Small Group Discussion Questions – Castellani Class

1. Basic Question: Using these definitions and history and examples of wit as lenses, what are the qualities of wit being deployed in these examples?
2. I mainly want us to look at how wit – and even humor – is being deployed to “deliver” something else in the text: insight, drama, plot, character, etc. Another way to approach this: if we agree that wit can help a text “go deeper” in terms of insight or truth, how/where is that happening in these pages?
3. What in these texts is “merely” humorous or clever, and what is witty?
4. We’ve talked a bit about how something can be funny but not witty; but can something be witty, but not funny?
5. How do we give something that is pre-written and carefully-constructed and revised and workshopped the sense of spontaneity and improvisation and *speed* that are the hallmarks of wit?
6. This class has been neither serious nor fun. Discuss.