

Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind; and therefore...

No
man
is an
island
,
entire
of
itself;
every
man
is a
piece
of the
conti
nent
...

Group Work – Meditation 17 – by John Donne

This group work MUST be completed by the end of the period and given to the teacher. 7,8 & 9 (but do NOT spend more than 5 minutes on each of these if you do them on your own) may be answered on your own if time runs out (but get as far as you can). The teacher will tell you when they may be turned in. Answer the questions completely and above all be specific and complete. Timekeepers – there is a 5 minute audio your group will listen to. Challenge yourselves to a new understanding... Use the handout NOT your book.

1. Before you begin, examine the following quote carefully: **“never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”** Sometimes when we have heard a phrase so often, it loses its impact and/or its original meaning. Taken out of context, there are 2 ways that this phrase can be interpreted. Briefly describe what your group believes to be (without using the text) those interpretations to be. One of them deals with the self and death, the second with what happens when others die. (4 minutes)
2. Summarize and explain our relationship with each other in terms of **Donne's metaphor of the Catholic Church**. [besides being part of the name of a religion, catholic (with a lower case “c”) is defined as *universal*] Be specific and be sure to cover all of the significant aspects of this metaphor. (7 minutes)
3. Explain and summarize **Donne's metaphor (conceit) comparing our lives to books**. Raleigh and Shakespeare compared our lives to a play – Donne says that we are books that shall be translated. Be specific and be sure to cover all of the significant aspects of this metaphor in summary and explanation. (6 minutes)
4. What does the argument about the order of religious orders ringing their bells in the morning have to do with our sense of mortality? Be specific and use quotes from the text in answering this question. (6 minutes)
5. According to Donne, how is the bell tolling a form of treasure or gold. Be specific, one more time. (3 minutes)
6. If it is true *that no man is an island* how can we apply that notion directly to what we do every day in our lives? Poll all of your group-members for this question, and try to be specific as possible in your answers. (5 minutes)
7. With 15 minutes left in the class, the teacher will play a news story about a Doctor fighting Ebola in Uganda, as you listen, have your copies of Meditation 17 out. Each group member should write down at least 1 or 2 sentences linking this man's life to the meditation. You may also find the audio file at our Google Classroom Site.
8. The title of Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, comes, at least in part (is it ever possible to know what is an author's mind?), from the main character giving his life during the Spanish Civil War so that others (the people of Spain in particular) may have a better life. And yet, in a war, hundreds, thousands of individuals inevitably die on both sides – what do you believe (specifically) this meditation has to tell us about war?
9. How does this meditation fundamentally contradict “Deor”? Think hard.

Never
send
to
know
for
whom
the
bell
tolls it
tolls
for
thee...

If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were...