

Chapter 1: Baggage

David Ferry
CORE 1000 - The Most Human Computer
Saint Louis University

Which Quote?

Which quote from the front page resonates with you most?

- The beautiful changes as a forest is changed
By a chameleon's tuning his skin to it;
As a mantis, arranged
On a green leaf, grows
Into it, makes the leaf leafier...

-Richard Wilbur

- I think metaphysics is good if it improves everyday life;
otherwise forget it.

-Robert Prigogine

- As President, I believe that robotics can inspire young people
to pursue science and engineering. And I also want to keep an
eye on those robots, in case they try anything.

-Barack Obama

Book Discussions

- Are discussions!
- Student directed!

Step 1: Conversation Starters

- The first thing you say in a book, presentation, poem, or anything has a place of prominence and sets the tone for the book. Why does the author spend the first paragraph saying how he doesn't understand British road signs?

Step 2: Content

With your group:

- Go through the chapter, and point out what you felt were the key sections. Discuss why.
- Go through again, what does this suggest as the main themes of the chapter?
- 10 minutes

Step 3: Summary

- From all the sections and themes discussed previously, pick out three with your group as the main points/themes of the chapter.
- 5 minutes

Themes on the Board

- Scribe writes the themes on the board-
one column per theme.

The Retreat

“Sometimes it seems as though each new step towards AI, rather than producing something which everyone agrees is real intelligence, merely reveals what real intelligence is not.”

-Douglas Hofstadter

- Armies retreating from the keep
- Animals using tools
- How do we evaluate “humanness”?
- Is the retreat a good or bad thing?