**Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound***

Directions: Today you will work with a small group to analyze *Prometheus Bound* and discuss the qualities of the play you found to be important or significant in some way. Of course you may discuss any questions, connections, or highlights from your DEJ, but you must also work together to discuss the questions below. Be prepared to present your findings tomorrow in class. This counts as a quiz grade.

1. The setting: Prometheus is being nailed and chained to a rocky crag in the Caucasus Mountains of Scythia, far from civilization. All the action of the play takes place here. What is the significance of this remoteness?
2. Who has the first words at the opening of the *Prometheus Bound*? With no introductory comments, or director's notes, how does Aeschylus help us to know what kind of a character Might is?
3. What is the task of Hephaestus? What is his attitude toward the task? Is there unity among the divinities carrying out the orders of Zeus? Might just said that Prometheus "must learn to endure and like the sovreignty of Zeus." Does Hephaestus "like" this particular manifestation of the sovreignty of Zeus? Do the other characters of this play? How long will Prometheus's punishment last? What is wrong with what Prometheus has done?
4. How does Prometheus describe his role in the Titanomachy? Why did the Titans reject his offer of help? What, in his view, was his decisive contribution to the victory of the Olympians? How is this different from Hesiod's description of the Olympian defeat of the Titans?
5. Describe the nature of Zeus's rule? How long has he been supreme? Is he all-powerful, or are there forces that he must acknowledge and take into account? What leverage does Prometheus have over Zeus?
6. What is the attitude of the Chorus, daughters of Oceanos, toward what is happening? Where do their sympatheties lie? with Prometheus? with Zeus? In what matters are their loyalties divided between the two?
7. When Oceanos enters he describes his ride on a winged sea-creature: "with the mind, no bridle needed, I direct my swift-winged bird" (l. 287). How is this detail--he doesn't elaborate on it--relevant to an important theme of the play? What hint does it provide about his initial attitude toward Prometheus's situation?
8. What does Oceanos offer Prometheus? How is it received by Prometheus? As Oceanos leaves, what is the lesson, by his account, he has learned from this visit? How does it reflect on Prometheus's character?
9. In the following dialogue between Prometheus and the Chorus (lines 437-524), how does Prometheus describe his contributions to humankind? How does this compare with Hesiod's description of P's benefits to mortals?
10. What does Io learn from Prometheus? What coincidence connects Io and Prometheus? 50 Egyptian maidens will come unwillingly to Greece (Argos, the 'Pelasgian earth') and take foreign husbands, whom they will murder on their wedding night, except for one. Why doesn't she take her husband's life? How does this relate to the larger themes of the play? 'A man renowned for archery' (871) refers to Heracles (Latin 'Hercules').
11. What is Hermes's purpose in coming to Prometheus? What is Prometheus's response to him? What role do the daughters of Oceanos play in this exchange between Hermes and Prometheus? Where do their loyalties lie? Dramatically speaking, how does their support of Prometheus balance the tension in this closing scene?
12. Prometheus's last words reveal that the cataclysms promised by Zeus are coming to pass. What does Zeus's attention to Prometheus reveal about the character and stature of Prometheus? At the opening of the play Prometheus entered in silence. How does that image contrast with this one? Despite his remoteness from civilization he is visited by two gods and a mortal, in addition to the chorus (daughters of Ocean): Ocean himself, Io, and Hermes. What does this suggest about his importance?