**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry—Mildred D Taylor**

**DIRECTIONS: For all of the following prompts, you are expected to highlight the passages and annotate in the margins. Please respond to the journal in complete sentences.**

**Chapter ONE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| TITLE | 1. Repeat the title *Roll of Thunder, Hear My* Cry a few times to yourself. Where do these words take your imagination? What pictures and/or other words come to your mind?
 |  |
| Pg 3 ¶1 | 1. How does Taylor hook the reader? What type of a hook is used? Why does she begin the novel like this?
 |  |
| Pg 3-5 | 1. Cite evidence that shows each of the central characters’ personalities so far
 |  |
| Pg 23-27 | 1. Little Man was very excited to receive a book of his own. What does that reinforce about his character?
2. Why then does Little Man refuse the book and then eventually stomp on it to Miss Crocker’s dismay?
3. How do Miss Crocker’s and Cassie’s reactions differ? Why do they react so differently?
 |  |

**JOURNAL**

1) Imagine you heard someone in a cotton field working and singing a song called “Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.” What kind of mood would the song have? What might the person in the field be thinking about as he or she worked? Jot down some words or phrases to describe those thoughts.

2)How does the roll of thunder in a storm make you feel? Do you like or dislike thunderstorms? Describe some positive and negative things about storms.

**Chapter TWO**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 34-37 | 1. Who does Papa bring home to stay with the family? Describe this character’s physical build using text evidence.
2. Infer why Papa brings this character home. Cite the evidence
 |  |

**JOURNAL**--Quite often friendships are tested by events at school, by our families, and even by other people’s opinions. Write about an experience in which you had a friend who was especially difficult to be friends with. You can also describe a problem between friends in a movie, television show, or book.

**Chapter THREE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 42 ¶1 | 1. Identify various examples of personification in this ¶.
2. What image is created?
 |  |
| Pg 51-56 | 1. What is Stacey’s plan to get revenge on the bus?
 |  |

**JOURNAL**—Think about how the bus driver and the children on the Jefferson Davis school bus behaved toward the Logan children. Describe a time when people laughed at you and how that laughter made you feel.

**Chapter FOUR**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 73 ¶11 | 1. Read TJ’s dialogue closely. Notice his words and how he regards the Logans. How does he see himself in relation to the Logans?
 |  |
| Pg 76-77 | 1. What do the children find TJ doing in Mama’s room? There is irony in ¶5 pg 76. Can you identify it?
2. Identlfy the irony in ¶ 8 (continues on to pg 77)
 |   |
| Pg 96-98 | 1. After Stacey admits to going to the Wallace store. What punishment does Mama give the children? Why is this punishment much more meaningful than a whipping?
 |  |

**JOURNAL**—Pg 98-99 ¶ 5. In this passage Taylor doesn’t identify whose “ears might be listening and which tongues might wag”. She is vague. She uses abstract language to highlight how careful Mama must be. On Mama’s visits, why doesn’t she specifically mention the Wallaces’ crimes? Who are the “many ears that listened”?

**Chapter FIVE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 110-116 | 1. What two character-shaping events happen to Cassie while in Strawberry? Why are these so significant? Use supporting details. |  |

**JOURNAL**-- What actions would you have taken other than the ones that Cassie did? Be sure to give thoughtful reasons for what you would do. Be sure to tell also what you think would be the repercussions from your actions.

**Chapter SIX**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 117-118 | 1. Why is Cassie so upset with Big Ma? Use text evidence to support.
 |  |
| Pg 119-120 | 1. Explain Uncle Hammer’s character. What is so unique about him?2. What is the symbolism behind Hammer’s car?  |  |

**JOURNAL**-- Hammer says, “Got me a good mind to burn that place [the Wallace store] out.” Considering the times and the place where Hammer made that statement, write what advice you would give him. Be extremely frank with him in your advice and back it up with events that help prove your conclusions.

**Chapter SEVEN**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 143 ¶4 | 1.Read this ¶ carefully. Take note of Uncle Hammer’s words. How did he punish Stacey for giving TJ his new coat? Why was he punished this way and what does this reinforce about the family? |  |
| Pg 145-146  | 1.Describe the mood displayed during the Christmas scene. 2.What theme is reinforced here? Cite the evidence. |  |

**JOURNAL**—Think about what advice you would give the Logans to protect them from Harlan Granger. What should they do first?

**Chapter EIGHT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 173 ¶7 | 1.TJ states, “I got too many worries of my own to worry ‘bout Cassie Uncle Tomming Lillian Jean.” What does “Uncle Tomming” mean? Look it up if you are unsure. 2.This is also an example of an “ironic foreshadowing”. Can you explain the irony?  |  |
| Pg 184-188 | 1.Why did Mama get fired from her job? Be sure to explain the **real** reason for the firing? 2.How does this affect the family?  |  |
| 188-194 | 1.Stacey decides not to beat up TJ. On page 191 ¶5, Stacey states, “What [TJ] got coming to him is worse than a beating.” Explain this foreshadowing. What could be worse than a beating to TJ?2. Explain how TJ is an Uncle Tom. |  |

**JOURNAL**—Should Mrs. Logan teach her students a version of history that is different from what is in the textbooks? Explain your response.

**Chapter NINE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 195 ¶1  | 1.It is spring now. In general, what does spring symbolically represent?2.Provide evidence that supports the representation of spring. |  |
| Pg 205 ¶4 | 1.Papa tells Stacey, “You were born blessed, boy.” What does he mean by this? |  |
| Pg 206 | 1.Explain the symbolism behind the fig and other trees. Use evidence.  |  |

**JOURNAL**-- In the first paragraph of this chapter, the author has written a lovely description of what spring is like in rural Mississippi. Using this paragraph as a model, write an equally descriptive image of the arrival of spring here.

**Chapter TEN**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 232 ¶2 | 1.What does it mean that “the bank called up the note”? |  |
| Pg 235 | 1.Hammer sold his car to help out the family. What does this show about his character? |  |

**JOURNAL**--Think about the level of racial confrontation in our times. How does it compare to the state of race relations in the society and times during which this novel was set? Write your opinion of how much you think race relations have improved or not improved since the1930’s.

**Chapter ELEVEN**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 243 ¶1 | 1.Danger and trouble are coming. How is it foreshadowed that something bad is about to happen? Cite the specific evidence. |  |
| Pg 246 | 1.Why did the Simms mask their faces with stockings and wear gloves on their hands? Remember TJ was unmasked and ungloved.  |  |
| Pg 252-255 | 1.TJ and his family are brutally attacked. Which two scenes from earlier in the novel are echoed here?  |  |

**JOURNAL**—Mr. Jamison has been trying to help the Logans keep their land and he now tries to save TJ. Mr. Jamison stands before powerful forces of wrong to protect the weak. Think of people you have known of from your personal experience or the media who have stood up for something just because it is right. Write an entry which praises that person and tells

what that person has been championing. **Chapter TWELVE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Page #/¶ # | Text Dependent Questions | Elaboration/Explanation/Evidence |
| Pg 272 | 1.Mr. Jamison brings bad news. Jim Lee Barnett died. What does this mean for TJ? |  |
| Pg 273 | 1.Cassie realizes that she now knows something that is “known and unknown” at the same time. What is it? |  |
| Pg 274-276 | 1.Why does Cassie cry for TJ and the land? Explain with evidence.  |   |

**JOURNAL**--Courage can be as simple as doing something you are afraid to do, despite your fears. Think of acts of courage, large or small, that you have become aware of in your lifetime. Choose one of those acts to write about in as much detail as you can. Be sure to tell why that particular act of courage impressed you the most.