**Actively Reading *Heart of Darkness***

**As you read the remainder of *Heart of Darkness*, please complete the following writing activities to help ensure that you read actively.**

1. Continue to keep track of where Marlow travels after page 86 (I will collect your separate initial assignment after the first quiz). Do this by noting the page number any place he mentions moving from one specific point to another. Then discuss two specific important details concerning the place he goes and how long it takes to get there.

2. Find and discuss briefly four references to **work** or **keeping busy** in *Heart of Darkness*, and then provide a statement that explains Marlow’s position on the value of work.

3. Find three examples we haven’t discussed in class of the futility (uselessness, incongruity, stupidity) of the European presence in the Congo and discuss what Conrad seems to be suggesting in each instance. The Company’s Chief Accountant with the high starched collars (pp. 84-84) is one example of this futility.

4. Select a passage (2-3 paragraphs) from the novel that exemplify Conrad’s **impressionistic style**. Provide a short analysis of the passage, focusing on those details that most clearly reveal aspects of impressionistic writing.

5. Compare and contrast the native woman who is apparently Kurtz’s lover (pp.142-144) with Kurtz’s “intended” back in Europe. What general attitudes about woman are being expressed, and how do those attitudes fit into the novel as a whole?

6. Pick **three** of the following ***motifs*** (recurring images and/or ideas) and find at least **five** references to each. List the page reference and then discuss how the idea seems to work in the context of the novel as a whole**.** The motifs you are to select from are**: “savages”, grass, rivets, jungle, river, huts, disease, progress, madness, civilization, light, efficiency, bones/skulls/heads on stakes.**

7. Cite and discuss in some detail **three instances** when a character’s **assumptions** played a significant role in how that character acted or perceived someone else’s actions.

8. Respond to Kurtz’s final utterance. What is “the horror” to which he refers, and why are these words the final words he speaks?

9. Discuss why Conrad would use the frame story structure for this novel. In what way does this structure contribute to or enhance the meaning of the work as a whole (the themes)?