**Year of Wonders**: Chapter 15: **Apple-Picking Time** – Questions & Notes

* This is ‘technically’ the final ‘chapter’ (the next chapter is called an epilogue)

1. Download and read ‘Chapter 15 Analysis.pdf’ and then write ‘Done’.

**Style & key idea:** the opening three words of the Chapter: “They buried Faith…” [Faith means the baby – but also has a second meaning…] – **sets the tone** and **key idea** for this chapter: that the plague has borne a terrible cost, not just in lives, but in people’s **trust and faith in existing ways of understanding the world** (e.g. their belief in the goodness of the world, and of a God who actively seeks to protect them).   
  
This would certainly make a good comparison with The Crucible: to what extent do any of the characters lose faith? (Hale to some extent? Proctor? Any others?) and if they do not – then **why?** (this would make for a key comparison).

1. **Structure:** Why is the title of this chapter the same as the title for Chapter 1?  
   Extension: see if you can find more than one reason.

**Natural medicine/healing:** On page 268 we see that Anna has transformed/grown further still and now appears to truly be the successor to the Gowdies.

1. As a complex symbol, what different meanings can you infer when Anna rides Anteros?  
   *i.e. what different things could it symbolise or mean?*

**Plot & structure:** on **p270** the plot returns to where it was at the start.

Extension 1: feminist characterisation: Anna: read pages 273 (half-way down) until page 275 (half-way down) and write some notes and include some quotes that show how Anna has outgrown the early limited view of her as a meek and disempowered maid, and who now appears to have grown into an independent and empowered woman.

**Anna quotes:** “I understood that where Michael Mompellion had been broken by our shared ordeal, I had been tempered, made strong.” p.274

“For once, I did not flinch from his [Mompellion’s] stare”. p275

1. pages 280-81:  
   A) What is ‘the truth’ behind the Mompellions’ marriage?

How does it change your opinion **and why**, about:  
B) Michael Mompellion (*there’s a lot to write for this!)*:  
C) Elinor Mompellion:

Note: There is some complex psychology and ideas at play here, especially with Michael Mompellion… If you have any insights, please include them.

**Note: feminist representations:** that Anna chooses Elinor over Michael reaffirms the author’s **value** in the power of female relationships. (*You could unpack this idea a lot further, as to what this ‘power’ may entail).* There are more details about their particular relationship on pp.282-3.

1. A) Record quote: toward the bottom of p.287 there is a quote about **wonders** – please record it.  
     
   B) Explain this quote – what does it suggest, who is the **wonder** to which this quote refers? and how does it deepen our understanding of what the **wonders** in this year, might be?
2. **Unfair treatment of women:** What more do we learn about Mrs. Bradford in this chapter, and how do the events of this passage deepen into the theme of the mistreatment of women? *Consider the horrible predicament Elizabeth is put into, where she must choose between killing a baby, or killing her mother’s reputation and marriage… What would you have chosen?* p.288-9

p.289 is another good example of Anna’s growth, and how the **systems of power are now disintegrating** (at least temporarily):  
Elizabeth Bradford: ‘Do not speak to me so!’  
Anna: ‘I will speak to you howsoever I choose!’

This may seem trivial: but in this society, social hierarchy and power structures are very important. If it were not at the end of a pandemic that has flipped everything around, then Anna would likely be punished for speaking like this (at least would lose her job, not that she wants that job now).

1. Why does Anna leave Eyam? (pp.293-4).
2. How does Anna ‘save’ (Michael) Mompellion? (I think this refers to an incident earlier in the chapter, but you can answer it here).