

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shmuel: Perakim Yud Zayin - Yud Chet
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק י"ז

1. Notice that although שאול initially pushed the פלשתים back (that was one of his main tasks as king), they are once again threatening. In what way do you think this might be connected to the end of the previous פרק?
2. What other figures in תנ"ך does גלית remind you of? (Look also at במדבר יג:כה-כט and דברים ב:ט-טז). (Look also at פרק יז (שופטים פרק יז) Is there a pattern or a message you can detect in this פרק being part of a series about oversized people?
3. Was there a battle in this פרק between פלשתים and ישראל? What was the scene with גלית about? When did the battle between the פלשתים and ישראל actually take place?
4. Notice that דוד is introduced to us in this פרק as if we've never met him before, and as if the ספר was encountering him for the first time!
5. דוד's question of מה יעשה לאיש is reminiscent of אחשוורוש's query of המן. Compare the language in the two places.
6. Why does דוד ask repeatedly about the reward for killing גלית?
7. What does גלית actually say? Why does that anger דוד so much? What inspires דוד throughout this story?
8. Notice the many contrasts (not just size) between דוד and גלית described in this פרק.
9. Look at תהלים קמז:יא-ט. Which פסוק in our פרק may have served as the inspiration for those תהלים in פסוקים?
10. Notice that the language and the images דוד uses in מה-מו eco ideas from the מכות in Egypt.
11. This פרק concludes with דוד using a sword to finish off the arch-enemy of ישראל. Which other story did we learn in ספר שמואל has a similar ending?

פרק י"ח

1. Why do you think יונתן felt such a close bond with דוד?
2. What is the significance of יונתן removing his מעיל and other items and giving them to דוד? (Notice the word מעיל!)
3. In this פרק, what does שאול probably conclude about דוד? What words does the נביא use to describe שאול's feelings about דוד?
4. Notice that חנית – in the previous it was in the hands of גלית, who was unsuccessful against דוד, and here it is in the hands of שאול, who is equally unsuccessful against דוד.
5. What motivated שאול to decide to give his daughter מיכל to דוד? What story from ספר ראשית is similar to this one? How many similarities can you find?
6. What is דוד's reaction to the suggestion that he marry מיכל? Why is this unusual in light of יז:כז-כז?

7. Notice that two out of three of שאול's children in this פרק have sided with דוד! What are the implications of that?
8. This פרק mentions two very different roles that דוד plays vis-à-vis שאול (the same two descriptions appear in the next פרק as well). In what way are these two roles contradictory?
9. What ideas seem to repeat themselves in this פרק?