

Understanding the Text.

1. Read through the entire text aloud with your group
2. Answer the following questions together.
 - What things changed between the Gold, Silver and Bronze age?
 - Did things get better or worse?
 - Which specific things made them get better or worse?
 - Was there a particular age that was “better” than another?
 - How would you define “better”?
 - Is there an age the author believes to be the best age? How can you tell?

Questioning Beyond the Text.

- The text makes a point to say there was no need for laws in the Golden Age. What changes does the introduction of law signal? Does the existence of laws say something about the nature of man?
- Men moved into houses in the Silver Age in order to avoid the intensity of Jupiter’s seasons. How did this change their relationship to each other? Is there anything inherent in our living situations which creates or hurts our trust in one another?
- By the end of the story, evil has spun out of control, and justice (the goddess Astraea) has abandoned the earth. Was the rapid progression toward evil the fault of Jupiter or the fault of man?