry Cruncher sees pass by. What does he say to himself about the man the funeral is for?

It is being followed by a strange mob, who attacks the coffin and the mourners in the procession because the man being buried is Roger Cly, whose name Cruncher recognizes as the man he saw in the courtroom testifying against Charles Darnay. Jerry says to himself, looking at the body, “You see that there Cly that day, and you see with your own eyes that he was a young ‘un and a straight made ‘un.”

3. How does Cruncher harass his wife in Chapter XIV? Where does he go next?

He yells at her not to interfere with his business by her “flopping against him” (praying). That night at 1 AM he goes to a graveyard with two other men to dig up Roger Cly’s body to sell to a scientist or a doctor.

4. Describe young Jerry’s experience. What does he ask his father the next day?

He pretends to be asleep and follows his father to the graveyard. When he sees the men dig up the body, he panics and runs away, then turns around, then runs away all the way home, all the while imagining that the body is hopping after

him. He asks his father what a “resurrection man” is, and his father answers, “a branch of scientific goods,” to which young Jerry says, “persons’ bodies, ain’t it, father?”

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: Carton pledging his life to Lucie, like Darnay has; the digging up of a body” by Jerry Cruncher reflects the “recalled to life” “digging up” of Dr. Manette from the prison.

Week 25, Day 1 (Book the Second, Chapters XV-XVII)

1. What does the road mender report has happened to Gaspard, who killed the Marquis? How does Madame Defarge signal to the other patrons of the wine shop that they should leave?

He was caught, sent to prison, and hanged in the village of the Marquis, even though petitions were made to save him. Madame Defarge puts a rose in her hair to signal everyone in the wine shop to leave.

2. What is contained in Madame Defarge’s knitting? Why is it done in this manner?

Madame Defarge’s knitting contains codes of all the names of persons that the revolutionaries want to exterminate. It is done in code, so no one will be able to tell what she is doing.

3. Why does the mender of roads so loudly praise the king and queen during their appearance?

The revolutionaries are trying to make the king and queen feel secure in their positions, so that the planned revolution will be more of a surprise, and ideally, more likely to be effective.

4. Who is John Barsad? Describe his visit to the Defarges’ wine shop and the news he brings to them.

He is the spy who testified falsely against Charles Darnay during his trial for treason. During his visit to the Defarges’ wine shop, Madame Defarge knits his name into the register as a person to kill, while Barsad pretends to be a revolutionary sympathizer, calling Defarge “Jacques” and so on. Barsad does bring news that unsettles the Defarges: that the nephew of the Marquis plans to marry the daughter of Dr. Manette, Ernest Defarge’s old employer. Madame Defarge then adds Darnay’s name to her knitting.

5. What do Lucie and Dr. Manette discuss in “One Night”?

Dr. Manette discusses his imprisonment for the first time, and seems at peace about it. Lucie tries to make sure that her father approves of her marriage, and he assures her he does, telling her that he often wondered about how she was turning out while he was in prison.

Additional Notes:

- The poisoning of the water in the village from Gaspard’s hanging represents the poisoning of the minds and hearts of the commoners, who are angered at the aristocracy’s treatment of them.
- Another double: the opening of the second paragraph in Chapter 16: “Chateau and hut, stone face and dangling figure, the red stain on the stone floor, and the pure water in the village well.”
- It seems grossly unfair to add Darnay’s name to the list of aristocrats to be killed by the revolutionaries, since he has renounced everything associated with his family or title.

Week 25, Day 2 (Book the Second, Chapters XVIII-XIX)

1. What does Dr. Manette look like when coming from his meeting with Charles Darnay before the wedding? What do you make of this?

He is “deadly pale,” something obviously troubling him. (Recall that Darnay promises to reveal his real name to Dr. Manette on the wedding day.)

2. In what state do Lorry and Miss Pross find the doctor? How long does it last?

He has reverted to his semi-conscious state of believing he is still a prisoner in the North Tower. This mental state lasts nine days.

3. What method does Lorry use to approach Dr. Manette after he “awakens” from his relapse?

He approaches the doctor as if he were talking about a friend of his who had a relapse, and is more discreetly and indirectly able to approach the subject.

4. What “opinion” does Dr. Manette give about what should be done about Lorry’s “friend”? What do they decide to do?

Dr. Manette thinks this was an aberration, brought on by a shock to the “patient.” He does not believe the relapse will happen again. They decide to get rid of the “patient’s” tools, so he cannot revert back to using them. Lorry and Miss Pross then hack the bench to pieces, and bury it with the tools in the yard.

Additional Notes:

- Double: The young married couple, Charles Darnay and Lucie Manette, contrast strongly to the “old bachelor couple” of Jarvis Lorry and Miss Pross.

Week 25, Day 3 (Book the Second, Chapters XX-XXII)

1. What is Sydney Carton’s “plea”? How do the Darnay family members receive him?

His plea is to be allowed to come and go and be part of their lives. Darnay willingly agrees, Lucie pities him and wants to help him, and little Lucie loves him as part of the family.

2. What are the echoing footsteps that Lucie hears from her home now link to? What news does Lorry bring from Tellson’s Bank?

The echoing footsteps are linked to the turmoil of the French Revolution. Lorry reveals that many are fleeing France and storing their precious goods with Tellson’s in England as they leave.

3. Describe the scene with the mob of peasants at the Bastille. How do the Defarges play roles?

The peasants storm the Bastille (this is the act that officially began the French Revolution) and overthrow it. They release the prisoners, and Defarge demands to be taken to the North Tower, where he finds evidence that Dr. Manette was in the tower. Madame Defarge gladly participates in the killing, even cutting off the head of the governor of the Bastille.

4. What does the mob do to Foulon? Why?

Foulon said for the peasants to eat grass if they were starving, so the mob chases him down, tortures him, and kills him, stuffing his decapitated head with grass and parading it around.

Additional Notes:

- Another double: the seven heads on pikes at the Bastille (the murdered government employees), and the seven prisoners released from the Bastille.
- The sentence “There was a change in the appearance of Saint Antoine; the image had been hammering into this for hundreds of years, and the last finishing blows had told mightily on the expression” expresses the attitude of the peasants, who believe they have been mistreated by the aristocracy for a long time, and now have revolted.

Week 25, Day 4 (Book the Second, Chapters XXIII & XXIV)

1. What does the French countryside look like? What do you think this represents?

It is ruined, lifeless, dismal; it most likely represents the author’s view that the revolutionaries are not effecting positive change at all, but ruining France in their own way.

2. What happens to the chateau of the Marquis and Gabelle?

The revolutionaries burn it to the ground, which was a common occurrence throughout France at the time. Gabelle barely escapes with his life, and it is unfortunate that the people attack him as well, since he tried to be lenient toward them.

3. What has happened over the last three years? How does Jarvis Lorry fit in?

France has become even more unstable, as people scramble to move themselves and their assets to England. Lorry has been dispatched to France by Tellson's Bank to its branch in Paris to help protect its assets from the revolutionaries.

4. Describe the letter Darnay reads and his decision.

It is a letter from Gabelle asking for help, as he has been locked in prison. Darnay decides to go to Gabelle to help him, thinking that since he renounced his aristocratic family, he will be welcome in France, and might even be able to sway the revolution in a more beneficial path.

Additional Notes:

- The connection between blood and wine has been established: Early in the book the people bathed their hands and rank ravenously of the wine spilled; now they are drunk on the blood of the aristocracy.

Week 26, Day 2 (Book the Third, Chapters I-III)

1. What does Darnay's travels through France, even before he is arrested, show about the country and the revolution? What is the excuse given to him when he demands his rights?

He is constantly asked for papers and generally harassed. This demonstrates the lack of respect for individual rights by the revolutionaries, or drunkenness with power over others. The revolutionaries claim that "emigrants have no rights."

2. Describe Darnay's interaction with Defarge and his imprisonment.

He asks Defarge for his rights and why he is being imprisoned, but Defarge refuses to help. Darnay is then locked up "in secret" (in solitary confinement) in La Force. He asks to buy pen and paper and ink so he can write to Jarvis Lorry at Tellson's Bank.

3. What surprises Jarvis Lorry? How is Dr. Manette's position useful in helping Charles Darnay? Why is time of the essence?

Lorry is surprised to see Lucie and Dr. Manette at Tellson's Bank to see him. Dr. Manette believes his position as a former political prisoner of the aristocrats will help him in convincing the revolutionaries to release Darnay. It is important to get to the prison quickly, since the prisoners are being murdered by revolutionaries, who are described as bloody persons in Chapter II.

4. What good does Jarvis Lorry do for Lucie, Little Lucie, and Miss Pross? What mistake does he make? (That is, what is the real reason for the Defarges' visit?)

Lorry gets them an out-of-the-way apartment so they can stay near Darnay, but his mistake is showing the Defarges where they live. The real reason they come is so they know where the family is—Madame Defarge knits their names into her register of aristocratic families to kill.)

5. Why do you think Chapter III is titled "The Shadow"?

Madame Defarge's shadow—which represents the dangers of the revolutionaries—falls over the Darnay family, threatening them with destruction.

Additional Notes:

- Double: Darnay is a political prisoner, like Dr. Manette was years ago.

Week 26, Day 3 (Book the Third, Chapters IV-VI)

1. How has Dr. Manette become the “Calm in Storm”?

He has taken charge of the situation, serving as a physician, using his influence as having been a political prisoner of the aristocracy to the end of trying to save Charles Darnay, who has been in prison for 15 months. He is also a calming influence on the bloody, impulsive acts of the revolutionaries.

2. How does Dickens describe the terror of the guillotine? What does this say about the revolution itself?

He discusses how it is indiscriminately and eagerly used by the revolutionaries, revealing that the revolution is not simply a redress of wrongs, but a campaign of violence and vengeance (even the nickname of one of Madame Defarge’s friends is “The Vengeance”).

3. How is Lucie able to somewhat make contact with Charles? What does the wood-sawyer say to her? Who else walks by and sees her at her post?

She stands outside at a spot where he can see her from his prison cell and waves. The wood-sawyer is the mender of roads who appeared earlier in the novel; he is a real weirdo, making jokes about using a guillotine on a family right in front of Lucie and little Lucie. Madame Defarge also walks by one day and sees Lucie weeping for Charles while sitting in her spot.

4. What is the “triumph” of Chapter VI?

Charles Darnay is found not guilty, because of the testimony of Dr. Manette, who has much credibility, as he was a prisoner in the Bastille at the hands of the aristocracy.

Additional Notes:

- Double: Dr. Manette was weakened and cared for by his daughter at the book’s beginning, and now she is weakened, and being cared for by him.
- The guillotine is contrasted with the cross of Jesus in Chapter IV. Whereas Jesus on the cross spilled His blood to save mankind and forgive sins, the blood spilled by the guillotine is in vengeance and a profane and godless retribution for others’ sins.
- Doubles: Charles Darnay has a second trial, he is found not guilty for a second time, another bloodthirsty crowd attends the trial, and another frightening mob procession passes by on the streets (the first was the mob’s attack on funeral procession while Jerry Cruncher looked on)

Week 26, Day 4 (Book the Third, Chapters VII-VIII)

1. What is the explanation of why Charles Darnay is again arrested?

The soldiers say that he has been accused by Ernest Defarge, Madame Defarge, and one other person, whom they will not reveal yet, saying his identity will be revealed the next day.

2. What is discovered about Solomon Pross? Explain the deal that Sydney Carton makes with him. How does Jerry Cruncher prove to be useful?

He is actually John Barsad, who was one of the witnesses against Charles Darnay at his trial in England. Carton says he will expose him as an English spy unless he accompanies him, and asks if Barsad has keys to the prison cells (which he does). At first Barsad balks, but Carton says he has seen him talking with Roger Cly, an English spy. Barsad denies this, saying Cly is dead (and producing his death certificate), but Jerry Cruncher disputes this, saying that Cly was not buried in the coffin that supposedly held him. Barsad is shocked, bewildered at how Cruncher knows this (but the reader knows that Cruncher tried to dig him up when he worked as a “resurrection man” earlier in the story).

Additional Notes:

- A number of plot threads that were left hanging earlier are beginning to be tied together, including Jerry Cruncher’s “resurrection man” jobs, and Sydney Carton, who disappeared from the story for a while.

- Sydney Carton seems like he is undergoing a transformation, much like Dr. Manette: Both men have difficult pasts, but each has emerged as a strong, confident man taking on trying challenges.
- The “echoing footsteps” that surrounded the Darnays home in England have proved to be treacherous ones in this section, bringing the revolutionaries who demand Darnay’s re-arrest.

Week 27, Day 1 (Book the Third, Chapters IX-X)

1. What is the gist of the conversation between Jarvis Lorry and Jerry Cruncher, and the conversation between Lorry and Sydney Carton?

Lorry is disgusted at Cruncher’s grave robbing, and Cruncher promises to stop and become a grave digger to make up for it, if Tellson’s Bank will hire his son to take his place doing odd jobs. Carton’s conversation with Lorry centers on the idea that a person who is loved by others has not wasted his life.

2. What does Sydney Carton do that night after talking with Lorry?

He wanders the streets, thinking about the words the preacher spoke at his father’s funeral: “I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.” He helps a little girl cross the street and gives her a kiss (presumably thinking about little Lucie), and buys chemicals at a druggist’s shop.

3. What shock occurs at the new Darnay trial?

The third accuser is named: Dr. Manette!

4. What is the substance of the letter Dr. Manette wrote in prison? What effect does it have on the jury? Which words in the letter probably have the greatest effect upon them?

He was summoned to the home of the Marquis de Evremonde to help a young woman who had been ravaged by the Marquis, and her younger brother, who had been stabbed trying to defend her honor. The wife of the Marquis comes to the doctor, trying to atone for her husband’s actions, and offers to hide the younger sister of the young woman attacked by him. Dr. Manette, after writing a letter to inform the law of what happened, was kidnapped, the letter burned, and sent to prison.

The jury immediately decides to sentence Charles Darnay to death within 24 hours. The sentence that probably most leads the jury to sentence him to death are these: “I, Alexandre Manette, unhappy prisoner, do this last night of the year 1767, in my unbearable agony, denounce to the times when all these things shall be answered for. I denounce them to Heaven and to earth.”

Week 27, Day 2 (Book the Third, Chapters XI-XII)

1. Why does Lucie tell Darnay, “We shall not be separated long”?

She believes she will die of a broken heart.

2. How does Dr. Manette react to what has happened to Darnay?

He is beyond consolation, and eventually reverts to his “I’m a shoemaker” mental state, which puts even more of a gloomy air to the events of the day.

3. What two main things does Carton learn about Madame Defarge while in their wine shop? Why does she look at him strangely?

First, that she was the sister of the wife assaulted by the Marquis de Evremonde, so she has a personal hatred for Charles Darnay, because he is his nephew. Second, that she plans on accusing Lucie and having her and little Lucie “exterminated” as members of the Evremonde family. Madame Defarge looks at Carton strangely because he reminds her of Darnay.

4. What does Carton tell Lorry to do?

He gives him traveling visas for Lucie, little Lucie, and Dr. Manette to leave the country. He tells Lorry that they must leave tomorrow, before Madame Defarge accuses the family.

Additional Notes:

- Double: Lucie faints after she realizes Charles will be executed; earlier in the story, she fainted when she realized her father was alive.
- It seems absurdly unreasonable for Madame Defarge to exact such vengeance upon the Darnay family, especially after Dr. Manette tried to report the brothers to the police for what they did to Madame Defarge's sister and brother.

Week 27, Day 3 (Book the Third, Chapters XIII-XIV)

1. Explain Carton's deed done in Darnay's prison cell.

He sacrifices himself, switching places with Darnay, overpowering him with the drugs he purchased at the chemist's shop, changing clothes with him, and telling the jailer that "his friend Carton" fainted and must be taken away.

2. What do Miss Pross and Jerry Cruncher discuss? What humor does Dickens include here?

They are anxious about their escape; they plan to leave separately, so they won't attract suspicion. Miss Pross cries even though she is a tough old bird, and Jerry swears that (a) he will never dig up bodies again, and (b) he will "never no more will I interfere with Mrs. Cruncher's flopping, never no more!"

3. What are Madame Defarge's plans? Why does she not take her husband into her confidence?

She plans to arrange for Lucie, little Lucie, and Dr. Manette to be executed. She does not tell her husband her plans, because he is still loyal to Dr. Manette, his old boss.

4. Describe the conflict between Madame Defarge and Miss Pross.

They fight after Miss Pross refuses to allow Madame Defarge to know whether the Darnays have left, and Madame Defarge accidentally shoots herself to death. Miss Pross is deafened permanently by the explosion of the gun.

Additional Notes:

- Doubles: Miss Pross against Madame Defarge; Lorry's dangerous coach trip in Paris, which is similar to his coach trip in Dover at the beginning of the book.
- The fact that so many people from different stations in life are scheduled to be executed by guillotine (represented by the 70-year-old Farmer-General and the 20-year-old poor seamstress) is a commentary on how evil in a nation hurts people of all stripes of life.
- Madame Defarge's accidental shooting of herself in her struggle with Miss Pross (an attempt to avenge herself upon those whom she blamed for her injustice) could represent the ultimate failure of the French Revolution to effect lasting change because its waves of violence ended up hurting the revolutionary cause more than helping it.

Week 27, Day 4 (Book the Third, Chapter XV)

1. How is Sydney Carton portrayed as going to his death?

Peaceful, even prophetic is the look on his face.

2. List some of the things that the narrator imagines Carton is thinking before his death.

The Darnays with a boy named after himself, Manette happy and healthy, Lorry living 10 more years, contributing to the family and going to his reward. Most importantly, he sees his name honored in the family forever, with generations remembering his sacrifice for them.

A Tale of Two Cities: For Additional Thought/Essay Topics

1. Describe the relationship between blood and wine in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and provide examples. How is the blood theme sometimes a reference to the sacrifice of Jesus, and in other ways a contrast to it?

Blood and wine, two red liquids, are frequently referenced in A Tale of Two Cities:

- *The wine casket spills its contents and is lapped up by the commoners; later the commoners spill the blood of thousands of the members of the aristocracy. Dickens says that the spilled wine casket “stained the ground of the narrow street” and “stained many hands, too, and many faces.” The victims of the revolutionaries are called “all red wine for La Guillotine.”*
- *During the wine casket scene the mender of the roads writes the word “BLOOD” on a wall; Dickens says that “the time was to come, when that wine too [blood] would be spilled on the street-stones, and when the stain of it would be red upon many there.” Later on during the revolution, men and women are both described as stained with blood in their lust to kill.*
- *The Defarges own a wine shop, where they dispense wine, and later they “dispense” of plenty of the blood of the aristocracy.*
- *Sydney Carton’s association is interestingly different: He is at first a habitual drunk, but unlike the revolutionaries, his character is twice associated with the prevention of loss of life, first by helping Charles Darnay escape a death sentence, and second, of course, by sacrificing himself for him.*

Carton’s sacrifice of his blood does call to mind the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave His life for mankind’s sins. The blood that is spilled during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries, the killings done by the aristocracy, and the executions at the Old Bailey provide a sharp contrast, since they are often done for revenge.

2. There are several instances of mobs in *A Tale of Two Cities*. Give some examples, and describe what you believe is Dickens’s opinion of them.

Some examples:

- *the mob that chases the funeral procession of Roger Cly*
- *the mob that cheers the quick convictions and hangings of the accused in the Old Bailey Courthouse*
- *the mob that does the same thing during the French Revolution*
- *the crowd that performs the violent, frightening Carmagnole dance*

Dickens seems to take a dim view on the rationality and effectiveness of mobs, since practically every time they assemble, something dangerous or unjust happens, or at least is not prevented from happening by the group.

3. The leaders of the French Revolution promised its citizens freedom and prosperity with the elimination of the aristocracy. Give some examples in *A Tale of Two Cities* that show that in many ways, the new regime was just as bad, or worse.

- *Citizens have to paint their names above their places of residence.*
- *Simply being accused of a crime is enough in most cases to assure guilt.*
- *People are suspicious of one another and quick to turn each other in for supposed “crimes.”*
- *The revolutionaries didn’t help the people produce more bread, clothes, shelters, etc.*
- *Those who are put into position of power (like the Defarges) are just as likely to abuse their power.*

4. Many characters in *A Tale of Two Cities* are prisoners in one way or another. List as many as you can think of, and explain why each is a prisoner.

- *Dr. Manette is imprisoned for 17 years in the Bastille.*
- *Sydney Carton is “imprisoned” by his own outlook on life, unable to make anything of himself.*
- *Gabelle is imprisoned by the French revolutionaries.*
- *Darnay is “imprisoned” by his family’s background, first figuratively and then literally.*
- *Jarvis Lorry is a semi-prisoner to Tellson’s Bank, living his entire adulthood as an employee.*
- *John Barsad served time in a debtors’ prison.*

5. Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay look very much alike, which allows the climax of *A Tale of Two Cities* to occur. In what other ways are they alike, aside from their looks?
- *They both love Lucie Manette; they also both make a pledge to her (Darnay with his wedding vows, and Carton with his promise to do anything for her).*
 - *They both have strong and weak moments (Darnay stands up to his uncle, but is ineffective with the revolutionaries at the end; Carton is weak in ambition at first, but becomes strong).*
 - *They both go to France to save someone who is unjustly imprisoned.*
 - *Both make sacrifices for Lucie (Darnay his aristocratic lifestyle, Carton his life).*
6. How are the “resurrection” and “sacrifice” themes intertwined and played out in *A Tale of Two Cities*?

Resurrection is a theme mentioned a number of ways in A Tale of Two Cities:

- *Dr. Manette is recalled to life, or “resurrected” at the story’s beginning.*
- *Jerry Cruncher is known as a “resurrection man,” or someone who digs up dead bodies.*
- *The French peasants are “resurrected”—from figurative and actual death by their hardships and treatment under the aristocracy—into a vengeance against it.*
- *Sydney Carton repeats the words of Jesus, “I am the resurrection and the life,” several times when he is considering trading places with Charles Darnay.*

Sacrifice also plays an important part of A Tale of Two Cities:

- *Miss Pross gives her life as a life of service to Lucie.*
- *Charles Darnay sacrifices his comforts as a member of the aristocracy for his beliefs.*
- *Jarvis Lorry spends his life serving Tellson’s Bank.*
- *Madame Defarge’s brother sacrifices his life trying to help his sister.*
- *Dr. Manette sacrifices (possibly) his good standing with the revolutionaries trying to save Charles.*
- *Of course, Sydney Carton sacrifices his actual life for the Darnay family.*

The themes of sacrifice and resurrection intertwine in examples like these:

- *Lucie sacrifices her time and energies to restore her father, to “resurrect” him from the mental instability he is suffering from because of his prison time.*
- *Sydney Carton’s ultimate sacrifice ends with (in his imagination) his own “resurrection,” not only in death, but in his good name, with the forever remembrance of it by the Darnays, and the naming of their son after him.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answers will vary!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 28, Day 3: “Miss Bracegirdle Does Her Duty”

1. What does the name “Bracegirdle” immediately tell the reader?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answers will vary!

Week 28, Day 4: “The Loaded Dog”

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

Some examples include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 29, Day 1 (Chapters I-II)

1. List the story’s main characters and traits.

Major: white boar who starts revolution

Boxer: huge, strong, dumb horse

Clover: middle-aged female cart horse

Bluebell, Jessie, Pincher: dogs

Mollie: foolish, pretty, white mare

Benjamin: bad-tempered donkey, devoted to Boxer

Moses: raven

2. What gets the story moving?

Major, the old, dying boar, has a dream and shares it with the animals on the farm.

3. What does Major call the animals as he speaks? List his speech’s key ideas.

He calls them “Comrades.” The speech’s main points:

“We work too hard, but don’t get the benefit of their work.”

“We’re not free.”

“Man is our enemy.”

“Those on four legs are friends; those on two legs are enemies.”

“Let’s don’t start to resemble men.”

“All animals are equal.”

“Never kill another animal.”

“Time for a revolution!”

4. Sum up Chapter 2.

Major dies, but the animals are stirred by his speech. The pigs start organizing a rebellion.

5. Name the two main pigs. What do they do?

Snowball (quicker in speech, more inventive) and Napoleon (bigger, used to getting his own way, not much of a talker). They teach the animals “Animalism” and organize the rebellion, taking the lead.

6. Define Animalism.

It’s not really well defined until the Seven Commandments sum it up, but just seems to fight against Man owning farms and running them the way things are.

7. What instigates the animals’ next major act?

Their hunger; they take food, which leads to the rebellion, and they kick Jones out of the farm and take it over themselves.

8. List the Seven Commandments.

- 1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.*
- 2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.*
- 3. No animal shall wear clothes.*
- 4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.*
- 5. No animal shall drink alcohol.*
- 6. No animal shall kill any other animal.*
- 7. All animals are equal.*

9. What mystery occurs after the cows are milked?

The milk disappears (taken by the pigs!).

Additional Notes:

- Major is the equivalent of Karl Marx and/or Lenin: He “thinks up” and starts the revolution.
- “Comrades” is a Russian communist term (what Major calls the animals).
- “Man” equates to the Russian czars that communism overthrew.
- Class envy: Major’s speech refers to “Man” like communists refer to the bourgeoisie.
- “Beasts of England” resembles communist anthems we saw in class.
- Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin; Snowball represents Leon Trotsky.
- Boxer and Clover represent dumb, unthinking followers who do what they’re told.

Week 29, Day 2 (Chapters III-IV)

1. Describe the harvest. Which animals *don’t* work?

It’s a great harvest; everyone works hard, especially Boxer, but Napoleon and Snowball don’t work.

2. Explain Boxer’s importance. How do Mollie and the cat work?

He works incredibly hard and tirelessly, completely sold on the whole idea of Animal Farm; the harvest wouldn’t have happened without him.

3. Describe the meetings.

Napoleon and Snowball are always the ones suggesting things, and they argue constantly.

4. How and why are the Seven Commandments altered? How do the sheep react?

It's reduced to "Four legs good, two legs bad." The sheep respond to any questioning of the new commandments by other animals by stupidly repeating the slogan over and over.

5. How do the pigs explain the milk and apples?

They say they're doing it for the OTHER animals' sake! They claim that they have to keep up their strength so they can keep Jones from coming back and taking over Animal Farm.

6. Why are nearby farmers worried?

They're worried that animals on their farms will get the idea to revolt; this represents the leaders of the countries around communist Russia. Some farms do, in fact, revolt.

7. Describe the battle with Jones. How do Snowball and Boxer react afterwards? What memorials are then instituted?

It's called "The Battle of the Cowshed." The animals win, but it is bloody and violent, and many die, and they decide to commemorate their victory twice a year by firing Jones's left-behind shotgun. This represents the 1917 communist revolution.

Additional Notes:

- The "hoof and horn" flag represents the "hammer and sickle" communist flag.
- Napoleon's taking the puppies to "educate" represents the brainwashing of children.
- What does the "milk and apples" situation represent?

Week 29, Day 3 (Chapters V-VI)

1. What is Mollie suspected of?

Being friendly with other farmers; lumps of sugar and ribbons are found under her straw.

2. Sum up the Napoleon/Snowball fight and windmill debate. Which view seems more reasonable?

Snowball makes better speeches, but Napoleon does better rounding up support (especially the sheep). Snowball argues that a windmill will save the animals work, but Napoleon wants to just focus on food production. The animals, except Benjamin, take sides.

3. How do the two argue about defense? How does Napoleon "win" the windmill debate? What does Napoleon say about the meetings?

Napoleon says the animals should get arms and train themselves; Snowball says they should send out pigeons to stir up rebellion among the other farms. The debate is "won" when Napoleon sends attack dogs (the puppies he trained) upon Snowball, who flees; Napoleon says there will be no more debate, and that he will make all the decisions.

4. What is Squealer's function? What is his "unity" phrase?

To convince the other animals that Napoleon isn't a dictator—just working extra hard to help the other animals. "Surely, Comrades, you do not want Jones back?"

5. What does Napoleon then announce?

The windmill will be built! He also uses Squealer to convince the animals that he (Napoleon) was never against the windmill, and in fact, it was his idea—Snowball just stole the idea!

6. Why are the animals happy, though working "like slaves"? Describe the windmill work and harvest. How is Boxer key?

They imagine that they're working for themselves, and not to enrich those evil Men. The work is extremely hard, Boxer works incredibly hard, but the harvest is poor.

7. Explain Napoleon's new policy. Why is there little protest?

The animals will now trade with other farms. There's little protest because Squealer convinces them that there never WAS really a rule that the animals couldn't trade with others—it was probably some rumor that Snowball started!

8. Where do the pigs move? How does Squealer handle the protests?

Into the farmhouse; Squealer quells the protests by saying that there was no resolution passed that the pigs couldn't live there.

9. What other advantages do the pigs enjoy? How do they justify it?

*Sleeping in a bed; even though the commandments forbade animals to do so, Squealer says it only said that animals couldn't sleep in a bed **with sheets**. They're also allowed an extra hour of sleep.*

10. What stops the windmill's progress? What claim does Napoleon make?

It is destroyed; Napoleon claims it's Snowball again.

Additional Notes:

- The Windmill represents the advanced technology that communist leaders crave, to give the appearance that their nations are sophisticated and modern like other nations.
- The animals' happiness, though working like dogs with little to show for it, shows that propaganda works.
- The animals' having to trade with other farms represents communism's failure to provide itself the things that the people need.
- Napoleon's "two-year plan" to build the windmill represents communist Russia's five-year-plans.
- Major's skull on display to inspire the animals represents Lenin's body, which was preserved and put on display.

Week 30, Day 1 (Chapter VII)

1. Why are the animals intent on finishing the windmill? What do they face? Why is this fact hidden?

They don't want to be criticized by the other farmers. They work on the windmill in the bitter cold, facing food shortages, but this is hidden, again, to prevent Animal Farm from looking bad to the other nations.

2. What is ironic about Squealer's labor speeches? How does Napoleon use Whymper?

They praise the joy and dignity of labor, which the ordinary animals are doing, but the "leaders" aren't. Napoleon uses Whymper to lie to the world about the empty food bins (like reporters such as Walter Duranty of the New York Times did to the world—falsely reporting that communism worked well, when it didn't).

3. What new policy upsets the hens? What happens to them, and what does Napoleon say happened to them?

That their eggs will be taken from them. They protest and are murdered, but Napoleon says they died of a disease.

4. What is "discovered" about Snowball? How do the animals react?

He is secretly visiting Animal Farm at night and ruining all the animals' work. He was with Jones all the time. But the animals remember how he fought Jones at the Battle of the Cowshed and are confused.

5. What "confessions" occur? How does this affect the other animals?

False confessions of wrongdoing from many of the animals, who are executed. This frightens the other animals, naturally, into doing what they're told, especially with the threat of the dogs tearing them apart.

6. What new policy does Squealer announce at the chapter's end?

The anthem "Beasts of England" won't be sung, since it's "no longer needed," the rebellion having succeeded.

Additional Notes:

- The hens' situation parallels the forced collectivization and starvation of the Ukrainians in 1932-33.
- The false confessions are Stalin's "show trials," which forced the accused to "confess," since they were told their families would be tortured and killed if they didn't.
- Communist leaders always have an excuse for the system's failures: It can't be the *system*, or *their* fault—it must be somebody or something else, of course. It can't be the Five-Year Plan....

Week 30, Day 2 (Chapter VIII)

1. Which commandment comes up?

The Sixth Commandment, which says animals aren't allowed to kill other animals. When the animals read it, it has been changed to add "without cause."

2. How is Animal Farm faring? How does Squealer "prove" the opposite?

The animals work harder than ever, but the farm is doing poorly. Squealer's propaganda shouts out how well Animal Farm is supposedly doing, using "facts and figures."

3. How is Napoleon more revered? Does the poem (94-95) sound familiar?

He's hardly seen in public, referred to as "Our Leader," and credited for idiotic things like "I laid five eggs today, thanks to Our Leader." The poem sounds like the Russian propaganda film song we watched in class.

4. How are the animals kept in fear of the outside world? Sum up the relations between Napoleon and the other farmers.

They're told (1) the world plans to attack them any day; (2) Snowball has been seen skulking around Animal Farm; and (3) that three hens were caught planning to assassinate Napoleon.

5. What is Frederick accused of? What info on Snowball is revealed?

Wanting to bring 20 armed men against Animal Farm. Snowball, it is said, never got a medal for heroism; that was an old rumor, of course

6. What happens after the windmill is finished? Describe the attack and aftermath. What happens to the pigs? What occurs afterwards?

Napoleon comes down to inspect it, names it "Napoleon Mill," and announces an alliance with Frederick, saying that the rumors about Frederick's plans and cruelty to animals were lies. Frederick does attack, destroys the windmill, but is defeated by the animals.

Napoleon awards himself the Order of the Green Banner. He then gets drunk, which breaks one of the commandments, but later the animals read "No animal shall drink alcohol TO EXCESS."

Additional Notes:

- Communism doesn't work; this is represented by the animals' working harder than ever, without success.
- The interaction with Pilkington and Frederick = Russia's alliances with Germany, then the Allies, during WWII. (The timber buying = the non-aggression pact with Germany; the counterfeit bills = Germany's invading Russia anyway.)

Week 30, Day 3 (Chapter IX)

1. What does Boxer want to see before he retires?

To see the windmill built.

2. How is life on Animal Farm? What are “readjustments” of food?

Bad. Rations are low, morale is low. The pigs and dogs, however, eat all they want. The reductions in food are called “readjustments,” not reductions, though. Squealer continues to “prove” life is better, and many animals stupidly accept it.

3. Explain the new rule on pigs. How are the pigs now getting along?

Animals must stand aside for pigs now, and pigs may wear green ribbons on their tails on Sundays. The pigs are getting fatter and drinking and are much better off than the rest of the animals.

4. Define the term “Spontaneous Demonstration.” What is the actual purpose?

Napoleon orders one to happen every week, to distract from the misery of life on Animal Farm.

5. What else is revealed about Snowball?

He actually fought for Jones the whole time, and his wounds in battle were actually made by Napoleon’s teeth.

6. What does Moses talk about? Why do the pigs allow him to do this?

Heaven. The pigs let him do it to distract the people.

7. Describe Boxer’s condition. Why is he taken away? Where is he taken? How is this fact explained by Squealer?

Boxer, getting old and worn down, is sold to the knacker’s to be turned into dog food. Benjamin sees the outside of the vehicle, and asks why Boxer was taken to the knacker’s, but Squealer says that wasn’t where Boxer went; the truck was bought by a veterinarian, who did all he could to save Boxer.

8. What do the pigs do yet again at the chapter’s end?

They get drunk and have a party, probably with the money they got from the knacker’s payment.

Additional Notes:

- Moses the raven represents the Russian Orthodox Church.
- Boxer’s death represents communist leader’s using people, then discarding them.

Week 30, Day 4 (Chapter X)

1. What happens as the years pass? Which animals retire?

Many animals die; the old ones and beginnings of how Animal Farm are forgotten. Three horses are added, but they are stupid, and accept everything that they’re told. No animal retires, because they have to keep working to survive.

2. How are the pigs faring? How have plans for the windmill changed?

The pigs are fatter than ever. They drink, smoke, wear clothes, etc. The windmill that was supposed to reduce the workload has changed to be used for milling, for profit (to give to the pigs).

3. How does Napoleon define “true happiness”? Has the farm grown richer?

He defines it as “working hard and living frugally.” Except him, of course, and the dogs, who grow richer.

4. How is life on the farm for most animals? Why do they soldier on, still with a feeling of “honor and privilege”?

Life is hard and grim for most animals, but they keep going because they're trying to continue the “only farm in the whole country...owned and operated by animals.” They can't remember if life was better or worse under Jones.

5. What do the pigs do that shocks the animals? What song do the sheep sing?

They walk on two legs, when the commandments said that those on two legs were the enemy. But Squealer has taught the sheep a new song: “Four legs good, two legs better!”

6. How do the Seven Commandments now read?

“All animals are equal. But some animals are more equal than others.”

7. Sum up the meeting's two speeches.

The meeting attenders (representing the government leaders of the world) hear two speeches. The first is Pilkington's; he says Animal Farm is a success, and that no animals work harder and get less. The second is Napoleon's, and he says Animal Farm wants normal relations with his neighbors, as well as that the collective farm is owned by the pigs. Also, Animal Farm was now to be called “Manor Farm.”

8. What can you conclude from the story's very last sentence?

The animals who peek in the window realize that the humans and the animals are indistinguishable from each other. The pigs are completely turned into the thing that they claimed to hate: leaders who took advantage and grew rich at the expense of the people (like the Russian czars).

Additional Notes:

- Pilkington's speech represents those governments who can get away with their current rotten government and corruption, since they can say they're not as hard on their people than the pigs at Animal Farm.