

Heart of Darkness

Mr. Beckett

2020




Four Important take-aways from HOD

- Darkly conservative view of people
- Ambiguous impressionist style of writing
- Modern psychology of evil
- Is this racist tale redeemable?

Nature of People

Like *Lord of the Flies*, *Heart of Darkness* has a negative view of people.
That is to say: people are essentially selfish, driven by their impulses.



PENGUIN  CLASSICS

THOMAS HOBBS

Leviathan



Conservative thinker: Thomas Hobbes

- Hobbes, *Leviathan*:

Hereby it is manifest that, during the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe, they are in that condition which is called war, and such a war as is of every man against every man....[and under such conditions] the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.



Conservative thinker: Edmund Burke

Burke: Reflections of the Revolution in France:
When ancient opinions and rules of life are taken away, the loss cannot possibly be estimated. From that moment we have no compass to govern us; nor can we know distinctly to what port we steer. ...Along with its natural protectors and guardians, learning will be cast into the mire, and trodden down under the hoofs of a swinish multitude.



Conservative thinker: Joseph Conrad

- You can't understand. How could you?— with solid pavement under your feet, surrounded by kind neighbours ready to cheer you or to fall on you, stepping delicately between the butcher and the policeman, in the holy terror of scandal and gallows and lunatic asylums— how can you imagine what particular region of the first ages a man's untrammelled feet may take him into by the way of solitude—utter solitude without a policeman— by the way of silence—utter silence, where no warning voice of a kind neighbour can be heard whispering of public opinion? These little things make all the great difference. When they are gone you must fall back upon your own innate strength, upon your own capacity for faithfulness.

Many fear COVID-19 will cause social breakdown. But something quite different is happening

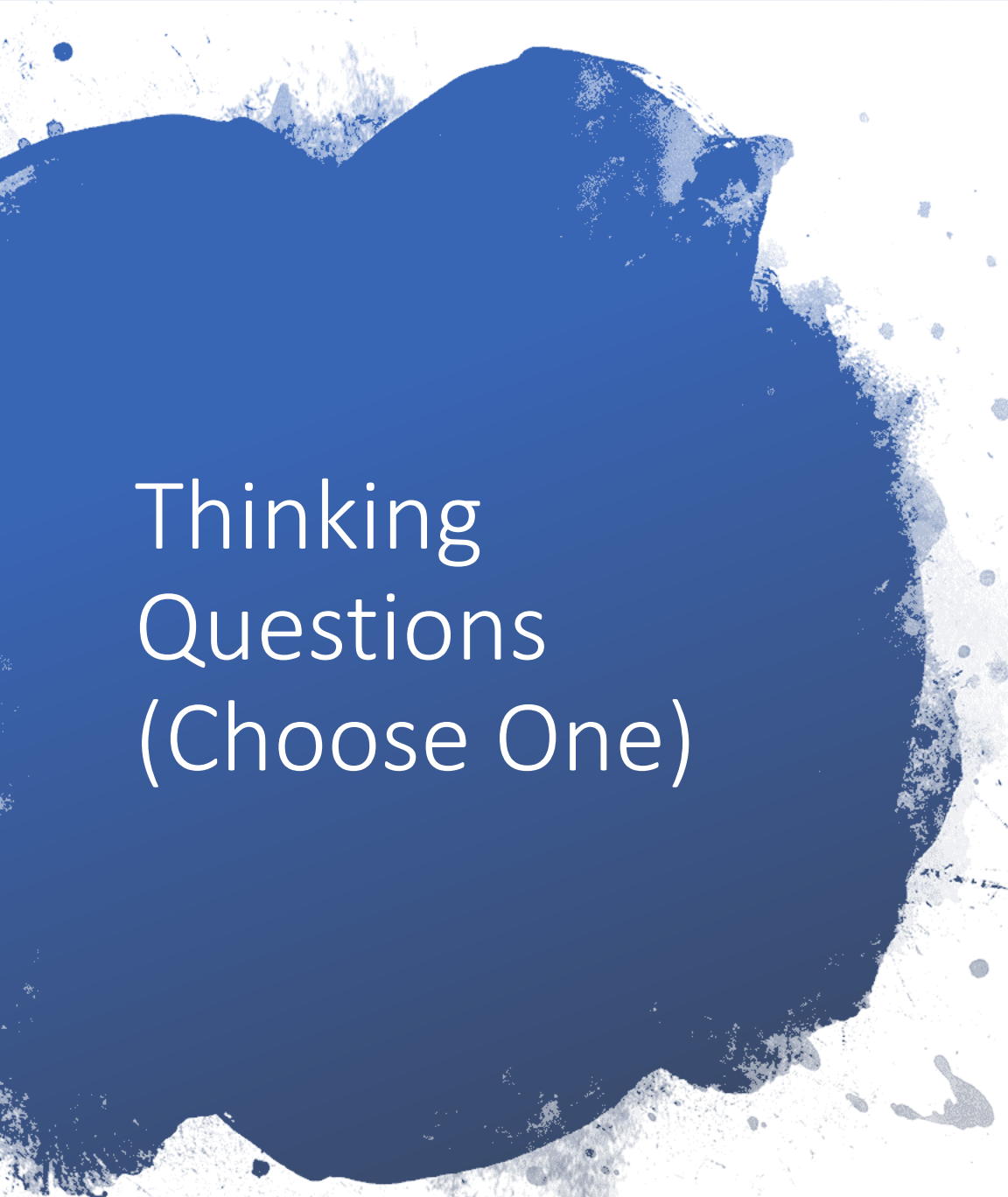


By **Jordan Himelfarb** Star Politics Editor

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The nature of
people...

- <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/star-columnists/2020/04/03/many-fear-covid-19-will-cause-social-breakdown-but-something-quite-different-is-happening.html>



Thinking Questions (Choose One)

1. With no one to watch over us are we likely to do good or bad?
2. Do institutions, school, government religion, laws, etc help or hinder people in being good?