**The work site:**

Why do you think the zeks keep such a deliberate way of eating?

Why do you think it was acceptable for Fetyukov’s family to disown him and start again while he’s in prison?

Why do you think the zeks want a blizzard if it makes a given day worse?

What do you think are the reasons for the site manager/chief work supervisor, the zek supervisor (Der), and Shkuropatenko to care about what happens on the site, as opposed to the guards?

Who do you think are the people who are really in charge at the building site?

How is who’s in really in charge (as opposed to officially in charge) decided?

How do you think the conversation about the law changing at what time the sun is highest relates to the way that the guards control time in the camp?

Why do you think the sentences have increased from ten years to twenty-five?

Do you think the Captain thinks highly of the Soviet government? Why or why not?

Why do you think the government keeps adding to people’s sentences as they’re about to get out of the camps?

Do you think things are getting worse in the camps based on Shukhov’s description of zeks who informed on other prisoners being killed?

Why do you think Shukhov thinks so poorly of Fetyukov?

Why do you think it’s important for the Captain to learn to be a slow-moving prisoner if he’s going to make it through his sentence?

Why do you think the zeks think it’s so important to keep themselves going to make it through their sentence if they’re not sure they’re going to be let out?

Why do you think the rest of the gang is protective of the Captain?

The way Shukhov describes the camp, it gets a lot of work out of the zeks. But from the conversation in the office, the camp also creates a lot of waste. And all morning the zeks only worked for themselves. Do you think this is a good way to build things? If so, why? If not, why do you think they do it anyway?

Do you think the men take pride in their work being done well, when it finally comes time for the real work?

Why do you think they cut so many corners and cheat so many rules setting up the work, but then take pride in the work itself?

Who do you think has more real power in the camp, Tyurin or Der? Where does the power come from?

Why do you think Der challenges the foremen?