



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Words to know:

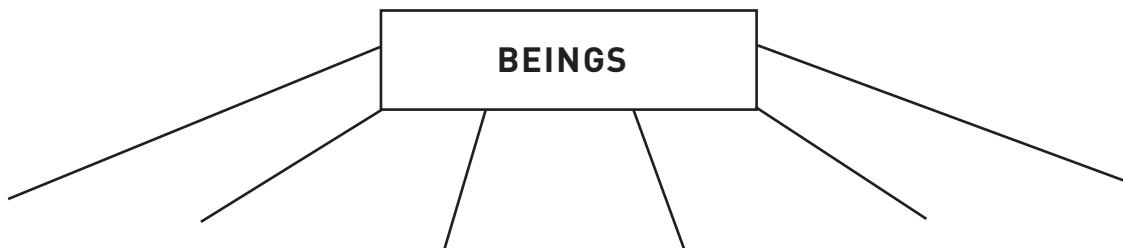
fundamental (*basic; foundational*), distinguish (*to recognize two things as different*), endeavor (*try*)

Metaphysics is the study of the science of \_\_\_\_\_, of that which \_\_\_\_\_ insofar as it exists. It is a structured way of thinking about the most fundamental \_\_\_\_\_ of the world that we encounter.

### Overview:

When Aquinas defines metaphysics he says that its object of study is the \_\_\_\_\_ of existence in things.

In metaphysics we consider:



### Basic Starting Points:

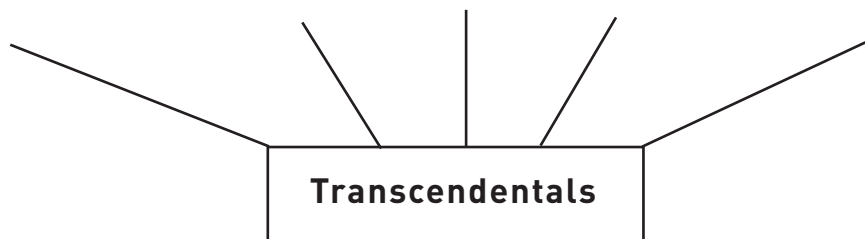
When beginning to consider what being is, St. Thomas identifies certain fundamental \_\_\_\_\_ we should make.

1) First, we can discern the differences that obtain between different kinds of natural substances around us.

Kangaroo	Human Being

The first way of proceeding into metaphysics: to study the \_\_\_\_\_ of the various substances we encounter and their \_\_\_\_\_, philosophically.

2) Having distinguished substances, we can then go on to consider what \_\_\_\_\_ them, what they all have in common. What is it that is properly basic or common to all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ no matter how different they are?



### Further Metaphysical Questions:

- Is this world of interdependent beings that we experience \_\_\_\_\_ reality or multiple realities that form a kind of unity?
- Is the cosmos that exists around us and the things that are in it \_\_\_\_\_ in some objective way?
- If so, are there degrees and kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ in the things around us?
- If so, what is \_\_\_\_\_ and how do we explain the existence of evil?
- What is beauty and is it merely subjective or are the things of this world truly \_\_\_\_\_ due to the harmonies internal to them?
- Does the world of finite, interdependent beings ultimately depend on a primary cause we call \_\_\_\_\_, who gives being to all things?

For Aquinas, metaphysicians endeavor to study the things of this \_\_\_\_\_ by an honest and critical appraisal. And in so doing, they are led to consider \_\_\_\_\_ in relation to God as the \_\_\_\_\_ existence for everything that is. \_\_\_\_\_ no matter how different they are?

### Comprehension questions:

- 1) Choose one of the metaphysical questions above and attempt to answer it in your own words, OR
- 2) Write a metaphysical question of your own.