

## Questions Day 2:

1. What's the difference between a foreword and a preface?

A foreword is generally written by another writer or someone other than the author. A preface is written by the author and generally details why they wrote the book.

2. Can an allegory be considered a novel as well?

I think it depends on how you define a novel. If you say a novel is just prose writing, then many allegories can be considered novels. But if you think the novel is about realism or about individuals, then an allegory is not a novel. Its all about how you define the term "novel."

3. How do you tell a fiction story is fiction?

Great question! We have to be careful readers to make this distinction. Many times what is reported as truth is actually fiction. If something is "based on a true story," it takes some digging into the source material to decide if it has deviated significantly from the facts.

4. How many copies of *Crusoe* do I have?

I have 4 reading copies of *Crusoe* and 10 rare copies.

5. Favorite movie of all time?

Hard to say, could be Hitchcock's *Vertigo* or Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*.

6. Do I think Defoe is saying *Crusoe* is fiction?

I think he is intentionally trying to be ambiguous. I think he is trying to say it is fact, but if you think its fiction, then I am just an amazing writer.

7. How much creative license do people have with "based on a true story?"

Good question! It usually depends on whether or not the people involved in the story are still alive. Its usually easier to embellish a story when no one can go after you for getting it wrong. It is such an ambiguous term that you should always take it with a grain of salt.

8. If Defoe had not written the preface, would his work have been null?

Prefaces were a common practice in publishing at the time, so it was customary to have one.

9. Why Defoe felt the need for his really defensive prefaces?

Excellent question! Many things could have influenced this. Some scholars think that Defoe was trying to say something against religion and some think he was trying to support it. We don't have many papers from him, so its hard to figure out exactly what he is thinking.

10. What is the best *Robinson Crusoe* film?

I don't think any of them are good. My favorite would be *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*.

11. The difference between an adaptation and a recreation?

Great question! It is hard to make a distinction because we are talking about thresholds of when one thing become another. An instructive way of thinking about this is Theseus's paradox.

"First, suppose that the famous ship sailed by the hero Theseus in a great battle has been kept in a harbour as a museum piece. As the years go by some of the wooden parts begin to rot and are replaced by new ones. After a century or so, all of the parts have been replaced. Is the "restored" ship still the same object as the original?

Second, suppose that each of the removed pieces were stored in a warehouse, and after the century, technology develops to cure their rotting and enable them to be put back together to make a ship. Is this "reconstructed" ship the original ship? And if so, is the restored ship in the harbour still the original ship too?"

12. Why did fiction go against religion so much in popular opinion of the time?

This is a big question! The Restoration period caused a lot of confusion about the state and the church, so I think many people weren't sure what the popular opinion was and tried to revert back to a more conservative standpoint.

Initially many scholars thought that books were against religion because of the spread of Enlightenment ideals. However, some "postsecular" scholars think we are imposing that reading on books like *Crusoe* and many of these books were actually supporting religion and not trying to critique it.

13. Does *Paradise Lost* influence Robinson Crusoe?

Yes it does. There is a point in the novel where Crusoe is teaching Friday about Christianity and many of the questions that Friday asks are related to the plot of *Paradise Lost*. For me, the book of Job plays a far more influential role in the narrative.

14. What themes, motifs and symbols also indicate intension?

It depends on the genre, historical grounding, and language. If something feels out of place or you stop and ask yourself why the author is placing a theme or symbol, then you can usually figure out some type of intension from there. It is all about being a careful reader and always asking why you are being shown what you are seeing.

15. How is this not an allegory with such a religious influence?

I think that *Crusoe's* meaning is not hidden, it is completely on the surface of the novel. Crusoe and the other characters often tell us the meaning. While an allegory requires a little more thinking and contemplation to reveal the meaning.

16. What are themes?

A theme can be a subject or a topic like the theme of the poem was on death.

17. What are other examples of allegories I may have heard from?

*The Matrix, The Lord of the Flies, Animal Farm, All Quiet on the Western Front, Aesop's Fables, The Divine Comedy, Gulliver's Travels*

18. Why try to sell the book after people have bought it? Preface.

I don't think Defoe is trying to sell us the book, but help us believe in it. He wanted people to talk about it. Like the saying, "any press is good press."

19. I am confused what exactly "viz" means?

It is a short way of saying "in other words" or to indicate a gloss, which is a translation or an explanation of a word or phrase. You see viz and gloss used in the margins of Bibles where people are trying to explain what something means.

20. Is close reading simply annotating a book? Annotation will help you close read, but close reading is the act of thinking about what you are reading. Asking yourself, why this word? Or why did the author say this here? Or why include this scene?

21. What was the 2nd preface in Crusoe saying?

Defoe was trying to address some of the critiques of the first two books. Think of it like trying to address internet troll comments. Also, it is very different from the other two books in both form and content. It seems like Defoe was trying to justify the existence of *Serious Reflections*.

22. What is magical realism?

Unlike a fantasy novel, magical realism is a genre of fiction that includes a mostly real/believable world with some magical elements. It originated in Latin America and one of its most recognizable authors is Jorge Luis Borges.

23. What's my favorite novel?

Dellio's *White Noise* was the first novel that made me laugh out loud, so it has a special place in my heart.

24. Why write a preface?

It helps you tell your reader why you wrote something. It allows you to address the reader directly.

25. Why would you write in the 3rd person?

It allows you to present more information, the most common form of this type is omniscient narration, where you can see everything going on as the reader. The prose is not mediated through a character.

26. How religious was Defoe?

This question is part of a lively scholarly debate! For a long time, scholars thought Defoe was anti-religious, but more recently scholarship is starting to reveal that he was more religious than we originally thought.

27. Did he just use religion to appease his audience?

Maybe, but religion played a bigger role in the daily life back then, everyone would have been thinking about it.

28. What is the most effective way to frame something?

It depends! You want to keep in mind the genre and your audience when choosing a framing device.