

Group Discussion of The Bridge of San Luis Rey

Character \_\_\_\_\_ Groups

Members \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure: Introduce yourselves, choose a spokesperson, answer questions, find quotes if you can, and record page numbers. Spokespersons: Write your group's answers to the questions below and number them. Use back if necessary. Turn in at end of discussion.

Taking into consideration the philosophical questioning inspired by the accident and Brother Juniper's project, assess your character's life and death. Wilder offers four different schema within the novel for doing just that; apply them to your character.

1. Brother Juniper's system for ranking souls (p. 98);
2. in their deaths we see punishment for some, reward for others, mercy for others (p. 101)
3. Brother Juniper's hypothesis that each of the lives lost was a "perfect whole" (p. 8);
4. Uncle Pio's "Calvinism" of love--those who have suffered for it and those who haven't (p. 83).