

In-Class Breakout Discussion Group Questions

1. According to Currie, what is the *standard account* of narrative unreliability in a fictional narrative? (HINT: Look at page 201)
2. GC argues that of the four possible optional combinations arising from his two distinctions [*foregrounded/backgrounded* and *controlling/uncontrolling*];, the last one [*backgrounded/noncontrolling*] is problematic and its implausibility yields one of his arguments against the idea that all unreliable narratives imply an unreliable narrator. But *why* is this option problematic? (HINT: Look at page 202 righthand column)
3. What is the difference between what GC calls *unreliability*₁ and *unreliability*₂? (HINT: look at 204 righthand column, middle paragraph)
4. How does GC define “ambiguous narrative”? How does it differ from an “unreliable narrative”? (HINT: See page 205 righthand column top)
5. GC asks whether *Rashomon* is an ambiguous narrative or an unreliable narrative. What do you think is the correct answer to this question? Defend your answer.
6. Notice that all four people who confess (the dead man through the medium plus the woman, the bandit, and the woodcutter) *have mysteriously chosen to tell the truth* when they ***didn't have to***. What explains this aspect of the story? What is the point, in your group's opinion?