

COMA questions for Hebrew wisdom literature and poetry

Context

- 1 • Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written?
- 2 • What has happened so far?

Observation

- 3 • Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage?
- 4 • What images or metaphors does the author use? What do they indicate about God or the other people in the text? What might they indicate about modern readers?
- 5 • What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing?
- 6 • What is the main point or points?
- 7 • What surprises are there?

Meaning

- 8 • Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?
- 9 • How does the author motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal?
- 10 • What does the passage teach us about God, and his people, and life in his world?
- 11 • Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

Application

- 12 • How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- 13 • Is there some attitude you need to change?
- 14 • How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?