

1. How does the book treat art?
2. How do you think Michelangelo's beginnings affected his life and his painting? Discuss Michelangelo's relationship with his father and brothers.
3. Besides Michelangelo, how do other artists explore the issue of creative expression?
4. In what ways, if any, did the book surprise you? Did anything in the book affect the way you had previously thought about Michelangelo?
5. Discuss the Rome of Michelangelo and the Rome we know today.
6. Discuss the relationship between Michelangelo and Pope Julius II. How is it different from the relationship of patron/artist today?
7. Did Michelangelo's temperament cause him to lose commissions? How was his temperament different than Raphael's?
8. Discuss painting v/s sculpture. Michelangelo kept insisting he was not a painter and even signed his letters "Michelangelo, sculptor." In your opinion, which was he better at?
9. Discuss the relationship of artist and assistants. Should credit be equally shared? What is the role of the artists' assistants today?
10. Is the Sistine Chapel ceiling the greatest accomplishment in the art world? Why or Why not? Are there artists today who, in a few hundred years, will be remembered with awe like Michelangelo?