Discussion Questions 10/12/10: Gender, Väinämöinen and Aino

1) How are the two characters, Joukahainen and Väinämöinen, presented through the singing duel in poem 2? Examine the ways in which they are presented. What does Lönnrot do to create a sense of what sort of characters they are? How do they appear?

2) What are the reasons that Väinämöinen’s intention to marry Aino is such a source of pain for her?

3) What kind of character is Aino?

4) What does Lönnrot emphasize about Aino’s character?

5) How is Väinämöinen presented as a suitor?

6) What does Lönnrot emphasize about Väinämöinen’s character in presenting him as a suitor?