

Sample "Study Group Contribution" assignment for class on John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces*

Study Group Contributions

1. What is Ignatius like, what does he wear, how does he interpret the world, and how might his approach to his experiences help and not help him?
2. What is Boethius's *The Consolation of Philosophy*, what is its connection with the "wheel of fortune," and, in the entire course of the novel, how do different characters like Lana, Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, and Ignatius and his mother go up and down on the wheel?
3. What does the book seem to say about the state of African-Americans, how is this obvious in the lives of people like Burma Jones, and what does the book seem to say about people like Lana Lee, Ignatius, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, and Myrna Minkoff's responses to the racism of the time?