

**Ishamel, by Daniel Quinn**

GeoJourney 2009

Focus Questions:

- #1. Define Takers and Leavers. What specifically is being taken?
- #2. What four things do Takers do that no other animals do?
- #3. Think of three examples each of modern-day (1800-present) Takers and Leavers.
- #4. What does Quinn suggest as “the way for people to live?”
- #5. How do Takers (us) view themselves in terms of evolutionary history? How does this view compare with that of the jellyfish?
- #6. What is “Mother Culture?” How does Mother Culture depict the natural world and our relationship to it?
- #7. Watch/read some form of popular media (a 30 minute news program is a good start) and record specific examples of Mother Culture.

NOTE: This book and these questions will serve as a discussion point throughout the GeoJourney program. It is important that you read this book BEFORE we depart in June. You should write thoughtful responses to each of these questions down and bring them with you on GeoJourney. These focus questions may be collected at any time – including the morning we depart. Material from this book will show up on your exams.