

Additional Discussion Questions for *Heart of Darkness*

1. *The Heart of Darkness* was originally written by Conrad as a result of his experiences in the Congo. At the time of the writing, Conrad was appalled at the conditions in Africa, and specifically, the treatment of native African people. More recently, the book has been called racist – do you think that the book is racist; please give examples from the text to support your opinion.
2. Early in the book, Marlow says “and this also”...“Has been one of the dark places of Earth.” What does he mean by this statement?
3. There is a sense of unreality that permeates the narration of the book. Does this unreality inhibit the story, or enhance the story?
4. What is the primary sin of Kurtz? Of Marlow? Of the narrator?
5. Does Marlow believe that Kurtz and the natives are inherently evil, or does he believe that they descended into evil through lack of restraint? Does he believe that mankind in general is inherently evil, or does he believe that mankind is capable of evil?