

Thematic Questions: Wilfred Thesiger, *Arabian Sands* (pp. 75-180)

Instructions: names in **bold** will prepare a 3-4 minutes response to the question.

1. Does Thesiger evolve socially and mentally during his exploration of Southern Arabia? Do his perceptions of the Bedouin and Bedouin society change over time? (**Vivian, Katie, Alex**)
2. To what degree does Thesiger allow himself scope for self-reflexivity and self-criticism with respect to his relationship with the Bedouin and his reasons for travelling through the Empty Quarter? (**Kent, Cameron, Firas**)
3. How does Thesiger describe the Bedouin's engagement with the modern state and a modern economy? To what degree are his positions justified and to what degree are they problematic? (**Salma, Fresha, Tom**)
4. Why do you think that the story of the "scent of the desert" (p. 83) first related by T.E. Lawrence remains poignant for Thesiger? What do you think it is meant to evoke in the imagination of Thesiger's (largely) western readership? (**Alia, Laura, Jack**)
5. How does Thesiger perceive the Bedouin and Bedouin society within an historical framework? How does time unfold on the Arabian Peninsula? Are Thesiger's perceptions justified or problematic? (**Caroline, Allie**)