

## *The Thief and the Beanstalk: Socratic Seminar Preparation*

The **purpose** of a Socratic Seminar is to achieve a deeper understanding about the ideas and values in a text.

**Before:** Read closely, take notes, answer and develop high level questions before the seminar.

**Write or type your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Staple your answers to this paper before turning them in on Friday, December 9, 2016.**

1. *"Listen, Nick. What we're doing isn't wrong, the way I see it. When you see a falcon swoop down on a rabbit, do you blame the falcon for what he has done?" (47)*  
What do you think about this passage? Agree? Disagree? Explain your answer.
2. *On page 101, Jack tells Anne, "Maybe it's better if he learns it for himself."*  
What do you think he meant by this? What is your opinion about his thinking or method of "teaching"? Do you think Nick would have made the same choices if Jack wasn't a part of the story? Why? Why not?
3. The Golden Statue in Chapter 13 is a **symbol** that reflects weaknesses or character flaws. When Nick touches the statue, he sees a reflection of his greed, sneakiness, and shame. What would the statue show of Gullinda? Why? What would the statue show of Darius from the documentary Evolution of a Criminal? Why?
4. Nick is a **dynamic character**, which means he undergoes a significant change through the story. What does Nick learn about himself? Explain your answer and support it with text evidence.
5. What is one message or **theme** you think the author is trying to convey in the story of *The Thief and the Beanstalk*? Explain your answer and support it with text evidence.
6. Write a 5-7 sentence **epilogue**, telling what happens after the story ended. *Consider the last lines, "Then a pod emerged from a flower. It hung like a beacon, fat with beans, glowing with a milky green light in the cool black night." (272).* Your epilogue should be believable and based on events from the story.
7. Write at least one question of your own (about *The Thief and the Beanstalk*) to ask during the seminar.

**All questions must be answered thoughtfully and thoroughly and turned in on time in order for you to participate in the Socratic Seminar.**  
**Failing to do so will result in taking a traditional test in the testing center instead of participating in the seminar.**

Awesome!

## Thoughtful Questions 100

Question 1: I disagree about this symbolism that Finch says because there is a difference between animals and humans. Animals have prey and predators which is part of the circle of life. In contrast, Finch doesn't NEED that gold and it isn't his prey. I think that this passage is true that you can't blame falcons to swoop down and eat the rabbit but, you can blame Finch and his gang for stealing.

Question 2: I think Jack meant to give Nick the magical beans so he could plant them. He wanted to first, teach Nick a lesson that it's not okay to steal and second of all, Jack wanted to find out if Gullinda was still alive. I think that Jack's method of teaching was good because it teaches Nick a lesson and changes him by putting Nick in a real situation. I think that Nick would NOT have made the same decisions because Jack talked to him about not letting the gang in because all they would do was steal and kill, and gave him the magic beans to climb up the beanstalk.

Question 3: If the reaction in the golden statue in chapter 13 saw Gullinda's flaws I would see, a murderer, sadness, and someone who would easily get rid of someone if they were evil. Some examples of this is when she cut down the top of the beanstalk to kill Ramos and whenever Gnasher tried to hold on to her to save himself all she saw was evil in his eyes so she pushed him off the edge of cloud island. If Darius went to the golden statue, he would probably see a kind hearted person just trying to save his family but has too much resistance to the fact that he could get away with it.

Question 4: Nick is a dynamic character and he learns about himself that he doesn't have to live a "thief like" life. He can be a hero and can save Gullinda and his people from Gnasher and Basher. At one part, Nick decides to come back for Gullinda to save her. In contrast, before he went up to cloud island and he lived off of the farmer's food, he wasn't a bad thief but, he changed into a thief once he met Finch and his gang.

Question 5: One message or theme that the author is trying to show in this book is that people can change and you can make your life how you want it. Some examples of this is whenever Nick wanted to not be a thief after he saw what his flaws were in the golden statue. He didn't want to become like Jack and be guilty and filled with sorrow for the rest of his life. In fact he did change and this proves my point. Another example is that Jack has been very depressed until something changes, Nick comes in. He tells Nick to go up the beanstalk and see what happened. When Nick comes back, he tells Jack that Gullinda forgives him and Jack's life turns around into a happy care-free life with Henry, Ann and Nick.

Question 6: After breakfast, Nick took a long nap and slept until the beginning of night. Then, when everyone was at dinner, he walked through the hallway, everything as similar as the night he came here before. Then, suddenly he saw a glistening milky green light coming from the window. He peeked outside and sees a small flower growing fast into the night. He ran down the stairs, into the garage, and grabbed the biggest shovel he sees. The boy takes it and digs out all the roots. Then, to make sure no one climbs

Question 7: A question I'd like to ask is why the author left us on a cliff. Is there a sequel?

up the beanstalk, he plants it in Jack's garden. Nick goes back up to the castle and joins Jack's dinner. He tells Jack and all Jack does is smile and says "I guess I have another painting to get to work on."

The Thief and the Beanstalk Socratic Seminar Questions

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1. I agree with Finch for the literal meaning. I disagree with the metaphorical meaning because for the literal meaning, a rabbit and a falcon aren't as important as people- there are lots of animals in the world, but there's only one of us.
2. I think Jack means that Nick should find out what the consequences are in stealing, and that he should learn the horrors of stealing. I, personally, think that Jack's method of teaching is a good one because no one will learn if you just tell them the answer, and it's more effective for them to understand whatever you're trying to teach them.
3. I think the statue would show love first (when she first met her evil husband), then happiness (Gnasher and Basher), then kindness (Jack), then regret (letting Jack steal), then loneliness (being locked up), and finally freedom (getting freed and the end of the book). The statue would show sadness (being poor and having everything taken away from him at a young age), then determination (stealing his things back), then guilt and regret (the aftershock of stealing).
4. Nick learns that he isn't the person he thought he was. He thought he was an innocent young homeless boy who steals things like food, and shelter (in the beginning of the book) for his needs. But in chapter 13, when he discovers the statue, he learns that he much, much more than that. The book states, "And now he was seeing his own image in the figurine...The expression was fearful and full of shame. It sickens him to look upon it...He couldn't stand to look at his likeness for another moment." (141-142)
5. I think the author was trying to say that there can always be do-overs in your life, but they have to come from the big mistake that you made before," A tiny vine poked through the charred soil...fat with beans..."
6. One week later... So this is what it's like to have a family. Over that past week, Jack decided to tell me the truth- I was his biological son, and Henry, Ann's father, is my uncle. So, they took me into the family, and we're now very happy. And for Gullinda, we planted the beans in an indestructible place where

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we can visit Gullinda anytime we want. Also, we ate the rest of the beans- they were delicious! Who knew how good they are. Well, maybe the one who started this all- Greeneyes. I never did catch his name... Anyways, I should get going. I owe Gullinda a visit.

7. What do you think Greeneyes will do next? And who do you think that guy who warned Nick about Finch was? Greeneyes? If so, how does he get from world to world?

100 Awesome!

## Socratic Seminar Preparation

1. I think in this passage the author is trying to show that Finch is afraid that Nick is having second thoughts on being a thief and the evil Jack plan. So he tries to convince him that it's not bad what their doing. I don't agree with what Finch is saying because in the text he says that Falcons take what they need to survive, but he is stealing money from Jack just because he wants to be rich and not just to survive.
2. I think Jack meant it would be more affective if the boy learns that stealing is not good by himself. I think Jack did the right thing by not punishing because if he did it probably wouldn't mean anything to Nick but, if he didn't Nick would probably learn later in life and would regret it more. I think Nick would probably still be stealing if Jack wasn't in the story because Jack tells Nick about his burden and Nick doesn't want to turn out like Jack so he changes.

3. Gullinda's statue would show her sorrow, mistrust, and shame. Sorrow would be for losing her husband and 2 sons. Mistrust for trusting Jack, Grasher, Basher, and her husband. Shame for letting herself get pushed around by her sons. Darius's statue would show shame and theftiness because he made a bad decision so he is a thief and he is ashamed of himself.

4. Nick learns that he used to be just as the statue showed him. He then turns himself around though and learns that inside he isn't a thief. He learns that he needs to save Gullinda and his world. He finds himself being kind, generous, and a hero. He learns this about himself because in the text he decides to help Gullinda and saves her. He also saves his town by coming up with a plan to kill the giants so he is a hero. He helped alot of people and almost gave up his life so he is generous and kind.

5. No matter how small you think you are you can make a difference. I think this because Nick doesn't believe he can help Gullinai or turn the granite plan out in succeeds. In the text Nick kills the giants and saves Gullinai. He becomes a hero so he made a big difference.

6. Then a pod emerged from a flower. It hung like a beacon, fat with beans, glowing with a milky green light in the cool black night. 10 years later. The city of New York City was rising up. The city started to spread to the country side. Trees and old houses were being destroyed. One day a boy (Nick) and a girl (Lily) were wandering at the soon to be wrecked woods. The siblings never really got along but decided to take a walk to work it out. They were chitling and chattering until something caught Nick's eye. It was a pod of green beans glowing in the sun light. "I've heard a story about these beans. Something about a beanstalk. We have to grow these, Lily!" said Nick.

To be continued.....



7. What would of happened if Nick let Finch and his gang into Jack's fortress?