Heart of Darkness

Reading Section 3

Pg 65-83 (end of part 1)

Contrast plays an important role in this novel. What examples of contrast can you find in this section? What effects does it have on the reader?

How does Marlow describe death throughout section 1? Why? What significance does that have?

Irony and sarcasm play an important role in this novel. What irony/sarcasm is woven into section 1? Find specific examples.

What is Marlow implying about why his steamer ended up on the bottom of the river? Who is implicated and for what reason? (pg69)

Why does Marlow guess the Manager has his position? What is significant about this in terms of the climate to Europeans?(pg70)

There are many absurd things that Marlow witnesses during his time in the Congo. What are some of them in section one? What might be implied by these things?

What do you think of the quote on pg 78, “We live as we dream—alone…”

What effect does moving back to the frame story in section 1 have?

How have the agents who have built careers here described? Find specific examples. What is Conrad trying to convey through them? In alignment with that idea, what question is Marlow posing in the last paragraph of section 1? How do you think this question will be answered?

How does the natural world make Marlow and the other Europeans feel?

What quotes stand out to you? Pull at least one citation per person from the text that resonated with you and explain why.

Discuss the Hell and Hearts imagery in this section.

Discuss what we come to know about Marlow in this section.