

## *Utopia* Book 1, Study Questions

1. *More identifies his aim as “truth” in the preface to Peter Giles. How are readers to discern the truth in an ironic fiction like Utopia? How does one know, for example, if a given claim or argument is ironic or serious—or both? More seems to share the classic definition of irony as the figure of speech whereby an author or speaker “says one thing, but means another.”*
2. *Book 1 of Utopia is known as the “Dialogue on Counsel” and has been called a “Lucianic” text. In what ways do you discern the influence of Lucian? What do the speeches reveal about the character of each speaker?*
3. *Who wins the argument about giving counsel to rulers: More the lawyer or Raphael the experienced observer? Can the learned professions really promote justice and happiness? Is the effort worth sacrificing “liv[ing] as I please,” as Raphael puts it (159/54-5)?*
4. *Raphael’s encounter with Lord Chancellor Morton spans over one third of Book 1 (160-68). Why is it so important? Why does Raphael praise Morton? How does Morton direct the narrated conversation?*
5. *More objects that Raphael’s mode of communication is not suited for the role of a citizen and advises Raphael to use an “indirect approach” and another philosophy (171/6 - 172/29). Raphael strongly objects, arguing that such an approach is not appropriate for a philosopher or for a Christian (172/30 – 173/11). Who makes the better argument and why? How is truth best discovered and served?*