

# Fifth Business: Questions

---

k draayer

## Part I: Mrs. Dempster

1. What is 5th Business and how is Dunstan preparing for the role? (check page 217)
2. What awareness of interior/exterior life is developing and through what experiences?
3. What role in his life is the village of Deptford playing?
4. Explain Dunstan's emerging interest in magic.

## Part II: I Am Born Again

5. What does this mean in Dunny's story - to be "born again"? Isn't that a phrase used chiefly for spiritual experience?
6. What role does Diana play in his life?
7. What is Dunstan's view of the war? Does it correspond to the view generally held of war and heroism?
8. What is the influence of Mrs. Dempster in this period of his life?

## Part III: My Fool Saint

9. What leads Dunstan to a study of saints?
10. What is Dunny's relationship to Boy Staunton? Compare them.
11. How does Joel Surgeoner's reappearance in the story fit into Dunstan's interest in saints and religion?

## Part IV: Gyges and King Candaules

12. How does the story of Gyges and King Candaules help us understand this section of the novel?
13. What wisdom is Dunny given by father Blazon that will alter his search and story?
14. What does the world of Hagiology reveal to Dunstan?

## Part V: Liesl

15. What is peculiar about the magic and theatre created by Magnus Eisengrim? Explain its attraction to Dunstan.
16. What influence have the major female characters of the novel had on Dunstan? - what role, in particular, does Liesl seem to assume in this part?
17. Explain the relationship between Dunstan and Magnus (between magic and study of saints) that makes them a perfect pairing.
18. What mood change does Dunny undergo in this part? How is it explained?
19. Compare the sexual encounter with Liesl to the one with Diana (chapter 5 of part II).

#### **Part VI: Soiree of Illusions**

20. Has Dunny's understanding of, or relationship to Mrs. Dempster changed by the time of her death from what it was earlier in the novel?
21. Why do Denyse Hornick and Dunstan become such arch enemies?
22. Might Denyse be considered in any way responsible for her husband's death?
23. Davies, in the last three chapters of this section, alters the chronology of events. Evaluate the success of the novel's ending.
24. What tension exists between the conjuror, the scholar and the hero of chapter 7?