

Discussion Questions

Please answer the following questions during and after you read the assigned chapters. Write the page number(s) being referred to in the margins. To get credit for each question, you must answer in 2-3 complete sentences and use a snippet of a quotation with parenthetical citation for each.

1. How does Janie feel about the store? How does she feel about the people who hang around on the porch and “pass around the pictures of their thoughts for the others to look at and see?”

2. Why does Joe make Janie tie up her hair in a rag while she’s working at the store?

3. Why does Joe buy Matt Bonner’s yellow mule? How does Janie react?

4. When the mule dies, why won’t Joe let Janie go to the funeral? What is his reaction when he comes back happy and sees that she is resentful?

5. Why do Joe and Janie usually fight? How does Janie find her voice at the end of Ch. 6?

6. What is your reaction to Jody's comment, "Somebody got to think for women and chillun and chickens and cows"? What can you infer about the town based on their reaction to Jody's treatment of Janie?

Chapter 7

7. What finally makes Janie stand up to Jody in public? What changed?

8. Look back at the passage when Jody and Janie first met. When Janie refers to his "big voice" now, how is it ironic?

9. When Janie says, "You look lak de change uh life" to Jody, how does he react? How does everyone else react? What has changed?

Chapter 8:

10. Janie has already embarrassed and humiliated Jody publicly (and what did you infer from that?), so why does she say she doesn't want to hurt him? What can you infer from this new turn?
