

## Reading Questions: Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons's Watchmen

1. What different themes does this book explore? Be as detailed and exhaustive as possible.
2. Pick a panel and analyze how Moore and Gibbons combine text and visuals to their utmost effect.
3. Pick a page and analyze its overall layout. How does the page as a whole make use of the comic book format to achieve meaning and impact. You might find it helpful to consider the larger themes of Watchmen.
4. Visual motifs are recurrent images that take on specific meanings relevant to a given work. What visual motifs appear throughout Watchmen and what meanings do they suggest?
5. How does the issue of crimefighting evolve over time in the world imagined in Watchmen?
6. Consider the names "Rorschach" and "Ozymandias." Why are these particularly appropriate names for these two characters?
7. Which character or characters do you sympathize with most? Why?
8. What does Chapter IV, "Watchmaker," reveal to us about Dr. Manhattan? How does he experience time? What are his interests? How would you summarize his view of existence?
9. How do Moore and Gibbons use the imagined history in Watchmen to comment on real events in 20th century America?
10. Look closely at Chapter V, "Fearful Symmetry." How does the idea of "symmetry" play out in this chapter in both form and content?
11. What are the worldviews of Dr. Manhattan, Rorschach, and Adrian Veidt? Where do these worldviews intersect? Where do they differ?
12. What does Watchmen suggest about masked crimefighters and their costumes? Which characters bring these ideas most clearly into focus?
13. What is the purpose of the subplot involving the story from Tales from the Black Freighter? Which of the main characters does it relate to? How?
14. What specific examples of social criticism do Moore and Gibbons put forth?
15. What is your opinion of the text sections that follow each chapter? Which are most interesting? Why?
16. Which chapter is your favorite? Why? Be specific.
17. What do you think of Veidt's solution to the problems faced by the world in Watchmen?
18. What is the meaning of the book's title?
19. What do you think is the book's most significant achievement?
20. What are some other issues relevant to Watchmen that have not been covered by these questions? Be as complete as possible.

-- Contributed by Rocco Versaci