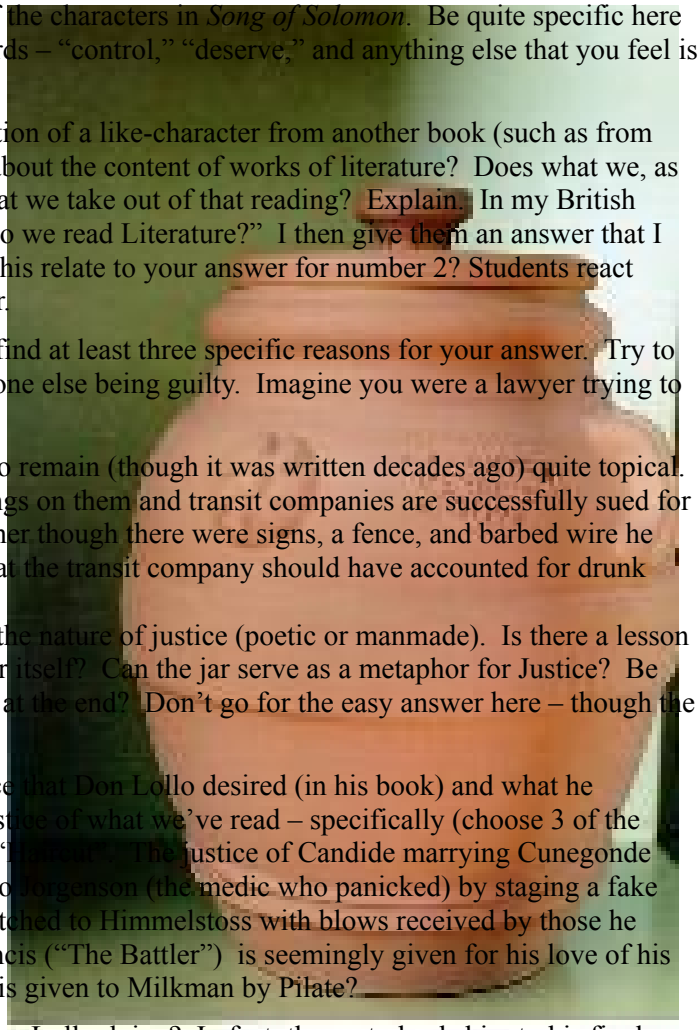
"The Jar" & The Nature of Justice Group Work – SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO!



1. Can any comparison be made between Don Lollo and any of the characters in *Song of Solomon*. Be quite specific here -- use at least one quote about each character. Think of the words – "control," "deserve," and anything else that you feel is appropriate.

2. If Don Lollo seems to be one-dimensional; does an examination of a like-character from another book (such as from *SOS*) make him more real? Explain. What then does this say about the content of works of literature? Does what we, as readers, carry into the book effect (or affect for that matter) what we take out of that reading? Explain. In my British Literature class, I begin each year by asking students – "Why do we read Literature?" I then give them an answer that I found in a movie: "To know that we're not alone." How does this relate to your answer for number 2? Students react differently to different texts – explain in context of your answer.

3. Whose fault is it that Zi'Dima gets caught in the jar? Try to find at least three specific reasons for your answer. Try to find three specific reasons that the case may be made for someone else being guilty. Imagine you were a lawyer trying to defend or prosecute Zi'Dima.

4. The Nature of Justice: A work such as "The Jar," turns out to remain (though it was written decades ago) quite topical. Companies are sued for making ladders without enough warnings on them and transit companies are successfully sued for a man electrocuting himself by relieving himself on a transformer though there were signs, a fence, and barbed wire he had to get through to do it (his heirs claim he was drunk and that the transit company should have accounted for drunk people).

What does this story seem to say (if it says anything) about the nature of justice (poetic or manmade). Is there a lesson here for litigious (constantly suing) society? What about the jar itself? Can the jar serve as a metaphor for Justice? Be very specific – if it is a metaphor – what then about it breaking at the end? Don't go for the easy answer here – though the jar breaks – isn't there a certain justice to that event? Explain.

5. There is justice and then there is *justice*. Compare the justice that Don Lollo desired (in his book) and what he ultimately received (breaking the jar again himself) with the justice of what we've read – specifically (choose 3 of the following) – the justice of Jim Kendall being killed by Paul in "Haircut". The justice of Candide marrying Cunegonde (though he no longer loves her). The justice O'Brien delivers to Jorgenson (the medic who panicked) by staging a fake attack with Azar to terrify their victim. The justice that is dispatched to Himmelstoss with blows received by those he tormented (*revenge is black pudding*). The justice that Ad Francis ("The Battler") is seemingly given for his love of his sister. The justice of the shoe box filled with Hagar's hair that is given to Milkman by Pilate?

6. While all the others at his farm are having a party, what is Don Lollo doing? In fact, the party leads him to his final action – go back to another Italian character – the hotel guide from "Out of Season" – how is the husband in that story like Don Lollo? Zi'Dima like Peduzzi? Be specific – and if you can tie the comparison and discussion in with Pilate's last words that "she would loved more people."

7. This is not the first story that we have read by Luigi Pirandello. How is the tone (make sure you know what this means) of the two stories strikingly different (be specific). Relate this to what you wrote for question 2 (be specific). Surprisingly, there is a common thread, as well, between these two stories. Being as specific as possible – what does your group (or yourself if you are doing this on your own) see that thread as? How about the two endings – in a general literary sense, how are they quite similar (the technique used) – in fact, they also bear a resemblance to the ending of "Haircut" in a literary sense.

Homework: Wed "The Myth of Sisyphus" (200 points) <u>Friday - The Jar Trial – be here 200 points</u>

This week we will put on a mock trial, to try and find who is really guilty of breaking Don Lollo's jar. There will be a lawyer for Don Lollo and one for Zi'Dima. Each lawyer will try to prove that the other lawyer's client was guilty of destroying the jar. It will also be part of the completion grade for being in class. Trial will be Thursday (200 points In Class Quiz).

Each lawyer will receive **<u>up to</u>** 150 points extra credit. In order to get the full extent of extra credit you will need to really prepare your case. In the past students have brought in visual props, posters, etc. You (someone acting as either lawyer) are also expected to have extensive notes and to be VERY familiar with the story (read it at least 3 times). You can't make anything up. The class will decide the verdict. We will also need witnesses. The 2 lawyers should decide what witnesses they will call, and ask for volunteers today. Those witnesses will receive up to 5- points (depending on how well prepared they are). Witnesses MUST look over their role in the story. BE PREPARED. Again, witnesses can't make anything up and must use the story as the basis of their testimony. If you are chosen to be a lawyer and cannot make it to school be sure to call someone else to take your place. Remember: My grade book closes much earlier this quarter. The class project is worth 1600 points. No one will pass who does not have a passing grade.

BE HERE EVERYDAY ON TIME – There will be a quiz every day. You will be given extra credit for doing extra work for the project –