

Discussion Questions

These discussion questions can be used for each of the readings attachments. The first set of questions can be used for each story independently. The story specific questions are next, and the final set of questions can be used to compare and contrast the ideas between stories.

All readings

- What is the central idea of the piece?
- How does the author describe the ghosts?
- In what ways are the descriptions of heaven and ghosts similar?
- Look at the dialogue in each story. How does it propel the action? How does it reveal aspects of the characters?
- What is the tone of each story? How does the main character react to the tone?

Look Homeward, Angel Excerpt

- What is Eugene Gant trying to learn from the ghost of his brother Ben?

Julia Wolfe's Trip to Heaven

- Julia Wolfe tells of a visit to heaven. What does she tell her interviewer about the experience?

The Nunne'hi- Cherokee Legend

- In "The Nunne'hi", what do the people question about the boy's story?
- How do the Cherokee explain the ghostly spirits?

Compare/Contrast

- How is this Cherokee story similar or different from Thomas Wolfe's visit with Ben?
- How are these portrayals of heaven similar to or different from portrayals of heaven in modern religions?
- How does modern culture view folklore and what role it plays in our life?