**“Zen…” Discussion Questions**

**Chapter 1**

1. What is a “Chautauqua?” Why have they fallen out of style according to Pirsig and how does he feel about this? (pg 3)
2. What is “national consciousness” and what does Pirsig compare it to? What does it mean to “cut deeply rather than broadly” in terms of thought? (pg 3)
3. Why are people so alienated from technology despite the necessity and importance of it in our society today? What is Pirsig’s view of technology? (pg 6)
4. After finishing the chapter, consider the major concepts and questions Pirsig brings up. What major concepts/ideas can we expect to see more of in the novel as we read?

**Chapter 2**

1. What does Pirsig believe to be the reason for the mechanics failure to properly fix his cycle? How can we connect this to Pirsig’s view on “deep” thought versus “broad” thought? (pgs 10-11)
2. Explain what Pirsig means by this quote, “*In their own way they were achieving the same thing John and Sylvia were, living with technology without really having anything to do with it. Or rather, they had something to do with it, but their own selves were outside of it, detached, removed*.” (pg 11)
3. How does Pirsig view maintenance manuals? What does this have to do with with novel and Pirsig’s purpose in writing it?

**Chapter 3**

1. What does Pirsig mean when he says, “Those Indians and medieval men were just as intelligent as we are, but the context in which they thought was completely different”?
2. PRACTICE: Write your OWN question from this chapter.