

**Vocabulary:** Use the context to help you determine the meaning of the underline word in each of the following sentences. Circle the letter of the answer you choose.

1. Knowing my aunt is meticulously neat, I always wipe my feet at the door and hang up my coat as soon as I come in.  
a. carefully                      b. carelessly                      c. morosely                      d. defensively
2. Tired and irritable from staying up late the night before, Sophia responded testily when her teacher asked for her homework.  
a. audibly                      b. snappishly                      c. willingly                      d. humorously
3. Even though she knew her words would be offensive to her workers, she had to scold them for coming to the office in sloppy clothing.  
a. provoking                      b. ridiculous                      c. complimentary                      d. insulting

**Questions:** Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. What effect has the Depression had upon the Logan family?

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2. How is Cassie’s school different from the one that the white children attend?

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3. Why are the school calendars of the white and black schools different?

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4. What does the “burning” incident reveal about racial attitudes in Sokane County, Mississippi?

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5. What is the children’s reaction to the school bus that threatens them as they walk to school?

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6. Why is Jeremy often ridiculed by other children? Why do you think he continues to walk with Cassie's family?

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7. Why is Little Man upset about the schoolbooks? Do you think he should have refused the book?

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**Literary Elements: Dialect** – Dialect is a form of language spoken in a specific area which differs somewhat from standard English in vocabulary, grammar, and idiom. Writers often use dialect to give readers a sense of realism. Notice, for example, Little Man's remarks to his sister.

Y'all go ahead and get dirty if y'all wanna . . .  
Me, I'm gonna stay clean.

What does this dialect reveal about Little Man?

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How might it be rewritten in Standard English?

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**Characterization** – Chapter One provides background information on each of the important characters in the book. Mildred Taylor has the special ability to create characters that come alive in her books. They seem to live and breathe as if they were real people. Here is a list of adjectives that describe personality. Fill in the chart below with information you have learned so far and add to it as you continue reading.

aggressive	intelligent	realistic
cruel	loving	scheming
fair	loyal	self-confident
garrulous	naïve	shy
humorous	patient	sly
idealistic	perceptive	spunky
insecure	practical	strong

<b>Character</b>	<b>Physical Characteristics</b>	<b>Personality Traits</b>
<b>Cassie</b>		
<b>Little Man</b>		
<b>Stacey</b>		
<b>Christopher-John</b>		
<b>Mama</b>		
<b>Papa</b>		
<b>Big Ma</b>		
<b>T.J. Avery</b>		
<b>Mr. Morrison</b>		

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

**Chapter 2 - 3**

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. sinewy           | a. stared with sudden anger; glared              |
| 2. formidable       | b. as if plotting together                       |
| 3. caravan          | c. dreadful; threatening                         |
| 4. inaccessible     | d. not easily reached                            |
| 5. glowered         | e. stringy; tough                                |
| 6. conspiratorially | f. made motionless, as in amazement              |
| 7. transfixed       | g. group of travelers banded together for safety |

1. The children at the birthday party were \_\_\_\_\_ by the magician's performance.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of pioneers made its way through dangerous territory.
3. Although the others enjoyed the mean of venison, I found the meat \_\_\_\_\_ and tasteless.
4. Since there is no regular ferry schedule, the lovely island remains \_\_\_\_\_ to most vacationers.
5. The waitress \_\_\_\_\_ at the rude customer, but restrained herself from saying anything she might regret.
6. The two salesmen winked at each other \_\_\_\_\_ behind the customer's back.
7. He overcame the \_\_\_\_\_ obstacles of poverty and physical disability to become one of the world's most gifted scientists.

**Questions:** Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why does Papa come home for just one day?

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2. Why does Papa want Mr. Morrison to stay?

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3. Why does Papa tell the children not to go near the Wallace store?

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<b>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>
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**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then answer the questions below.

1. discourse
2. wizened
3. riveting

- a. conversation
- b. withered; shriveled
- c. holding the attention

1. If a friend of yours began acting uncharacteristically listless, what would you do?

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2. If you wanted to have an earnest and intelligent discourse with the author, Mildred Taylor, how would you go about it?

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3. What fairy-tale character comes to mind when you think about a woman with wizened features?

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**Questions:** Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why was Sam Tatum tarred and feathered? Although this was a terrible act, why are the Logan children somewhat relieved?

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2. Why doesn't Stacey feel the same way about Mr. Morrison as the other children in the family?

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3. Why does Stacey accept punishment for cheating when he isn't guilty?

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4. Why does Mr. Morrison fetch the children from the Wallace store?

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5. Why does Mama take the children to visit Mr. Berry instead of scolding or whipping them?

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6. Why do Harlan Granger and Big Ma each have strong feelings about the Logans' land?

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**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

**Chapter 5 – 6**

**Vocabulary:** Word analogies are equations in which the first pair of words has the same relationship as the second pair of words. For example, TINY is to HUGE as EXCITING is to BORING. Both pair of words are opposites. Choose a word from the Word Box to complete each of the analogies below. Then use words from the Word Box to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

WORD BOX  
languid      malevolent

1. WITHDRAW is to RECOIL as SPITEFUL is to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. STRONG is to WEAK as VIGOROUS is to \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Everyone moves in a \_\_\_\_\_ manner when the weather is hot and steamy.

2. I became frightened when I caught sight of Bob's \_\_\_\_\_ stare as I passed the window.

**Questions:** Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why doesn't Big Ma take Cassie's advice to move the farm wagon forward where customers will notice it?

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2. Compare Stacey's and Cassie's reactions to Mr. Barnett's racist insults in the store.

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3. How is Uncle Hammer's reaction toward bigotry different from that of the other adults in the family?

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4. What does Uncle Hammer decide to do when he learns how Mr. Simms treated Cassie? Why doesn't he follow through? What do you think would have happened if he had?

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5. How does Mama explain southern bigotry to Cassie?

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6. Why does Mama say "one day we'll pay" after Uncle Hammer drives them across the bridge?

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**Literary Elements: Symbolism** – A symbol in literature is a person, object, or event that represents an idea or a set of ideas. For example, the American flag usually symbolizes the ideas of democratic government, patriotism, and love of country?

What does Uncle Hammer's car symbolize to him and to the Logan family?

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What might his car symbolize to the bigoted white citizens in the community where the Logan's live?

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**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

**Chapter 7 – 8**

**Vocabulary:** In each of the sets of words below, underline the one word that does not belong. Then write a sentence explaining why that word does not fit with the others.

1. inaudible                      loud                      squeaky                      luminescent

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2. collateral                      mulatto                      loan                      money

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**Literary Elements: Foreshadowing** – Foreshadowing refers to the clues an author provides to suggest events that will happen later in the story. What do you think the final lines in Chapter Seven foreshadow? Why do you suppose the writer chose not to have Mr. Granger explain exactly what was on his mind?

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**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

**Chapter 9 – 10**

**Vocabulary:** Below you will find six underlined words, each of which is followed by three synonyms. Use these synonyms to help you decide what the underline word means. Then write a sentence for each underline word.

1. fallow                      unseeded                      uncultivated                      plowed

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2. furrow                      groove                      depression                      wrinkle

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3. despondent                      depressed                      dejected                      gloomy

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4. lethargic                      drowsy                      sluggish                      dull

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**Questions:** Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. What evidence shows that the Logan family feels the effects of Mama's dismissal from her job?

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2. Why does Papa delay leaving for his railroad job?

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3. Why can't Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier continue to boycott the Wallace store?

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4. Why does Mama think Mr. Morrison should leave?

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5. Why does T. J. come to the revival with R.W. and Melvin?

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**Literary Elements: Symbolism** – What does the fig tree symbolize for the Logans?

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**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

**Chapter 11 – 12**

**Vocabulary:** Use the context to help choose the best meaning for the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Circle the letter of the meaning you choose.

1. T.J. acted in such a despicable way that his old friends stayed away from him.  
a. lonely                      b. frightened                      c. determined                      d. contemptible
2. It seemed an interminable wait, as Stacey saw the lights from the lanterns the men were carrying get closer and closer.  
a. endless                      b. brief                      c. boring                      d. satisfying
3. Even though the atmosphere was tense, Mr. Jamison's placid face did not change.  
a. expressive                      b. frightened                      c. wrinkled                      d. calm
4. As the people came closer, a crescendo of voices could be heard shouting racial slurs.  
a. soft sound                      b. increase in volume                      c. smokescreen                      d. whisper

5. The smell of smoke and the red glow in the sky revealed that a fire billowed, carried in our direction by the wind.
- a. reverberated      b. surged      c. extinguished      d. crackled

**Questions:** Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why doesn't the white mob lynch T. J. ?

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2. Why is it important that Cassie and her younger brothers return quickly to alert Papa?

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3. Why does Papa change his mind about punishing the children with his belt?

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