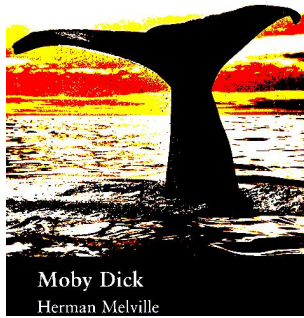


Summer Reading Assignment – *Moby-Dick*



Welcome to your senior-year, summer-reading challenge. For this project you will read the novel *Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville. Set in Melville's own mid-nineteenth century America, the novel acquaints us with Ishmael, Queequeg, and Ahab, and tells of their adventures aboard the Pequod in search of the White Whale. The novel uses a variety of narrative techniques to explore an assortment of complex themes including the concepts of social status and good and evil.

For this assignment you will accomplish three tasks, the first of which will be to read the novel. Yes, the novel is expansive (no one said it was going to be easy). I suggest a reading schedule. Some chapters are very short – as little as one page, while others are seemingly endless; some are plot driven, others are both pedantic and didactic. There are 135 chapters and you have eight weeks. Plan it so you do not overwhelm yourself.

As you read you will complete task two by answering the questions in the study guides provided. Answers are to be *hand-written* and may be written on separate sheets of paper, as long as all the questions are completed. These study guides will count as your first two homework grades for the course. In addition, you will be permitted to use these study guides on the twenty-question comprehension test you will take in the first week of school.

For your third task you will write a response paper. Response papers will be a common occurrence in our class. Choose **ONE** of the following to write your response: a) Chapter analysis, b) Character analysis, or c) Language analysis. Typed response papers are to be one page (appx. 300 words using 12pt, Times New Roman font).

For chapter responses: *briefly* summarize the chapter; perform a close reading, what seems to be Melville's purpose in your chapter. (Chapters to consider – 1, 3, 9, 14, 24, 32, 42, 72, 89, 99,132.)

For character responses: describe his physical characteristics as well as how he is perceived by other members of the crew. Use examples from three or more chapters.

For language responses: compare two or more chapters and identify rhetorical styles. Take note if Melville is using narrative or if he's being didactic. What about tone?

DUE DATES: your study guides will be due the first week of school. You will be able to use them on the test you'll take in the first week, so don't forget them. They will be checked that week.

Response papers: your response papers should be emailed to me – mklein@sachem.edu between 23 August and 27 August. Papers emailed later than 27 August will be marked as late.

For further information and updates please visit my website:

worldofmisterklein.pbworks.com

Enjoy your summer; I look forward to being part of your final and most rewarding year of high school.

Moby-Dick – Herman Melville

Study Guide I

Chapter 1

1. Explain the biblical allusion to Ishmael.
2. What does Ishmael do whenever he finds himself growing “grim about the mouth”?
3. What does Ishmael mean by a “substitute for pistol and ball”?
4. What proof does Ishmael offer that others feel the same as he does about the sea?
5. What is some of the “magic” which water performs for men?
6. How did the Greeks and the Persians perceive the sea?
7. How did Narcissus die?
8. Other than not having the money, why does Ishmael never go to sea as a passenger?
9. How does Ishmael explain his willingness to be ordered around?
10. What are Ishmael’s chief motives in going whaling?

Chapters 2-4

1. Why does Ishmael not stay at the Sword-Fish Inn?
2. Who owns the Spouter Inn?
3. What is in the painting in the entry of the inn?
4. What is the name of the old man who tends the bar?
5. Where is Ishmael’s bedmate early in the evening?
6. Where does Ishmael try to sleep at first?
7. What is odd about Queequeg’s appearance?
8. What did Queequeg do with his ebony idol?
9. What did Queequeg take into bed with him?
10. How did Queequeg shave?

Chapters 5-9

1. Why does Ishmael not begrudge the joke played on him by Peter Coffin?
2. What is the purpose of the marble tablets in the chapel?
3. Who sat near Ishmael in the chapel?
4. What was Father Mapple's previous occupation?
5. Describe the pulpit.
6. How did Father Mapple get to it?
7. What biblical character is the subject of the sermon?
8. What was his sin?
9. What happened to him when he was cast into the sea?
10. In what way does Ishmael fulfill his Gospel duty?

Chapters 10-15

1. What does Queequeg share with Ishmael?
2. What pledge does Queequeg make to Ishmael?
3. What gift does Queequeg give Ishmael?
4. How does Ishmael show his friendship to Queequeg?
5. Where is Queequeg from?
6. For what purpose did Queequeg leave his native land?
7. What had Queequeg mistakenly carried on his shoulders?
8. Where do Queequeg and Ishmael go to sign onto a whaler?
9. Who insults Queequeg on the ferry ride?
10. Whom does Queequeg save from drowning?

Study Guide II

Chapters 16-18

1. What is the name of Queequeg's idol?
2. What had the little god told Queequeg?
3. After what is the *Pequod* named?
4. What are her winches and tiller made out of?
5. Who are the owners of the *Pequod*?
6. What had the old squaw Tistig said of Ahab?
7. What does Ishmael find when he smashes in the door?
8. What objection does Ishmael have to Queequeg's religion?
9. Why do Bildad and Peleg decide to sign on Queequeg?
10. What is a lay?

Chapters 19-25

1. Describe Elijah and explain the significance of his name.
2. What nickname does he have for Ahab?
3. What vague references does he make to events in Ahab's past?
4. What effect did Elijah have on Ishmael?
5. Why is Aunt Charity aptly named?
6. Is Ishmael able to find the shadowy figures he saw board the boat?
7. In Queequeg's land, with what do the wealthier people "furnish" their houses?
8. What is the *Pequod's* day of departure?
9. What are the sailors singing about while Bildad sings his "dismal stave of psalmody?"
10. Who piloted the ship out of the harbor?

Chapters 26-31

1. Although Starbuck is as brave as any man, what does he fear?
2. In Melville's tribute to man at the end of Chapter XXVI, what is the source of the common man's "august dignity?"
3. Who are the three mates' harpooners, respectively?
4. How is Tashtego both like and unlike his ancestors?
5. To what animal is Daggoo compared and why is that simile appropriate?
6. What is an "isolato"?
7. -----
8. -----
9. Describe the Merman of Stubb's dream.
10. In what way is this dream prophetic?

Chapters 32-35

1. What is cetology?
2. What whales are in the first category of large whales?
3. What did the term "specksynder" mean originally and what has it come to mean?
4. -----
5. What is the atmosphere of the captain and his mates' dinner?
6. -----
7. What is the atmosphere of the harpooners' dinner?
8. How many masts are kept manned?
9. Upon what do the watches on the mastheads stand?
10. Why does Ishmael keep such a "sorry guard" when he stands the masthead watch.

Study Guide III

Chapters 36-40

1. What does Ahab nail to the mast?
2. -----
3. What distinguishing characteristics does Moby Dick have?
4. Who objects to Ahab's purpose?
5. What is Ahab's emotional state as he talks of the whale's taking off his leg?
6. -----
7. On what does Ahab place his hand as the crew swears an oath?
8. What is the oath the crew swears?
9. What is Stubb's reaction to all that has happened?
10. What are some of the nationalities represented by the sailors?

Chapters 41-42

1. What were some of the wild rumors about Moby Dick?
2. Why were Moby Dick's "retreats" feared more than anything?
3. With what did Ahab attack Moby Dick?
4. -----
5. Figuratively, what did Ahab pile upon the whale's white hump?
6. When was Ahab seized with his monomania?
7. Where had Ishmael first seen an albatross?
8. What impression did it make on him at the time?
9. What white creature is famous in American western legend?
10. What was it about the whale that instilled horror in Ishmael?

Chapters 43-47

1. Who, other than Archy, suspects stowaways are on board?
2. What problem has the departure date of the *Pequod* posed for Ahab?
3. What often forced Ahab from his hammock at night?
4. -----
5. What proof does Ishmael offer that the public is unaware of the dangers of whaling?
6. What happened to the *Essex*?
7. -----
8. Why must Ahab hunt other whales even though killing Moby Dick is his real purpose?
9. Who weaves the mat?
10. Where have the five phantoms been seen before?

Chapters 48-51

1. Of what is Fedallah's turban made?
2. Why was Ahab's boat able to outrun the others?
3. What did Flask do in order to gain a better vantage from which to spot the whales who had sounded below the water?
4. Whose boat was separated from the *Pequod* for the entire night?
5. Of the mates, which one has the reputation of being most prudent?
6. What does Ishmael do after having his near death experience?
7. Why would Bildad and Peleg never have granted Ahab a whale boat of his own?
8. Why were Fedallah and his crew able to "find a place among the crew"?
9. What did Fedallah spot on his midnight watch?
10. -----

Study Guide IV

Chapters 52-54

1. Why does the *Albatross* have a spectral appearance?
2. What was the “ominous incident” that occurred when the *Pequod* met the *Albatross*?
3. Why was Ahab bothered by the fish swimming away from his ship to follow the *Albatross*?
4. What is a gam?
5. When a captain is being rowed to another boat for a gamming, why is his position precarious?
6. What is the frame in which the *Town-Ho*'s story is told?
7. -----
8. What was the source of Radney's hatred of Steelkilt?
9. What role did Moby Dick play in their conflict?
10. Why was the *Town-Ho* manned by Polynesians when it gammed with the *Pequod*?

Chapters 55-60

1. From what have most scientific drawings been done?
2. Where can the most ancient portrait of a whale be found?
3. -----
4. What scene is depicted on the beggar's board?
5. What does Ishmael imagine when he gazes at the stars?
6. -----
7. What sound do right whales make when they feed?
8. What is the superstition regarding the white squid?
9. What has caused man to lose his awe of the sea?
10. Why is the whale line a danger to the whalers?

Chapters 61-66

1. What does Queequeg say the sighting of the squid means?
2. Where is the *Pequod*?
3. What color is the whale and why is that significant?
4. How far was Stubb's whaleboat towed by the whale?
5. What is the "gold watch" Stubb seeks?
6. What is the primary cause of unsuccessful whaling voyages?
7. How does Ahab feel about this successful hunt?
8. Who is Fleece and what does Stubb demand of him?
9. What moral advice does Fleece give the sharks?
10. What wish does Fleece express that could be considered foreshadowing?

Chapters 67-71

1. How is blubber removed from the whale?
2. Why is the word "blanket" an appropriate term?
3. Who cuts the scarf line into the blubber?
4. Who attends the whale funeral?
5. What fraction of a whale is made up of its head?
6. To what does Ishmael compare the whale head? Why?
7. Why does Captain Mayhew not board the *Pequod* as is the custom?
8. How do the men aboard the *Jeroboam* feel about Gabriel?
9. Specifically, how was Macey killed?
10. Why would Gabriel think an attack on *Moby Dick* was blasphemy?

Study Guide V

Chapters 72-78

1. What is the function of the monkey rope?
2. To whom is it attached?
3. Why were the men surprised that Ahab wanted them to hunt a right whale?
4. What was his reason?
5. How does Ishmael interpret the expressions on the whales?
6. To what does Ishmael compare the sperm whale's forehead?
7. What was Tashtego doing when he fell into the head?
8. How was he saved and by whom?
9. To what was his release from the head compared?
10. If Tashtego had died, why would it have been a very "precious perishing"?

Chapters 79-81

1. What gives the whale's physiognomy added grandeur?
2. What does the whale's hump cover?
3. What does Derrick want from the *Pequod*?
4. What does he know about the White Whale?
5. Why does the old whale swim with such difficulty?
6. Who harpooned the whale?
7. What did Starbuck try to stop Flask from doing?
8. What was found embedded in the old whale?
9. What unusual thing happened to the dead whale?
10. Why is the finback an uncapturable whale?

Chapters 82-86

1. What lovely maiden did Perseus rescue from Leviathan?
2. How does Ishmael change the story of St. George and the Dragon?
3. What are the Vedas and who retrieved them?
4. What question did the old Sag-Harbor whaler raise about Jonah's surviving in the whale's belly?
5. For what purpose is a pitchpole used?
6. What is the date of the writing of "The Fountain"?
7. How might a whale spout harm a man?
8. What is the length across a whale's tail?
9. What is meant by "peaking"?
10. What are four other actions of the tail?

Chapters 87-92

1. Where does the *Pequod* come upon the huge herd?
2. What is a "drugg"?
3. Where does the harpooned whale tow Ishmael's boat?
4. What truth is there in "the more whales the less fish"?
5. What becomes of a schoolmaster in old age?
6. What is a Fast-Fish?
7. What happened to the whale captured by the Dover fishermen?
8. What is ironic about the name of the *Rose-Bud*?
9. How does the Guernsey-man trick his captain?
10. How does Stubb trick the Guernsey-man?

Study Guide VI

Chapters 93-99

1. What is a ship-keeper?
2. Why was Pip put into Stubb's boat?
3. Why was Tashtego reluctant to cut the line to save Pip?
4. How was Pip rescued?
5. What was the cause of Ishmael's disorientation?
6. What are the try-works?
7. How is the oil stored?
8. What was on top of each mountain engraved on the coin?
9. What country had minted the doubloon?
10. What would Flask buy if he won the doubloon?

Chapters 100-105

1. What problem had Ahab not anticipated in the gam with the *Samuel Enderby*?
2. How is that problem solved?
3. Describe how the two captains greet each other.
4. Describe the relationship between Boomer and Bunker.
5. What does Ahab do to Bunker? Why?
6. What is the Enderby Whaling House famous for?
7. When did Ishmael go aboard the *Enderby*?
8. How does Ishmael know about whale skeletons?
9. What had the natives on the Arctician Island made of the whale skeleton?
10. What does Ishmael think about the extinction of whales?

Chapters 106-109

1. Why did Ahab need a new leg?
2. Before going on the voyage, how had Ahab been injured?
3. What mystery does this incident solve?
4. What are some of the skills of the ship's carpenter?
5. What does Ishmael suggest happened to the carpenter's brains?
6. Why would Ahab want his ideal man to have a skylight?
7. On what matter does Starbuck go to see Ahab in his cabin?
8. What answer does Ahab give Starbuck?
9. How does Ahab threaten Starbuck?
10. What warning does Starbuck give Ahab?

Chapters 110-114

1. What causes Queequeg's illness?
2. What does he put in his coffin?
3. How does Queequeg explain his recovery?
4. What does he do with his coffin?
5. What caused the deaths of Perth's wife and children?
6. What does Ahab want Perth to make for him?
7. What are the iron and barbs made of?
8. What seam does Ahab ask Perth to smooth?
9. In what are the barbs of the harpoon tempered?
10. What temporarily soothes even Ahab?

Study Guide VII

Chapters 115-121

1. What are the men of the *Bachelor* celebrating?
2. What does the *Bachelor's* captain say about Moby Dick?
3. What is in the vial that Ahab takes from his pocket?
4. What curious thing do dying sperm whales do?
5. What will Ahab see before he dies?
6. What is the only thing that can kill him?
7. Why does Ahab smash his quadrant?
8. Why does Stubb sing during the fury of the storm?
9. What happens to Ahab's boat?
10. According to Stubb, why did Ahab remain unharmed when he held the chain end of the lightning rod?

Chapters 122-127

1. What information is Starbuck going to report to Ahab?
2. What caused him to think about killing Ahab?
3. Rather than facing Ahab, what does he do?
4. What has happened to the compass?
5. How does Ahab allay the crew's superstitions?
6. What do Ahab and Pip have in common?
7. Whom does Ahab call "creative libertines"?
8. What did the Manxman think the crying of the seals was?
9. What was used to replace the life buoy?
10. What did the carpenter attach to it?

Chapters 128-132

1. How was the *Rachel's* whaleboat lost?
2. With what horrible dilemma was Captain Gardiner faced?
3. What did Stubb think Ahab should do regarding Gardiner's request?
4. Why does Ahab not want to be with Pip?
5. What change has come over the *Pequod's* crew?
6. Whom does Ahab entrust with the rope attached to the basket in which he is hoisted aloft?
7. What did the bird do to Ahab?
8. What do the sailors of the *Delight* see as the *Pequod* sails away?
9. What family does Ahab have back on Nantucket?
10. What promise did Starbuck's wife make?

Chapters 133-135 and Epilogue

1. What happens to Ahab's boat during the first day?
2. How will the men be rewarded if Ahab sights the whale on the day that the whale is killed?
3. What happens to Ahab on the second day?
4. What happens to Fedallah?
5. When does Ahab see Fedallah again as predicted?
6. What are the two hearses Ahab sees before he dies?
7. How does Ahab die by hemp as predicted?
8. What happens to the *Pequod* and her crew?
9. What "living part of heaven" went down with the ship?
10. How did Ishmael survive?