Reading Questions for “The Myth of Sisyphus”

Directions: As you read “The Myth of Sisyphus” note potential answers to the following questions. When you are finished, write the answer or the quote (with explanation) which answers the question in the space provided.

1. Why did the gods condemn Sisyphus to roll the rock up the mountain?

2. In the myth, why didn’t Sisyphus want to return to the underworld?

3. Why is Sisyphus the “absurd hero”?

4. What were Sisyphus’ passions?

5. What moment of Sisyphus’ labor particularly interests Camus? Why?

6. Why is Sisyphus’ consciousness important?

7. Why is Sisyphus’ torture paradoxical?

8. What is the “absurd victory”? 

9. From what does the feeling of the absurd arise?

10. In what sense does Oedipus’ comment “I conclude that all is well” make fate a “human matter”?

11. How does Sisyphus’ happiness relate to Meursault in The Stranger?