



The Letter from Jerome Busleyden to Thomas More

1. What “service” does More’s book provide to readers, according to the opening paragraph of Busleyden’s letter?
2. Do you agree with Busleyden that *Utopia* reflects More’s “consummate learning” and “complete knowledge of the world”? Why or why not? What does the work reveal about More’s education and knowledge exactly?
3. After reading *Utopia*, how do you think the Utopian commonwealth compares to the “much lauded commonwealths of the Spartans, Athenians, and Romans”?
4. To which key subject has Utopia “devoted its energies,” according to Busleyden? Why is this emphasis a wise approach, according to Busleyden? Where in Books 1 and 2 do you see *Utopia* demonstrating this focus and approach?
5. What causes injustice in commonwealths, according to Busleyden? What is the way to escape such disasters?
6. What does Busleyden think a commonwealth can learn by studying More’s *Utopia*?
7. How do you assess Busleyden’s closing claim that More is the “glory” of Britain? In what might such glory consist?

Poem on Utopia by Gerhard Geldenhauer

1. How might *Utopia* satisfy a reader’s desires?
2. What are the key benefits of reading *Utopia*, according to Geldenhauer? How might it be that *Utopia* reveals the “very sources [*fontes*] of right and wrong”?

Poem to the Reader by Cornelis de Schrijver

1. What specifically can a reader see, learn, or experience by studying More’s *Utopia*? Does it actually reveal to readers “the sources [*fontes*] of the virtues”?
2. How do these poems compare to the other poems in the parerga to *Utopia*?

The Letter of John Desmarais to Peter Giles

1. What does More possess that makes him capable of contending with “antiquity itself”?
2. How is Utopia like “a mirror”?
3. What does Desmarais think readers should borrow from the Utopians?
4. How do you assess the claim that readers must “weigh all of [Utopia’s] elements carefully” if they are to benefit fully from More’s services and gain “even greater profit” from the book? What specific details from Book 2 benefit from being weighed carefully in this manner?

Poem on the New Island of Utopia by John Desmarais

1. The poem claims that the gift of *Utopia* is “the total sum of all virtue.” What kind of virtues do “earth-born men” need most, according to *Utopia*? Does *Utopia* foster all of the virtues listed by Desmarais in other commonwealths? Are there any virtues not listed in the poem that you think *Utopia* fosters?

The Letter of Thomas More to Peter Giles

1. What kind of response from a reader “thoroughly delighted” Thomas More and why, according to the opening of the letter? What are some of this reader’s key characteristics?
2. What is More’s response to this reader, who has discovered “some things rather absurd” in the account of Utopia?
3. How does More respond to the reader’s doubt “whether the work is true or fictitious”? What is your assessment of More as an author here? What do the letters to Giles reveal about More’s understanding of authorship and his self-presentation?
4. What approach should those readers who are still “incredulous” about Utopia take, according to More’s counsel at the end of the letter?

Hans Holbein Illustration of the Serpents and Dove

1. How might this image, and the verses surrounding it in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, illuminate *Utopia* and its concerns?