**Mary Rowlandson Captivity Narrative Questions**

1. What is Rowlandson’s main purpose for writing this account?
2. What is Rowlandson’s attitude towards the Native Americans?
3. List some of the words used to describe the Native Americans.
4. What is Rowlandson’s attitude towards her children?
5. How does Rowlandson use imagery to convey her terror during the attack on her house?
6. What is the effect of the arrangement of the narrative into “removes”? Why are they called “removes”?
7. This narrative was a “best seller” in the colonies when it was published. Why do you think that was so?
8. What is an allusion?
9. Write a quick summary of the story of Jacob in the Bible.
10. Why does Rowlandson use an allusion to Jacob? What is the relationship there?
11. What is propaganda?
12. How could Rowlandson’s writing be seen as propaganda?
13. How does the Puritan faith in predestination and the evilness of man show up in her narrative? How does it influence her understanding of her own actions and actions beyond her control? Who is in charge here?
14. Do you think the narrative can be a metaphor for a spiritual journey, a process of journeying through the darkness of one’s soul into the light? What makes you agree or disagree with this interpretation? Use a specific reference from the text.
15. The Puritans believed that “afflictions” serve as God’s tool to remind people of their sinful ways, and afflictions force people to realize that only complete submission to God’s “providence” (providing for them) can assure them of salvation. Rowlandson titles her work *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*… In the end, does she view her captivity as a good thing, a bad thing, or a mixture? Explain.