Discussion Questions 10.5.10

Preface to 1834 and 1835 *Kalevala* Editions

1. What might you expect from the preface to a book that ostensibly presents ancient texts of a people? What kind of questions would you expect such an essay to answer?
2. How has Lönnrot ordered the songs, according to him?
3. How does Lönnrot explain the subjects of the songs that make up the *Kalevala*?
4. What is the songs’ relation to the history of the Finnish people, according to Lönnrot?

“*The Cosmos*” -- Honko

1. According to Honko, what do creation poems do?
2. How do symbols contribute to this function?
3. Who in a community is associated with creation poems?
4. What are some of the creation symbols Honko mentions in Finno-Ugric poetry?

*How to Read an Oral Poem* – Foley

1. How does Foley make an argument for the importance of orality in the first pages of the reading?
2. What does Foley say about the differences between oral and written poetry? How are they different? Are they two parts of a dichotomy?
3. What is the role of Elias Lönnrot with respect to the Kalevala, in Foley’s view?
4. What does Foley mean by ‘detachability’ in his analysis of examples of oral poems?