QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Brideshead Revisited: Book One

Waugh says in his preface that the theme of the novel is "the operation of divine grace on a group of diverse but closely connected characters". How does or should this foreknowledge of the theme influence our reading of the novel?

Lady Marchmain is a key figure but is she a positive or negative role model? What sort of influence does she have on the other characters?

Consider the narrative voice of Charles Ryder. What role or function does it play?

Consider the role of intertextuality. In what way does reference to other works of literature or art inform our understanding of the novel?

Compare and contrast Sebastian and Bridey. What role might their respective educations have had on their characters and beliefs?