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ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Identify the setting of the story.

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1. Answer

The story is set in Mississippi in the 1930s.

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2. Why has Papa gone away to work on the railroad?

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2. Answer

Because the price of cotton has dropped, Papa doesn't make enough money to live on and pay the mortgage.

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3. Why does Papa believe that the land is so important?

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3. Answer

If you own land, you never have to live on anyone else's place, and that gives you independence.

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4. Why do the Logan children arrive at school dirty and dusty?

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4. Answer

They must walk for an hour along a dusty road. Also, the driver of the school bus carrying the white children deliberately drives fast and close to the children in order to raise a cloud of dust and get them dirty.

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5. What upsets Little Man when he gets his book from the teacher?

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5. Answer

It's dirty, it's worn out, and has been passed down to black students who are identified as *nigra* on the label.

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6. What is the real reason Papa has brought Mr. Morrison to live with the family?

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6. Answer

There's been trouble, and Papa feels that his family could be in special danger. It is someone to protect the family while Papa works away at the railroad.

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7. Mr. Lanier says of a lynching, “...ain’t a thing gonna be done ‘bout it.” Why is he so certain that the guilty people will not be punished?

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7. Answer

In this instance, the white men responsible for killing John Henry are so sure they won't be punished that they're boasting about what they did.