

Puck of Pook's Hill

Study Questions

Story Questions (answer while reading)

Assignment: Read page 1-145: 29 pages per day (Puck's Song through A British-Roman Song); Do study questions for Puck's Song through A British-Roman Song.

Weland's Sword

1. Who are Dan and Una?
2. Who is Puck? (describe him)
3. How is Puck like the earth?
4. What do you think of Weland's Sword?
5. What do you think the Runes say that he carves into it? Can you think of any other swords from other stories that are important?
6. How does Kipling act towards "the old gods" and towards Christianity? How does he portray them?

Young Men at the Manor

1. Do you think Hugh would have been justified if he tried to take his manor back from Richard? Why or why not?
2. Does Richard finally "conquer" the piece of England given to him by De Aquila or is he "conquered" by England?
3. Is Richard a good picture of the Norman knight? In other words, were all Normans as good and honorable as he was? Or is he out of the ordinary?
4. Richard came from Normandy (Northern France) but does he really retain any ties to that country or does he become "English"?

Sir Richard's Song

1. How do you think Sir Richard feels about England?
2. How does this poem describe patriotism?

The Knights of the Joyous Venture

1. What does Witta, the Danish Pirate, mean when he says "I myself know the runes on that Sword are good"?
2. What are the devils they fight?

Old Men at Pevensey

1. Describe Gilbert the Clerk.
2. What are Hugh, Richard, and De Aquila fighting for?
3. Describe the difficult problem that De Aquila is forced into by Fulke. Would you have done anything differently?
4. How are Fulke's plans turned on himself?
5. What's De Aquila's response when Fulke asks him to let his son escape to Normandy? (I'm looking for a specific phrase, here)

The Runes on Weland's Sword

1. What is "The Thing" described in the poem?

A Centurion of the Thirtieth

1. What is the point of the poem at the beginning of this story?
 2. Why was important for Parnesius to be harsh with his men? Why did he refuse to kill the rebellious soldier when Maximus rode up?
 3. What does Maximus' response to Parnesius' refusal to kill the man indicate about emperors?
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On the Great Wall

1. What kind of men were on the wall, or, why were they there?
2. What does Parnesius say about friendship?
3. What does Allo mean when he says that Parnesius' general (Maximus) "thinks well" of him?
4. What does Allo mean when he says "I am the corn between the upper and lower millstones"?

5. Maximus has a tablet; one side for the names of those who get to live and one written in red ink for those who die. What does this tell you about him? Despite this, is he still a good leader?

A Song to Mithras

1. What does this poem sound like? (We will discuss more in class)

The Winged Hats

1. How do the men of the Wall act towards Maximus when he visits them?
2. Describe how the catapults sink the ships of the Winged Hats.
3. What happens when Parnesius sees the medal of Mithras on the Winged Hat who swims ashore? (We will discuss class.)
4. What happens to Maximus?
5. Should Parnesius and Pertinax have risen against Rome with the Winged Hats when Maximus fell? Why or why not?
6. Describe the Winged Hats.
7. Who are the three mules who destroyed Maximus?
8. How long have Parnesius and Pertinax been on the wall when Theodosius finally sends men?

Hal o' the Draft

1. Why was John Collins against the rebuilding of the Church and was unable to give Sebastian his serpentines?
2. What does Sir John Pelham say about Collins' trickery to Sebastian?
3. Why does Pelham refuse to arrest Collins or anyone else for selling guns illegally?
4. What is Hobden's real reason for not wanting the oak stump grubbed up? Any parallel between him and John Collins?

A Smuggler's Song

1. How does this poem say someone should respond if they see smuggling going on?
2. Is smuggling good or bad? What kind of objects does the poem say are being smuggled

'Dymchurch Flit'

1. What is signified by the fairies leaving England?

Song of the Fifth River

1. What is the Fifth River?

2. What is the relationship between Israel and the fifth river?

The Treasure and the Law

1. Compare the accusation in the *Song of the Fifth River* with how Waxy responds when he is shot by Mr. Myer. What do you think Kipling's point is?
2. Describe Kadmiel. How is the tone of this story darker than the others?
3. What phrase did Kadmiel get changed in the Magna Charta? What is the significance of this? How does he get it changed and how does this stand in contrast to the phrase that was changed?
4. Why did Kadmiel have to get rid of the gold? Why did he want to get rid of it? (What motivated him?)

General Questions:

1. Where does the story take place?
2. What time period?
3. What is the point of the story?
4. What are the messages Kipling is trying to send?
5. Do you like the book? Why or why not?
6. Do you think Kipling was right in his portrayal of a civilization?
7. How does the book end? How does this correspond to the point of the story?