

Name _____

Date _____

Cry, the Beloved Country

Chapter 1

1. Contrast the two settings portrayed in the opening chapter.

Chapter 2

2. What does Kumalo learn from the letter and why is he so afraid to open it?
3. Where will he receive the money for the trip?
4. What do we learn about Kumalo's family in this chapter?

Chapter 3

5. What information about people who had gone to Johannesburg do we learn?
6. What favor regarding Sibeko does Kumalo agree to do?
7. How are the people on the train dressed?
8. How does Kumalo feel at the beginning of his trip?

Chapter 4

9. What is Afrikaans? (Check the glossary at the back of the book.)
10. How does the young boy cheat Kumalo? How does Kumalo respond?
11. Who finally helps Kumalo and takes him where he is supposed to go?
12. What does Kumalo do at the end of the chapter? (It is not in his custom to do this.) Why do you think he does this?
13. What does Stephen Kumalo see which scares or intrigues him in this chapter?

Chapter 5

14. What does Kumalo tell the other ministers about his homeland?

15. Why are the people in Johannesburg afraid?

16. What disturbing news about Gertrude does Kumalo learn?

17. Who is Absalom and what do we learn about him?

18. What do we learn about John Kumalo?

19. Explain the quotation: "The tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended again" (56; ch. 6).

Chapter 6

20. What additional information about Johannesburg does Kumalo learn?

21. What does Kumalo learn when he talks to Gertrude and how does he treat her?

22. What do Stephen and Gertrude decide to do?

23. How does Kumalo feel at the end of the chapter? Why?

Chapter 7

24. Describe John Kumalo

25. Why doesn't John attend church anymore?

26. According to Msimangu, what is his one great fear?

27. What information about Absalom does Kumalo learn?

Chapter 8

28. Explain why Kumalo and Msimangu cannot take the bus. How does Kumalo feel about this? How does a white man later help them?
29. Describe Dubula.
30. What do Kumalo and Msimangu learn from Mrs. Mkize?
31. Why does the police officer stop the white man who is transporting black people? How does the white man respond?
32. According to Kumalo's thoughts, what is a thing "not lightly done" (81)?

Chapter 9

33. Explain when and why "all roads lead to Johannesburg."
34. Cite information which you learn in this chapter about each of the following concepts:
housing:
Committee and list:
Shanty Town and squatters:
"God Save Africa":
Doctor:
"White men come again, but this time in anger" (91):
35. Explain the quote on page 87: "There will be trouble one day..."

Chapter 10

36. Describe Kumalo's relationship with the young boy.
37. Explain Kumalo's thoughts on page 94: "Who indeed knows the secret of the earthly pilgrimage? Who knows for what we live, and struggle, and die...."
38. What new information does Kumalo learn about his son from the Hlatshwayos?
39. What does the man at the reformatory tell Kumalo about his son?

40. Why do Kumalo and Msimangu travel to Pimville and what do they learn here?
41. What advice does Msimangu give Kumalo and how does Kumalo respond?
42. Why does Msimangu say that he is ashamed to walk with Kumalo (101)?

Chapter 11

43. Why must Msimangu travel to Ezenzeleni?
44. What disturbing news about Arthur Jarvis is detailed in the newspaper?
45. Why does Kumalo feel additional sorrow over this news?
46. Describe what is known about the crime.
47. On pages 104-105 the reader gets a glimpse of the meaning behind the title of the novel. Explain the title.
48. Explain Kumalo's feelings at the end of the chapter. How has he changed since coming to Johannesburg?

Chapter 12

49. Chapter 12 provides random snapshots of some of the major problems in Johannesburg. What problems does the chapter illustrate?
50. Chapter 12 also provides examples of racism found in South Africa. List at least 5 examples of racism.
51. Who had been scheduled to speak at the Cathedral Guild? Why have these plans changed?
52. Explain the final paragraph on page 111.
53. Why is Mrs. Ndlela upset at the end of the chapter? What does Msimangu tell her?

54. What news do Kumalo and Msimangu later learn about Absalom?

55. Why is Kumalo shaking at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 13

56. What effect does Msimangu's sermon have on Stephen Kumalo?

Chapter 14

57. What disturbing news does the young man from the reformatory tell Kumalo and how does Kumalo respond?

58. How does John Kumalo respond when Stephen Kumalo tells him the news?

59. On pages 130, explain what the author means by a "barrier" between the father and son.

60. What information about the murder does Absalom tell his father?

61. What causes the disagreement between John and Stephen Kumalo at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 15

62. Why does the young white man believe that Stephen Kumalo should hire a lawyer?

63. Explain why Kumalo believes his son is now a stranger to him (141).

Chapter 16

64. Why does Stephen Kumalo go to see the young girl alone?

65. How does the young girl respond to the information he tells her?

66. What information does the girl tell the umfundisi which upsets him and causes him to want to hurt her?
67. What plans do Kumalo and the young girl make together?
68. What promise does Kumalo ask the girl to make?
69. At the end of the chapter, what changes does the reader see in Kumalo and the young girl?

Chapter 17

70. What favor does Kumalo ask of Mrs. Lethebe? How does she respond?
71. About what does Mrs. Lethebe warn the young girl and Gertrude?
72. What does Absalom tell his father that he has already told the police? What then happened?
73. What does Kumalo say to Absalom which angers the son?
74. Why will Father Vincent visit Absalom?
75. Who is Mr. Carmichael? What is special about the work he will do for Kumalo?
76. Why is Kumalo so “moved” or emotional at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 18

77. Describe High Place. Who lives here?
78. Why does the author repeat the opening paragraphs (same as chapter 1)?
79. Look at information on page 162. Put this information together with Msimangu’s letter from the second

chapter of the book. How much time has elapsed from the beginning of the novel?

80. Define "Afrikaner." Check glossary at end of book.

81. What news does Jarvis learn from the police officer?

Chapter 19

82. On what issue had James Jarvis and his son NOT seen "eye to eye"?

83. What letters are sent to the family? What does this tell the reader about Jarvis (the son)?

84. What mission does James Jarvis remember?

85. About what is James Jarvis sorry at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 20

86. Describe what James Jarvis sees in his son's room.

87. According to Jarvis's manuscript, what's wrong with the natives?

Chapter 21

88. What is different for Jarvis and his wife at the funeral of their son?

89. For what are the police still waiting?

90. What racist words do you detect from what Harrison says to James Jarvis?

91. What does James Jarvis tell John Harrison that he would like to see? Why?

92. What information about the murders do the police find out?

93. What does Jarvis read at the end of the chapter? What effect does it have on him?

Chapter 22

94. How are people separated in the courtroom?
95. Who are the three men accused of the murder? How does each plead?
96. According to Absalom, what does Johannes do during the home invasion?
97. What does Absalom do with the revolver after the murder? How do the police find it?
98. Why does Kumalo tremble in court?

Chapter 23

99. Why do people pay little attention to the court trial?
100. Explain the closing line of the chapter.

Chapter 24

101. What is the "stain on the floor" that is mentioned several times in this and preceding chapters?
102. According to one of his son's manuscripts, what does Jarvis learn that he never taught his son? How does Jarvis react when he reads this?

Chapter 25

103. How does Kumalo react when he sees Jarvis at the house?
104. What news about Sibeko does Kumalo learn in this chapter?
105. How does Jarvis react when Kumalo tells him that it was his son who killed Arthur?

Chapter 26

106. Who is considered "dangerous"? Why?
107. Describe the strike.
108. Explain the closing lines of the chapter.

Chapter 27

109. What headline is found in the newspaper?
110. What do the women do with the newspaper? Why?
111. What word do some people believe should be removed from headlines? Why?
112. What is Gertrude considering doing? Why do you think she is thinking about this?
113. What favor does Gertrude ask of the young girl and what is the girl's response?

Chapter 28

114. What is the judge's verdict for Matthew Kumalo and Johannes Parfuri? Why?
115. What is the judge's verdict for Absalom, and how will Absalom be punished?
116. How does Absalom respond to the verdict?
117. How does Stephen react to the verdict?
118. What does the judge say about his authority to "trifle with the Law"? Explain.
119. What custom does the young white man break at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 29

120. What ceremony takes place at the prison?
121. What does Absalom give his father? Why?
122. How does Absalom respond when his father is about to leave the prison? What does this tell the reader about Absalom?
123. Why does John Kumalo throw his brother out of his shop?

124. What had Stephen planned to tell his brother?
125. What does Jarvis give John Harrison? Why?
126. Why does Mrs. Lithebe hold a party? What will Msimangu do now?
127. What does Msimangu give Kumalo? Why?
128. What do we discover about Gertrude at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 30

129. Who is with Kumalo when he goes back home?
130. What can the reader discern from Gertrude's relationship with her son from the first page of chapter 30?
131. What is wrong with the soil?
132. How does Mrs. Kumalo treat the young girl and young boy in this chapter?
133. Why is the old teacher ashamed?
134. What does Kumalo tell his friend about spreading news about Kumalo's problems?
135. According to Kumalo, what can pay for pain and suffering?

Chapter 31

136. Why does Kumalo go to see the chief? What happens?
137. Why does Kumalo go to see the headmaster? What happens?
138. Describe the little boy who comes on horseback to see Kumalo?
139. Describe the interaction between Kumalo and the little boy.

140. What does Kumalo tell the little boy about milk? What happens later? Why do you think this happens?
141. Do you think Jarvis would have provided the milk before his son's death? Explain your opinion.

Chapter 32

142. Describe the letters which Kumalo receives from the post office.
143. What does he learn about his son?
144. Why does Kumalo's wife want him to talk to the white man at the post office? What is Kumalo's response?
145. What do the men do with the sticks?
146. How do the natives respond to what the men do with the sticks?
147. What rumor is circulating about Jarvis?
148. How does the weather change?
149. About what do Jarvis and Kumalo speak in the church?
150. What promise does Jarvis make to Stephen?
151. How does the young offender "shame" his mother?
152. What do YOU think the men are doing with the sticks?

Chapter 33

153. What rumors about the sticks circulate through the town?
154. What news does the young boy tell Kumalo?
155. How does Kumalo respond?
156. Who is the new young black man that Kumalo meets?
157. Why has he come?
158. What do we learn about the building that is taking place?
159. Why does the young man say his job will be difficult?

Chapter 34

160. What disturbing news does Kumalo learn at the beginning of the chapter?
161. How does Kumalo respond to this news and what does he decide to do?
162. Describe the church building during the rain storm.
163. In a private meeting, what does the bishop tell Kumalo he must do? Why?
164. How does Kumalo feel about this?
165. What prevents this from happening?
166. What exciting news does Kumalo learn from the letter?
167. What are the people making for the white man?

Chapter 35

168. What does Napoleon teach the people?
169. What does Napoleon say that upsets Kumalo? Explain what he means.

Chapter 36

170. Where does Kumalo go?
171. About what do the two men speak when Kumalo meets Jarvis?
172. What does Jarvis tell Kumalo?
173. What thoughts return to Kumalo at night when he is all alone?
174. When dawn breaks, what does Kumalo do and what does he think?