

Questions & Surreptitious Study Guide
A Clockwork Orange

1. The novel begins with a description of the Korova Milkbar narrated by Alex, the head of the violent gang. The first paragraph opens with a question and ends with Alex telling the reader "I'm starting off the story with." Alex gives you the setting and situation in this brief description. However, he uses a large number of Nasdat words to convey his meaning.
 - a) How does the language and its abnormal syntax/sentence structure influence the narrative of the novel? (Consider the last sentence in the paragraph.)
 - b) What is a milkbar and why does the novel's narrative begin there?
2. Come up with 1 quote for each point and explain how it relates: a) Nasdat language is a type of "technology" (i.e., something manmade); b) evidence that Alex is or is not the hero of the novel.
3. Part I, Chapter 7 contains the following:
 - Foreshadowing: Alex will never be the same even to self in rest of narrative
 - Violence gets violence
 - Deltoid spits on him but no violence despite name
 - Last time enjoys music
 - Part I ends w/Alex, murder & more torture
 - We learn that ALEX IS 15 years old

Why does Part I conclude here? What significant about this structural division?

4. Part I concludes with Alex committing the most heinous crime upon humanity, murder of a defenseless elderly woman – supposedly the most helpless of all humans. Burgess shifts the narrative and defines that shift with "Part II." How does the narrative shift in Part II? What is the overall theme/dilemma that's being addressed in Part II?
5. Part II, Chapter 7 provides much insight:
 - Language = source revealed (political & unique to Alex)
 - Alex becomes a sympathetic character when on display
 - Development = loss of identity? No chance at reform?
 - "Horrorshow": Alex = like horrorshow but not reference to films (Chp. 6)
 - Image of horrorshow & torture reversed
 - Films: Where do they come from? Who made them? (Govt.)
 - dreams = foreshadowing
 - now nightmares & foreshadowing (Ch 5)
 - Sex = Violence/rape: Couldn't just be attracted to her
 - had to suggest "savage" in & out (not changed)
 - So can't even be attracted or feel sexual desire for women
 - Stems from negative view of women
 - Sympathize w/him even more?
 - Betrayal: By society, by group
 - By own mind & body
 - Betray self as retrospective narrator (Ch 6)
 - Nature vs. Nurture: Is violence innate?
 - "Each man kills the thing he loves" (ch 6);
 - Alex cries not b/c of violence but b/c he will miss committing it?
 - Free will: Difference b/w choices
 - Can't love self let alone others

Why does Part II conclude here? Compare to conclusion of Part I. What is significant about this structural division?

6. "What's it going to be" is introduced in the very first chapter of this novel, but it's a phrase that is repeated throughout the narrative. Compare its use in that first chapter to its use in the first chapter of Part III.
7. a) How does the violence continue in the last part of this book? b) Discuss the battle that rages between good and evil. Who represents good now and who represents evil? Why?