

Silence

Answer the following questions in a document. Be prepared to turn your answers in at the start of school.

1. Why do you think the novel is titled *Silence*? What words or ideas do you associate with silence?
2. Track descriptions of Kichijiro in the novel. What are other characters' views of him? His descriptions of himself? What prompts the priest to compare the character of Kichijiro with that of Judas? How does the priest's interpretation of Jesus's words to Judas ("What thou dost, do quickly") at the Last Supper change through the course of the novel?
3. What sort of person is Rodrigues? What do the first-person testimony/letter chapters reveal about his character, interests, views, etc. either intentionally or unintentionally?
4. Rodrigues spends a considerable amount of time reflecting on the landscape and vegetation of Japan. Discuss an instance in which Endō uses Rodrigues's meditation on the natural setting to reflect something important in the bigger story.
5. You can't really tell in English, but the appendix at the end of the novel is written in a different type of Japanese—a more period-specific, archaic Japanese—than the rest of the novel. What genre is this writing? What is the effect of ending the novel with this historical material that Endō rewrote as an ending to the novel?

[Some questions adapted from [Wheaton College Discussion Guide](#)]