

John Winthrop – Discussion Questions and Talking Points

From D2L Posts:

1. How many surviving children?
2. Focuses on Love, Community, Mercy, Covenant, Justice.
3. Did everyone agree to this? What happened to those who didn't and/or disobeyed? And, if most people did agree on this, weren't the Puritans a bit hypocritical since about 50 years later the Salem Witch Trials took place?
4. Is well versed in the Bible. (No pun intended, I'm sure!) Far too many references? Why so many references? His proof? His means of persuasion? Backing his claims up with evidence.
5. Fear of possibility that the Puritans might separate?
6. Love for community, but what about those outside their community? Isn't that really how we should be judged?
7. Rich vs. Poor, that they are all equal, yet then goes on to describe (in detail) when and how to give to those who are poor. Irony!?
8. The Quest. / Obj. / Ans. Section – threw off my reading.
9. Community of peril?
10. Shorthand – 2ly, 3ly, 4ly, etc.
11. Single "S" vs. the double "SS" of today – princes or princess.
12. We writes nothing of their journey, as Smith and Bradford did.
13. He was married three times, and all of his wives died before him. Was this common? If so, why? Did women live shorter lives, or did he just marry older women?

Other Things:

1. Sermons – one of the most popular literary forms of the time period.
2. The sermon as speech / oratory – techniques – lists; numbering; questions and answers; objections and responses; repetition; forecasting; transitions; climax; call to action.
3. Puritanism was also about education, from a learned clergy, for educating their audience.
4. Calvinism.
5. Covenant theology.
6. His journal, which is not included in our textbook, is more revealing about the day-to-day life of the Puritans – records providences (such as the story of the mouse vs. the snake); Roger Williams (left to found Rhode Island in 1636? 1644?); Anne Hutchinson (antinomianism) and her banishment, her child, her death (killed by the Indians); justifications of their harsh actions; a miscarriage; his speech on liberty and obedience.