
“The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” by Ursula Le Guin

Directions: EVERYONE needs to take notes about the discussion and the thoughts/answers that everyone came up with during the discussion. Notes will be submitted at the end of class today.

A. Mandatory questions;

1. What vocabulary words did you not know?
 2. Where did your reading break down?
 3. What did you like/find interesting about the story?
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1. How would you describe the city of Omelas? What do we know about it from the opening pages?
 2. Why does the narrator seem to doubt that we will believe in and accept the description of “the festival, the city, the joy”?
 3. What is the “function” of the suffering child?
 4. Why do the people of Omelas understand that the child “has to be there”?
 5. How and when do they explain the suffering child to their children? How do the children respond?
 6. What “terrible paradox” must those who observe the suffering child face? Why do they come to accept the child's confinement as “the terrible justice of reality”?
 7. Who are the ones who walk away from Omelas? Why do they leave? And why go alone? Is it a brave act or something else?
 8. Why do some people stay? What do you think of those who stay?
 9. Have you ever made a decision to walk away from Omelas? What happened?
 10. How does Omelas resemble our current society, if at all? Do we have “a suffering child” on whom our lives depend?