

IB/AP English 11

Discussion Topics for "The Fasting-Artist" by Franz Kafka

1. What elements add to the strangeness of the story? Discuss and then go beyond the fasting itself.
2. How does the fasting artist view his art? What's the purpose of it?
3. What roles do the public, the business manager, and the circus animal overseer play in the fasting artist's art? (What roles do they play in the story?)
4. Explore one or two of the following themes in the story: freedom and bondage, hunger and fasting, physical v. spiritual values.
5. If you view this story as a parable, what are its lessons?