

Socratic Seminar Prompt #4 – *Our Town*:

- A.** In describing the placement of the cemetery at the opening of Act III, the Stage Manager points out that there is “lots of sky, lots of clouds,—often lots of sun and moon and stars.” How does this emphasize the playwright’s theme in *Our Town*?
- B.** Thornton Wilder’s worldview, as expressed in *Our Town*, is rather bittersweet. Consider, for example, the characters whose lives are cut short, those whose dreams go unfulfilled, whose disappointments and disillusionments lead to depression and suicide. Discuss these characters’ experiences in the context of Emily’s speech at the end of the play in which she declares, “Oh, earth, you’re too wonderful for anybody to realize you”?