**Year of Wonders**: Chapter 3: **The Thunder of his Voice** – Questions & Notes

1. Download and read ‘Chapter 3 Analysis.pdf’ and then write ‘Done’.  
   *If you have a printer, print and try to highlight any quotes or key points*.
2. Without overthinking it, what are your first thoughts on the Chapter title – what associations do you make, what character/s might it connect to, what might it foreshadow, any thoughts at all!

**Comparison quote:** “Despite the **common opinion** of her in the village, I had always had admiration for Anys” (48). = **Similar to Crucible** – in that there is power in ‘common opinion’; it also suggests that the people in both societies like to gossip and talk about one another.

1. **Character study: Anys Gowdie** is a key character – and would make an excellent **comparison** with Abigail Williams.  
     
   a) In your own words, how would you describe Anys Gowdie?   
   **extension:** try to embed some short quotes in your answer.  
     
   b) At this point of the story, how does Anna seem to feel about Anys?  
     
   c) **Comparison: Anys vs Abigail:** *dot-points or paragraph*In what key ways are they similar?  
   In what key ways are the different?

Extension 1: What is “blasphemy” and how is it relevant in this Chapter (or any chapter in the book)?

Extension 2: what is the significance of “since the return of the king” (top of page 49)? *nothing to do with LOTR!* – what has changed since Charles’ return? (this is a **context** question, which should be in the contextual readings from Monday).

**Repressed desire:** there is another example on mid page 49, as Anna imagines George ‘measuring’ Anys for a dress.

**Author’s CONCERN:** Through Anna, Brooks communicates her concern about the dangers of repressing female desire and sexuality. She explores how, in this time (and in history in general) women’s desires have been demonised and their freedoms repressed.

**Author’s VALUEs:** all of the characteristic of Anys and Mem Gowdie! Including their understanding of herbs and natural medicines, Anys’ unapologetic sexuality – these are all things the author **values**.

**Comparison : Who/what is responsible for the TRAGEDIES in both texts:**on page 49-50 we learn that ALL of the villagers who had cloth or clothes from Mr Viccars wanted to keep their wares, and NONE would let Anna burn it, despite the fear that it may have **contagion**. Therefore it could be argued that **greed** is what causes the spread of the plague (although it may have happened anyway).

**On the other hand**, for the villagers of Salem, it is **suspicion, distrust, paranoia and rumour** that seems to create the conditions for the tragedies, caused by how repressive the society is, especially on young women.

**Therefore,** the primary causes pf the tragedies are **different** – however, if you think hard enough, can you find some similarities?

1. *Page 54:* Why does Anys not want to get married?  
     
   Extension: express this as a potential **VIEW** of the author, and certainly a view of Anys   
   (you can find the answer to this in the Chapter Analysis).
2. **Comparison:**  
   Page 55: Find and record the quote that starts “Dark and light” and finishes with “view the world.”  
     
   Explain: what is the **similarity** between how Anna has been taught to view the world (by the Puritan minister before Mompellion came) and the way that the characters in The Crucible view the world?

**Theme: the role of women – page 55**

**Record important quote: p55: “**in many ways, the wellbeing of our village rested more on [Anys’] works, and those of her aunt, than on the works of the rectory’s occupant” (meaning whoever is in charge of the local church).  
  
**View:** women and traditional medicine are more important to **wellbeing** than organised religion.

**And then, nek paragraph:** Anna says she sees the Hancock women (who are toiling in the fields) through Anys’s eyes “**shackled to their menfolk as surely as the plough-horse to the shares”** = powerful quote comparing women to animals, in how they are used, and showing how they have about as much freedom.  
  
Key idea: **Anys has opened Anna’s eyes** – by being a strong, independent woman who is confident in her own wants and needs, she has encouraged/empowered Anna to view the world around her with more truth (see the truth of how women are treated).

1. How does Mr. Bradford treat his wife? *Pages 57-58.*

Note: **plot & characterisation:** even though we dislike the Bradfords, readers are encouraged to feel sympathy for Mrs. Bradford, which becomes relevant near the end of the novel, when we learn how she has been treated by her husband, and which leads to a new opportunity for Anna.

Extension 3: compare Colonel Bradford with Thomas Putnam. Similarities? Differences?

**Interesting!** Note the argument between Bradford and Mompellion: Mompellion argues that it is essential to contain the spread of the plague, while Bradford feels it safer to try to out run it. This is not the same argument we are currently having in regard to covid – but there are similarities – e.g. is it wiser to try and contain it (which is what we have been doing, successfully, but also at great cost); or should we have said ‘stuff it’ and let the virus take the old and vulnerable (and many young also)? Or perhaps there was/is another option?

Extension 4: *Pages 58* – Why is Colonel Bradford so pleased/proud to have Elinor Mompellion as his dinner guest?

1. **Ideas/Author’s VVCs**: note that many of the physicians, surgeons and Anglican ministers all flee London once the Plague breaks out (all the types of professions that the people will really need). What do you think the author might be trying to ‘say’ by including this information? What might Brooks’ **concerns** be (e.g. about how those in power treat those not in power; how they respect/don’t respect their responsibilities; about the nature of pandemics and how people act in them? She particularly points out **that Anglican ministers left London** – can we draw a **similarity** here between these ministers and Reverend Parris?

Try to write a couple of sentences that explore the author’s possible concerns here (e.g. try to paraphrase some of the concerns I have listed above, or come up with your own).

1. Short answer: How do you think Brooks wants us to feel about the rich and powerful [characters]?
2. **Key Comparison question:** Compare the ways in which **patriarchy**\* is presented in Year of Wonders vs. The Crucible, i.e. where do we see evidence of the patriarchy? What roles do they fulfil? Do ‘they’ (men) have all of the power? How do they use their power? How do they treat the female characters? Are they presented sympathetically (do we feel *for* the men in power)? or critically (e.g. through a feminist lens)? Or both?

\* **patriarchy** = “a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.”

Give this question some thought. Please leave room to add notes to – as this could become part of an essay/test response.

Try to start using **the language of comparison:**

Connectives to show **similarity**:

* Similarly,
* Akin to this
* Not dissimilarly,
* On one hand,
* Convergingly, (which means ‘becoming similar’)

Connectives to show **difference**:

* Divergingly (become less similar/ more different)
* Dissimilarly,
* Alternatively,
* Contrastingly,
* On the other hand,