**Numbered Heads Together**

**Chapters 13-15**

**Directions:**

1. **Assign each member of your group a number.**
2. **Make sure you have your books with you, something to write with, and your computer open to our discussion conference.**
3. **Make sure each person types a response to the question. Also, make sure that your group finds textual evidence (quote and page number) to support each answer.**
4. **Discuss your answer and then type them out (separately). Each member of the group should be prepared to explain your answer quickly and clearly if called upon to do so.**
5. What is the name of the village in which Ivan and Daphne encounter the Noun Man? Find the quote and page number to support your answer.
6. When does Ivan first use the balm of friendship, and why is it necessary for him to do so? Find the quote to support your answer.
7. How is Measure different from the villages of Radix, Tessellate, and Flora? Find a quote in chapter 13 to prove it.
8. Reread the description of Flora in the first two paragraphs on page 153. What does the physical layout and design tell you about the town’s personality? Give at least three specific details and say what each one suggests about the town and its atmosphere.
9. Reread the description of Mr. Nomen’s house (from “He led them up a rickety stair…” to “all she said, in as complimentary a voice as she could muster, was, ‘Flowers!’” Again, what do the physical details of setting tell you about Mr. Nomen and his life? Give at least two details and explain what they reveal.
10. Why is it that Mr. Nomen is so bitter? What does he hope to do to overcome his bitterness? What does his request tell you about him?
11. The old gentleman in the tower at the center of Flora used to be the postmaster. Why has his job become unnecessary? Why is it still, in many ways, essential to Flora? What does this tell you about the necessity of language and writing even when it is banned or restricted? Make some real world connections.
12. Why are Lily and Abel referred to as “witches”? What, in fact, do they do? And, why – given the kind of place Flora is – would their activities seem witch-like?
13. Reread page 168 where Lily and Abel explain Flora’s history to Ivan and Daphne. What kind of village was Flora before “the townspeople started to argue” (168)? Why did the townspeople start to argue? What kinds of real-world situations might their arguments be like (either in history or in today’s world)?
14. According to Lily and Abel, how were the children of Flora like the bees? What does it tell you about Flora that neither children nor bees are able to live there? If Flora was a place in our world, where would it be and why?
15. Reread the description of the pixels that draw away Flora’s children (page 171). What might they represent in our world? How do you know?
16. Despite Flora’s efforts to factionalize (divide) itself, Abel tells Ivan and Daphne that “the tragedy is, the impoverishment of language that these jealous villages have brought on themselves may soon spread across Lexicon” (172). Now, consider that the definition of situational irony is when the opposite of what is expected or intended to happen actually does happen. How, then, might Flora’s effect on all of Lexicon be an example of situational irony?
17. How does the Mistress of Metaphor inadvertently contribute to “healing” Lexicon?
18. Where else in the novel is friendship a kind of balm or healing agent? Give at least three different and specific examples.
19. At the end, and only “for an instant, Daphne mistook [Lily] for Great Aunt Adelaide standing at her cottage door, watching them cross the barnyard in the rain” (179). Consider what Lily values and nurtures; then think back to Aunt Adelaide and her values. In what ways are these two women similar?