Effective Blog Responses

**Discussion Question:** Miles and Alaska come up with many different possible meanings for the labyrinth. What do you think the labyrinth represents? Use details from the text to support your answer. Also post a response to at least 2 other people’s posts commenting on their thoughts.

**Sample Post: Response #1**

Wow. That’s quite the imagination you have! A metaphor for life? How did you ever come up with that idea? The labyrinth is obviously a metaphor for dying in general. You suffer and suffer and have to figure out a way out, but there is no clear way out because you don’t know what comes after you die. Alaska talks about how Miles is trying to escape the present by looking forward to the future and this is his labyrinth (Green 54).

The labyrinth is clearly a metaphor for life. Miles and Alaska are in the labyrinth (life) and are experiencing twists and turns that lead them in different directions. There is no way out, they just have to find a way to live with it.

**Response #2**

Good post on the labyrinth question. I like how you thought the labyrinth was life. It seems to make sense that you have to live with it. Alaska and Miles are living with things in their labyrinths.

**Response #3**

You have some good ideas here, but you haven’t answered the question. You didn’t use any details from the text and you just rambled on about the labyrinth and life. I disagree with you, though. Alaska even asks Miles, “Which is he trying to escape—the world or the end of it?” (Green 19) when trying to figure out what Simon Bolivar meant when he said this while dying. I think that the fact that he was dying when he said it implies he is trying to escape death, not life.

**Response #4**

I agree with your statement about the labyrinth being life and just having to live with it. It clearly applies to the main characters, Miles and Alaska, also. We can’t tell what it is yet, but Alaska is clearly lost and trying to find or deal with something. There is also the fact that Alaska is such a mystery and is kind of a labyrinth herself. She says to Miles at one point, “You never get me. That’s the whole point” (Green 54). She’s something that Miles is trying to figure out and essentially “live with.”

**Response #5**

I disagree with your statement about the labyrinth being life and something you have to live with. I believe the labyrinth is death at the end of life. We all have to find a way to get there and we all have to deal with it when it comes. Because Simon Bolivar said this when he way dying, I believe he was trying to find a way out of dying. This also applies to Miles because he views living a boring life as a kind of death. He goes in search of the “Great Perhaps” to escape his boring life, to experience something new, and to make something of himself so he doesn’t have to face the labyrinth of “death.”