1. Who is most to blame for the events depicted in The Big Short? Why?

2. Compare the events described in The Big Short with the Great Crash of 1929, and the Depression that followed. What is different about today? What is similar?

3. How much money is enough before it becomes amoral? Is too much money ever amoral? Why is it that people who work as hard as they possibly can to make as much money as they can sometimes seem amoral, while people who work as little as they possibly can also seem amoral?

4. Describe situations in which people may commonly “bend the rules” or “work the system.” Is it ever justified? Explain.

5. A “sympathetic character” in a story is one you might identify with, one you care about, or one you might admire. Select two characters from this book. What aspects of their lives or situations make them sympathetic characters? How are their plights similar? How are they different?

6. Is the concept of credit amoral because of its commonly negative effects that are often unforeseen by borrowers?

7. If selfishness is not sharing, and greed is taking more than you need, then which is worse—selfishness or greed? If greed is taking the Permanent Fund Dividend check while selfishness is not paying any taxes, which is worse—greed or selfishness? Why?

8. How does Lewis address victims and perpetrators of crime? What ways does his reporting style affect your response to the story?

9. The financial crisis caused by sub-prime mortgages involved a complicated dynamic between three main players:
   - Bankers who created the scheme to make and take money
   - Brokers who sold mortgages to people who could not afford them
   - Homeowners who acquired mortgages they knew they could not afford

To what degree is each to blame for what happened?