

Shusaku Endo, *Silence***Prompts for the Interactive Oral**

Instructions: *Formulate possible responses to some of these questions prior to the Interactive Oral. Be sure to support your ideas with evidence from the text. Consider opposing views and evaluate their merit. This will be good preparation for the test.*

1. Find the passages where Rodrigues meditates on the face of Christ. Consider both the context and the content of these meditations; how, if at all, do they reveal the ways in which Rodrigues is changing?
2. In your opinion, what is the role of Kichijiro in the novel? What, if anything, does he teach Rodrigues? What, if anything, does he teach the reader?
3. Silence is clearly the dominant theme in the story. Trace the evolution of its meaning to Rodrigues as the novel progresses. Is Endo making a statement here, or does he leave this to the reader to decide?
4. Is Rodrigues right or wrong to trample the fumie? Why?
5. Aside from the scene in which Rodrigues tramples the fumie, what do you think is the most dramatic scene in the novel? Why?
6. Explore the various dimensions of the idea of betrayal as it is presented in the novel.
7. Is Rodrigues any different from Ferreira? If you think so, show evidence from the text.
8. Summarize the Japanese position on Christianity as expressed in the analogies used by Inoue. Are they convincing? Why or why not?
9. The conflicts between the Japanese and the Portuguese occur in political, economic, and religious contexts. Which, in your opinion, is the most significant? Which is the least?
10. In some ways, *Silence* seems to raise more questions than it offers answers. What might some of these questions be?