



# ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY: DISCUSSION GUIDE #1



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

## Chapters 1 – 2

### Comprehension:

- Name the members of the Logan family. From which character's point of view is the story told?
- Where does Papa work, and why?
- Who is T.J., and what joke does he make to Stacey about the school year? How does Stacey react?
- What news about the Berrys does T.J. share on the way to school?
- Why does Stacey tell his little brothers and sister to get off the road?
- How do the Logans get to school? How is this different from the kids who attend Jefferson Davis County School?
- Why do most of the children at the Great Faith Elementary and Secondary School wear thread-worn clothes and shoes that are too small to wear?
- Why are Little Man and Cassie angry about the books their teacher gives them?
- What reason does Papa give for coming home, and what does Cassie think is the real reason?
- When the Logans talk with their neighbors after church, they find out that Henrietta Toggins witnessed the crime against the Berrys. How did the sheriff respond to her report?

### Analysis:

- Why is Jeremy often ridiculed by the other children? Why do you think he continues to walk with Cassie and her brothers?
- How does Miss Crocker react when Little Man and Cassie are disappointed—and then angry—about the “new” books? How is Miss Crocker's response different from Mama's response? What does this show about the two teachers?

### Personal Connection:

- ▶ Little Man's face is “lit in eager excitement” about the book at school, but he's sorely disappointed when he sees the book's condition. Tell about a time you were excited about something only to be let down. Alternatively, tell about a time you were pleasantly surprised after having low expectations.



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## Chapters 3 – 4

### Comprehension:

- What new challenges do the Logan children face on their way to and from school each day?
- Why does the Jefferson Davis County School's bus driver splash the Logan children with mud?
- What is Stacey's plan for revenge against the school bus, and why isn't T.J. part of the plan?
- What happens to the bus and the children?
- When Mr. Avery comes to warn the Logan family that the night men are riding, what are the Logan children initially afraid of? Who stands guard outside the Logans' house that night?
- Why do Mama and Big Ma suspect something is wrong with the children?
- Why are the Logan children relieved after learning about the man who was tarred and feathered?
- Why does Stacey feel differently than his siblings do about Mr. Morrison's presence?
- Why does Stacey get whipped in school, and why does he accept the punishment even though he's not guilty?
- How does Mama learn about Stacey's fight with T.J. at the Wallace store?

### Analysis:

- Why do you think Big Ma responds with tough love to Little Man's complaints about his dirty, muddy clothes? What lesson do you think she's trying to teach?
- Why do you think Mr. Morrison gets the children from the Wallace store and doesn't tell Mrs. Logan? How is Stacey impacted by Mr. Morrison's words, decisions, and actions?
- What lesson do the children most likely learn when Mama takes them to visit Mr. Berry instead of scolding or whipping them? Why do you think this was a more powerful consequence?

### Personal Connection:

- ▶ Little Man says that "it ain't fair" when the bus dirties his clothes yet again. Tell about a time you felt frustrated or angry because you—or someone you know—were treated unfairly.