

Homework Questions for “Hunger” by Richard Wright

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Due: 1<sup>st</sup> block

1. What literary device is used in the opening paragraph? Why? Explain how it helps Wright distinguish between the two types of hunger he experiences.
2. What 3 different strategies does the narrator’s mother use to distract or comfort him when he’s hungry?
3. What difficult life lesson does his mother try to teach him and his brother after his father leaves? (This is the conversation she has with him and his brother.)
4. How does Richard initially feel about shopping for the family? How does he feel after his first trip?
5. Do you think his mother knew what would happen the second time she sends him out? What evidence can you provide to support your opinion?
6. Why would the narrator’s mother send him out again if she knew what would happen? What does she want him to be able to do or understand? Do you agree with her methods, why or why not?
7. What realization does the narrator come to about the difference between being beaten at home and being beaten in the streets? Why is this true for him?
8. How might this experience prepare him for situations in the future? Did he only learn to use violence or did he learn something else, what then?

Reading Questions for “Not Poor, Just Broke” by Dick Gregory

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper. Due: 1<sup>st</sup> block

1. Why do you think the narrator is sure to mention that hate was something he learned at school, not home? Why does he then go on to describe his home life?
2. What does it mean to have a Helene Tucker? Have you had a negative experience with someone who continues to motivate you?
3. How does Helene motivate the narrator for 22 years? Why does she have that effect on him? Is there any benefit to Helene’s face hanging in front of him for two decades? (See pgs. 113-114)
4. Discuss Gregory’s diction (or word choice) in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph on pg. 114. With what is he pregnant? Why does this description work?
5. What kind of experience did the narrator have with his teacher? What does the teacher fail to see in the narrator? What reasons might the teacher have for this?
6. Why does Richard decide to “buy a daddy”? What do you think the teacher should have done? What other options did she have?
7. Are people more likely to try to impress those that judge them or rebel against them? Why?
8. How does Richard’s experience in the classroom affect his experiences everywhere else?
9. The title of this story is “Not Poor, Just Broke.” What does that mean? Why is this an important distinction for the writer to make?