

PART I

TEXT ANNOTATION

Annotate these excerpts from Benjamin Hoff's philosophical work The Tao of Pooh.

- Circle/highlight and define any unknown words (use [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com)).
- Paraphrase key ideas in your words off to the side.
- Use arrows to connect ideas within or between passages.
- Write questions to the author based on ideas/phrases in the text.

When you work with *Wu Wei*, you put the round peg in the round hole and the square peg in the square hole. No stress, no struggle. Egotistical Desire tries to force the round peg into the square hole and the square peg into the round hole. Cleverness tries to devise craftier ways of making pegs fit where they don't belong. Knowledge tries to figure out why round pegs fit round holes, but not square holes. *Wu Wei* doesn't try. It doesn't think about it. It just does it. And when it does, it doesn't appear to do much of anything. But Things Get Done. (75)






On his way back from the K'un-lun Mountains, the Yellow Emperor lost the dark pearl of Tao. He sent Knowledge to find it, but Knowledge was unable to understand it. He sent Distant Vision, but Distant Vision was unable to see it. He sent Eloquence, but Eloquence was unable to describe it. Finally, he sent Empty Mind, and Empty Mind came back with the pearl. (143-144)

An Empty sort of mind is valuable for finding pearls...and things because it can see what's in front of it. An Overstuffed mind is unable to. While the clear mind listens to a bird singing, the Stuffed-Full-of-Knowledge-and-Cleverness mind wonders what *kind* of bird is singing. The more Stuffed Up it is, the less it can hear through its own ears and see through its own eyes. Knowledge and Cleverness tend to concern themselves with the wrong sort of things, and a mind confused by Knowledge, Cleverness and Abstract Ideas tends to go chasing after things that don't matter, or that don't even exist, instead of seeing, appreciating, and making use of what is right in front of it. (146)

The masters of life know the Way, for they listen to the voice within them, the voice of wisdom and simplicity, the voice that reasons beyond Cleverness and knows beyond Knowledge. That voice is not just the power and property of a few, but has been given to everyone. Those who pay attention to it are too often treated as exceptions to a rule, rather than as examples of the rule of operation, a rule that can apply to anyone who makes use of it. (154-155)

**PART II**      **CHARACTER ANALYSIS**

As you watch “Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree” complete an analysis of the following characters. List traits, habits, descriptions, tendencies, actions, reactions, opinions, etc. that help to reveal the full identity of each character.

Character	Image	Characteristics/Tendencies/Actions/Attitudes/
Winnie the Pooh		
Eeyore		
Owl		
Rabbit		
Gopher		

**PART III**      **CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT**

Consider this: The Taoist concept of *Wu Wei* may be expressed also as the *Pooh Way*. Based on what you have read and seen, write a claim in the space below that clearly explains the concept of Wu Wei.

To live according to the principle of *Wu Wei* is to \_\_\_\_\_

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