1. What do you think of the narrator's apparent lack of knowledge about Omelas and odd shifts in tone? Do you think the narrator is reliable? Does the narrator seem to be trying to convince the reader to feel a certain way about the city? Use examples from the text.

2. Consider the **setting**. Did you imagine Omelas as a modern day city or as a more old-fashioned, traditional place without much technology? When the narrator told you to imagine it however you want, how did that make you feel? Do you like the idea of interaction between the reader and the narrator? Why or why not?

3. To get a grasp of the **theme** in this story, you need to examine the **conflict**. What is it? (Hint: It’s a *moral* conflict, an apparent dilemma, a paradox.) How do you think you would handle the conflict? Would you be one of the ones who walk away from Omelas?

4. **Utilitarianism** is the doctrine that actions are right if they are useful, or if they are for the benefit of a majority (many describe it as the doctrine that an action is right insofar as it promotes happiness, and that the greatest happiness of the greatest number should be the guiding principle of conduct). How does this apply to the story? Do you think our society would work better if **utilitarianism** became the norm? Why or why not?

5. You might notice that this story doesn't really have a **plot**. This is about what *happens* (the status quo), not what *happened* (an incident). If you were to begin a story about an incident, picking up where Le Guin leaves off, what might you write about? What plot lines does this description of a society open up?