

Module 7

Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*

Worksheet:

"Down the River,"

Instructions:

1. Record a *quote* that resonates with you to share with the class.
2. Record an example of Abbey's *critique* of modernity in this chapter.
3. Record two examples citing *elements of his style*: sensory detail, imagery, metaphor, alliteration, humor, dramatic verbs et al.

Choose One: Chose one, in addition to #8

4. What is Abbey's *motivation* for this float trip?
5. Comparative analysis: Develop a *comparison* with Muir's "Hetch Hetchy." Any similarity in rhetorical tropes used by both writers? Elements of style? Differences?
6. How does he *bring Ralph to life*? How does he describe him?
7. What other *literary, historical figures* does he evoke? Why them?
8. Cite an example of Abbey's use of the *epiphany*, or heightened moment, on the river.
9. Record an example of his describing the experience in spiritual; or religious terms?
10. What aspects of the experience cause him *anxiety*?

Choose one, in addition to # 14:

11. Record a passage where he *evokes the river*? What devices does he use bring it alive?
12. What *activities* characterize his interactions with Ralph?
13. What fantasies of *eco-activism* does he entertain?

14. How does he explicate the trope of the “*wilderness*” within the context of his critique of modernity?
15. How does Abbey’s take on “paradise” differ from the typical, if not stereotypical take on it?
16. How does his critique include the role of the “Pioneer?”
17. What other writers does he evoke in the American nature writing tradition?

Choose one, in addition to # 23

18. What reasons does he give for the anomaly that “life diminishes in quantity as you approach the Colorado River” (214, my text).
19. What fresh anxieties trouble his mind? What perils do they face?
20. How does he bring his side-trip up the Escalante canyon to life? Record some Examples.
21. What does he do to ease his thirst on his side-trip to the canyon rim?
22. What does Abbey mean by the quote: “I am not an Athiest, but an Earhtiest”? (231)
23. Record some examples of their “inter-subjectevity” with their surroundings (232). How is nature affecting/altering his identity, his sense of self?
24. What are some unique natural features he encounters on these side-hikes?

Choose one, in addition to # 28

25. What crisis of their own making occurs?
26. Record an example of his subjective discourse?
27. How does his awareness deepen regarding the origins of the urge to alter, despoil, or destroy nature? (240).
28. What makes his protest against the drowning of Rainbow Bridge as eloquent as Muir’s protest against the drowning of Hetch Hetchy? What logic does he use in his defense/critique? What literary devices serve as the rhetorical medium of his defense/critique?

29. What is effective about the journey's final words?