

Revision notes and questions for the excerpt from *The Name of The Rose*
(the epigraph and the first three pages):

- Plot of the little chapter so far (what happens in the piece)?
William and Adso approach an abbey and meet a group of men from the abbey, headed by the cellarer Remigio. William astonishes the group by casually revealing that he knows that the group is looking for the abbot's horse. William also tells them the full description of the horse and even its name!
- Characters: Adso, William, Remigio, Abo (who are they?)
- Characterization (characteristics: what are they like) Adso
 - William
 - Adso
 - their relationship with each other (find textual examples of tone in which they speak to each other and comments they make about each other)
- Narrative
 - What is Adso's narrative style?
 - Possible reasons for details Adso include (as part of his style and other reasons)
 - When is he writing the story? (Find the line/passage which is the evidence of your answer)
- Setting: Where is the excerpt set? Place, time?
- Why 'naturally, a manuscript'?
- Allusion to classic Detective fiction
 - Sherlock Holmes: Baskerville
 - Details of William's methods (what are the components?) that remind us of Holmes?
- Narrative structure of classic Detective fiction:
 - The "how can you know?" moment (Find the line)
 - The narrative positioning of the reader with the 'listener-companion' of the detective
 - The seduction before the reader to 'read' the world like the detective
 - But what does the reader get trained in actually?
- Philosophy/Ways of reading:
 - Reading the world like a book, as William tries to teach Adso
 - Are the readers also to read the book (*Name of the Rose*? All books?) like William reads the world? Looking for clues in the narrative before them; looking for more than what most people can see?

➤ Is the world, at least in part, what it is because of books?

- Word-meanings to note (especially in reference to this text):
Prime, lauds, acumen, Aedificium, triune, consecrate, indubitable, omen,
awesome, vice of vanity, auctoritates;
any other words?

the Latin quote on page 21:

every creature of the world
as a book and a picture
are to us like a mirror

In Alanus's medieval book of nature (*De Planctus Naturae*: Complaint of Nature): the world/nature written by God

William's References:

'City of God' One of the most important books of Christian Philosophy by St Augustine (5th century)

Alanus de Insulis (Alain de Lille): 12th century French theologian and poet, one of the leading intellectuals of his time

Isidore of Seville: Scholar and archbishop of Seville in 7th century

Buridan: 14th century French philosopher (look up 'Buridan's ass'!)