

On **Friday, December 6**, we will conclude our discussions based on readings from *Alan Turing: Computing Genius and Wartime Codebreaker*, by Harry Henderson. The following questions are designed to lay the groundwork for the discussion, although we needn't be restricted to these. The main focus this time is on the work that Turing did near the end of his life, and on the persecution/prosecution that he faced and its aftermath. The specific material to read for this session is Chapter 7 and the Conclusion.:

Optional reflection: For any one of the prompts below, write a 2-3 paragraph (about one printed page) reflection in response. Have it show your depth of engagement with the reading. Word process it and either bring a printed copy to class or e-mail it to me.

1. What is *morphogenesis*? Do a little web research (Google is sufficient) to see if you can find and explain one concrete contribution that Turing made with regard to this field. Also give two examples of the Fibonacci number sequence appearing in nature. What does this have to do with morphogenesis?
2. Briefly explain three reasons that Turing may have been motivated to take his own life. Had he lived in present-day England (or the U.S.), how would his story possibly have been different?
3. The final section of the book is entitled "Turing's Shrouded Legacy." What about his legacy is "shrouded," do you think? Give three reasons why Henderson (and other historians) might describe it this way.
4. Even if Turing had not been a significant historical figure, the circumstances of his death were tragic. Do you think he would have been likely to commit suicide if he were turning 42 this year instead of in 1954? What circumstances have changed and what are some of the reasons why they have?