Reading Quiz

Melville – “Bartleby, the Scrivener” and “Benito Cereno”
“Benito Cereno”
1. List two ways that the last two paragraphs of the story reverse Delano’s stereotypes of about slaves/black people.

2. What does Benito Cereno have under his chin in the shaving scene, and what does that signify?

3. List two narrative functions of the deposition as a narrative frame—who certifies the deposition, and under what authority?

“Bartleby”
4. Where and how does Bartleby end up? How is he positioned in the end? Ponder the symbolic importance.

5. Who or What is Bartleby? What purpose does he serve? What is the strangest thing about the story for you?