

1. Power of words/education – How/where has Richard learned the power of words?
2. Maslow's Hierarchy (look on the back!) – Where is Richard on the hierarchy right now? Signs of "raising himself" to a higher level? (To what level? How, if at all, is this raise in levels being accomplished?)
3. Catalogs – why? What do you notice about them? Is the form appropriate for the topic(s)? (pgs. 7, 45, and 71 – then a bit of a strange "parallelism" on page 54 at the bottom)
4. Soldiers and Chain Gang? Analogous episodes in the same chapter? Why would Richard Wright do this? Possible messages?
5. Cultural Heritage. Richard doesn't know why they chant racist rhymes, but he claims it's part of his cultural heritage. How much of what we do is a part of our "cultural heritage"? When is cultural heritage a strength and when is it not a strength?
6. Superstition? After Richard's catalog of "If I's..." Richard says, "Anything seemed possible, likely, feasible, because I wanted everything to be possible... Because I had no power to make things happen outside of me in the objective world, I made things happen within. Because my environment was bare and bleak, I endowed it with unlimited potentialities, redeemed it for the sake of my own hungry and cloudy yearning." Why does this paragraph come right after the catalog of superstitions? What role does superstition play in Richard's life?

Chapter 3 Topics – Codes and Conflicts

“Her words did not sink in, for they conflicted with the code of the streets. I promised my mother that I would not fight, but I knew that if I kept my word I would lose my standing in the gang, and the gang’s life was my life.” (pg. 82)

1. What is a “code”?
2. What do the terms “implicit” and “explicit” mean?
3. Brainstorm a list of “code” words. (Get the pun?!)
4. What codes apply to your life? Label these “implicit” or “explicit”.
5. Codes are becoming an important part of Richard’s life. List all of the codes that apply to Richard. Label these codes as “implicit” or “explicit”.

“Listen, I ain’t picking a fight, “I said. “But if you want to fight, I’ll fight.” (pg.91)

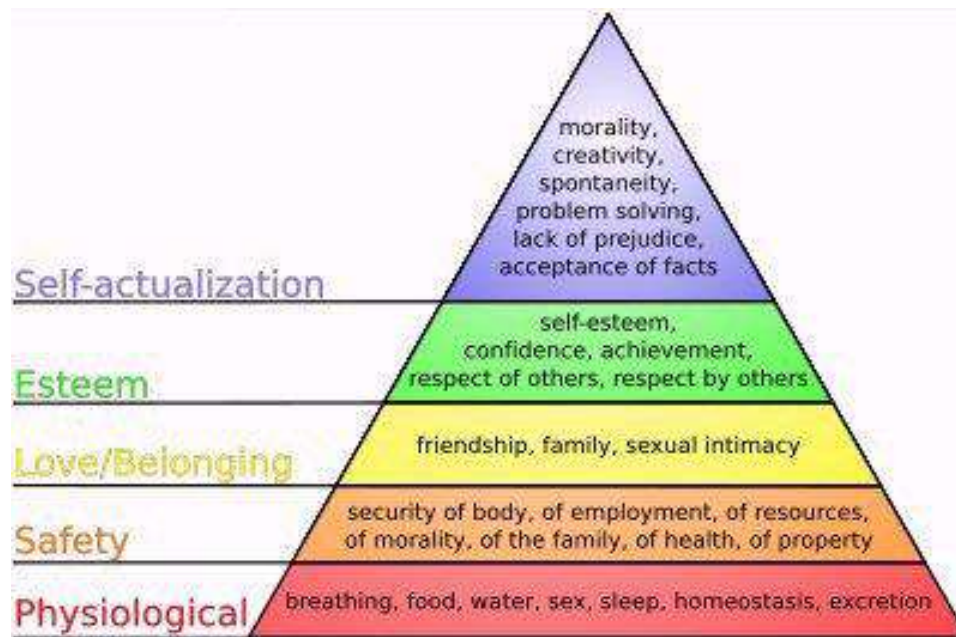
6. Brainstorm a list of Richard’s conflicts through chapter 3.

7. **Now... look for patterns or trends.** Consider (but don’t limit your thinking!) the following:
  - Have kinds of conflict changed over time? Are they easier? More difficult? Of a different nature?
  - Have Richard’s reactions and responses to conflict changed? More/less physical?
  - Have the results changed?
  - Has Richard’s situation/life changed? (Better feed/educated/trained/equipped?)
  - Has Richard “learned” from one conflict to the next? (Has he applied lessons from the past?)

Now, make some observations in statement form: “It seems that...” or “In general...”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Hierarchy of Needs

[Maslow](#) developed a theory of motivation based on a hierarchy of needs. The basic idea is that if a lower level need is not met, that level will be the focus of motivation. If a person is hungry the focus will be on food rather than one of the higher needs. The hierarchy should not be regarded as a rigid structure; an individual may be motivated to fulfill needs at multiple levels at the same time. If someone is a bit hungry they might still skip lunch to impress the boss or fellow workers. At the extreme a person who can't get enough air will be wholly motivated by that need.

1. Physiological Needs - These include the needs we have for oxygen, water, food, a comfortable temperature, sleep, sex and at a more subtle level such needs as those for specific minerals, vitamins or other nutrients.

2. Safety and Security Needs - If the physiological needs are met, the focus shifts to these needs. These include freedom from danger, a secure job, a safe home, stability, the alleviation of fear and anxiety, savings, a good health care plan, insurance, dependable structure and order. In some sense it includes the projection of physiological needs into the future, i.e. knowing where the next meal is coming from.

3. The Love and Belonging Needs - These include the needs for friends, family, belonging to a group, a sense of community and freedom from loneliness and social anxiety. From a management perspective this is a need that people often fulfill in a career.

4. The Esteem Needs - Here we have the need for respect, status, recognition, appreciation and dignity. At a higher level these include confidence, achievement, mastery, self-respect, independence and freedom.