

Ishmael

Journals

Entry One: Themes of *Ishmael* (pre-read)

Anticipation guide on themes of: environment, population, change, and animals.

For each statement below, mark an “A” if you “Agree”, a “D” if you “Disagree,” or a “N” if you are “Neutral”.

- _____ 1. I take time to appreciate the outdoors and natural life (like plants, animals) by going on walks, riding a bike, planting flowers, etc.
- _____ 2. I make a good effort to recycle.
- _____ 3. I love animals and visit a zoo whenever I can.
- _____ 4. I would consider the world to be overpopulated.
- _____ 5. I support the use of birth control methods.
- _____ 6. I think change only brings about new problems based on bad ideas.
- _____ 7. The world has a lot of pollution that will lead to the decline of man kind.
- _____ 8. Too many people do not care for Earth and do not appreciate the beauty of the world around us.
- _____ 9. Animals are very wild creatures and should be contained either in zoos and kept in designated areas that are highly watched.
- _____ 10. It is man’s right to take over the world and use Earth as we see fit.

Select one, two, or three comment(s) above and expand on upon it/them. Explain why you agree, are neutral, or disagree with this statement. Be complete in your response with specific examples to support your opinions. You may write this response on the back side or in your journal. This sheet of paper must be turned in with the response to receive full credit for this journal entry.

Entry Two: Revolution (1.1, p. 4)

Each year as another group of students graduate high school and college and enter the “real world,” there are many speculations as to what this group of graduates will do in the world. When you graduate next year, what do you think people will be predicting about your class? Why?

Entry Three: Zoo Life versus Wild Life (1.3)

When Ishmael describes the two life-styles to the narrator (Bwana), what are the key differences? Which life-style do you think Ishmael prefers? Why?

Entry Four: Ishmael's Life (1.3-1.5)

From what biographical information Ishmael gives about his life, develop a time line of significant events from his life. Which event in his life would you consider to be the climax? Why?

Entry Five: Are Humans Dangerous? (1.6 and 1.8)

What is Ishmael's point when he comments, "Each of you contributes daily to the destruction of the world," (25)? Is this statement true? Why or why not? But later on in their conversation the narrator (Bwana) explains his theory that man is being lied to and that we "don't know anything different," (27). What are these lies that are fed to man? Do you agree with Bwana's point? If so, does this negate Ishmael's point? Why or why not? If you don't agree, then what is man's problem for being part of the destruction of the world?

Entry Six: Man's World? (2.3 and 2.4)

Thinking about Ishmael's suggestion of "imaging a world without man," what do you think the world would be like (70)? Do you agree with Bwana's thoughts? Why or why not? But how does the conversation delve into the idea of "The world was made for man, and man was made to rule it," (72)? Look into the next chapter to develop an explanation of what Ishmael's point is to attempt to see a world without man.

Entry Seven: Human Flaws (5.1-5.2; follow up response to question on 5.5 pg. 89)

What do you think are the "flaws in [our] paradise," that Ishmael refers to (82)? Why does he firmly believe that since we are human, we "were bound to screw it up," (82)?

Entry Eight: Prophet's Purpose (5.4)

Upon discussing the religious reasons to explain and justify man's actions towards the world and its inhabitants, what is the purpose of prophets or religious organizations? Does man need someone to tell us how to live? Why does Ishmael feel so strongly against this? What is your opinion about the purpose of prophets and religion? Do you feel you need these figures and scripture to guide you how to live? Why or why not?

Entry Nine: Following the Law (chapter 6)

Throughout the discussion in this chapter, what law does man feel he is above? Why? How does man's refusal to accept this law harm the world? Do you think we are following this law or are we simply choosing to ignore it? Why?

Entry Ten: Separates Them from Us (chapter 7)

What purpose of instincts keeps man separate from animals? Why? Could man learn to have the same purpose as the animals? Why or why not? Could the animals follow the same purpose as man? Why or why not?

Entry Eleven: Population Control (chapter 8, p 126-128, 136)

According to Bwana, what are the four things the Takers do that are never done in the rest of the community? Do you agree with these four things? Why or why not? Why does their conversation lead into discussion about population and food production? What is Ishmael's point about controlling these two items? According to Ishmael's explanation, how are they related? Do you agree with his point? Why or why not? What do you think could solve the problems of population and food production in the world?

Entry Twelve: Why Find a Gorilla? (10.1-10.4)

When Bwana finds out Ishmael's has been evicted, why does he look for him? What attempts and efforts does Bwana make? Is he successful? Why or why not? What does Ishmael mean to Bwana as to why he would make such an effort?

Entry Thirteen: Right Way in Life (10.5-10.9, p. 205)

During their discussion, what is the right way to live life? What does man need to do and accept like all of the other living creatures to be in harmony? Do you agree with this view? Why or why not?

Entry Fourteen: Trust in God? (chapter 11)

What conclusion is met from the discussion as to why man has to have control? When Ishmael brings up the point that, "...lack the wisdom to give humans what they need to be human" (226)? Who did not properly help the humans? What wisdom does man need to be "human"? What do you think "being human" mean? As a result, what does man need to accept?

Entry Fifteen: Prison is Our World (chapter 12)

How is life like a prison (see chapter 12.10 to help)? Fully explain the idea that is discussed. Do you think this is a logical point? Why or why not? Do you agree with what is discussed? Why or why not?

Entry Sixteen: Hope for Man (chapter 13)

What does "With gorilla gone, will there be hope for man?" mean (263)? What happens to Ishmael? What is Bwana's reaction? What is your reaction? Why is the hope for man questioned as a result?

