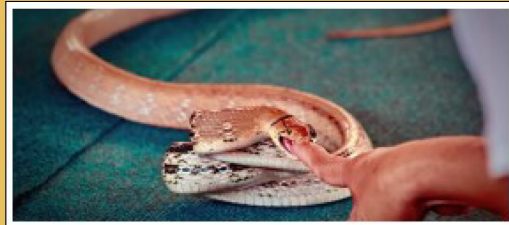
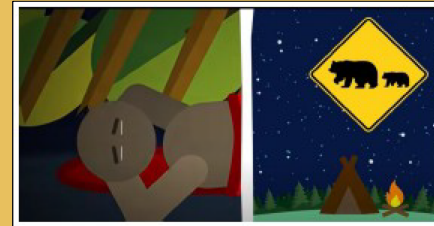
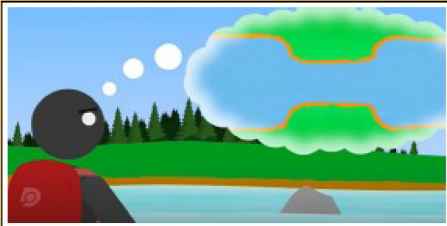


## Looking for solutions in foreign places



## Looking for solutions in foreign places

## Les modalités épistémique et radicale: Bilan

**Translate the following sentences resorting to a modal auxiliary verb for each underlined structure.**

[illegible]

- a. La mousse pousse partout où se trouve de l'ombre, donc on ne devrait pas s'y fier.
- b. La dernière fois que je me suis retrouvé avec des sangsues sur les jambes et les bras, je les ai saupoudrées de sel mais elles refusaient de lâcher prise.
- c. Il n'est pas nécessaire de les arracher cependant: on peut attendre qu'elles tombent.
- d. Il ne faut pas tenter d'aspirer le poison d'une morsure de serpent: il se pourrait que la plaie s'infecte.



## Looking for solutions in foreign places

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- a. La mousse pousse partout où se trouve de l'ombre, donc on ne devrait pas s'y fier.  
Moss will grow wherever shade may be found, so one should not rely on it.
- b. La dernière fois que je me suis retrouvé avec des sangsues sur les jambes et les bras, je les ai saupoudrées de sel mais elles refusaient de lâcher prise.  
Last time I found myself with leeches on my legs and arms, I sprinkled salt over them but they would not let go.
- c. Il n'est pas nécessaire de les arracher cependant: on peut attendre qu'elles tombent.  
You don't have to rip them off though: you can wait for them to drop.
- d. Il ne faut pas tenter d'aspirer le poison d'une morsure de serpent: il se pourrait que la plaie s'infecte.  
You must not try and suck the poison out of a snakebite: the wound might get infected.

## Looking for solutions in foreign places

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## Looking for solutions in foreign places



You're stranded in a huge rainforest and you've eaten a poisonous mushroom.

The antidote is excreted by a certain species of frog but **only the female produces it.**

The male and female occur in **equal numbers** and look **identical.**

The only detail that can tell them apart is the **male's distinctive croak.**

To your left is a frog on a tree stump.

To your right is a clearing with two frogs and you just heard a male croak coming from it.

You only have time to go in one direction before you collapse.

**Which way would you go?**

**What are your chances of survival if you head for the clearing and lick both frogs?**

**What are the odds if you go to the tree stump?**

## Looking for solutions in foreign places



### **Solution: Clearing**

There are two common incorrect ways of solving the problem.

#### **Wrong answer number one:**

Assuming there's a roughly equal number of males and females, the probability of any one frog being either sex is one in two, which is 0.5 or 50%. And since all frogs are independent of each other, the chance of any one of them being female should still be 50% each time you choose. This logic is correct for the tree stump, but not for the clearing.

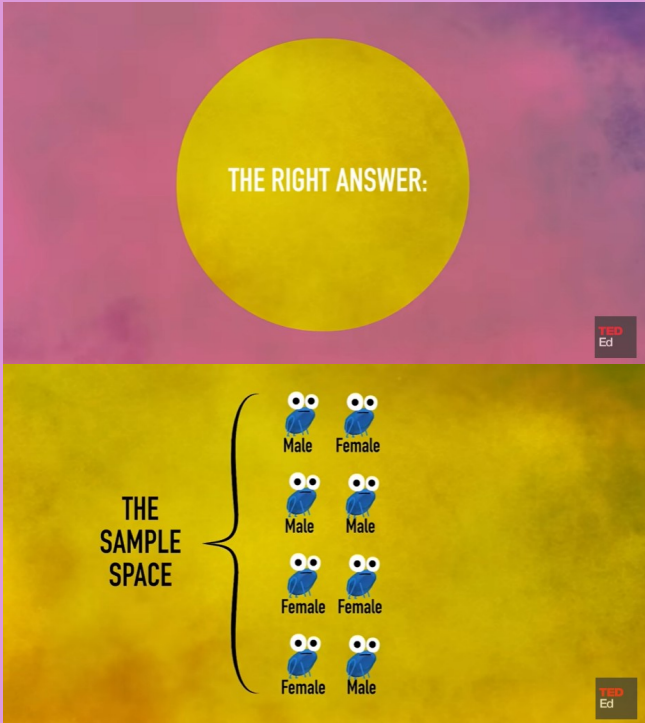
#### **Wrong answer number two:**

First you saw two frogs in the clearing. Now you've learned that at least one of them is male, but what are the chances that both are?

If the probability of each individual frog being male is 0.5, then multiplying the two together will give you 0.25, which is one in four, or 25%. So you have a 75% chance of getting at least one female and receiving the antidote – wrong!



## Looking for solutions in foreign places



**Solution: Clearing**

**Here is the right answer:**

Going to the clearing gives you a two in three chance of survival or about 67%, because of **conditional probability**.

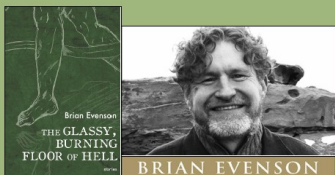
When we first see the two frogs, there are several possible combinations of male and female (male-female, male-male, female-female, female-male). This is the **sample space**. Out of the four possible combinations, only one has two males.

So why was the answer of 75% wrong?

Because the **croak** gives us additional information. As soon as we know that one of the frogs is male, that tells us there can't be a pair of females, which means we can eliminate that possibility from the sample space, leaving us with three possible combinations. Of them, one still has two males, giving us our two in three, or 67% chance of getting a female.

This is how conditional probability works. You start off with a large sample space that includes every possibility. But every additional piece of information allows you to eliminate possibilities, shrinking the sample space and increasing the probability of getting a particular combination. The point is that information affects probability.

## Looking for solutions in foreign places



In the early days of this world, lifeforms were not as distinct as they are today. There were no separate species but only a single fecund mass of creatures indiscriminately breeding, changing and existing with each new generation. With every blind coupling, new forms of creature came into existence.

More speculation, you might say, were you free to speak. Yes, speculation. Perhaps the truth, perhaps not. And yet the idea struck me as offering a compelling map for the future.

Which is why you are here.

How are you? Are you comfortable? Can I get you anything? A cup of water perhaps? A crust of bread? No, I shouldn't trouble you. We both know your needs are being provided for, being dropped slowly into your body by way of a central venous catheter. To allow you to feed yourself I would have to undo the straps that keep you immobilized. I am not sure that is such a good idea. Not until I have convinced you of the necessity of what we are trying to accomplish.

But don't worry. I am a patient man. I will not give up on you. I will convince you.

As the world sickens further, as the air grows poisonous, as the oceans die, so too must we shift and change if we are to survive. We must extricate ourselves from humanity and become something other than ourselves. Something that can adapt to the harshness of this new world. We must know the strands that differentiate us from other creatures, unravel our coding-books in just enough that our bodies are free to become more than what they are.

By us, I mean of course you.

You see these suspended bags? If you tip your head back and crane your neck and look behind you, there they are. These ones to the left, the ones blanded with clear fluid, need not concern us; they are simply meant to keep you nourished and hydrated, to keep you alive. They contain, as well, a painkiller. Nothing too addictive. Oh, rather, yes, quite addictive, but the treatment plan I have developed for you allows me to taper you off slowly. Withdrawal will not be pleasant, but you will survive it. I have learned from past mistakes.

It is this other bag that matters, the one to the right, the one filled with an absolute-colored fluid. This will enter your body much more slowly. In the time it takes for the entire bag to enter your system, we will go through a dozen bags of clear fluid. Just fine, very fine, is the bag that matters.

I drained these bags of clear fluid and need not concern us, but of course they do. Think of them as a sort of clock. By the time the first bag is empty, you will sense something beginning to happen to you. By the time you reach the fourth, your skin will feel as if it is on fire, despite the painkillers. By the sixth, you will begin to tremble.

How you will change exactly, I cannot predict. It is different for everyone and depends on what sort of choices your body makes.

Some – most, if I am being honest – dissolve into a kind of mush. They writhe and fold inward and expire sometime in the course of the seventh bag. I hose what remains of them off the table. A few, a very select few, have made it all the way to the final bag, the writhing. By that time they have become something else. Something at least more fluorescently suited to live in this new world. They are more resistant to cold or heat, their skin becomes scaled or shiny or photosensitive, they lose or gain a limb or two or three.

I have chosen you very carefully. I have faith that you will be one of those select few.

### Did you survive the reading of the short story ?

#### Read the entire short story and consider the following questions:

1. How would you sum up the story in one sentence?

2. What means and strategies does the text resort to in order to “convince you”?

How does it echo Catherine Conan's claim that:

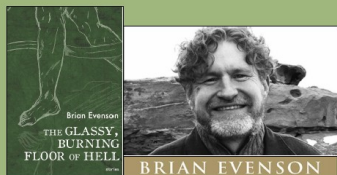
“direct references to climate change and environmental crisis are not the most efficient ways of involving the reader [...]. They may even be counter-productive. Ecological value is created when the experience of reading the poems stimulates in the reader the sense of the porousness of the self and its entanglement with other objects” (Catherine Conan, 2021, 20)

3. According to you, what does the title, “The Extrication,” mean?

4. You may rehearse the monologue and get ready to perform it.



## Looking for solutions in foreign places



In the early days of this world, lifeforms were not as distinct as they are today. There were no separate species but only a single fecund mass of creatures indifferently breeding, changing and existing with each new generation. With every blind coupling, new forms of creature came into existence.

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No, I shouldn't trouble you. We both know your needs are being provided for, being dropped slowly into your body by way of a central venous catheter. To allow you to feed yourself I would have to undo the straps that keep you immobilized. I am not sure that is such a good idea. Not until I have convinced you of the necessity of what we are trying to accomplish.

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Some – most, if I am being honest – dissolve into a kind of smog. They writhe and fold inward and expire sometime in the course of the seventh bag. I know what remains of them off the table. A few, a very select few, have made it all the way to the final bag, the seventh. By that time they have become something else. Something at least more functionally suited to live in this new world. They are more resistant to cold or heat, their skin becomes scaled or leathery or photosensitive, they lose or gain a limb or two or three.

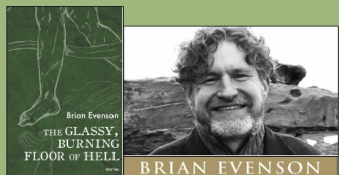
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### Did you survive the reading of the short story ?

#### Summary :

The anonymous character is being held hostage by the narrator, who happens to be a mad scientist. The latter is used to carrying out experiments on his patients, in order to “extricate” them from humanity – in other words, to transform their bodies so they can adapt to the toxic environment of the new world after the environmental collapse. The scientist wishes to convince his new victim that he is doing the right thing, as he draws inspiration from the early days of the world and their undifferentiated lifeforms. But as he tests his cure, he only cares about himself and his own survival – he is just another example of the deadliness of human egocentrism.

## Looking for solutions in foreign places



In the early days of this world, lifeforms were not as distinct as they are today. There were no separate species but only a single fecund mass of creatures indiscriminately breeding, changing and mating with each new generation. With every blind coupling, new forms of creature came into existence.

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I have chosen you very carefully. I have faith that you will be one of those select few.

### Did you survive the reading of the short story ?

#### How is the reader (ecologically) involved in the text ?

\* The reader is directly addressed in the second person

\* Their empathy for the environment is called upon through anthropomorphism

Example:

“As the world *sickens* further, as the air *grows* poisonous, as the oceans *die*”

\* Their are physically invited into the story through sensation

Examples:

sound patterns like [kl] in “claimed” “clear” “clock” mimic the sound of the liquid being dripped into their body

insistence on sight, which is the primary sense of reading

the pressure of the clock, reinforced by the hammering of the phrase “by the time,” materializes the environmental urgency

\* Human reason and understanding is destabilized – and so is anthropocentrism

Examples:

mystery or thriller > the information is provided “drop by drop”

opaque polysemy preventing any distinction between human and nonhuman entities (“limb”)

double-meaning words and misinterpretations in context (“to needle”, “compelling”, “root”) entail surprise and

force you to go back and deeper into the text to adapt your vision

moving both backward and forward, you find yourself constantly **decentered**

\* Parallels between the reader and the character

Examples:

both **hostage** to the text: **silenced and manipulated**

both **puzzled**: beginning *in medias res*: where are we? who are the characters? what is going on?

insistence on (limited) sight and sounds – **senses** called upon in the reading experience

the paragraphs mimic the pharmaceutical bags (“a dozen bags of *clear fluid*” / “Have I been *clear* enough?”)

> the text, like the scientist’s drug, is a **pharmakon** – both poison and cure



## **The end of A world : social fragmentation**



## **The end of A world : social fragmentation**





## The end of A world : social fragmentation

SAME SHOW. DIFFERENT CATEGORY.

LAST WEEK TONIGHT

WITH JOHN OLIVER

FXC | max

Watch the episode about

TRACUM

from 01:06 to 03:03

- What would be the definition of environmental racism from the show?
- Quote data supporting the existence of environmental racism in the US:
- What is the key data proving the existence of environmental racism according to the journalist? Explain.
- What are the medical consequences of air pollution?
- Can you remember what is the joke corresponding to the photograph and how it is related to the subject?

- Quote one spatial or geographic example of environmental racism.

- Mention a historical factor of environmental racism.
- Give your own definition for "redlining."
- What is the information that checked you the most?
- Now come up with your own jokes for the following information.

Companies planned for their oil pipeline to take a very delicate path through Mississippi, winding down to South Memphis, cutting through several historically black neighborhoods while a new flight route skirted the world's most environmentally sensitive wetlands neighborhoods, such as Greenham Common and Cullinstown.

Environmentalists clearly shouldn't just be about protecting wild spaces. Humans do need protection too.

Federal law doesn't require its agencies to tell tenants a rat is located in a dangerous site: the places are checked, but the people at risk are not notified.



## The end of A world : social fragmentation

1. What would be the definition of environmental racism from the show?

2. Quote data supporting the existence of environmental racism in the US:

3. What is the key data proving the existence of environmental racism according to the journalist? Explain.

4. What are the medical consequences of air pollution?

5. Can you remember what is the joke corresponding to the photograph and how it is related to the subject?

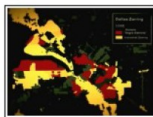
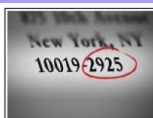


6. Quote one spatial or geographic example of environmental racism.





## The end of A world : social fragmentation



**7. Mention a historical factor of environmental racism.**

**8. Give your own definitions for “redlining.”**

**9. What is the information that shocked you the most?**

**10. Now come up with your own jokes for the following information.**

Companies planned for their oil pipeline to take a very deliberate path through Memphis, winding down to South Memphis, cutting through several historically black communities while a more direct option existed, that would cut through predominantly white wealthier neighbourhoods, such as Germantown and Collierville.

Environmentalism clearly shouldn't just be about protecting wild spaces. Humans do need protection too.

Federal law doesn't require its agencies to tell tenants a unit is located in a dangerous site: the places are classified, but the people at risk are not notified.

## The end of A world : social fragmentation

### 1. What would be the definition of environmental racism from the show?

We all suffer from exposure to pollution in this country but some significantly more than others.

### 2. Quote data supporting the existence of environmental racism in the US:

African Americans are exposed to 38 percent more polluted air than White Americans  
African Americans are 75 percent more likely to live in communities that border a plant or a factory  
Black Americans are nearly three times as likely to die from exposure to pollution

### 3. What is the key data proving the existence of environmental racism according to the journalist? Explain.

The disparity in exposure persists even when controlling for income. One study found that on average Black Americans earning two hundred thousand dollars were exposed to more air pollution than White Americans making twenty-five thousand dollars.

### 4. What are the medical consequences of air pollution?

Air pollution is one of the driving factors behind conditions like heart disease, asthma and death.

### 5. Can you remember what is the joke corresponding to the photograph and how it is related to the subject?



01:42 Racism is one of the few things in this country more powerful than money.



02:38 It seems when white people don't want something any more they either dump it on minority communities or sow a hummingbird on it and list it on Etsy as handmade vintage – that is garbage.



04:48 Some things are just weird coincidences. Like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day but the possibility to overlay redlining maps with industrial maps is no coincidence.

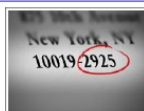
### 6. Quote one spatial or geographic example of environmental racism.



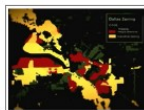
In 2008 there was a massive spill of coal ash in Tennessee (Harriman) with tons of toxic waste dumped into a largely white community. They removed 4 million tons of it. The bad news is it was then dumped 300 miles away in this largely black community called Uniontown.



## The end of A world : social fragmentation



The zip code is the most important predictor of health and well-being: zip codes are not created equal. You can find zip codes that are adjacent to each other and have a life expectancy disparity of 10-15 years depending on what's in that neighbourhood and what's not in that neighbourhood.



In Dallas, you can take a redlining map from the 30s-40s and overlay that on a current industrial map of Dallas: it will show Black and Brown folks are forced to live side by side with heavy industry.

### 7. Mention a historical factor of environmental racism.

It was explicit federal policy for decades to segregate housing based on race through a process known as redlining: black people could not get government-backed home loans where white people lived. And the areas where they could live were often also zoned for industrial uses.

### 8. Give your own definitions for "redlining."

Redlining is a discriminatory practice in which financial services are withheld from neighbourhoods that have significant numbers of racial and ethnic minorities.

### 9. What is the information that shocked you the most?

### 10. Now come up with your own jokes for the following information.