

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Chapters 8-9

Name \_\_\_\_\_ PD \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1:** Read each paragraph and write the letter of sentence the best states the main idea.

1) "I guess I won't be seein' much of y'all after next Friday," said Jeremy one evening as we neared his forest trail.

"Guess not," said Stacey.

"Be nice if our schools ended at the same time."

"You crazy!" I cried, remembering that Jefferson Davis didn't dismiss until mid-May.

Jeremy stammered an apology. "I--I just mean we could still see each other." He was silent a moment, then brightened. "Maybe I can come over to see y'all sometime."

Stacey shook his head. "Don't think Papa would like that."

"Well... I just thought..." He shrugged. "It'll sure be lonely without y'all."

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The main idea of this paragraph is:

- A. Jeremy is going to miss seeing the Logan children.
- B. Jeremy is going to miss seeing the Logan children more than they are going to miss seeing him.
- C. The children's school sessions end at different times.
- D. T.J. is upset because he doesn't want school to end.

2) Jeremy looked up at the sun, squinted, then glanced up his forest trail a few feet ahead. "They brung T.J. by the house a couple of times when Pa wasn't home. They treated him almost friendly like, but when he left they laughed and talked 'bout him---called him names." He squinted again at the train and said hurriedly, "I better go.... See y'all tomorrow."

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The main idea of this paragraph is:

- A. Jeremy's brothers and T.J. are friends.
- B. Jeremy still sees T.J.
- C. Jeremy knows his brothers are pretending to be T.J.'s friend.
- D. Jeremy doesn't want to be friends with T.J.

3) Papa looked down at her. "Nothing to worry 'bout, honey... Just seems that Thurston Wallace been in town talking 'bout how he's not gonna let a few smart colored folks ruin his business. Says his's gonna put a stop to this shopping in Vicksburg. That's all."

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The main idea of this paragraph is:

- A. Papa does not want Mama to worry.
- B. The boycott is affecting Mr. Wallace's business, and he does not plan to tolerate it.
- C. Thurston Wallace is upset.
- D. Thurston Wallace is happy about the boycott.

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4) “Y-yessir,” said Stacey. Papa released him and stared moodily into the night. “You were born blessed, boy, with land of your own. If you hadn’t been, you’d cry out for it while you try to survive... like Mr. Lanier and Mr. Avery. Maybe even do what they doing now. It’s hard on a man to give up, but sometimes it seems there just ain’t nothing else he can do.”

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The main idea of this paragraph is:

- A. The fact that the Logans have land makes it easier for them not to give in to Mr. Wallace’s pressure.
- B. Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier are giving up the boycott.
- C. Stacey is a blessed boy.
- D. T.J. and Stacey are friends again.

5) Papa looked down at me and brought me closer, then waved his hand toward the drive. “You see that fig tree over yonder, Cassie? Them other trees all around... that oak and walnut, they’re a lot bigger and they take up more room and give so much shad they almost overshadow that little ole fig. But that fig tree’s got roots that run deep, and it belongs in that yard as much as that oak and walnut. It keeps on blooming, bearing good fruit year after year, knowing all the time it’ll never get as big as them other trees. Just keeps on growing and doing what it gotta do. It don’t give up. It give up, it’ll die. There’s a lesson to be learned from that little tree. Cassie girl, ‘cause we’re like it. We keep doing what we gotta, and we don’t give up. We can’t”

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The main idea of this paragraph is:

- A. The fig tree is much smaller than the oak and walnut trees.
- B. The Logans plan to keep doing what they must to protest the actions of the powerful Wallaces and Grangers.
- C. The fig tree is in danger of dying.
- D. The walnut tree is the best tree.

6) “Couldn’t see nothin’ then,” he said, glancing toward the door where Papa lay. “Heard bones cracking. Heard somebody cursing and crying. Then I couldn’t hear nothin’ but the rain, I was real scared. ‘Fraid they’d killed Mr. Morrison.”

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The main idea of this paragraph is:

- A. Stacey heard more than he saw.
- B. Stacey heard a fight in progress and knows someone is hurt.
- C. Stacey had a bad dream.
- D. Stacey got into a fight.

**Part 2:** Read each question. Choose the best answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which word describes Lillian Jean’s initial reaction when Cassie asks if she can carry her books?

- A. surprised      B. sad      C. angry      D. rejected

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- \_\_\_\_\_ **8.** What is Cassie's real reason for acting like a servant for Lillian Jean?
- A.** She realizes that African Americans should do what white folks say.
  - B.** She is trying to gain her trust in order to get revenge on her later.
  - C.** Stacey told her to be nice, so night riders do not come.
  - D.** She is doing it to please Jeremy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **9.** What prevents Lillian Jean from telling everyone that Cassie beat her up?
- A.** She has no marks on her face.
  - B.** She is embarrassed because Cassie is much younger than her.
  - C.** Cassie threatened to tell everyone about the secrets Lillian Jean told her.
  - D.** All of the above.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **10.** Why did T.J. get in trouble in school?
- A.** He was cheating on a test.
  - B.** He lied to the principal.
  - C.** He skipped school.
  - D.** He stole someone's lunch money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **11.** Where did T.J. go after he found out that Mrs. Logan failed him for the year?
- A.** to his home
  - B.** to the Logan's home
  - C.** to Mr. Barnett's store
  - D.** to the Wallace's store
- \_\_\_\_\_ **12.** What is the real reason Kaleb Wallace and Harlan Granger have Mrs. Logan fired?
- A.** Mrs. Logan destroyed new books.
  - B.** Mrs. Logan was the one responsible for organizing the boycott of the Wallace's store.
  - C.** Mr. Granger knows that Mr. Morrison lives with them.
  - D.** Mrs. Logan flunked T.J.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **13.** How do the kids react to T.J. when they find out he was responsible for getting Mama fired?
- A.** They beat him up.
  - B.** They forgive him.
  - C.** They refuse to talk to him and refuse to be his friend.
  - D.** They tell his parents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **14.** T.J. befriends Melvin and R.W. Simms. What is the friendship between the two white boys and T.J.?
- A.** R.W. and Melvin treat him like a brother because they believe blacks and whites should have equal rights.
  - B.** R.W. and Melvin beat him up and make fun of him.
  - C.** R.W. and Melvin like T.J. but T.J. does not trust them.
  - D.** R.W. and Melvin are pretending to be friendly to T.J. but as soon as he is gone they call him names and make fun of him.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Why does Mr. Avery tell the Logans he can no longer shop in Vicksburg?

- A. He is too sick to shop that far from home.
- B. Mr. Granger threatened to kick the Averys off of his land.
- C. T.J. is always going to the Wallace's store so they must shop there.
- D. Mr. Avery feels guilty for what T.J. has done.

16. Put the plot events below in the correct order using numbers 1-5.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Papa's leg gets broken by the wagon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The wheels fall off of the wagon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Morrison lifts the wagon with his bare hands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Wallaces shoot papa in the head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A truck pulls up behind the wagon without using headlights.

**Part 3:** Read each question. Choose the best answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. Read the sentence from the novel. *When we caught up with them, it was obvious that the **jovial** mask T.J. always wore had been stripped away. "She did it on purpose!" T.J. accused, a nasty scowl twisting his face.*

Which word is a synonym for the word **jovial**?

- A. mad
- B. cheerful
- C. worried
- D. angry

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. Read the sentence from the novel. *When I had pinned Lillian Jean securely beneath me, I yanked **unmercifully** on her long, loose hair and demanded an apology for all the names she had called me, and for the incident in Strawberry.*

Knowing the prefix "un-" helps the reader understand that that word **unmercifully** means to

- A. full of compassion
- B. not compassionate
- C. showing compassion again
- D. state of being compassionate

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. Read the sentence from the novel. *But now that she could not teach, I felt **resentful** and angry, and I hated Mr. Granger.*

What does the word **resentful** mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A. like
- B. love
- C. displeasure
- D. pleasure

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. Read the sentence from the novel. *"If he ain't now, he gonna be," **prophesied** Little Man, his tiny fists balled for action. "Round here telling on Mama."*

What does the word **prophesied** mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A. amazed
- B. warned
- C. anticipated
- D. celebrated

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. Read the sentence from the novel. *"A moment's silence passed, and then Stacey, his eyes cold and **condemning**, said quietly, "It was you all right, T.J. It was you." Then, turning, he motioned us back toward the forest."*

Which word is an antonym for the word **condemn**?

- A. approving
- B. blaming
- C. punishing
- D. belittling

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\_\_\_\_\_ 22. Read the sentence from the novel. “*Avoiding us in the morning, he arrived late, only to be **shunned** by the other students.*”

What does **shunned** mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A. accepted                      B. praised                      C. faced                      D. rejected

\_\_\_\_\_ 23. Read the sentence from the novel. “*But by the end of March it was evident everywhere: in the barn where three new calves **bellowed** and chicks the color of soft pale sunlight chirped...*”

Which sentence uses **bellowed** in the same way as it is used in the sentence?

- A. The thundered bellowed with rage throughout the night.  
B. He bellowed his command across the room.  
C. The smoke bellowed out of the chimney into the cool night air.  
D. The donkey bellowed loudly