How Much Land Does a Man Need?

Have a time-keeper and finish on time. Some of the answers here are quite short – though specific. Thank you – Mr. Scotese

1. In real life, Tolstoy was born into a very rich family, and lived on an expansive estate. Yet, for his entire life he worked tirelessly for the poor (starting school for the serfs' children) and had, at the very end of his life, decided to leave his estate, renounce his aristocratic roots and finally live the life of a poor serf. However, within days of his departure he died of pneumonia. How can you relate the theme (and/or moral), and specifics of this story – to Tolstoy's life –be VERY specific.

2. The beginning of this story is reminiscent of the City Mouse/Country Mouse fable from our youth. How is Pakhom's ultimate fate rooted in vanity (no I'm not talking about the devil being there – I'm talking about the discussion between the two sisters). Be very specific in your answer – and look for a big critical leap here!



3. Consider the Arnaud from *The Return of Martin Guerre* who decides to risk his life – not for the house and estate he will get – but for the love of Bertrande – how is that choice antithetical (look it up) to what Pakhom does?

4. How are the Bashkirs and their lives similar to the inhabitants (and philosophy of those inhabitants) of the people of El Dorado (from *Candide*). And yet in the end (of *Candide*) – what did Cacambo eventually do (with regards to El Dorado) – how is it similar to the ending of Tolstoy's story? How is Candide's journey – and the "garden" at the end the opposite of what happens to Pakhom and the decision that he makes?

5. We encountered another devil this year – way, way back – in "Young Goodman Brown." When we discussed the story we talked about how Hawthorne leaves it open as to whether any devil, and/or the Satanic Sabbath Ritual actually took place – in the end, it didn't seem to matter. Does it matter here (in Tolstoy's story) if there really was a devil (and, after all – who did Hawthorne say was the most evil thing in the forest)? Explain with specifics from this story and with "Young Goodman Brown."

6. Why this story now – at the end of our time together (as with *Song of Solomon*)? What does it have to tell us about our lives – try to stay specific and don't tell me what I want to hear – tell me what is true. If "we are the sum of our deeds" – how is the ending fitting for Pakhom?

7. Connect this story with the quote: "What does it profit a man if he gaineth the world and loseth his soul." Finally, how much land does a man need? (there is a specific two word answer to this question).

8. Do you remember Sisyphus – the man (punished by the gods) who was doomed to continually push a rock up a hill only to have it come down? How is Pakhom's pursuit of land similar to Sisyphus's fate? How is it fundamentally different – what is it that Pakhom lacks (at least to the very end) that Sisyphus has (what does that hero keep doing – even though he knows the rock will again come down?).

9. How is this story incredibly appropriate to be reading right before *The House on Mango Street* (our next book)? Esperanza (the main character) believes that she will need a beautiful house with all of the trimmings to make her happy. What do Pakhom and Esperanza have in common (be specific)? What about Macon and Pakhom – how is Milkman, at first, similar – and then quite different? Be specific.

"Counterparts" by James Joyce (you have the handout) is due on Monday – there is a 200 point quiz.

BE HERE EVERYDAY – ALL QUIZZES ARE at least 200 points. Follow the last schedule I gave you – work on PROJECTS every day. Don't forget, if you miss a class you have 1 week to make it up. Make sure you read the How to Make Up a Class handout (found on the website). If you ever attempt to make up a class and it turns out that you did NOT listen to the ENTIRE recording, you will lose all future chances for making up classes.