



## ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY: DISCUSSION GUIDE #3



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 9 – 10

#### Comprehension:

- How do Stacey and Cassie react when Jeremy tells them he'll be lonely without them?
- What does Jeremy tell the Logans about how his brothers, R.W. and Melvin, treat T.J.?
- Why does Papa delay leaving for his railroad job?
- Why does Mr. Avery come to talk to Papa about the shopping list his wife had brought?
- What happened to Stacey, Mr. Morrison, and Papa on their way home from Vicksburg?
- Why does Stacey feel responsible for his father's injury?
- What does it mean that the bank "calls up the note", and what does Papa think Harlan Granger has to do with it?
- Why doesn't Papa want Uncle Hammer to know about what the Wallaces did to him? Why don't the Logans report the Wallaces to the sheriff?
- What does Uncle Hammer do to get the money to pay the bank?

#### Analysis:

- What does Papa mean when he tells Stacey that "he was born blessed"?
- After several families pull out of the boycott of the Wallace store, there are only seven families left. The book says "the number was not significant enough to hurt the Wallaces, only enough to rile them." If that's true, why do you think the Logans continue the boycott?
- Why do you think T.J. comes to the revival with the Simms brothers? What might happen to T.J. when he goes to Strawberry?

#### Personal Connection:

- ▶ Cassie's community looks forward to the annual church revival because it's a rare social event that gives people the chance to see friends and relatives. It's a break from their daily routine, and hard times are forgotten for the day. Tell about a tradition or event that you enjoy, and explain what makes it special for you.



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## Chapters 11 – 12

### Comprehension:

- Explain what happened with T.J. and R.W. and Melvin Simms when they were at the Barnetts' store. Why didn't the Barnetts recognize the Simms brothers?
- How do Stacey and Cassie react to T.J.'s story?
- Who comes to T.J.'s house in the middle of the night, and what happens?
- Who is the first person who tries to help the Avery family?
- What do the Logan children do when they realize what the men plan to do to T.J.?
- What does Mama realize is happening in the forest after Papa and Mr. Morrison leave, and how does she respond?
- What information does Jeremy bring to Cassie, Little Man, and Christopher-John? Why is this information helpful for the Logan children to hear?
- How does Papa stop the men from harming T.J.?
- Where is T.J. at the end of the story?

### Analysis:

- Given the way T.J. treated Stacey and Mrs. Logan in the past, why do you think Stacey decides to help T.J. when he comes back from the Barnetts' store? What does this show about Stacey?
- Consider T.J.'s relationship with the Simms brothers. What details of their relationship contribute to T.J.'s downfall?
- What does Papa mean when he says "This thing's been coming a long time"?

### Personal Connection:

- ▶ At the end of the novel, Cassie cries when she learns what might be ahead for T.J. She asks Papa, "Does it have to be?" Papa answers, "All I can say, Cassie girl...is that it shouldn't be." In the world, there are many things that shouldn't be the way they are. Name one that is of particular importance to you. What is something you would do—if you could—to change that situation for the better? Explain.