Chapter 1 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. At the beginning of this story, the children in the Logan family are introduced on their walk to school. Briefly identify and describe each of them.
2. Who is Harlan Granger?
3. Why do you suppose the children’s father has to go away and lay track?
4. What is the setting of the story?
5. How does the father respond to Cassie when she asks why the land is so important that he has to go away to find work? What does the land seem to represent to Mr. Logan?
6. What is a sharecropper?
7. T.J., who is not liked by Cassie, is tolerated by Stacey. What story did T.J. tell his mother about his younger brother Claude that got Claude in trouble? Why?
8. This is the first mention of “the burning.” Who was badly burned?
9. What indignity do the children suffer from the school bus?
10. How is the bus driver responsible for this?
11. Who is Jeremy Simms? What is his family’s social position?
12. Why is the black school only in operation from October to March?
13. What are we told about Moe Turner that suggests he will do well when he grows up?
14. Why are Little Man and Cassie upset by the books they are given?
15. The children’s mother, Mrs. Logan, is a seventh grade teacher at the school. What does she do to the books? How does Miss Crocker react to this?
16. The people in the story speak in an informal way using “ain’t,” “sho,” etc. What is this use of language called?

Chapter 2 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. Find a simile in this chapter.
2. What are Mama and Big Ma doing at the beginning of this chapter? Why?
3. Who is Mr. Morrison? What can you infer is the real reason that the father brings Mr. Morrison home?
4. The author says that when people gathered at the Logan home after church on Sunday, “angry, hopeless words” were said. What were the people upset about?
5. Why do the parents want the children to avoid going to the Wallace store?

**Extended response:**

1. Imagine you are Mr. Morrison, and the Papa has just brought you home. Describe what you notice about the Logan family and their home and what you hear from their friends and neighbors after church. What do you hink about your new home? Write **at least seven sentences** to describe what you think, see, and feel, using specific details from the text.

Chapter 3 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. As the children walk to school in the mud and the rain, why do they continually look over their shoulders?
2. Of all the children, Little Man is the most angered about getting dirtied by the school bus. What does Big Ma say when he tells her about the incident?
3. What is the implied significance of the fact that Jeremy Simms never rides the school bus, no matter how bad the weather is?
4. Describe Stacey’s plan for getting even with the school bus.
5. Why does he wish to make it appear that part of the road has been washed away rather than dug out?
6. Mr. Avery comes to the Logan house to warn Mr. Morrison that night riders might be out that night. Who are the night riders, and why may they be out?
7. What is Mr. Morrison doing when the seven cars come down the road and pull into the driveway?

Chapter 4 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. As the chapter opens, why is Cassie moping around the house, as if she were sick?
2. T.J. has news about what happened to Sam Tatum. What news does he have, and why does T.J. always take a long time to tell his news?
3. Why did the night riders do that to Sam Tatum?
4. Why are the children relieved after hearing the cause of the night riders’ actions?
5. T.J. says he forgot his hat and goes back in the Logan house. Why does he really go back to the house?
6. As his teacher, not his mother, Mrs. Logan whips Stacey. Why?
7. Why do the children disobey their father and go to the Wallaces’ store? Why does Mr. Morrison not tell on them?
8. Who is Mr. Jamison? Why does Harlan Granger have a problem with him?
9. Why does Mama take the children to see the Berrys?
10. Why do the black families continue to shop at the Wallace store even though they get cheated?

Chapter 5 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. What is “market day”?
2. Why must Big Ma park her wagon where she does?
3. T.J. says he wants the pearl-handled gun for protection. What inference can the reader make about why he really wants it?
4. Explain the incident that happens in the mercantile store.
5. What does Cassie not understand about the children’s experience in the store that T.J. and Stacey do?
6. We have heard about Mr. Jim Lee Barnett, the proprietor of the mercantile store, before. What other incident was he involved in?
7. Cassie bumps into Lillian Jean at the store. What happens after Cassie apologizes?
8. As Cassie is about to push past Lillian Jean, what happens?
9. Why does Big Ma make Cassie apologize to Lillian Jean’s father?
10. What overall idea is the scene in Strawberry, MS portraying?

Chapter 6 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. Cassie is angry with Big Ma over what happened in Strawberry. Stacey tells her “There’s things you don’t understand, Cassie.” What does Cassie still not understand?
2. When Uncle Hammer asks Cassie about her visit to Strawberry, why does Big Ma try to stop her from telling the story?
3. How does Uncle Hammer respond to hearing the story? How is Hammer different from the other black people in the book?
4. How does Mama explain Mr. Simms’s racism to Cassie?
5. Mama then says, in effect, the family has only one choice about life. What is that choice?
6. How do you suppose Mama makes the best of life?
7. What do you suppose the last line in this chapter indicates? What literary term is used in what mama says?

Chapter 7 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. What lesson does Uncle Hammer hope Stacey has learned after giving the coat away?
2. What kind of person does the coat incident show T.J. to be?
3. What is Mr. Morrison’s story on Christmas Eve about?
4. Why do you think Papa and Mama have different reactions to their children hearing the story?
5. Why does Papa not want Stacey to be friends with Jeremy?
6. Why does Big Ma put the title to the land in the boys’ name?
7. Why does the Logan family want to get all the people to buy their supplies in Vicksburg?
8. Why does Mr. Jamison say that he will back the credit of the people who buy in Vicksburg?
9. Mr. Jamison says, “The sad thing is, you know in the end you can’t beat him [Granger] or the Wallaces.” What is Papa’s response?
10. Granger visits and expresses his displeasure at what the Logans are doing in Vicksburg. He says there are a number of ways of stopping them. What do you think some of these ways might be?

Chapter 8 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. T.J. thinks that Cassie is “Uncle Tomming” Lillian Jean. What clues are there that Cassie has something else in mind?
2. What is the “main message” Papa gives Cassie about the kind of adversity she is going to face in her life?
3. What does Cassie promise her father in response to his advice?
4. Why is Mama fired from her teaching job?
5. Why will Mama’s losing her job create a hardship on the family?
6. Who tells on Mama and probably contributes to her losing her job?
7. Why does this person tell on Mama?
8. What is T.J.’s punishment for his role in the trouble?
9. How does the T.J. incident show Stacey’s character development?
10. What is the revenge that Cassie ends up exacting on Lillian Jean? Do you think it is enough?

Chapter 9 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. What do we learn about T.J. from Jeremy?
2. Why does Mr. Jamison come out to the Logan farm?
3. Cassie does not want her father to leave to go back to work on the railroad, but he tells her that he has to. Why is it necessary?
4. To what does Papa compare the fig tree?
5. Mama mentions that T.J. is heading for some kind of trouble. What kind of trouble could he be heading towards?
6. What evidence is there that R.W. and Melvin are using T.J?
7. Why do most people drop out of the Vicksburg buying co-op?
8. What happens on the road from Vicksburg?
9. For what reason does Papa chastise Stacey in this chapter?

Chapter 10 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. Since Papa cannot work on the railroad with his broken leg the family is going to have trouble making the mortgage payments. Why does Papa not want to let Uncle Hammer know this?
2. Why does mama think that Mr. Morrison should move out? What does Papa think about this?
3. Why do you suppose that Mr. Morrison wants to stay?
4. Kaleb Wallace stops Mr. Morrison on the road but does not do anything. Why does Mr. Morrison say this is?
5. Why can Papa not say anything to the sheriff about the attack on the road?
6. What bad news about the mortgage does the family get? How is the problem resolved?
7. At the end of the chapter, why does Cassie almost feel sorry for T.J.?

Chapter 11 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. An allusion, or reference to another text, refers to the title of the novel and begins this chapter. In this story, what major theme is revealed by the poem and the title?
2. Why do RW and Melvin beat T.J.?
3. Why does Mrs. Barnett think it is black men who break into the store?
4. Just after T.J. climbs into his house, what do the Logan children see?
5. What evidence against T.J. do the men find in his possession?
6. How does T.J.’s view of how he would be perceived when he got the pistol different than how it actually ends up?
7. Who is the only person who can stop the men from lynching T.J.?
8. What message does Granger send?

Chapter 12 - Answer on your own paper in complete, restated sentences.

1. Why does Mama not want Papa to take his shotgun to Harlan Granger’s?
2. In earlier chapters, Cassie has told us that when there is trouble, Papa, unlike Uncle Hammer, does not lose his temper but thinks through the problem. Why does he not do that now?
3. Shortly after they leave, a fire breaks out in the family cotton field. How do the people assume the fire starts?
4. Why does does Harlan Granger order the mob to give T.J. to the sheriff and to start fighting the fire?
5. What news does Mr. Jamison bring and what will this mean for T.J.?
6. Why does Mr. Jamison not want Papa to go into town with the Averys to see T.J.?
7. Cassie says, “I cried for those things which had happened in the night and would not pass. I cried for T.J.. For T.J. and the land.” What is suggested by the ending, both for T.J. and for Cassie’s growth as a character?