

### Part One: Plot

1. When is Jefferson scheduled to be executed?
2. What happens to Grant at the Rainbow Club? Why do you think this event occurred?
3. Explain the breakthrough Grant has with Jefferson.
4. Explain the significance of the Christmas program in Chapter 19.

### Part Two: Big Ideas

1. On the very first page Miss Emma is likened to “a great stone” and “one of our oak or cypress stumps” and in Chapter 15 Tante Lou is likened to “a boulder in the road.” What do these and other instances of strongly rooted or anchored earth elements tell us about these two women? Use textual evidence to support your ideas.
2. What is ironic about the conversation between Vivian and Grant at the end of Chapter 18? To what and whom is Vivian referring? What are specific examples of these changes?
3. Is Grant a hero, according to the definition he gives Jefferson in Chapter 24? Is Jefferson a hero? Do any of the other characters qualify as heroes according to Grant’s definition? Grant explains to Jefferson a “myth” that continues to determine life in their community. What is that “myth”? Are there references to it or instances of its existence elsewhere in the novel?
4. What are the terms and implications of the conflict between what Jefferson wants before he dies and what each of the others wants for and of him? How is this conflict related to the novel’s other dominant conflicts?
5. In Chapter 22, Grant notes that Jefferson looks at him “with an inner calmness now.” What are the causes and implications of that inner calmness? What is the significance of the way Paul treats Grant at the beginning of Chapter 22? Compare to Paul’s interaction with Grant in Chapter 17 (exactly halfway through the novel), such as introducing himself to Grant by his full name. What theme(s) do these support?
6. Explain the meaning and significance of the following quotes:
  - “How do people come up with a date and time to take life from another man? Who made them God?” (Grant, pg. 157)
  - “It was the kind of ‘here’ that asked the question, When will all this end? When will a man not have to struggle to have money to get what he needs ‘here’? When will a man be able to live without having to kill another man ‘here’?” (Grant, pg. 174)
  - The white people out there are saying you don’t have it—that you’re a hog, not a man. But I know they are wrong.” (Grant, 191)

### Part Three: Author’s Style

1. Find two examples of imagery in the novel and explain them. Cite page number(s).
2. Find three examples of regionalism from the novel. Cite page numbers and explain the effect these examples have on the novel.
3. Explain the connection between Jefferson’s execution and religion. Also, analyze and discuss any religious allusions in this section of the novel.