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Reading Assignment: Introduction + Three-Part Invention

Ten significant, interesting or informative pieces of information from "Introduction: A Musico-Logical Offering"

- It was interesting and surprising to read that Beethoven dedicated his first symphony to Gottfried Van Swieten instead of Bach. I thought that since Bach was so popular and a good organist, that he would have been recognized by another great composer.
- Even after two and a half decades (24 years), Bach was a legend that would live on spiritually and musically for thousands of years; in my eyes this was a significant piece of information. People now, even when Bach is mentioned, he is recognized as an amazing composer who wrote and produced many pieces.
- 3. I found it surprising that Bach was able to create puzzles within the Musical Offering; I didn't know that was possible in music. I wonder if Fredrick was able to decipher this musical puzzle or even knew that it was a puzzle created for him.
- 4. I never realized "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "Frere Jacques" were considered a round cannon; it was interesting and informative to read about. I didn't know what a canon was before reading the introduction. I heard both songs frequently as a child, which is what made me a bit more interested when reading about how there are cannons within these songs.
- 5. Fugues and canons were some key factors that created the musical offering, where it was appreciated by not only Bach, but many many others. It was one of the largest achievements of Bach's musical career.
- 6. Escher's drawing called 'waterfall' shown in the textbook looked as if it was a beautiful illusion. It was interesting to see and read about, mainly because I love trying to understand the hidden meaning behind the piece. Most of the time trippy or illusion drawings have a double or dark meaning; they are trying to show the viewer something. In this case, Escher represented what the Strange Loop would look like within an art form. I was a bit confused as to how they could understand immediately that it was representing a Strange Loop.

- 7. There was significance in this madness once the world reached the 19th century. Two logicians (Boole and Morgan) worked together to arrange deductive reasoning patterns into a systematic code. I had learned some about deductive reasoning in another course why they would push as far to try to code mathematically these understandings. I thought this writing was a bit difficult to understand, but it was a significant piece so I wanted to include it.
- A setting of context is a necessary portion to understand the significance of Godel's Theorem. I find that interesting because I wonder how it would stand if there wasn't one; how would the mathematical logic be completed without it.
- 9. Another significant point was that the term "geometry" refers to the study of the features of abstract points and lines. There seems to be many philosophical questions within this text, where they ask dazing questions that get you to think about reality. Can points refer to more than what is assumed?
- 10. A few paradoxes and theorems were mentioned, which seemed to be a significant portion of the reading as well (Russell's paradox and Godel's theorem). Reading about these confused me a bit and I couldn't make sense of Russell's paradox, more specifically the part where it was discussing sets, and what they are.

All of the new information that was presented was connected back to Bach, which I found to be quite interesting. The author was able to connect AI, Mathematics, Philosophy, and much more all back to music; I learned many new things about music, to the point where I listened to Bach while reading.

Reaction to "Three-Part Invention"

This dialogue piqued my interest because it caused me to consider some of the questions they were posing and the topics they were debating. Could a flag be impossible? Or is motion impossible in the sense that neither (Achilles, Zeno, or Tortoise) can tell if the movement is caused by the wind, the flag, or the mind? These questions force you to consider the world as a whole and whether such things are even conceivable. I'm perplexed and curious about all of the possible answers to these questions, but I'm not sure the answers will be all that clear either. Could these questions be impossible instead of the topics in question (the flag)?