

Week_4

Seminar Questions for Welty's *A Worn Path*

1. What kind of mood does the description of the woods create? Give examples.

2. The Phoenix, a mythical bird, proved to be indestructible by rising from its own ashes after consuming itself in flames. Point out two or three incidents in which Phoenix Jackson triumphs over circumstances that threaten her.

3. List at least three adjectives to describe Phoenix Jackson and tell why you chose these words.

4. The journey Phoenix takes is symbolic of our journey through life. List the various stages of her journey (i.e. through the thorny bushes) and tell what aspects of life these stages represent.

5. Different stages in life create different feelings. For instance, when Phoenix steals the nickel, she feels ashamed. What other feelings are evoked during her journey?

6. The story is set in Natchez, Mississippi at Christmas time. What significance does this setting have in relation to the story's theme?

7. What type of narrator tells the story, and why is this type of narrator effective? How would the story be different if it was told by a different type of narrator?
