

Heart of Darkness
The Company's Chief Accountant*

Read the passage describing the Company's Chief Accountant at the Outer Station, beginning with "I didn't want any more loitering in the shade and I made haste towards the station" and ending with "clerical errors in this climate."

After you read the passage, please respond to the following questions:

1. Using quotes from the text, describe this man.

2. What is the dominant color Conrad uses in his description?

3. What associations do you have with the word "accountant"?

4. How does Marlow respond to this man?

5. How does the accountant respond to the sick person who is brought into his room?

6. Taking all of your thoughts into account, what might this man symbolize?

After discussing this passage, please notice that the process we went through is very much like the process you would go through had you encountered the prompt:

In the passage, Conrad provides a description of the Company's chief accountant. In a well-organized essay, discuss the literary techniques Conrad uses to characterize the chief accountant.

Add "and relate it to the novel as a whole" (the open essay question).

*Activity from Tara Warmerdam