

Quotes from Your First Papers

Melville's writing in Moby-Dick reminds me of when you're having a conversation with someone who doesn't know when to stop talking...Melville is clearly passionate about writing, but he takes it too far.

Melville's intentions seem to be to make the reader have a fascination with the sailing/whaling world...Melville is also using this book for persuasive purposes.

The farther we read, the more I hope to gain a better insight into Ahab's true nature and meaning in the story.

There are many differences from whaling now compared to Moby Dick during the 19th century. They used different types of harpoons, their meat and blubber is used differently and there are more regulations against whaling.

Each source of information contributes to the picture of Moby Dick, but all of the sources are incomplete in different ways, leaving the reader scrambling for the truth.

The morals Starbuck has are much different from the majority of the crew, and he seems to trust his gut more than his captain.

It seems as though Starbuck wants to do anything in his power to steer Ahab away from the hunt for the white whale. But it has been made clear that Ahab has his heart and soul set on the slaughter of the white whale and nothing short of death will keep him from his goal.

Like most things, we over exhaust our resources and the last thing we need to do is kill off such a magnificent creature just to say you've eaten it.

Both the grail and Moby Dick are linked to a healing power. The Holy Grail is said to be able to heal anything and Moby Dick could heal Ahab's insanity. Ahab galvanized the dull crowd to whom he preached with stories of a white leviathan beast with the name Moby Dick.

This book has many layers specifically regarding the whale. I've theorized the whale and the hunt are symbolic of human greed and arrogance (regarding) nature, but have concluded that simple of a message couldn't be hidden in such tedious wordplay. I've also considered Moby-Dick representing the evil in all people. My current theory is Moby Dick, both whale and book itself represent personalized perception.

While it is possible that Ishmael is only there for the ride, so to speak, there are hints that Moby-Dick is written from his perspective for a reason other than being the most convenient narrative device.

Ahab pursues this whale with a craze that acknowledges no obstacles, a determination that acknowledges no resistance. He sees it out of his reach, just beyond his fingertips, but does not dare put his arm down for an instant.

This whale is a reflection of several different metaphors and symbols and far surpasses the depths of a simple animal.

However, when (if) he kills the whale, that thirst will not be quenched. This is because the regret lies within himself, not within the whale.

Melville writes about how every life form in the ocean prey upon each other and carry on a war that lasts forever, and this war is a war of survival.

This entire book is one rather large puzzle meant to discombobulate its readers. Every possibility is just that: a possibility that it could mean this thing, or another thing.

Underneath all the confusion most people are sure that this story is one big metaphor for something that is not yet known but will someday be unearthed.