

***Heart of Darkness* Discussion Questions I**

Who is the narrator?

Who is Marlow?

What is the narrator's relationship to Marlow?

Is Marlow named after Christopher Marlowe, and if so, why? And, if so, why did Conrad take off the "e"?

Why did the author use a frame-story to tell this story?

What is the story? What is being conveyed and why?

What literary techniques do you notice and to what effect -- in both the narrator's words and in Marlow's?

Why the sea? What challenges does the sea pose, and what does the sea represent?

What does the darkness represent?

Why the word "heart"?

What of all the opposites, such as light and dark, black and white, civilized men and "savages," nature and man, etc?

How do the narrator and Marlow differ in their speech patterns and points of view?

Who is the protagonist? Marlow? Kurtz? The unnamed narrator? Defend your position.

Why is the framing narrator unnamed?

What role do women play, and what does that say?

Is this book racist? Defend your position.

In a modern cinematic adaptation, who would you cast in the role of narrator, Marlow, Kurtz, the sea?