

#flo

## 1 | One

How does Conrad relate /define darkness and insanity throughout the novel? □ Why does Conrad build up to Kurtz so gradually, what perception of Kurtz does Conrad want to portray?

- Nixie's conclusion
  - Madness is being removed from a place you are used to
    - \* Does she mean that it causes madness?
    - \* says that heads are the main symbol of madness
    - \*
- Jackson says
  - That the meeting of Kurtz is ironic
  - Builds up Kurtz, but when they meet him, it's anticlimatic
- Daniel responds
  - Talks about Marlow's changing perception of Kurtz
  - Connects back to insanity
    - \* nice one
- Madeline rebuts
  - Kurtz was not as expected
  - but still liked Kurtz at the end
- Nixie says
  - About Kurtz's greed with ivory?
    - \* not super related
- Jackson responds
  - breaks out of disillusion, "the horror! the horror!"
- Nixie interjects
  - Isolating causes Kurtz's madness
    - \* relates back to her original point
  - ties into subcoincidence
    - \* Restates original point
    - \* hmmmm
- Jackson
  - There is nothing at the end

- Madeline
  - About insanity:
    - \* Conrad uses drums to represent heart beat to make the jungle seem dangerous
    - \* ....
- Daniel
  - As you travel the heart of darkness, you travel into Kurtz's mind
    - \* Is this true? You don't know Kurtz's mind till near the end
- Nixes asks
  - How does Conrad define madness?
- Daniel adds
  - Mostly about Kurtz,
  - caused by some sort of 'darkness'

## 2 | Two

How does Conrad relate /define darkness and insanity throughout the novel? □ Why does Conrad build up to Kurtz so gradually, what perception of Kurtz does Conrad want to portray?

- Riley explains some context
- Aime describes
  - dehumanization
  - objectifies the woman
    - \* because she's beautiful physically, Marlow has more respect
  - the intended was viewed as emotional and docile
- Rowan adds
  - Beauty is inherently primal
    - \* stems from necessity
      - this is an interesting point. fits with the "Europe no better" thesis.
- Anoushka
  - we don't see her often
  - juxtaposition off...?
    - \* hard to hear
  - strange descriptions of beauty
    - \* ah, the juxtaposition of beauty and savage?
- Riley
  - Kurtz is like a cult leader

- described similarly in some fashions to the natives
- seduces his follower, but gets seduced himself by the heart of darkness
- takes priority over rational thinking
- Aime says
  - that Marlow is emotionally detached until the end
    - \* even when pointing out the horrid things that are happening
- Rowan responds
  - describes violence to "his people" in much more detail
    - \* huge contrast in the descriptions
      - this is proof of racism(ish)! says Rowan
      - framed narrative means that this is weird

### 3 | Four (I know how to count trust me)

1. Is the racism in Heart of Darkness a parody of European racism during colonial times or is it Conrad's inherent racism? □□□□
  2. How did the different people who told Marlow about Kurtz alter his opinion on him, how much did their opinions influence Marlow and why did they hold more/less value? □
  3. Calder starts
  4. is Conrad inherently racist
  5. why do we keep talking about this? this is not related! (not what Calder said)
- Nico says
    - Conrad is truly racist
      - \* because black people speak once or twice and are dehumanized
      - \* it's not satire
  - Calder responds
    - basically says it can be a depiction distinct from Conrad's actual beliefs
      - \* hard to distinguish
        - this is a good point. thx Calder
  - Isabella
    - uses the n-word, therefore, is racist!
  - Kayla
    - pattern of the n-word, therefore, nword isn't parody, therefore, is racist!

- an author cannot have a racist protagonist without being racist
  - \* uh
- Nico says
  - that marlow isn't portrayed as having any flaws, and therefore, Conrad is racist!
- Isabella responds
  - actually Marlow is painted with flaws
- Kayla adds
  - Conrad is writing about his experience through Marlow
  - \* hmmm
- Nico says
  - that Conrad says that Europeans have been dragged down by Africa
  - therefore, he truly is, racist
- Isabella asks
  - clarifying question
- Calder
  - Europe is infecting Africa
  - Europe is the heart of darkness
  - \* oooh, interesting
  - maybe both cuz they were infected

#### Question Break

- Isabella
  - what
- Nico
  - Marlow describes Kurtz to the intended not with his actual beliefs but with how Kurtz is described to him
  - flip flops a lot
- Kayla disagrees with Nico
  - says that Marlow doesn't believe what he said to the intended
  - did Nico say this? he very well may have