

**“The Lamp At Noon” Questions**

1. A central conflict in this story is between humans and nature. What is the setting and how does it affect the relationship of the husband and wife?

2. The narrative is told from a third person omniscient point of view, which means the narrator reveals both characters’ internal thoughts, feelings and motivations. How does this point of view affect your understanding of characters in the story and your feelings about them?

3. Ellen presents arguments for leaving the farm and Paul counters with arguments for remaining on the farm. Explain at least three of these arguments for both Ellen and Paul.

<u>Ellen</u>	<u>Paul</u>

4. Who do you agree with? Why?

5. How do you know if Ellen and Paul’s baby is alive or dead at the end of the story? Look up “tragedy” in the dictionary. What is the tragedy in this story?

6. Pathetic fallacy is a literary device that uses the natural world as a mirror for the emotional state of the characters. Explain how Ross uses this device to create meaning in the short story.