

FRST 101: Freshman Studies II Winter 2011
Instructor: Stoneking
Handout #1: BORGES COLLECTED FICTIONS

- Discussion questions on *Man on Pink Corner* and *Borges and I*.
 - Who killed the Yardmaster (Francisco Real)? What is your evidence?
 - Comment on this quotation: "... I moved on from the mythologies of the slums and outskirts of the city to games with time and infinity, but those games belong to Borges now, and I shall have to think up other things."

- Discussion questions on *The Library of Babel*
 - What is the story of the tower of Babel and how does it relate to Borges' story?
 - Describe/sketch the structure of the library. Is there enough detail to form a precise picture of the library? Is the structure important?
 - Who built the library? What does it mean to say that the structure is infinite? Who wrote the books? Why are they so hard to decipher?
 - How has the narrator spent his life and how does he feel about impending death?
 - It seems as if there are many conflicts and differences of opinion among the librarians. What do they fight about? And would there really be any way for them to stop fighting? What is the most appropriate response to these warring librarians? Pity? Ridicule? Sympathy?
 - In what spirit does the narrator offer his final statement?
 - How do the themes of this story relate to those of *The Immortal*?

- Discussion questions on *The Lottery of Babylon*
 - How did the lottery begin and how did it evolve?
 - What is the Company? Who runs it? How does it affect the lives of Babylonians?
 - What might Borges be commenting on with this story? Does it relate to *The Library of Babel*?