

*The Faerie Queene*: Book 1, Cantos 7-12

Possible Discussion Topics

1. Metaphorical Nature:

- Drowsy Fountain: 7.4-6; Well of Life: 11.29: How does “nature remember?”
- Despayre’s Cave: 9.33-35
- Wandering Wood: 1.7-9; 28
- Hermit’s Mount: 10.53-55
- Opening structure: RC “pricking on the plaine” (1.1.1) while Una “rode him faire beside” (1.4.1) on a “palfrey slow” (1.4.7)

2. Silence/Speech/Narrative Lacunae:

Several instances in which the Narrator refuses to SAY:

- Jerusalem: 10.55-58
- RC miraculous recovery: 11.36
- Eden’s feast: 12.14
- Una’s beauty: 12.23
- Marriage celebration: 12.40

See also:

- Despayre’s sophistic speech related in detail: 9.38-49
- Compared to Patience (and the ladies of the House of Pancakes) whose “wordes of wondrous might” (10.24.6) are NOT given
- Programmatic allegory of Cantos: 10-12
- Archimago’s and Duessa’s “messenger” and “letter”: 12.26
- Compared to RC’s and Una’s testimony: 12.32-5

3. Visions:

- RC’s dream of Una: 1.47-9)
- Compared to Arthur’s vision of Gloriana: 9.12-15
- Hermit’s vision of angels: 10.47