Comprehension Questions

1. In the opening of *Sunrise*, we see it referred to as “A Song of Two Humans”. In addition, it is referred to as a fable. How does not having names for the characters, and instead being called “The Wife” or “The Man”, make the story actually seem like a fable?
2. How does the director communicate rather quickly that The Woman From The City is the antagonist, and an unlikable character?
3. Through flashback, what do we learn about The Man and The Wife? How have their lives changed, and what do you believe has created the problem?
4. Describe what happens when The Man meets The Woman From The City? How does the director establish mood? Why does this scene feel like a horror movie?

1. How do we understand that The Man is in conflict? What does the director do to help communicate this conflict?
2. How does the city contrast with the country? Why is the man drawn to this Woman From The City and this other life?
3. Describe what happens next. If The Man kills his wife, what do you think will happen next?
4. What emotions do you believe The Wife is having once she gets on the trolley and rides in the same car with The Man? What emotions do you believe The Man is having? What does he do that tells you this?
5. Why is The Wife so inconsolable in the café? Is there any symbolism in the white flowers that The Man buys for his wife?
6. The scene in the church has been described as an emotional catharsis for The Man. An emotional catharsis is defined as a cleansing, or the release of strong or repressed emotions. How do you see this happening in this scene and how is it portrayed?
7. How do we know that The Woman From The City is still a threat to the couple?
8. In the following scenes, a new relationship seems to be evolving. How are both characters different than they were before? Before answering this question, wait for the new relationship to emerge. Wait until after the dancing scene in the amusement park before you answer this question.
9. On their way home from the city, a tragedy occurs for the young couple. What happens, and how does this affect The Man, The Wife, and The Woman From The City?
10. What do you believe The Man is going to do to The Woman From The City, and why do you believe that? Do you think he could have gone through with it? Why?
11. A fable is defined as a story that has a moral lesson. What is the moral lesson to be taken from *Sunrise*? (Hint: It is NOT “Be faithful to your spouse. Dig a bit deeper to come up with an answer.)