

What's All this About a Discussion Question?

Everyone will present one discussion question on one of the novels we are reading this semester. The purpose of this assignment is to help you become more comfortable with speaking about fiction and to give you the opportunity to begin class discussion on a topic you find personally interesting.

Discussion questions need to be emailed to me (adfajard@indiana.edu) **by midnight on the day before they are due**. Leading a discussion question is worth 40% of your participation grade.

Strategies

Focus the discussion question on a particular scene that you found interesting, confusing, or problematic. Summarize the scene, contextualize it in terms of the plot so far, and explain why you chose this scene. Then present a thematic, open-ended, interpretive discussion question to get our conversation rolling. In terms of time, presenting your question to the class should take about 3—4 minutes.

That is, don't ask the class what happens in a scene; ask how we should *interpret* that scene's representation of an issue. Some strategies: you could ask us to compare the scene to another scene or even another story; you could build on a previous class discussion, or you could relate the scene to a current or historical event. These are just a few possibilities—feel free to consult with me if you'd like help crafting your discussion question.

Criteria for Evaluation

- Open-ended, thematic, and interpretive discussion question that asks for thoughtful responses.
- Concise and accurate summary of the scene
- Concise and accurate contextualization of the scene
- All parts of assignment completed fully and by due date

Available Dates

Date	Text	Name
5/22	<i>Life of Pi</i> , pp. 156—207	Taylor Knight
5/23	<i>Life of Pi</i> , pp. 207—256	Colby Snyder
5/24	<i>Life of Pi</i> , pp. 256—319	Chris Ralston
5/30	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , pp. 109—147	Mary Luff
6/3	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , pp. 199—255	
6/4	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , pp. 259—311	Amanda Glasson
6/7	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 34—86	Rubia Hagans
6/11	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 186—235	Neelam Vachhani
6/12	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 235—277	Britanny Hecht
6/13	<i>Beloved</i> , pp. 281—324	
6/18	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> , pp. 55—113	Rebecca Schedl
6/19	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> , pp. 114—165	
6/20	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> , pp. 167—201	
6/21	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> , pp. 205—261	Michael Van Asten