**Year of Wonders**: Chapter 10: **Among Those That Go Down to the Pit** – Questions & Notes

1. Download and read ‘Chapter 10 Analysis.pdf’ and then write ‘Done’.
2. Keep this question in mind as you read/listen/summarise/revise this chapter, and then come back and do your best to answer.

* How important are **traditions** to the people of Eyam during this period of social upheaval? *Try to find a few.*

1. How would you describe Michael Mompellion and his efforts during this part of the plague?  
     
   Extension: include some details. (There’s a good quote at the bottom of page 160.)

**Theme: fear and atonement:** We learn of Jakob Merrill and how he has mistreated his wife (another example in the text of the unfair treatment of women); however, now that he is faced with death (and the tragedy of the plague) he can see the error in his ways – and feels guilty for the way he has treated his wife, and worries for the future of his children when he is gone. In this way, the plague (and fear of imminent death) has **improved** the humanity of this character.   
**Comparison:** can you think of any characters who **atone** (and become better people)because of the tragedies in The Crucible?

1. What are the two primary purposes of Anna and Elinor’s work (what are the two main things they are hoping to achieve)?

**Feminine wisdom idea:** with Mem and Anys gone, the chain of sacred knowledge and its passing has been broken, and so Anna and Elinor have to struggle through trial and error. It is fortunate that they have access to all of the Gowdies’ supplies and notes and books – so that they may continue the **tradition** of the passing on of (sacred) feminine knowledge and wisdom (here’s hoping they pass it on to the next generation, and so on).

1. Explain how hard work and consistency and rhythm start to ‘heal’ – or have a positive impact on Anna (*p.166 has some examples)*. Try to include some details and/or quote/s.
2. Consider the **key idea** in the ‘Insight Chapter Analysis.pdf’ and specifically the second part: “**The breakdown of social order provides these women [Anna & Elinor] the opportunity to step outside their circumscribed roles and act with unprecedented autonomy [freedom].”**  
     
   This is a key point, but also a **key difference.  
     
   Task:** Explain how this is DIFFERENT in The Crucible and elaborate as much as you can on the consequences of this difference.
3. How does Anna’s near death experience, and eventual triumph down the mine, strengthen her for the future (allow her to heal further/strengthen her resolve/etc.)

Extension 2: how does this chapter function as a feminist text? *Explore*

**NOTE:** I think I might ‘add’ an essay topic, something like:

**Compare the portrayal of feminist issues in both texts.** *Or something similar.*

Please let me know if you are interested in a topic such as this – and I’ll add it to the official list.  
  
I imagine it could allow you to come up with some unique and original ideas and comparisons.