

English 11cc

Socratic Seminar—*Pudd'n'head Wilson* by Mark Twain

Your task is to prepare for the Socratic Seminar that will take place in class on Wed. 3/11.

(NOTE: This is a change to the schedule.)

### Questions for the Socratic Seminar:

1. Which has the most influence on character, nature or nurture?
2. Discuss the instances of "twinning" in the novel. What is their purpose?
3. Who is the hero of *Pudd'n'head Wilson*? What makes them heroic?
4. Twain uses several oppositions such as freedom vs. slavery, nature vs nurture, rationality vs superstition, black vs white. Choose one and discuss.
5. What is the relationship between law, honor, and race?
6. There are many instances of masquerade, disguise, and/or identity theft. What do they suggest about the nature of identity? Identity and the body?
7. How does Twain use irony in the novel? What is he satirizing?

You must come prepared for the Socratic Seminar by:

1. preparing answers for at least five (5) of these questions. You must have textual evidence so have your page numbers ready and quotes to help answer these questions.
2. You must also prepare five (5) "Quote sandwiches" to hand in. (See example quote sandwich). These quote sandwiches should attempt to answer one of the above questions. Quote sandwiches must be typed, with proper MLA formatting. Please see OWL at Purdue if you need help.

### During the Seminar:

1. Your job is to participate in a meaningful way. To do that you might:  
Make a comment, make a connection to another text, ask a question, build on what someone else says. You want to speak clearly, stay focused on the subject, listen to others respectfully. You must always have your textual evidence prepared when you are answering a question.
2. I will ask for a volunteer to "lead" the seminar. The leader will ask the initial question and then participate in the discussion. Subsequent questions may be raised further into the discussion when it seems as though each question has been adequately answered.

### Example Quote Sandwich

Context	<p>In his speech, Old Major sets up a dichotomy: the workers, or producers, and the owners, those who own and control the means and yields of production. The animals are powerless to keep the products of their bodies and their labor, while man uses the animals for his own benefit, neglecting those who made the benefits possible. Old Major asserts, "Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. ... Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself" (29). Orwell wants his readers to see this relationship as patently unfair. This is evident in the language Old Major uses to describe the situation. It is further elucidated when Old Major goes on to say that, should the animals remove man from the picture, "the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished forever." Finally, Old Major points out that "all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings." Peace, equality, and justice are antithetical to the values of the tyrant, whose power is often exercised cruelly and unjustly. This speech sets the stage for the Rebellion, which should bring about an utopian society in which "all the produce of [the animals'] labour would be our own" and in which all the animals would be "rich and free."</p>
Attribution	
Quotation	
Commentary	

quotations do not speak for themselves; they must be introduced and interpreted (you will need to do the linking for them).

- **Context:** The context introduces your reader to the quotation's original context: who said it and where they said it. Strong context will also guide your reader to notice the point or focus in the quotation that's important to your text or argument.
- **Attribution/ Quotation:** Once the context has been established, you have to include the actual quote itself. All quotes must have an attribution (e.g. Clarissa states, "..."), be enclosed in quotation marks and include parenthetical in-text citations; in addition, all quotes must be documented in their entirety; do not use the ellipses to omit any information.
- **Commentary:** Avoid using the language "This quote proves that" or "This quote shows that" (in fact it is a quotation only because you are using it as such). Analyze the connection between the new information your quote is providing, the information you have already provided in your context, and the essential questions. ~~Don't expect the reader to make this connection! The more you can make the~~ nuances evident, the more effective your analysis will be.