

Is whaling labor or work?

How does virtue or righteousness survive show up in the motives of some of the characters?

Do the motives speak of action or the *vita contemplativa*?

Is this work because it's paid?

Do the characters represent different aspects of ourselves in relation to work? E.g. obsessive- Ahab, or Starbuck's determination?

Images of whales in society—image whalers have, image of monsters/off base—What are the differing images of whales? How does that comment on the culture/class divisions?

Where does vice fit into the book? In Aristotle's sense of the word? If he were to work on his character, he would move to the mean of virtue.

Is the need for vengeance a reflection of human nature or the human condition?

What about the excess? The massive killing of the whales as resource? How does this fit?

Moby Dick in connection with work in reference to what was going on in the 19th century?

Is it a reflection of the human condition over all, or was it specific to Melville's own time? Is it as true today as it was then? Do we need to reinterpret the meaning?

Is Moby Dick an allegory about industrialism? Ahab/Melville chasing it?

What are Ahab's intentions for hunting Moby Dick? Is it a personal quest? Vengeance? Is there one motive?

Look for—as we finish the novel:

Evidence of?

Utilitarian philosophy—connected to Rodgers as well.

What about Moby Dick as an image of the quest for fame and fortune?

Looking for the meaning of the Pequod itself. What's holding them all together?

Arendt and earthly immortality and how the characters are trying to achieve it—the Odyssey.

Quest for the good in humanity.

What's the role of Elijah?

