1. Focus on “Bel and the Serpent” connections to epigraph
2. Debrief the poetry timed writing and go over timed write for Wednesday
3. Socratic circle for Books Four and Five
4. Focus on additional parts of the text
Padlet specifics

• For the first post, you should respond by Tuesday night 2/24, no later than midnight.
• Please include your name in the post.
• Write 2-3 paragraphs (or more if you need to in order to address the prompt fully). Use correct grammar and punctuation. Be insightful and show off those critical thinking skills!
• Obviously, be appropriate and use good online etiquette.
Connections between the epigraph and Book Four

• Like the Babylonians when they learned of their God's true nature, the Price women stand helpless as their illusion of safety and consistency is shattered. (When Ruth May is killed)

• "The whole world would change then," Rachel says, "and nothing would be all right again" (Kingsolver 366).

• It took the striking of a serpent to make the Prices realize that they are not welcome in the Congo, that they are not safe, that they must leave.

• It took the death of her youngest child to stir Orleanna Price into action.

• The false idol has fallen, and the culprits have been exposed. All there is left to do is to pick up the pieces and move on.

• The Price girls set a trap like Daniel’s.
Connections between the epigraph and Book Four

- The members of the village are bloodthirsty (during the hunt), much like the Babylonians are (when wanting to see Daniel killed by the lions.)
- Tata Kuvudundu (village witch doctor) is fake. He claims the gods will rise up against Leah, Anatole, and the village. However, it’s really only him that does this.
- Nathan relays the story of Daniel to the Kilanga congregation. Tata Ndu, like Daniel, uses a preconceived plan to flush out an unwanted god. Ironically in this story, Jesus is the unwanted God.
- Tata Ndu using an election is equally brilliant to Daniel’s plan. When Nathan tries to argue the separation of church and state, he ends up looking like a hypocrite.
- This is symbolic of the fact that the American system is at odds with itself in Kilanga and the Congo as a whole.
- America preaches the right of the majority, but enforces the will of the minority when it seems righteous. This fallacy is comparable to the illogical thinking that Bel, a statue made of clay and covered in bronze, could eat and drink. - Think macrocosm and microcosm.
• **Dragon vs. serpent:** The mamba serpent is a feared symbol of death in Kilanga and is used by Tata Kuvudundu to convince many villagers to follow the old ways. In this way, although the snake is not worshiped, it is given a divine status and is seen as a **symbol of the gods' will.**

• The Price family sets out to disprove this divine status in the exact same way in which Daniel disproved the magic of Bel. Where the two stories differ, is that Daniel, after performing another miracle, is heralded as a prophet, whereas the "reward" for the Price family is the death of Ruth May.

• It would seem Kingsolver wants the reader to know that the Price family has truly fallen into disfavor with the God(s). Daniel is protected because he is acting with God's will; the Price family, **misguided by Nathan,** is not. The Price family's plan backfires due to this disfavor and results in Ruth May's death, instead of the death of the snake's symbolism and idolatry. It is also fitting, then, that Ruth May dies by the same method as the dragon: poison.
• Both the Babylonian king and Nathan presume the existence and supremacy of their respective religions based on their narrowed perceptions, not able to comprehend anyone challenging their system. Nathan, who has only experienced the organized, abundant life of America, cannot apply his ideology to Africa, just like the Babylonian king, who has only experienced the ritualistic offering and "consumption" of food and drink, cannot defend his beliefs after being tested by logical standards.
• Another interpretation of the epigraph is that of greed. Bel is comparable to the Christian America, everything the Price family brings. In the story, Bel, the Babylonian priests and their families, consume greedily and ritualistically. After the fire hunt, the abundance of meat rapidly diminishes as greed overtakes the villagers.
• The imbalance caused by the Price family, and the imposition of their ideals, has caused the greed common in the American system to come bursting out violently of these normally generous and benevolent people.
• The Babylonian priests and their families are killed for their greed; the citizens of Kilanga similarly doom themselves by forfeiting their greatest strength: cooperation.

• At the end of the tale of Bel, the priests and their families are killed and the temple of Bel is destroyed. The theme of overthrowing the status quo is apparent throughout Book Four:
  • Tata Ndu challenging Nathan,
  • Leah being tested as a hunter,
  • Patrice Lumumba being ousted from office,
  • Africa ultimately defeating the Prices by taking Ruth May,
  • The Price girls finally challenging the Reverend.

• It is the climax of the tale, the turning point that leads to the Prices leaving Kilanga, and thus, "Bel and the Serpent,“ a tale of turning tides and changing ways is an apt parallel.
Timed Write Debrief

• At this point of the year, there is ABSOLUTELY NO reason you should be writing with personal pronouns in your essay responses.

• Do NOT use: “me,” “I”, “you,” “in my opinion,” “us,” “we,” etc.

• Use “one” or “the reader” instead of “you.” Ex: The reader is able to infer that the differences between the two men in the poem is a metaphor for the differences that exist between groups of people in life.

• Remember to write your opinion as fact and then support your opinion with specifics from the literature you’re analyzing.

• Punctuate literature correctly! Books and plays are underlined. Poems and short stories are in quotes. MEMORIZE this.
Timed Write Debrief

• Remember that good writing can be scored a WHOLE point higher just for being good writing.
• This means you want to write as clearly as possible. You must write in organized paragraphs.
• Use savvy, precise, and vivid word choice. However, don’t throw in words just for the sake of using big words. Clear writing is the most important.
• Write with varied sentence structure and length
• Use your VOICE.
• Make sure your writing sounds academic and carries with it a proper level of sophistication. No slang or “a lot,” or words like “stuff,” etc.
• Avoid unclear pronouns, like “he” – what he are you talking about? The neighbor? The speaker? The poet?
• Be clear and say “the speaker,” “Frost,” “the poet,” “the neighbor.” I would only use “he” if you’re in the same sentence (or maybe a consecutive sentence) where you’ve already clearly defined who you’re talking about.
Here is the prompt:

• Read the following poem carefully, paying particular attention to the **personalities of the two neighbors**. Then write a well-organized essay in which you explain how the speaker conveys not only the differences between himself and his neighbor but the **implications of those differences**. You may wish to include **analysis** of such **poetic elements** as diction, tone, figurative language, and imagery, among others.

• **All the bold-faced parts are mandatory parts you must cover.**

• “Implications” means to read between the lines. *So what is the poem saying below the surface level?* What do the men symbolize? What does the wall represent? What is the poem saying about life?
Start off strong

• Resist the urge to simply restate the prompt. This is called regurgitating the prompt and is an immediate indicator to the AP grader that you lack originality.

• So for this essay, you’d want to avoid: “In Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall,” the speaker uses several poetic elements to convey the differences between himself and his neighbor and the implications of those differences.”

• Instead – put it in your own words. Write your own intro (thesis) that captures the ideas of the prompt with your own wording.
Here’s a few examples

• Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall” captures the different personalities of two men whose properties share a stone wall through the use of diction, figurative language, and irony, symbolizing to the reader a larger message about life.

• Or, get right to the big picture:
• In his poem “Mending Wall,” Robert Frost carefully uses a stone wall as a symbol for the often unnecessary and complicated barrier which exist between people.

• The poem “Mending Wall” tells the deceptively simple tale of two men repairing a wall that splits their land. (This would be followed by a thesis.)
Other examples

• In Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall,” the two respective neighbors, in their superficial attempt to mend this barrier between them, are blinded by the substantial truth that, naturally, they are intended to interact.

• In the poem “Mending Wall,” Robert Frost uses simple diction, archaic syntax, and figurative language in the form of metaphors to show...

• In his poem “Mending Wall” by Robert Frost, the speaker conveys the differing viewpoints and lifestyles of two neighbors through personification, metaphor, and symbolism.

• In the poem “Mending Wall,” Robert Frost depicts two neighbors separated by an unneeded wall. This poem shows differences in the thinking of the two men; the speaker, one of the men, conveys a sense of new thinking which is contrasted with his neighbor’s old-fashioned way of thinking.
SUPPORT

• Remember that you MUST use specific lines from the poem for support.
• Just enclose the lines in quotes. There is no need to actually put the line number itself.
• This is how quoted poetry should look:
  “Before I built a wall I’d ask to know / What I was walling in or walling out. / And to whom I was like to give offense.”/
• To make a strong case showing how the speaker demonstrates the differences between the two men, you must actually list those differences with specific lines from the poem.
• THEN, you should be specific about HOW he does this. (With what poetic techniques)
You can write an entire introductory paragraph, but truly all you need is a strong thesis statement. Again, remember to try not to just restate the prompt verbatim.

Then, there are a couple different ways you could organize this essay.

PP 1: Discuss how the first literary device is used to show differences between the men (give specific lines and explanations)

PP2: Second literary device

PP3: Third literary device

PP4: What do these differences imply about life, about the deeper meaning Frost wants to convey about life in this poem? (This is the theme paragraph)

Concluding statement of some kind
ORGANIZATION

• OR you could structure the essay like this.
• Intro of some kind
• PP1: A general discussion of the differences between the neighbors using specific examples of the differences.
• PP2: Discuss how he uses specific literary devices to show these differences.
• PP3: Discuss the importance of the differences (the implications) Bigger meaning, theme, purpose.
• Concluding statement.
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• Concluding statement.
• **Must have a thorough discussion of the differences between the two men.**

• **Speaker:** wonders why they have a fence
  - would like to know who or what he’s walling out with the fence
  - would like his neighbor to figure this out himself, rather than him telling him (the neighbor) this
  - checking and mending the wall is almost a game for him
  - believes someone or something must not want a wall
  - compared to an apple or apple orchard, sweet, inviting, kind
  - doesn’t take himself too seriously “Spring brings out the mischief in me”
The neighbor is likened to a pine tree: stiff, prickly, incommodious, gruff, harsher, more coarse

Brushing up against pine would be an unpleasant or unwelcome experience

-says that “good neighbors make good fences” – repeats this twice

“Like an old-stone savage armed. / He moves in darkness as it seems to me/ Not of woods only and the shade of trees/” - suggest darker personality

“He will not go beyond his father’s saying/” – suggests old-fashioned, not able to move into more modern thinking
• WHAT DO THE DIFFERENCES IMPLY?

• The two men represent a clashing of two types of people: those who are welcoming and those who are not

• -Also a clash of two types of thinking: old and new (this would have been occurring at the time Frost wrote this)

• Speaker represents a desire to let go of boundaries between people
• The neighbor represents the barriers between people, lack of trust, and other matters that separate one man from another
• Eternal conflict that pits the forces of change against the desire for status quo
Timed write for next class

• The poem and prompt I’m giving you today need to be completed before next class.
• Do this all in one sitting. Write in ink. Do NOT Google the poem.
• Set a timer for 40 minutes. Spend at least 10 minutes reading and analyzing the poem and then planning your essay. Mimic the process exactly as it would be if you were doing it here.
For next class...

• Finish the book. There’s a little over thirty pages left. (p. 511 – 543)

• Complete the poetry timed writing and bring it completed with you Wednesday.