



Pushing the Limits of Persistence Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

To persist is to endure. To last over time - even against the odds. Examples are everywhere: A persistent person weathers physical, emotional, or environmental setbacks and keeps trying. Elements that persist in the world around us connect us to a certain place, to an event, or to our past. We can read history in canyons carved by unstoppable rivers. Enduring artifacts and memories can wrench or lift our hearts. Put simply, PERSISTENCE expands the human experience in myriad ways.

The Moon is a Harsh Mistress

Robert Heinlein, Fiction. Is a tale of revolution, of the rebellion of the former Lunar penal colony against the Lunar Authority that controls it from Earth. It is the tale of the disparate people--a computer technician, a vigorous young female agitator, and an elderly academic--who become the rebel movement's leaders. And it is the story of Mike, the supercomputer whose sentience is known only to this inner circle, and who for reasons of his own is committed to the revolution's ultimate success.

The Moon is a Harsh Mistress is one of the high points of modern science fiction, a novel bursting with politics, humanity, passion, innovative technical speculation, and a firm belief in the pursuit of human freedom. *amazon.com*

- Would you want to pack up, move to the moon, and become a Loonie in Luna society? Why or why not?
- Do you believe the Loonies were justified in their rebellion against the Authority? Why was Mike so critically important to their persistence and eventual success?
- What did you think about the idea of “throwing rocks”?
- Why do you think science, technology, and revolution are so entwined in the novel? What does this relationship suggest to you about society, economics, and politics in the modern age?
- Consider the early excerpt, “Somewhere along evolutionary chain from macromolecule to human brain self-awareness crept in. Psychologists assert it happens automatically whenever a brain acquires certain very high number of associated paths. Can’t see it matters whether paths are protein or platinum.” What do you think about that?

