**Points to Ponder**

*Look through these now and then use them to test yourself after doing the assignment*

* What are two ways to store a file from your hard drive into a string or array in your Ruby script?
  + Ruby has two object serialization mechanisms built right into the language. One is used to serialize into a human readable format, the other into a binary format.
  + JSON, YAML
* What are three things made possible or much easier by serialization?
  + Serialization takes a Ruby object and converts it into a string of bytes and vice versa. For example, if you have an object representing information about a user and need to send it over the network, it has to be serialized into a set of bytes that can be pushed over a socket. Then, at the other end, the receiver has to unserialize the object, converting it back into something that Ruby (or another language) can understand.
* What is JSON?
  + In some ways, JSON is very similar to YAML. It is meant to be a human-readable format that often serves as a configuration format. Both are widely adopted in the Ruby community. However, JSON differs in that it draws its roots from Javascript. In fact, JSON actually stands for Javascript Object Notation. The syntax for JSON is nearly the same as the syntax for defining Javascript objects (which are somewhat analogous to Ruby hashes).
* What is YAML?
  + YAML is a recursive acronym that stands for “YAML Ain’t Markup Language”. It is a serialization format, but it is also (easily) human readable, meaning that it can be used as a configuration language. In fact, Rails uses YAML to do all sorts of configuration, e.g. database connectivity.
* How do you turn a Ruby object into JSON?
* How do you turn JSON into a Ruby object?
  + require 'json'
  + class Person
  + ...
  + def to\_json
  + JSON.dump ({
  + :name => @name,
  + :age => @age,
  + :gender => @gender
  + })
  + end
  + def self.from\_json(string)
  + data = JSON.load string
  + self.new(data['name'], data['age'], data['gender'])
  + end
  + ...
  + end