

### Questions on “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street” by Herman Melville

1. By the end of “Bartleby”, what does the reader know for certain about Bartleby? Why do you think Melville provides so little explicit information about this character?
2. The narrator tells us that his clerks’ nicknames are “expressive of their respective persons or characters,” but he explains only Turkey’s nickname in this regard. How would you explain the appropriateness of Nipper’s nickname? of Ginger Nut’s?
3. One of the few words Bartleby utters is prefer, and the other characters find themselves using this “queer word.” What can we learn about Bartleby and the others by the ways in which they use the word prefer?
4. The narrator says “nothing is ascertainable” about Bartleby, but we know some things about him. List all of the things we know about him and all the things we can plausibly argue about him.