

THE CAY

Advanced Level Directions: Answer the following questions after reading the assigned chapters each night. The questions are grouped by reading assignment. All questions must be answered with a complete sentence.

Chapters 1-3:

1. In the beginning of the story, why are the residents of Willemstad worried and fearful?

2. Why have the Germans come to these islands all the way from Europe? What do they want?

3. What is Phillip's father's job at the refinery?

4. Why doesn't Phillip's mother particularly like it in Willemstad?

5. What country is Willemstad in?

6. Where are Phillip and his mother attempting to go to escape the threat of the Germans? Why do they choose to go there instead of somewhere else?

7. What happens that prevents Phillip and his mother from reaching their destination?

8. Who is Phillip's shipmate at sea? Describe him:

9. From what you have read so far about Phillip's mother, how do you think she might feel about Timothy?

10. Describe Phillip's feelings toward Timothy when they are on the raft:

Chapters 4-7:

1. Where is Timothy from? Why does Phillip think he is from Africa?

2. Describe what suddenly happens to Phillip that makes Timothy feel even more responsible for him:

3. Why does Phillip become angry with Timothy and his mother?

4. Characterize Phillip in this section – include his emotions.

5. Why does Timothy tell Phillip to keep away from the edge of the raft?

6. How does Timothy attempt to signal an airplane?

7. After Timothy sights the cay, what happens to Phillip that enrages Timothy?

8. What is a cay?

9. Why does Timothy decide to abandon the raft and go to the desolate island that contains no drinking water?

10. What do you think prevents Timothy from killing the cat?

11. Translate the following:

“D’ place I am tinkering of is call Debil’s Mout’.”

“Young bahss, dere is, in dis part of d’s sea, a few lil’ cays like dis one, surround on both’ sides by hombug banks. Dey are cut off from d’res’ o’ d’ sea by dese banks.”

Chapters 8-10

1. Phillip assumes that his father and other men in boats are searching for him, but what does he fail to understand?

2. What does Timothy make that he proudly shows to Phillip?

3. Phillip is concerned about which two deadly inhabitants that might be on the island?

4. Why does Phillip refuses to speak to Timothy when Timothy shows up with three lobsters?

5. What does it mean when Timothy tells Phillip, “Young bahss, be an outrageous ahn if you like, but ‘ere I’m all you got”?

6. What are the two things that Timothy does to help them get rescued from the island?

7. Phillip feels good because he discovers that he can do something that Timothy cannot do. What is it?

8. What causes Timothy to strike Phillip in the face?

9. What does Phillip discover about Timothy that makes him begin to change and say, “I want to be your friend.”?

Chapters 11 – 14

1. What does Phillip do so that he can walk around the entire island without Timothy’s help?

2. Why does Phillip think that Timothy is trying to make him independent?

3. Describe what Timothy says is the cause of all of their troubles.

4. What does Timothy finally do to stop the “evil jumbi”?

5. What happens to Timothy when he gets that “devil, d’fever”?

6. After the fever, what steps does Timothy take to make Phillip more self-reliant?

7. What does Phillip do that convinces Timothy that he is becoming self-reliant?

8. What sounds does Timothy hear that indicate that a storm is coming?

9. List three precautionary things that Timothy does just before the storm hits the cay:

Chapters 15 – 19

1. Describe the storm that hit the island:

2. How does Timothy prevent Phillip from becoming seriously injured?

3. Why does the storm stop for about thirty minutes?

4. What happens to Timothy during the storm and what was the consequence?

5. What does Phillip find when he looks for the fishing poles?

6. Why do the birds attack Phillip?

7. While diving for lobster, what happens to Phillip?

8. What does Phillip do to solve the problem of his rescue smoke not being seen?

9. In a full paragraph, describe the ways that Phillip changes while he is on the cay:

10. What happens to Timothy?

11. What happens to Phillip?

Essay – Choose one to write about on a separate sheet of paper.

*Compare the Phillip you read about in the beginning of the book with the one who returned home at the end. Include physical and emotional changes in your descriptions.

*Characterize Timothy by examining specific examples of his actions in the book; use supporting details and text evidence to verify your choice of adjectives.



Write a message in the bottle that Phillip could have sent to help his father find him. Use text evidence to describe the location so that all the essential information would be read by the receiver of the bottle.