



ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY: PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Respond to the question about the topic you chose. **Sample answers**

Jim Crow laws

What are some specific examples of Jim Crow laws?

Black and white people could not drink from the same water fountains, attend the same schools, or use the same public restrooms. Laws required Black individuals to sit at the back of the bus on public transportation so that white people could sit at the front of the bus. Interracial marriages, sharing an eating space, and using the same textbooks were unlawful in some states.

sharecropping

What are some advantages and disadvantages of sharecropping for the landowner and the tenant?

Sharecropping is advantageous to the landowner because they make money off someone else's labor, but a disadvantage is that they have to wait until harvest time for payment from the sharecropper. The system is advantageous to tenants because it's a way to make a living and work on their own terms. However, they're indebted to the landowner, especially when the season yields an insufficient crop and they don't make enough money to have much left over after they pay the landowner.

Great Depression

How did the Great Depression affect people living in cities and people living in rural areas differently?

While the Great Depression brought hardship, homelessness, and hunger to people living in both settings, the struggles were different. In rural areas, prices for crops dropped so much that farmers weren't able to sell their crops and make money to pay mortgages. While they were able to grow food to feed their families, their lack of income caused many farmers to lose their farms. In urban areas, people lost their jobs in factories and stores, ultimately causing them to lose their homes, too. People living in cities couldn't produce their own food, so food was scarce and people were hungry. This caused them to rely on soup kitchens and bread lines. Many people without work resorted to crime in order to put food on the table. Crime rates in cities increased during the Great Depression.