Discussion Questions

1. What, in your estimation, is the most memorable scene or sequence in *Sunrise*, and why do you think so?
2. What are some ways director Murnau alternates from straight, realistic treatment of the subject material to treatment that is artistically stylized in some manner? What effect does this have on your perception of the story?
3. How does the absence of spoken dialogue add to or detract from this film? How easy or difficult is it to follow the plot just by watching the screen? What effect does the music have on your interpretation of the scenes? What about the limited use of sound effects?
4. What are some ways that the second half of the story contrasts from the first half? How do the writer and director alleviate the heavy tension they build up throughout the first half? After the lighter, comic interlude, what then happens to bring tension and suspense back into the story?
5. Is the woman from the city or the farm wife a more sympathetic character? What kind of man is the husband? How does the film direct your sympathies towards or against different characters, and do they ever change at different points in the story?
6. *Sunrise* originally ran about ten to twenty minutes longer before its general release. Can you think of any sections that look as if they might have been trimmed down, or any character/story background that might have been more elaborate in a longer cut of the film?