

**Faith and Learning Scholar Community**  
**Reading 3: Agenda and Leading Questions**  
**January 24, February 1, February 13, 2024**

***Snow Goose* Paul Gallico New York: Alfred A Knopf 1972**

The *Snow Goose* is a simple, short written parable on the regenerative power of friendship and love set against a backdrop of the horror of war, written as a novella by the American author Paul Gallico. First published in 1940- as a short story in *the Saturday Evening Post*, and then as a short novella published on April 7, 1941.

\*May 26 to June 4, 1940: Dunkirk is a small town on the coast of France that was the scene of a massive military campaign during World War II. During the Battle of Dunkirk from May 26 to June 4, 1940, some 338,000 British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and other Allied troops were evacuated from Dunkirk to England as German forces closed in on them 1940.

1. Go around the table and introduce yourself. Share one time since the semester began that you decided to introduce yourself to a new person on campus and describe the experience.
2. Go around again and share the name of a friend that has been loyal and has influenced your faith and why you treasure the relationship.

\*“All kinds of things rejoiced my soul in their company,  
 To talk and laugh, to do other kindnesses,  
 To read pleasant books together,  
 To pass from lightest jesting to talk of deepest things and back again without rancor,  
 To teach each other and to learn from each other.  
 These and such things kindled a flame.  
 That fused our very souls together.  
 And make us one out of many.”  
 St. Augustine, Confessions 4.8

\*A reminder of Augustine, dialogue, and friendship.

3. Go around again and choose one character that you identify with in the parable and share why you resonate with the character.

**Characters:**

**Philip Rhayader**, an artist(painter) living a solitary life in an abandoned lighthouse in the marshlands of Essex with his disabilities of a hunchback and a crippled left arm who has a reputation for taking care of the marsh’s wildlife.

**Fritha**: a young local girl.

**Snow Goose**: wounded by gunshot and miles from home, was found by Fritha and nursed back to health.

**Soldiers**: British troops and Allied troops evacuated **and** share the legend, experience, put the story together.

**Explore the story Philip:**

4. - share your experience of the ageless myth of persons with physical disabilities and the challenges to get to know the PERSON living with the disability.  
 - loneliness that returns each Spring when the Snow Goose flies North and Fritha does not visit  
 -the relationship between Philip and Fritha as they both mature in diverse ways while learning the lore of the marsh.  
 -why Philip leaves to evacuate hundreds of Allied soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk....he “for once I can be a man and play my part.” Why does “saving men” take on the importance to the point of exhaustion...Dunkirk offers him fulfillment? He has the movement and fluency that he lacks at the lighthouse, and he overcome his disability.  
 \*What part do loyalty and faith play in Philip’s life?

**5. Explore the story/life of Fritha:**

- overcoming her fear of Philip’s disability due to her need to help the injured SNOW GOOSE –  
 -delve into the the relationship with Philip as it grows and matures until the Goose is able to fly north, each year  
 -define the loyalty Fritha “lives” when Philip sails to Dunkirk  
 \*What part do loyalty and faith play in Fritha’s life?

**6. Explore the SNOW GOOSE**

- What is the role of SNOW GOOSE in the lives of Fritha, Philip, the Soldiers?  
 -How is the Snow Goose the STAR! Why is it the TITLE of the book?  
 -dialogue about the possible symbols and their meaning in this story.  
 \*What part do loyalty and faith play in the life of the SNOW GOOSE?

**7. Explore the Soldiers**

- fleeing war  
 --their experience of Philip volunteering with his small sailboat to take them to safety  
 --the experience of the soldiers, with both Philip and the Snow Goose, and the story they put together  
 \*What part do trust, loyalty and faith play in the life of the soldiers?

**6. Explore the journey of friendship**

- in 2024 in our own time as we experience our world as we experience the reality of war and witness stories of faith, trust, loyalty, and salvation