# “By the Waters of Babylon” Questions

1. How do you respond to the line from the story that says, “ it is better to lose one’s life than one’s spirit…?

2. Father says, “Perhaps, in the old days, they ate knowledge too fast.” In your opinion does our society “eat knowledge too fast? Explain your answer.

3. In what way is John different from his brothers? What are his responsibilities?

4. Why does John set out on his journey? Why is John’s journey particularly dangerous?

5. Describe three things John sees in the Place of the Gods.

6. What significant piece of information about the “gods” does John learn on his journey?

7. What is the significance of the journey to John and his people?

8. Explain why John’s father wants to keep secret what John has learned about the Place of the Gods.

9. Explain the title of the story. Why is it appropriate that this story would appear in a collection called *Thirteen O’Clock*?

10. How do you think John’s people can best avoid repeating the mistakes that led to the destruction of civilization in the past?

11. When does this story take place? Find at least three facts, incidents, or details the reveal the time period.

12. UBTREAS refers to the Subtreasury Building. To what do the following refer? a. ASHING; b. Ou-dis-sun.

13. What is meant by the Dead Places?

14. Compare and contrast the world of John’s people with the world of those who lived in the Place of the Gods.