

Creative Writing Questions

The Path to the Sun

1. Describe some examples of imagery, figurative language used in the book.
2. Metaphor is used throughout the novel. Identify some examples and what you think they mean.
3. How do Kiran's behavior and actions reveal his character? Find eight examples. Choose one of the other characters—Roh, Bria, Kail, Deke—and do the same.
4. What purpose does Old Horan serve in the story? What about Bhau or Pel?
5. Why does the author take the time to describe the brush pine clinging to the crevice in the opening scene? What does it symbolize?



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6. The last line of the first chapter summarizes Kiran's life. How?

7. Near the end of chapter three, Kiran looks to the sky and asks, "Why me?" There is no answer. Why is this significant? What literary device is being used?

8. Discuss the description of the tornado and how it embodies Kiran's unique perspective of the world at that time.

9. Deke is the antagonist, but is symbolic of an idea, the much more pervasive "antagonist." What is it?

10. How does the style of *The Path to the Sun* impact the meaning? The author's voice?

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11. Choose two of the following to compare and contrast:
- The opening Temple scene, where Kiran stands on the altar platform to the final Temple scene.
 - The description of how Kiran envisions the robes will feel and how they actually feel.
 - The description of the village at the beginning, then at the end.
 - The opening scene, Kiran standing on the ledge, to the scene where he is back on the ledge with Elder Morgan.
 - The moment on the mountain with the squirrel to the moment when the monkey-man hears danger.
- How do these SHOW a change in Kiran's perspective or what he's learned on the journey?

12. According to the book, *The Writer's Journey, Mythic Structure for Writers* by Christopher Vogler, all stories follow a certain structure found universally in myths, fairy tales, dreams, and modern stories know collectively as The Hero's Journey. (Vogler's web site is <http://www.thewritersjourney.com>) Identify the twelve stages of the Hero's Journey as presented in *The Path to the Sun*. Discuss the mythical archetypes and how they manifest in the characters.

13. *The Path to the Sun* uses the open-ended story form where the dramatic questions presented are not answered, but are left for the reader to ponder. This format is often used when an author wants to leave moral conclusions to the reader or to pose new questions that will linger for the reader long after the book is finished. Discuss the pros and cons of an open-ended form and why the author of *The Path to the Sun* might have chosen to use it.

14. What is the moral of *The Path to the Sun*? Is a moral necessary in every story?