“The Prince” by Machiavelli Reading Guide:

Dedication

1. Why did Machiavelli dedicate this work to Lorenzo De Medici?

Chapter XV- Concerning Things for Which Men, and Especially Princes, are Praised or Blamed

1. Summarize this passage in your own words:
2. Why is it necessary for a prince to know how to do wrong?
3. Why should a prince be wary about virtues and vices?

Chapter XVI- Concerning Liberality and Meanness

1. Summarize this passage in your own words:
2. What are the problems with a prince being too liberal?
3. To what examples in history does Machiavelli point?
4. Why is liberality wasteful?

Chapter XVII- Concerning Cruelty and Clemency, and Whether it is Better to be Loved than Feared

1. Summarize this passage in your own words:
2. According to Machiavelli, is it better to be feared or loved?
3. Why?
4. In what ways should a prince avoid hatred?

Summary Questions:

1. In what ways do “the ends justify the means,” for a prince?
2. Do you think a good ruler should be feared or loved by their people?
3. Describe the prince that Machiavelli idolizes, would you like to live under the rule of this prince?