

Thematic Questions: Wilfred Thesiger, *Arabian Sands* (thru p. 74)

Instructions: names in **bold** will prepare a 3-4 minutes response to the question; names in *italics* will be prepared to respond to their colleagues' comments.

1. What appeals to Thesiger about travel and about travelling through the desert in particular? In a metaphysical sense, what is he "looking for"? (**Freshhta, Allie, Caroline, Tom**)

2. As we've read in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, the concept of identity preoccupied T.E. Lawrence's thinking, and he warns against the "Yahoo life" of those who give themselves into the "possession of aliens" (p. 31). How does the issue of identity manifest in *Arabian Sands*? (**Caroline, Tom, Jack, Laura**)

3. How does Thesiger view himself in relation to the legacy of T.E. Lawrence? How does he claim relevance in "post-Laurentian" Arabia? (**Jack, Laura, Alia, Salma**)

4. What orientalist tropes do you find expressed in *Arabian Sands*? (**Alia, Salma, Firas, Alex**)

5. How is Thesiger like and unlike Amin al-Rihani, Freya Stark and T.E. Lawrence in terms of motivation for travel, perception of the environment and social relations with the Bedouin? (**Firas, Alex, Cameron, Katie**)

6. Is Thesiger a romantic or a realist? (**Cameron, Katie, Kent, Vivian**)

7. What is Thesiger's relationship to the "colonial project"? (**Kent, Vivian, Freshhta, Allie**)