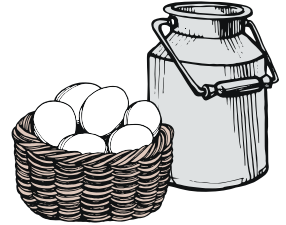




ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY: DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

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 5 – 6

Comprehension:

- At the market in Strawberry, Big Ma parks the wagon on the far end of the field even though there are spaces available near the entrance. Why does she do this, and how does Cassie feel about it?
- How does Cassie feel about Mr. Jamison, and why?
- Why does Cassie disobey Big Ma and go to the Barnett Mercantile without her? What happens there that makes Cassie so upset?
- Describe what happens between Cassie and the Simmses in Strawberry.
- Who is Uncle Hammer, and what makes his car so interesting?
- How does Uncle Hammer react when he hears about what happened to Cassie in Strawberry?
- According to Mama, why didn't Big Ma stand up for Cassie in Strawberry?
- How does Mama explain to Cassie why Mr. Simms forced her to call Lillian Jean "Miz"?
- What does Uncle Hammer give Stacey for an early Christmas present? How does T.J. react when he sees it?

Analysis:

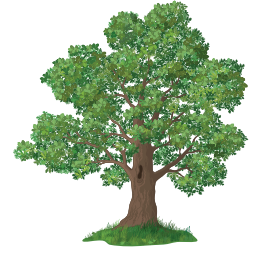
- At the mercantile, Mr. Barnett fills white customers' orders before T.J.'s, even though T.J. and Cassie were there first. How do T.J., Stacey, and Cassie react to this injustice, and what do their reactions show about each of them?
- In Cassie's town, there is a bridge with only one lane. White drivers are known for pushing through and making Black drivers reverse back across the bridge—even when it's not the white drivers' turn. When Uncle Hammer approaches the bridge, it's clearly the other car's turn. Even so, Uncle Hammer drives forward, forcing the car with the white family to reverse. What does this show about Uncle Hammer?

Personal Connection:

- ▶ Cassie feels angry when Big Ma makes her apologize to Lillian Jean instead of standing up for her. Write or tell about a time when someone didn't stand up for you—or when you didn't stand up for someone else. How did this make you feel? Explain.



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Chapters 7 – 8

Comprehension:

- Why doesn't Uncle Hammer want Stacey to get the coat back from T.J.? What lesson does he try to teach Stacey about the coat?
- What happened to Mr. Morrison's family?
- What is Little Man's most treasured Christmas gift, and why does he value it above all the others?
- Why does Jeremy stop by the Logans' house on Christmas, and why does Papa discourage Stacey's friendship with Jeremy?
- How does Mr. Jamison offer to help the Logans with the Wallace store boycott, and why?
- Why does Mr. Granger come to visit the Logans, and what does he say?
- After Cassie's conversation with Papa, how does her behavior toward Lillian Jean change on the walk to school? What impact does this have on Lillian Jean?
- What does T.J. do that causes Mama to get fired?
- What consequence does T.J. face for talking to Kaleb Wallace about Ms. Logan and getting her fired?

Analysis:

- Mama objects to the children hearing Mr. Morrison's story about what the night men did to his family. Papa insists that the children need to hear it because it's their history. Why do you think Papa believes this?
- When Cassie tells Lillian Jean that she has a surprise for her, she leads her into the woods. How does this scene change the dynamic between the two girls?

Personal Connection:

- ▶ Stacey gives his new coat to T.J. after T.J. teases him about how he looks in it. Have you ever let someone's teasing, opinions, or peer pressure influence you to do something? Explain.