



Discussion Questions

Study Review 2025

July 9, 2025



1. Emotional Arcs

Question: How can understanding Vonnegut's six universal emotional arcs help writers create more resonant stories? Provide an example of a story (or your own idea) that fits one of these arcs.

2. Worldbuilding

Question: The text suggests treating setting as a "character." How might a hostile environment (like a dystopian city or a haunted forest) actively shape a protagonist's decisions?

3. Symbolism

Question: Choose a universal symbol (e.g., water, fire, bridges) and brainstorm how it could represent two *different* themes in separate stories.

4. Conflict

Question: The text mentions "subtle unease" as a tension-building tool. How could you create unease in a mundane scene (e.g., a family dinner) without explicit conflict?

5. Writing Emotion

Question: "Show, don't tell" is key to conveying emotion. Rewrite the sentence "He was terrified" using sensory details and actions.

6. Creativity Techniques

Question: Try the "I Remember..." exercise aloud with your group. Share one memory that could inspire a story—how might you fictionalize it?

7. Integration Challenge

Question: Pick one element (worldbuilding, symbolism, or conflict) and explain how it could reinforce the emotional arc of a "Fall and Redemption" story.