

TOG Pre-Rhetoric Literature assignments due at Co-Op 5 on Oct. 20

Before you continue reading *Men of Iron*, **select TWO questions from the list below** to answer.

Of the two questions, **select at least one question to answer in paragraph form.**

Take notes while reading, if necessary.

1. In a literary work, the plot is the series of incidents in the story. The plot of *Men of Iron* follows Myles as he grows from squire to knight. In it he has three great fights—against Blunt, the Sieur de la Montaigne, and the Earl of Alban. **Use bullet points** to compare the three fights. For each one, list some weaknesses Myles had going into the fight and the strengths he gained coming out.
2. In chapter twenty-five, we find that the Earl of Mackworth has been carefully training Myles and arranging his knighting for an “opportunity [that] was not to be lost.” **Write a paragraph** explaining why you think Myles has been trained as a knight for these three years.
3. In Chapter 33, the attitudes and actions of Myles and Brookhurst during the trial by battle are very different. For example, Myles allows Brookhurst three chances to regain his stance before attacking again; but at the first chance Brookhurst gets, he takes advantage of Myles’s weakness and tramples him with his warhorse. Why do these men act the way they do? Find two other examples of conflicting attitudes and actions between Myles and the Earl and **write a paragraph** explaining their motivations.
4. Many issues of fifteenth-century England are addressed in *Men of Iron*. Two are listed below. For each one, **use bullet points** to provide examples of how the issue is presented in the book and how it is relevant today.
 - a. God’s fairness in allowing good people to come to ruin
 - b. Vengeance, revenge, and doing battle
5. On pages 180-181 Prior Edward tells Myles he should not “feel bitter rancor” toward the Earl of Alban because “the worst of our enemies and the worst of men believe themselves always to have right and justice upon their side, even when they most wish evil to others.” The Earl caused his father’s blindness, took the Falworth estates and lands, and would hunt down Myles’s family until they were all dead. **Write a paragraph** explaining whether you believe Myles has the right to be bitter? Find references in the Bible verse to support your answer (see Matthew 5).
6. An issue with which Myles struggles is knowing when it is right or wrong to kill, if at all. The Prior tells him, “Thou didst not sin. It was for others thou didst fight, and for others it is pardonable to do battle. Had it been thine own quarrel, it might have been more hard to have answered” (p. 219). What do you think? “Is it always wrong for man to slay man?” (p. 218) After reading Genesis 9 and Numbers 25, **write a paragraph** with your response and support your answer with Scripture.

TOG Assignment for *The Second Mrs. Giaconda*, by E.L. Konigsburg

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Conflict is the clash between opposing forces in literary work. Below I’ve listed the 5 main types of conflict. On a separate sheet of paper, write in complete sentences how each type of conflict takes place and how it shapes Salai.

Man vs Man

Man vs Society

Man vs Himself

Man vs Nature

Man vs Unknown