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### Critical Thinking 101

A boatman must ferry a wolf, a goat, and a basket of cabbages across a river. His boat is so small that he only has room for himself and one other person. How can he accomplish his task without loss or damage to any of his passengers? If he takes the basket of cabbage first, there may not be a goat left when he gets back. If he takes the wolf first, the goat may eat the cabbage in the meantime. Only way he can do it is by taking the goat across first. But then he is still in the same predicament no matter which he takes across next. So he takes the wolf across second and then brings back the goat when he returns. He then leaves the goat on the first shore all alone and takes the bucket of cabbages across. Then he returns for the goat and he has successfully accomplished his task.

Another one on the same idea involves 3 jealous husbands and their wives who must cross a river in a boat which will only hold 2 people. Letting letters represent the husbands and their wives, it may be accomplished in the following manner so that no woman is ever left without her husband present:

#### First Bank

Aa Bb Cc  
 Aa B C  
 Aa Bb C  
 A B C  
 Aa B C  
 Aa  
 Aa Bb  
 b c  
 a b c  
 c  
 a c  
 Nobody

#### Second Bank

Nobody  
 b c  
 c  
 a b c  
 b c  
 Bb Cc  
 Cc  
 A B Cc  
 A B C  
 Aa Bb C  
 A B b C  
 Aa Bb Cc

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