

**Reflections:**

*A Student Response Journal for...*

# *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

*by Mildred Taylor*

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ISBN: 978-1-60389-632-0

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*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

## To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.





*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

# **Response Sheet**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Section\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 1

1. This novel is set seventy years ago in the southern state of Mississippi during the time of the 1930's Great Depression. It is a time of great hardship throughout the country because of lack of work, and, consequently, little money to pay for anything. Consider the portrayal of the Logan children in the beginning of the book. Suppose you were a visitor to the South and had met the children on their way to school; would you think they were rich, neither rich nor poor, or poor? Write about what your idea is of: rich, neither rich nor poor, and poor. Give examples of the things you think that people in these three categories would have owned seventy years ago, based on this book.
2. Mr. Logan, though the owner of his own land and a cotton farmer, had to go away to work to support his family during the years 1930-1933. Even today, people have to travel distances to work or even move their families to another place in order to work. Imagine that you had to leave the place where you live, your school, and your friends. Write the first letter that you would send to your best friend back in your old town telling what you miss most.
3. Mr. Logan feels very strongly about owning his own land and is willing to do anything to keep it, including going away to work to earn money for the payments and taxes on the land. Imagine that you are Cassie Logan and that you disagree with your father about the importance of owning land. Complete the dialogue below in which you tell your father of your feelings:

Cassie: Oh Papa, our land is only dirt and ugly rows of cotton balls. I hate it because it makes you go away. Can't...

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4. The description of the first day of classes at The Great Faith Elementary and Secondary School seems like the typical first day of school, even in our times. But the description of the school itself perhaps does not. Make a list of the things about the school which are described. Make a second list of these same kinds of things about the school which you attend. Make a third list of things which think could be improved about your school.
5. We read, “Now Miss Crocker made a startling announcement: This year we would all have books.” We also read Cassie’s thought, “I was somewhat excited. Although Mama had several books, I had never had one of my very own.” Imagine that your school had no books from which to learn. Write a letter of complaint about this to the Editor of the local newspaper explaining the way your were taught. Give details about why you think you could learn more if you had books to learn from. Begin your letter:
- To the Editor:
- In our school,...
6. At the time of the setting of this novel, all schools in Mississippi were completely segregated; white children went to separate schools from black children. The chart in this chapter tells a great deal about the attitudes toward African-American children in 1930’s Mississippi. Read the list carefully. Imagine that you are a lawyer who is bringing a law suit against the Mississippi Department of Education over books in black schools. Write a short speech that you would make to the jury about what the chart shows.

## Chapter 2

7. In the last chapter, we met the following characters of the Logan family: Cassie, Little Man, Stacey, Christopher-John, Papa (David), and Mama (Mary).  
Write a thumbnail sketch of each of the characters. Then, choose the character you like best and in complete sentences, write what it is you liked best about her or him.
  
8. The reunion scene when all the Logans are picking cotton in the field and Papa arrives unexpectedly is a lovely one. Think back to a time in your life when you have witnessed or been part of a reunion. Try to remember the exact details of what season, day or night of the week, who is present, what is said, how people acted, how you felt about the reunion then, and how you feel about it now.
  
9. The Logan family living room also serves at night as Mr. and Mrs. Logan's bedroom. It seems to be a warm and comfortable room "of doors and wood and pictures" where the whole family shares their lives. In a letter to a cousin who has never been to your home, describe your own living room in detail. Be sure to include colors, kinds of furniture, pictures, curtains or drapes, type of floor or carpet, and the special things about your living room that make you like it.
  
10. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* is written in the first person with the character of Cassie Logan as the narrator. This means that she is telling the story and all the action of the novel is seen through her eyes. Suppose you were to write a novel in the first person. Write a one paragraph description of the character who would be relating the story and action in your novel. Be sure to include age, physical appearance, what the family is like, where the home is, and what kind of a person your character is. You could begin your character description with the sentence:

The leading character in my novel would be a...



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## *Response Journal*

11. In this novel, we are treated to a picture of a loving and close southern black family. Though they are poor and suffer the indignity of being forced into segregation, they are an upstanding and highly principled family. Think of all the families you know from real life or the media whom you admire. Imagine you are a reporter assigned to write a feature article on one family that has impressed you. Write a headline for the article, which will appear in the Sunday paper.
  
12. The dialogue in this novel is written in a southern dialect. Select six sentences from Chapter 2 which are in this dialect. Copy them down exactly, one at a time. After each one, write the sentence exactly as it would be without any dialect and in standard English. Be sure each word of your re-written sentence is spelled correctly.

## **Chapter 3**

13. As has been mentioned in previous chapters, the schools in the book are segregated. There is no school bus to take the black children to their school. There is one, however, to take children to Jefferson Davis, an all-white school. That driver and the children on that bus torment the Logan children as they pass them each day. Keeping in mind the time, the place, and the type of people acting so cruelly, relate what options you think the Logan family has to put a stop to the bus driver and the unruly children's behavior?

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14. The Logan children think up and carry out a plan of revenge on those riding the Jefferson Davis School bus. Like many acts of revenge, it has unforeseen consequences. What is your opinion about revenge? Complete the following dialogue you might have with your best friend after you've been wronged and you want to find a way to get revenge:

**You:** No way. No way is that sneak going to get away with that.

**Friend:** So is it really that bad? I mean just because...

15. Sitting around their table that evening, the Logan children are gloating "in our hour of victory," as Cassie put it. Suppose Stacey and Cassie came to you gloating about what they had done. What would you say in a conversation with them about your feelings concerning their damaging the school bus?

**You:** But listen Stacey, someone could have been killed.

**Cassie:** You leave Stacey alone. He only got even with them for all their mean acts.

**You:**

16. A hickory fire and rain pattering against the house make for a cozy picture as the four children sit at their table doing their homework. What are your thoughts about an evening of doing homework? Complete a paragraph about this using one of the following sentences as a possible beginning:

A. Though I grumble to anyone who will listen about having to do homework, if the truth were known, I really don't mind that much. I think the reason I feel that way is...

OR

B. Will this grind of homework, homework, homework ever end? Just think, I keep telling myself, if I didn't have to spend three hours every night at this, I could be...

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## *Response Journal*

17. The children have overheard Mr. Avery warning Mrs. Logan that “the night riders” are out, possibly because of the bus sabotage. The Logan children know that the night riders are dangerous men, who have burned the homes of black people, causing death. Cassie, though aware of possible danger, behaves without fear, but, then, the night riders arrive on their property. Remember back to a time when you or someone you knew was in a situation where there was a possibility of harm (being out in a thunder storm, or being lost in a mall when you were small for example). Write a paragraph telling how you felt about the experience and the feeling of being afraid.
  
18. Racism, as you probably know, is about one group of ethnic people thinking they are superior to another ethnic group. In this novel some, but certainly not all, white Mississippians are involved in racism against their black neighbors. Imagine you have been asked to give a talk to your class about racism. Make a list of ten items you would include in the talk.

## **Chapter 4**

19. Mrs. Logan and her mother, Big Ma, are wondering about Cassie’s behavior the morning after the night riders had been at their home. Cassie does not tell her mother that she saw everything. Considering the good relationship the Logan children seem to have with their parents and Grandmother, their untruthfulness about their actions is a bit surprising. What advice would you give to all four Logan children concerning telling the truth about everything that has happened? Give them some arguments you feel would persuade them that they should tell their mother everything right now, before worse things happen.

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20. T. J. Avery is Stacey's friend who causes trouble. In this chapter, we see that T.J. has snuck into Mrs. Logan's classroom to try to get hold of the test questions. He is seen when Stacey comes into the room. Cheating on exams is a big temptation in school life. Suppose your best friend has found out without a doubt that a classmate of both of you has gotten hold of the questions of an upcoming math exam and Xeroxed them. Complete the following dialogue you might have with your friend about whether or not to turn in the person who stole the exam questions:

**You:** What do you think? If we don't turn him in, what about all the kids that won't have the questions ahead of time. That doesn't seem fair.

**Friend:** I hate feeling like I'm ratting on anyone. Do you think maybe we could just get the questions back from him and burn them? That way no one will know, and the exam will be fair.

21. T. J. causes more trouble when he gives a cheat sheet to Stacey in order not to get caught with it during the math exam. Stacey is caught with it by the teacher, his mother. Of course, troublemaker T. J. does not confesses that it was his cheat sheet. Because he does not tell his mother that it was really T. J.'s answer sheet, Stacy is punished. Being unfairly blamed is a very unhappy experience. Relate a time when you or someone you know was unfairly blamed for something and what finally happened before the situation was finally over.
22. None of the Logan children are allowed to go to the Wallace store but Stacey goes anyway to find T.J. to pay him back for getting him in trouble. His sister and brothers follow him there. Stacey and T. J. get into a fistfight outside the store. Mr. Morrison finds them and puts them into the wagon to be brought home. Mr. Morrison tells them, "Ain't never no reason good enough to disobey your mama." Disobeying one's parent or guardian can lead to unforeseen consequences. There have been numerous examples of this in news stories over the years. From your own experience, from someone you know, or from the media, describe an example when disobeying an adult has led to a strong negative consequence.

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## *Response Journal*

23. Mrs. Logan suspects Mr. Wallace of complicity in the burning of the Berry home and Mr. Berry's death. She also feels too many wrongs go on at the Wallace store, so she rides around to her neighbors to ask them to stop shopping at the Wallace store. This is what is known as organizing a boycott. The term "boycott" has an interesting history behind it. Look up this word in a dictionary or an encyclopedia and write how this word and its meaning came about. Then write a short paragraph about how you feel about boycotts.
24. Even though this novel takes place in 1930's America, Mrs. Logan can be seen as a woman who would fit in nicely with women of our century. She juggles a teaching career, raises four children mainly on her own, maintains a well-run home, manages the land on which they all live, and now is engaging in political activity. Suppose you write an Advice Column for the local newspaper and someone asks about what the role of women really should be. Write as complete an answer as you can with your sincere feelings about this important subject.

## **Chapter 5**

25. One of the more serious problems in the history of racial relations in the U.S. has been white control over where black people may or may not go. In recent history, that was exemplified by Rosa Parks, a hard-working black woman in Alabama, who refused to sit in the back of the bus one day. Her action eventually led to that rule being done away with. In this novel, we see the confrontation between black Cassie and white Lillian Jean Simms whom Cassie accidentally bumped on the sidewalk. Lillian Jean demands that Cassie apologize and get down on the road to do so. Suppose you were a white reporter who witnessed this confrontation. Write the headline and article that would appear about this in the evening newspaper.

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26. What actions would you have taken other than the ones that Cassie did? Be sure to give thoughtful reasons for what you would do. Be sure to tell also what you think would be the repercussions from your actions.
27. Much against her every feeling, and in tears, Cassie is made to apologize by Big Ma, as demanded by Lillian Jean's father. Suppose you are Cassie. Write the diary entry you would make that night with your most truthful feelings about Big Ma's demand that you apologize, as well as your feelings about Lillian and her father.
28. You have read five chapters of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Much more action is to follow. But as a test of your imagination, predict one good thing and one bad thing you think could happen to the following characters:
- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| A. Cassie       | E. Mrs. Logan         |
| B. Stacey       | F. Mr. Logan          |
| C. T.J.         | G. Lillian Jean Simms |
| D. Mr. Morrison |                       |

## **Chapter 6**

29. Throughout this novel, we see that the author uses weather to point up what is happening in the lives of his characters. Even words from the title, "roll of thunder," have to do with weather. Refer back to the chapters you have read and find three important scenes when weather plays a role. Describe those scenes in three separate paragraphs, and speculate about any symbolic meaning the weather has in the action of each of the scenes.

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*Response Journal*

30. In this chapter it is almost Christmas, and we meet Uncle Hammer, Mr. Logan's brother. He has come for a visit and seems to belong to a different world than the Mississippi Logans. Imagine that you are Mrs. Logan writing a letter to her husband who is away working. In it, write what you think she would be telling her husband about Hammer and her worries that he may get himself and them in trouble by his hot-temper.
31. Mrs. Logan tells Cassie, "Baby, you had to grow up a little today. I wish... well, no matter what I wish. It happened and you have to accept the fact that in the world outside this house, things are not always as we would have them to be." Complete the following paragraph, making your answer as comprehensive as possible:
- "Oh Cassie, you know what the world outside this house is like. It's a world where we black folks..."
32. Slavery has not always been illegal in our country. The author of this novel, Mildred D. Taylor, presents a brief picture of the times when it was legal through Mrs. Logan's truthful explanation of it to Cassie. There were many people in this country who worked to abolish slavery. From the selected list below of those who fought against slavery, choose three to research and tell how they helped to rid our country of this terrible and inhumane practice.
- Abraham Lincoln
  - Frederick Douglass
  - Harriet Tubman
  - Harriet Beecher Stowe
  - Sojourner Truth

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33. The fine African-American author who died in 1987, James Baldwin, wrote, “Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.” There are many examples throughout this novel about the poverty of the Logan family. List three examples you have found in this chapter where being poor cost African-Americans dearly, especially under slavery. Be sure to write your examples in complete sentences.
34. Hammer says, “Got me a good mind to burn that place [the Wallace store] out.” Considering the times and the place where Hammer made that statement, write what advice you would give him. Be extremely frank with him in your advice and back it up with events that help prove your conclusions.

## **Chapter 7**

35. When Uncle Hammer learns that Stacey has given away the coat, he scolds Stacey fiercely. The author writes, “Stacey shook visibly from the encounter.” Anyone who has been righteously scolded by a powerful person will probably understand how Stacey felt. Search back in your memory for a time when you or someone else was scolded as sternly as Stacey was in this scene. Write two paragraphs about the experience. Include how you felt or how you believe the other person must have felt.
36. Christmas Eve brings the welcome return of Mr. Logan. The Christmas cooking is underway and the family seem to be warmly enjoying each other’s company and the beauty of the holiday. Think about the happiest Christmas you can remember. Write a short article about this memory, which would be entitled “Christmas Beautiful,” for a magazine.



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37. Mr. Morrison tells what happened to his family years after the Civil War ended, and they were freed from slavery. The “night men” in Louisiana killed his family and burned down his home. The details of what happened that night when he was six years old are horrific. Though *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* is a work of fiction, scenes like those described in this novel actually did take place in our country’s past. Suppose you are the President of the United States in the present time, and you feel it would be a good thing to offer an apology to African-Americans whose families have suffered as a result of slavery. Write the apology which you would deliver as President in a five-minute televised address to the nation.
38. We read about the author of two books Mr. Logan brought as gifts to the children. Alexander Dumas was a famous French writer, who was descended from slaves on the island of Martinique. One of his most famous quotations is, “All for one, one for all,” from *The Three Musketeers*. Think about how that quotation fits the Logan family. Write a letter to a friend telling them about the Logan family, as if they were your neighbors. Write about how close a family they are and how supportive they are of each other in everything that happens to each of them.
39. Owning their own land is very important to Mr. Logan, as is the success of the boycott of the Wallace store to Mrs. Logan. The most powerful man in the area, Mr. Granger, has come to the Logans with veiled threats about taking their land if the boycott is not stopped. Though the Logan family does not seem to be intimidated by Mr. Granger’s threats, those threats must worry them. Even young people can feel threatened by others, especially in school settings where bullying can be a big problem. Suppose you or someone close to you were being bullied at school. What would you do to stop it?

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40. You will have noticed that the author of this novel uses only numbers as chapter headings. You most likely have read many other books which have both numbers and title chapters. Try your hand at writing chapter titles for the first seven chapters of this book. It would be helpful for you to skim over each chapter to refresh your memory of it. Decide on a word or phrase that best describes what is covered in that chapter.

## **Chapter 8**

41. Suppose that you were in a class which had a history teacher, who did not use the textbook assigned for your course. Write a letter to the Principal using one of the choices below:
- A. Defend the teacher for using other sources than the textbook because of all the important things she or he has taught you that are not in the textbook.
- or
- B. Criticize the teacher for not using the textbook because some of the material from the textbook might turn up on a standardized test and because you believe that teachers should do what they are told.
42. Mrs. Logan must have been inwardly upset about being fired from her teaching job, but she does not show it in front of the children. Imagine a scene late into the night when everyone is asleep and Mr. and Mrs. Logan are alone together in their bedroom. Complete the dialogue that Mr. Logan might be saying to his wife to comfort her, knowing how the losing her job is affecting her.

**Mr. Logan:**       Come here, honey, let me comfort you. You must be feeling that life...

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## *Response Journal*

43. Stacey's troublemaking friend, T. J., is spreading rumors about Mrs. Logan. Now Stacey thinks that T. J. might be responsible for his mother being fired from teaching. T. J. is a good example of the saying that having him as a friend, one has no need of an enemy. Think about what true friendship means. Put your thoughts about friendship in the form of an eight line poem. It need not rhyme.

## **Chapter 9**

44. In the first paragraph of this chapter, the author has written a lovely description of what spring is like in rural Mississippi. Using this paragraph as a model, write an equally lovely description of the arrival of spring where you live.
45. Cassie seems to be very sensitive to the beauty of nature. She even offers to work in the fields with her father and Mr. Morrison to be closer to nature instead of sitting in a stuffy classroom. Think back to a time when you have had an experience of being very close to nature. This could have been when you were on a camping trip, for instance, or even just lying on the grass watching the clouds by yourself in your own backyard. Write a paragraph about your feelings during this experience with nature.
46. Jeremy Simms, Lillian Jean's brother, is a gentle boy who wants to be friends with the Logan children. He does not seem to have many friends, and doesn't even like his own brothers. He tells the Logan children, "It'll sure be lonely without y'all." Write the entry that Cassie would make in her diary that night about her feelings about Jeremy and why he seems like a misfit with his family.

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47. The Logans are running into more and more problems trying to hold onto their land. The unscrupulous Mr. Granger is lowering the cost paid for cotton. Mr. Logan has to go back almost immediately to his railroad job in order to get money to pay the mortgage and taxes, and Mrs. Logan is still out of a teaching job. Despite it all, Mr. Logan says, “We keep doing what we gotta, and we don’t give up.” Write a letter to Mr. Logan praising him for standing firm for his beliefs. Begin your letter:

Dear Mr. Logan,

I know you and your family have been going through some hard times...

48. Support for the boycott of the Wallace store started by Mrs. Logan is waning because of threats by Mr. Granger about lowering the price he pays to those in the boycott for their cotton. Suppose you are one of the cotton farmers. You want to continue to boycott the Wallace store by shopping in Vicksburg, but you need all the money you can get for your cotton. Explain your predicament to your best friend and, at the end of your explanation, tell your friend what you have decided to do.
49. Mr. Logan, Stacey, and Mr. Morrison are late in returning from their “boycott” trip to Vicksburg, causing the family to worry. There is rain and thunder in the air. On page 210 Cassie says, “A cold fear crept up my body...” Almost everyone has experienced a sense of foreboding, a feeling that something is wrong even without any evidence of what may be wrong. Think back to a time when you, or someone you know, has had such a feeling. Relate what that experience was and what happened about your fears.
50. On the trip to Vicksburg Mr. Logan is shot at and breaks his leg. The children see him carried into the house wounded. Imagine you were one of the Logan children who see your father hurt. Write a letter to your cousin in another state telling them about it and what your feelings were about your father being late and then being wounded.

## **Chapter 10**

51. Mr. Morrison hurts the Wallace brothers badly when he is defending Stacey, Mr. Logan, and himself during their trip to Vicksburg. Mr. Morrison is black and the Morrison brothers are white. Imagine you are living in Mississippi in the 1930's. In a conversation with your best friend, tell him or her what you predict will happen to Mr. Morrison for what he does, regardless of whether his actions are justified or not.
52. This novel describes many incidents of racial confrontation and violence that are happening in the society in which the Logans live. Think about the level of racial confrontation in our times. How does it compare to the state of race relations in the society and times during which this novel was set? Write a letter to one of the Logans, giving your frank opinion of how much you think race relations have improved or not improved since the 1930's.

## **Chapter 11**

53. T. J. has gotten himself in big trouble from being with the Simms brothers despite all the warnings he has been given about them. All of them may even be responsible for deaths in the Barnett family. Imagine that you have been a friend of T. J. all your life and that you had been trying hard to keep him away from the Simms family. Complete the dialogue below, which you might have with one of your parents about T. J.'s behavior and its consequences:

**You:** I could just shake that T. J. until his teeth rattled! Do you know how long I've been warning and warning him about those good-for-nothing Simms brothers?

**Parent:**

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54. Mr. Jamison, a white lawyer known to all in the Logans' community, is a just and good man. He has been trying to help the Logans keep their land, and now is trying to save T. J.'s life when the night riders come to the Avery home. He is standing against the powerful forces of wrong to champion the weak. Think of people you have known of from your personal experience or the media who have stood up for something just because it is right. Write a Letter to the Editor which praises that person and tells what that person has been championing.

## **Chapter 12**

55. Throughout this novel, the Logan children have demonstrated the virtue of courage in many of their actions. Courage is not limited to doing daredevil things. Courage can be as simple as doing something you are afraid to do, despite your fears. Think of acts of courage, large or small, that you have become aware of in your lifetime. Choose one of those acts to write about in as much detail as you can. Be sure to tell why that particular act of courage impressed you the most.
56. Like any good novel, the scenes of the highest drama remain in the readers' minds long after the book is finished. Think back over *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and choose which one of the most dramatic parts of it you think will remain in your mind for some time. Write your choice as a diary entry, including why you feel that part is the most memorable.
57. Before the end of this novel, it is implied that Mr. Logan deliberately sets fire to his cotton, in the hope that it will serve as a distraction, which might save T. J. Imagine that you are an investigative reporter who wants to get to the truth of how the fire really started. You are certain that it was deliberately set. Write the headline and article about the fire which would appear in the next edition of the newspaper.

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58. Being able to express your thoughts in a concise way is a very helpful skill to have. As a way of practicing this skill, summarize your feelings about the following characters from *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* in one word beside each name. Do not use more than one word for each character.

Cassie	Little Man
Christopher-John	Stacey
Mr. Logan	Mrs. Logan
Uncle Hammer	Lillian Jean
Big Ma	Melvin and R. W. Simms
T. J.	Mr. Wallace
Jeremy	Mr. Granger
Mr. Morrison	Mr. Avery
Mr. Jamison	Kaleb and Dewberry

59. The time span during which the action of this novel takes place is one year. Many things, some pleasant, some bad, happened to the Logan family during that year. Look back on the past year in your own life. Imagine that you are reminiscing with a member of your family about the highlights of your last year. Write what that conversation would be about. Be sure to tell which were your least favorite and most favorite events.

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## **W r a p - u p**

60. In “Author’s Note” written by Mildred Taylor in April 1976, she talks about the inspiration of her father, who seemed to be influential in her life. Do you think that this relationship is easily seen in the male characters she has created in this novel? If so, which of the male characters do you feel most embodies the character traits she claims her father had?
  
61. Putting aside your own age and sex, if you had your choice of any role based on characters from this novel for a Hollywood film, which character would it be? Give your reasons for your choice in complete sentences.
  
62. Now that you have finished reading *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, list five things you now know that you did not know before about the racial history of our country.  
When you read the last page of this novel, what were your thoughts and/or feelings?
  
63. Write about the things you liked and/or disliked about this novel.



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**Test**

1. What T.J. values more than anything else is
  - A. a good job.
  - B. the love of his father.
  - C. the good opinion of the white people.
  - D. a pearl-handed pistol.
  - E. nothing
  
2. Big Mama signs the land over to Uncle Hammer and Papa because
  - A. her husband tells her to do so on their thirty-fifth anniversary.
  - B. she is afraid Uncle Hammer will forget the land and take up city ways.
  - C. she is afraid that her sons might be cheated out of the land after she dies.
  - D. she is afraid that Mr. Morrison might make a claim on the land.
  - E. she wants to keep the land wooded.
  
3. The child who is the most particular about his or her appearance is
  - A. Stacey.
  - B. Cassie.
  - C. Christopher-John.
  - D. Little Man.
  - E. T.J.
  
4. He has gotten back all the land but the four hundred acres owned by the Logan family.
  - A. Mr. Granger
  - B. Mr. Jamison
  - C. Mr. Wallace
  - D. Mr. Morrison

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5. At the story's beginning, the cause of greatest anger and indignity to the four Logan children is the
- A. weather.
  - B. white children's school.
  - C. Wallace's store.
  - D. mercantile store in Strawberry.
  - E. white children's school bus.
6. Little Man is very upset on his first day of school when his teacher
- A. calls him a bad name.
  - B. passes out the books.
  - C. says that he is stupid.
  - D. will not let him read.
  - E. calls him "boy."
7. Mrs. Logan, the children's mother, is a
- A. former opera singer.
  - B. teacher.
  - C. maid at the Granger house.
  - D. seamstress who makes beautiful clothes.
  - E. secretary.
8. It is obvious from his actions that Stacey's friend, Moe Turner, values
- A. material success.
  - B. good times.
  - C. education.
  - D. helping others.
9. The parents do not want the children to go to Wallace's store because
- A. there is drinking and smoking.
  - B. there is dancing and gambling.
  - C. the Wallaces do not respect black people.
  - D. All the above
  - E. crimes take place there.

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*Response Journal*

10. Stacey feels responsible for
- A. his father's broken leg.
  - B. his mother's losing her job.
  - C. the fire in the cotton field.
  - D. T.J. getting into trouble.
  - E. All of the above
11. The one time in the story that Stacey's mother whips him is when
- A. he back talks and insults Mr. Morrison.
  - B. she catches him with a cheat sheet in his hand.
  - C. he hits and injures Cassie.
  - D. he disobeys her and goes into Strawberry with T.J.
  - E. she cannot control her temper.
12. At first, Stacey is upset when Mr. Morrison shows up at the house because
- A. he does not trust Mr. Morrison.
  - B. he is jealous of Mr. Morrison.
  - C. Mr. Morrison has told tales about him.
  - D. Mr. Morrison is an old boyfriend of his mother.
13. A sign that Stacey is maturing is when he
- A. comes up with the plan to get revenge on the bus.
  - B. insists that Cassie leave the Mercantile store.
  - C. takes T.J. home.
  - D. decides to tell his mother that he has disobeyed her and went to Wallace's store.
  - E. All the above.
14. Mama takes the children to see the Berrys in order that they learn about
- A. compassion and helping others.
  - B. the poverty of black people.
  - C. the kind of evil people the Wallaces are.
  - D. the value of education.

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*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

15. While in the Mercantile store, Cassie cannot understand
- A. how the electronic cash register works.
  - B. why T.J. wants the pearl-handled pistol.
  - C. why Stacey dislikes Mr. Barnett.
  - D. why the white people are served before the black people, who are there first.
  - E. None of the above
16. Cassie thinks Big Mama sides with Mr. Simms in the argument because
- A. she believes Big Mama is still angry with her from the night before.
  - B. Mr. Simms is an adult.
  - C. Mr. Simms is white.
  - D. Mr. Simms lied to Big Mama about what really happened.
17. At the bridge, the Wallaces stop and let Uncle Hammer's Packard cross the bridge before their truck because
- A. they are afraid of Uncle Hammer.
  - B. they respect Uncle Hammer.
  - C. they think the bridge might collapse.
  - D. they think the Packard is Harlan Granger's car.
18. The person who backs the credit in Vicksburg for the poor black people is
- A. Mr. Jamison.
  - B. Mr. Granger.
  - C. Uncle Hammer.
  - D. Papa.
19. The mob does not hang T.J. because
- A. Mr. Granger feels sorry for the boy.
  - B. Papa begins firing his rifle over their heads.
  - C. Mr. Morrison beats up men in the mob.
  - D. the sheriff threatens to shoot anyone who tries to.
  - E. the fire begins in the cotton fields.

**Test**  
**Student Answer Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Test  
Answer Key**

1. D

2. C

3. D

4. A

5. E

6. B

7. B

8. C

9. D

10. A

11. B

12. B

13. D

14. C

15. D

16. B

17. D

18. A

19. E

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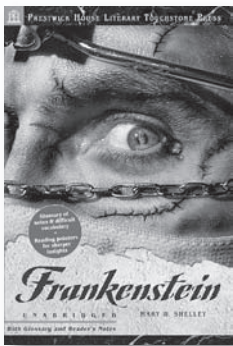
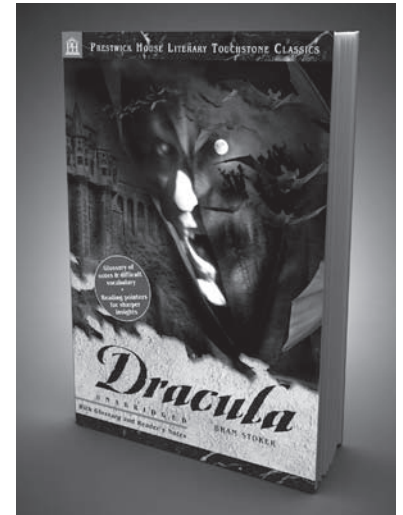
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