

Directions: Each section included a set of questions and quotes. On a separate sheet of paper, write the answers to the questions. Then, explain who said each quote and why it is significant.

Chapter One:

Questions

1. What is the name of the defendant?
2. On what day is the trial held?
3. For what is he on trial?
4. On what day is sentencing held?
5. What is the verdict?
6. What is the sentence?
7. Contrast the portrait that is painted of Jefferson. How does the prosecution present him? How does the defense present him?

Quotes

1. "I was not there, yet I was there." – page 3
2. "A fool does what others tell him to do." – page 7

Chapter Two:

Questions

1. Who is the narrator?
2. What is his occupation?
3. Who are the two women?
4. What do they want Grant to do?
5. Why do they need permission from the Sheriff for what they want Grant to do?
6. Why does Grant say that Jefferson is already dead?
7. Why does Grant not want to go to Mr. Henri's house?
8. What color is Henri?
9. What color is the narrator?

Quotes

1. "I don't want them to kill no hog," she said. "I want a man to go to that chair, on his own two feet." – page 13
2. "He don't have to," Miss Emma said again. – page 14

Chapter Three:

Questions

1. What is symbolic about going through the back door?
2. What does Miss Emma ask Mr. Henri to do?
3. Who is Inez?
4. What problem did Henri Pinchot have for Grant?

Quotes

1. "I had nothing to do all that day but serve." – page 17
2. "He don't have to go," Miss Emma said for about the hundredth time. – page 17 "I was too educated for Henri Pichot." – page 21
3. "Somebody got to do something for me one time 'fore I close my eyes." – page 22

Chapter Four:

Questions

1. How many people live in Bayonne? (Whites? Blacks?)
2. Who is Vivian Baptiste?
3. Why can't Grant marry Vivian?
4. Explain why Grant is so upset about the task his aunt had asked him to do?

Quotes:

1. "He's still going to die... Why not let the hog die without knowing anything?" (p.31)

Chapter Five:

Questions

1. The church is the meeting place for what?
2. Why does the school only meet for 5 ½ months?
3. Why does Grant go into such detail about the process by which Jefferson will be killed?
4. What news does Mr. Farrell bring to the class?

Quotes:

1. "knew. Too, which of them would do something for themselves and which of them never would, regardless of what I did." (p.34)
2. "Other than that, all there was to see were old gray weather-beaten houses, with smoke rising out of the chimneys and drifting across the corrugated tin roofs." (p.37)
3. They're going to kill him in Bayonne. They're going to sit him in a chair, they're going to tie him down with straps, they're going to connect wires to his head, to his wrists, to his legs, and they're going to shoot electricity through the wires into his body until he's dead." (p.39)

Chapter 6

Questions:

Chapter 6

1. Where has Grant gone?
2. Where does he wait?
3. Why does Edna make Grant reach in order to shake hands?
4. How long does Grant wait before getting to see the men?
5. How did Grant act that was insulting to the white men?

Quotes:

1. "He ain't betting 'gainst you. He ain't betting on you neither." (p.43)
2. "Whether I should act like the teacher that I was, or like the nigger that I was supposed to be." (p.47)
3. "I was supposed to have said 'don't' I was being too smart." (p.48)
4. "I was quiet. I knew when to be quiet." (p.49)

Chapter 7

Questions:

1. Who came to visit the school? Why?
2. What does Dr. Joseph tell Gloria Herbert to tell her parents?
3. What does Dr. Joseph call Grant?
4. What does Grant ask Dr. Joseph for?
5. Who does Dr. Joseph end his visit?

Chapter 8

Questions:

1. Once the wood is delivered, who has the job of cutting it?
2. When Grant begins to speak of his teacher, Matthew Antoine, what does he say he wanted from the teacher that the other students didn't?
3. What does Antoine say Grant should do?
4. Which year was Grant's first year as a teacher?

Quotes:

1. "And there were others who did not go anywhere but simply died slower." (p.62)
2. "You'll see that it takes more than five and a half months to wipe away-peel- scrape away the blanket of ignorance that has been plastered over those brains in the past three hundred years." (p.64)

Chapter 9

Questions:

1. Where did Grant take Miss Emma?
2. What did Miss Emma bring to Jefferson?
3. What does Jefferson ask Miss Emma?
4. How does Miss Emma's visit w/ Jefferson end?
5. Why does Grant put his arm around Miss Emma?
6. What "doesn't matter?"

Quotes:

1. The chief deputy could see that I didn't like him and I could tell he didn't like me. But he knew who was in charge and that I would have taken anything he dished out.
2. "Nothing don't matter"

Chapter 10

Questions:

1. What did Grant give the prisoners each time he came to the jail?
2. What happened when Grant showed up to pick up Miss Emma for their 4th visit to the jail?
3. Why didn't Tante Lou go w/ Grant to visit Jefferson?
4. What did Grant think Miss Emma had planned along?
5. Why was Grant so mad at Tante Lou?
6. Why is this visit different than the others?

Quotes:

1. "He don't have to go," [...] "Not if it go'n be a burden." (p. 78)
2. "I'm sorry, Mr. Grant, I'm helping them white people to humiliate you. I'm so sorry." (p. 79)
3. "Years ago, Professor Antoine told me that if I stayed here, they were going to break me down to the nigger I was born to be. But he didn't tell me that my aunt would help them do it." (p. 79)

Chapter 11

Questions:

1. What was the 'usual routine' Grant went through when he went to visit Jefferson?
2. Why did Jefferson ask Grant for some corn?
3. What was Jefferson trying to show Grant when he finally began to ear?
4. What did Grant and Jefferson spend most of their hour doing?
5. What did Jefferson want Grant to tell Miss Emma?

Quotes:

1. "You want me to stay away and let him win? The white man? You want him to win?"

Chapter 12

Questions:

1. Where does Grant go after he leaves the jail?
2. Who were the men in the bar talking about?
3. What book did Grant have so much trouble finding?
4. Where did Grant go after he left the Rainbow club?
5. What do both Grant and Vivian say they want to do?

Quotes:

1. "Then I began to listen, to listen closely to how they talked about their hero's, how they talked about the dead and about how great the dead had once been. I heard it everywhere." (p. 90)
2. "You know the answer yourself, Grant. You love them more than you hate this place." (p. 94)