

Format

This discussion will take place online via Moodle forum from _____ to _____. You are expected to be part of the discussion in meaningful ways during this time frame. All discussion will take place within the instructor-started thread, but you may pose new questions, respond to other comments, etc., within that thread.

Norms

- Everyone contributes ideas. No one dominates or withdraws.
- Use transitions to connect comments.
- Agree/disagree with **ideas**, not people.
- Ask clarifying questions.
- Support a point with evidence from the text.
- Students take risks and dig for new meanings.

Assessment: 15 points total

Each contribution will be assessed by the following system. You can earn your points with just a handful of contributions to the conversation, but the quality of your contributions matter! The more you make a point and support it with evidence from a text (and you can use ANY text we've looked at in this unit), the more quickly you'll arrive at your desired score.

- 5 points: Student makes an insightful comment; supports it with specific, well-explained example from the text; and connects it to the context of the discussion.
- 4 points: Student makes an insightful comment; supports it with a specific, well-explained example from the text.
- 4 points: Student restates another person's comment and asks an insightful, clarifying question that generates more depth around a single topic.
- 3 points: Student makes an insightful connection between ideas from the discussion and draws a conclusion without examples from the text.
- 3 points: Student poses an insightful question that generates more discussion about the text.
- 2 points: Student makes a relevant, accurate observation about the text in general but doesn't support observation with the text.
- -1 point: Student makes an irrelevant or off-topic comment.
- -5 points: Student directs a rude comment toward another participant.

Continue to next page for stems you can use when engaging in the conversation →

Discussion Transitions:

Rooting Ideas in the Text	Transitioning to a New Topic	Developing Ideas Further
• Your comment reminds me of [quote, idea]...On page... • A related idea/question/ comment is... • Where do you see that in the text? • I would like to (re)direct our attention to the [text]. On page...	• So far we have discussed [summarize discussion]. I would like to transition us to a new question/ topic...	• A related idea/question/comment is... • I am unsatisfied with our discussion of [idea] because... • I agree/disagree with the notion that...because... • Building off of [person's] idea... • I have a clarifying question for [person]. Are you asking... • I would like to return to our previous discussion of [idea] because... • I would like to elaborate upon [person's] idea...
Inviting Someone	Synthesize	Going Even Deeper
• I'm interested in hearing your thoughts on this question, [person] • Thank you! I'm still thinking. Can you come back to me?	• What I am hearing X, Y, and Z say is... These ideas raise the greater question... because... • According to both X and Y, _____. These ideas suggest that...because... • Based X, Y, and Z's comments...it seems that we are wrestling with...This is important because...	• According to both X and Y, _____. Although I agree with these ideas up to a point, I cannot accept the overall conclusion that...because... • While I concede that...I still disagree with the notion that...because... • I think we might be overlooking [author's] assertion that...because... • Even though on first read it may seem that...a closer reading of the passage suggests that... • I am not convinced that the text suggests... Let's go back to the passage where...in order to consider... • By focusing on..., we overlook the deeper problem of...because...

Tips for participating in this discussion:

You must focus on the ways in which the stories connect with the ideas of God-teacher and Loss of Innocence.

In most cases, the specifics of a story (the decision to use a lion instead of a walrus, for example) are unimportant to the overall message of the story. So, stick to what's important. Connections that you make between the stories and modern life, are also a good way to generate conversation. If you ask a question, be sure that it is open-ended, in order to invite conversation.