

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT IN BULGAKOV'S MASTER AND MARGARITA (In preparing for Test 4, make sure you know the correct or best answers to all the questions.)

1. CHAPTER 2: WHERE WAS THE DEVIL INCOGNITO IN THE FOLLOWING 3 LOCATIONS (IN WHOSE SHAPE, IN WHAT NATURAL PHENOMENA)

- on Pontius Pilate's balcony;
- in his garden;
- and on the platform?

2. IVAN'S EXPERIENCE IN CHAPTERS 1-6, 8, 11 AND THE BROADER ISSUE OF THE DEVIL AND INSANITY.

- What is Ivan's initial response to Professor Woland's story about Pontius Pilate (chapter 3)?
- What do the diners at Griboedov think about Ivan's behavior and why do they think the way they do? Do you agree with them?
- Dr. Stravinsky describes Ivan's condition as: "speech and motor excitation...delirious episodes...clearly a complicated case." Is this an accurate description of Ivan's state? What do you think Ivan is suffering from?
- What cases of insanity have we read about in previous works on Faust? Is Ivan truly insane in Ryukhin's opinion? In Dr. Stravinsky's? In Ivan's? If he is insane, who or what drove him insane?
- How does the "new Ivan" differ from the "old Ivan"? Who in the Faust tradition suffers a similar split? Is the split in Ivan a symptom of worsening madness or returning health, and from whose point of view?

3) CHAPTER 7:

- How does Woland get an apartment in Moscow and infiltrate the Variety Theatre?
- Who makes a deal with him?

4) THE MASTER'S NOVEL – *PONTIUS PILATE*: HISTORY, FACT, AND TRUTH

CHAPTER 16: THE EXECUTION; LEVI MATVEY AND YESHUA: DISCIPLE AND MASTER

- In what sense is Pontius a Faustian hero?
- Why is Pontius Pilate a prisoner of his job and the power he wields?
- Why is Pontius Pilate drawn to Yeshua?
- Pontius is the executioner and Yeshua is the condemned man, yet they are spiritually interdependent and will be together forever – why?

CHAPTERS 25&26:

- What are Pontius Pilate's motives in having Juda of Kerioth killed?
 - Of trying to get Matvey to work for him?
 - In a word, why does Pontius want to control the narrative of Yeshua's death and future life? Is he successful?
- Are you, as a reader, convinced of the truth of the Master's version of events? Why, why not?

5) CHAPTER 12: BLACK MAGIC AND ITS EXPOSÉ [NB: THIS CHAPTER WILL NOT BE PRESENTED IN CLASS. THE POWER POINT IS ON BB. PLEASE STUDY IT CAREFULLY AND MAKE SURE YOU CAN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

- What several vices (sins) does Woland's black magic expose reveal in the Moscow public?
- How are these sins punished? Do the punishments fit the crime?

- Is this the expose that people came to see? Is this the demonstration of magic one would expect from the Devil in the Mephistophelean tradition? Why/why not?
- What is Woland's opinion of the people of Moscow?

6) CHAPTER 13: THE MASTER AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FAUST THEME FROM THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE TO THE QUEST FOR CREATIVITY AND THE EXPRESSION OF TRUTH

- How is the Master related to Woland BEFORE they even meet?
- What demonic elements are implied in how the Master came to write his novel?
- Who encourages the Master to publish his novel?
- Why was the Master's novel unpublishable?
- Why does the Master burn his novel?
- How does the Master come to be arrested? Who denounces him and why?
- How has the experience of persecution, fear, and suffering (in a word, hell on earth) transformed the Master?

7) CHAPTERS 19-32 MARGARITA, WITCHY WOMAN AND TRANSGENDERED FAUST. THE EVOLUTION OF GRETCHEN FROM PASSIVE SUFFERER TO ACTION HERO AND BACK.

- What does Azazello's cream do for Margarita, and why is it necessary for her to use it before she carries out her duties as hostess for Satan's ball?
- What does being able to fly and do witchy things mean to Margarita?
- What does she get from destroying Latunsky's apartment?
- Do you sympathize with her wanton destructiveness or not?
- Bulgakov so hates chaos, why does he seem never to condemn Margarita for the havoc she wreaks?
- What qualities does Margarita illustrate in chapter 22 that Bulgakov especially admires?
- What is Woland's attitude to the Master's wish to return to the way things were?

8) EPILOGUE

- What is Ivan's profession at the end of the novel?
- Who ultimately decides where souls will live eternally after their deaths?
- Where do Master and Margarita spend eternity?
- Is Margarita damned for having made a deal with the Devil? Why or why not?
- Who, in the novel, ends up in the Light (Paradise)?
- What does Master have to do in order to move on after death?
- What was the real reason Woland came to Moscow?