

Capstone Reading Questions for January 19

“Jon” beginning on page 49

1. Jon participates in the feast for Robert Baratheon, but he is seated among the lowly. Why?
2. What is Jon’s impression of the royalty?
3. Describe the feast, which we see here through Jon’s eyes.
4. Why does Jon determine to join the Night’s Watch?
5. What do Jon and Tyrion Lannister have in common?
6. How are bastards regarded in Westeros?

“Catelyn” beginning on page 58

1. How does Catelyn feel about Robert’s offer to make Ned Hand of the King?
2. What is a maester?
3. When Maester Luwin comes into Catelyn’s room, he brings in a message found in the bottom of what appears to be the lens of a telescope. The telescope was invented in 1608, making this an anachronistic moment. Do such details bother you? Why or why not? Are they deliberate on Martin’s part?
4. What is the message in the box?
5. How does Catelyn feel about Jon Snow?
6. What request does Catelyn make to Ned when he determines to travel with the king?
7. Why does Ned refuse her?

“Arya” beginning on page 68

1. From the pov chapter on Arya, what do you learn of the expectations for women?
2. What is unusual about Prince Joffrey’s sigil?
3. What does Arya name her direwolf? Why?

“Bran” beginning on page 76

1. What does Bran aspire to be when he grows up?
2. What does Bran overhear Cersei and Jaime Lannister discussing?
3. What shocking thing happens to Bran at the end of the chapter?

“Tyrion” beginning on 86

1. Describe Tyrion Lannister. If you watch the HBO series, does he live up to your expectations?
2. What do we learn about Jaime Lannister from Tyrion’s pov?

“Jon” beginning on page 93

1. Describe the encounter between Catelyn Stark and Jon.
2. Describe Jon’s farewell to Arya and Robb.
3. What gift does Jon give Arya before he leaves?

“Daenerys” beginning on page 99

1. Daenerys’s marriage to Khal Drogo is unusual in that it forces her into a completely foreign culture. Describe the wedding ceremony and some of the customs that are new to Daenerys.
2. What wedding gifts does Daenerys receive?
3. What is Viserys’ attitude about the wedding?

“Eddard” beginning on page 109

1. Notice the barrows mentioned on page 111. This is one of many examples of landmarks, monuments, and statues in Martin’s work.
2. Why does King Robert want Daenerys Targaryen dead?
3. How does Eddard feel about King Robert’s thirst for vengeance?
4. What does this chapter reveal about Robert’s rise to the Iron Throne?

“Tyrion” beginning on page 118

1. What does Jon learn about the Night’s Watch? Why does this disillusion him? What was the Night’s Watch like in the (pseudo-) past of Westeros?
2. Why does Tyrion spend so much time reading?
3. How do the people of Westeros regard dragons?
4. How do the people of Westeros regard the legendary dangers beyond the wall?

“Catelyn” beginning on page 129

1. What happens to Bran in this chapter?
2. Why does Catelyn determine that she must go to King’s Landing?
3. Numerous vows and oaths are evident in this series. Note the ones on page 136 and 137. Why and how are these oaths made?

“Sansa” beginning on page 139

1. At the beginning of this chapter, Sansa’s impressions of Joffrey are evident. How does she regard him? How does she regard Arya?
2. How does Arya feel about her half-brother Jon?
3. What happens when Sansa and Joffrey take a walk on their own?

“Eddard” beginning on page 153

1. How do the Lannisters react to Arya’s fight with Joffrey?
2. What becomes of Arya’s friend?
3. What becomes of Lady?
4. How does King Robert react to this situation?