

Heart of Darkness

Novel Quiz

25 Points

Name _____

Directions: Below are five different quotations from *Heart of Darkness*. For each of quotations, your task is to name the character speaking, indicate where in the novel the events took place, and explain the context of the quotation in relation to the plot of the novel, the characters involved, theme, etc. Please be attentive to *each* aspect of the quote in terms of meaning and theme.

1. "I had to wait in the station for ten days—an eternity. I lived in a hut in the yard, but to be out of the chaos I would sometimes get into the accountant's office...When a truckle-bed with a sick man (some invalid or agent from up-country) was put in there, he exhibited a gentle annoyance."
2. "What more did I want? What I really wanted was rivets, by heaven! Rivets. To get on with the work—to stop the hole. Rivets I wanted. There were cases of them down at the coast—cases—piled up—burst—split! You kicked a loose rivet in every second step in that station-yard on the hillside. Rivets had rolled into the grove of death. You could fill your pockets with rivets for the trouble of stooping down—and there wasn't one rivet to be found where it was wanted."
3. "His aspect reminded me of something I had seen—something funny I had seen somewhere. As I manoeuvred to get alongside, I was asking myself, 'What does this fellow look like? Suddenly, I got it. He looked like a harlequin. His clothes had been made of some stuff that was brown holland probably, but it was covered with patches all over, with bright patches, blue, red, and yellow—patches on the back, patches on the front...'"
4. "However, as you see, I did not go to join Kurtz there and then. I did not. I remained to dream the nightmare out to the end, and to show my loyalty to Kurtz once more. Destiny. My destiny!"
5. "I thought his memory was like the other memories of the dead that accumulate in every man's life—a vague impress on the brain of shadows that had fallen on it in their swift and final passage; but before the high and ponderous door, between the tall houses of a street as still and decorous as a well-kept alley in a cemetery, I had a vision of him on the stretcher, opening his mouth voraciously, as if to devour all the earth with all its mankind."

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1. "I had to wait in the station for ten days—an eternity. I lived in a hut in the yard, but to be out of the chaos I would sometimes get into the accountant's office...When a truckle-bed with a sick man (some invalid or agent from up-country) was put in there, he exhibited a gentle annoyance." (The narrator commenting on the nature of the environment, and the manner of annoyance exhibited by the accountant whenever he was required to deal with something beyond his duties. Page 29)
2. "What more did I want? What I really wanted was rivets, by heaven! Rivets. To get on with the work—to stop the hole. Rivets I wanted. There were cases of them down at the coast—cases—piled up—burst—split! You kicked a loose rivet in every second step in that station-yard on the hillside. Rivets had rolled into the grove of death. You could fill your pockets with rivets for the trouble of stooping down—and there wasn't one rivet to be found where it was wanted." (The narrator lamenting the lack of rivets, and how an excess of them was so close. However, such excess was not to be had in his current situation. Pages 45-46)
3. "His aspect reminded me of something I had seen—something funny I had seen somewhere. As I maneuvered to get alongside, I was asking myself, 'What does this fellow look like? Suddenly, I got it. He looked like a harlequin. His clothes had been made of some stuff that was brown holland probably, but it was covered with patches all over, with bright patches, blue, red, and yellow—patches on the back, patches on the front..." (The narrator describing the Russian Sailor). Pages 88-89)
4. "However, as you see, I did not go to join Kurtz there and then. I did not. I remained to dream the nightmare out to the end, and to show my loyalty to Kurtz once more. Destiny. My destiny! (Marlow explicating on his devotion to Kurtz just after he dies. Comment on the notion of Marlow being loyal to Kurtz. Page 119)
5. "I thought his memory was like the other memories of the dead that accumulate in every man's life—a vague impress on the brain of shadows that had fallen on it in their swift and final passage; but before the high and ponderous door, between the tall houses of a street as still and decorous as a well-kept alley in a cemetery, I had a vision of him on the stretcher, opening his mouth voraciously, as if to devour all the earth with all its mankind." (Marlow reflecting on the impression Kurtz had on him as he waits to deliver the news of Kurtz' death to his beloved. Page 124)