WSHS ToK

Discussion Questions for
Flatland

1. In what ways are the Flatlanders “slaves” to their “respective dimensional prejudices?” In what ways are we?

   - Who are the “circles” in our society?
   - Who are the “lines,” “triangles,” squares?” On what basis do you build your analogy?
   - One rule in Flatland is that a child cannot exceed his father’s “sidedness” by more than 2. Do we have limits in this sense within our families?

2. What lies between “This can never be…” and “Now it has been revealed to me, and of this I am certain…”?

3. What did the king of Flatland mean by “Attend to your Configuration?” Do perseverance, training, and education seem to matter in Flatland? Is this true in our society, or are you stuck in your economic and social class?

4. How are Flatland and Lineland similar? How are they different?

5. Why does A. Square have difficulty explaining the two-dimensional world of Flatland to the Monarch of Lineland?

6. Why do you think the author introduces Lineland before the visitor from Spaceland arrives?

7. How does the visit to the Monarch of Lineland enhance this story? Is he a realistic or an exaggerated character?

8. How does the character of A. Square change after he visits Spaceland?

9. In the beginning why is A. Sphere unable to convince A. Square of the reality of the 3rd dimension? Why is A. Square unable to convince A. Sphere of the reality of the 4th dimension? Why is A. Square willing to believe in the 4th dimension and A. Sphere not? Were you convinced?

10. What does this story have to do with what we have discussed and what you have read about “knowledge?” What are some examples of “Flatlands” in our world?

   - Who are the “circles