

### **Characterization (for discussion)**

1. Consider the character of Antoine, Grant's teacher. In what way are he and Grant similar?
2. Consider the character of Grant. How do you feel about him? How have your feelings changed since Reading Assignment #1? Why?
3. Choose an adjective to describe the character of Jefferson. Support your choice with two pieces of evidence.
4. Explain Grant's initial impression of Paul Bonin.
5. Explain how Vivian serves as a foil to Jefferson.

### **Plot**

1. Summarize the first meetings with Jefferson, and how the visits are different when Grant goes to the jail without Miss Emma.
2. Find 4 examples of blatant racism in these chapters. Provide page numbers.
3. At the beginning of Chapter 13, the narrative jumps ahead in time and Grant relates events in flashback. Why are these events not presented directly as part of the ongoing narrative? What does the author hope to achieve with this shift?

### **Big Ideas**

1. Explain why the men at the Rainbow Club consider Jackie Robinson a hero.
2. In what ways are Jefferson and Grant similar? Explain your answer.
3. Why wouldn't running away solve Grant's problems?
4. Explain the conflict with religion and academia.
5. Explain how divisions exist within the African-American community in this novel.
6. Consider two internal conflicts Grant faces within this chapter.
7. Why do you think Gaines chose to use Grant as the narrator of this novel? How has that become more important in these chapters?
8. At the end of Chapter 12, Vivian offers Grant an explanation of his not "running away." Is her explanation just? What does her explanation reveal about her and her understanding of Grant and of his circumstances?
9. Explain how setting and mood are tied together in Chapter 14.