

## Mississippi Trial Chapter 14 -17 Study Questions

### Chapter 14

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- 1) Briefly describe the scene at the courthouse in Sumner.
- 2) How do the deputies treat the congressman from Michigan and why do you think he lets them treat him that way?
- 3) Why do you suppose the state prosecutor did not seek the death penalty in this case? His job is to seek justice and a boy had been murdered.
- 4) Why didn't the lawyers interview women for the jury?
- 5) Grampa is mysterious about his "good reasons" for wanting to be at the trial and it makes Hiram wonder what those reasons are. Speculate two reasons why Grampa wants to be at the trial.
- 6) Why do you think Moses is so calm and sure on the witness stand with so much chaos around him?
- 7) What argument does Breland use to discredit Moses' testimony?
- 8) Why did the judge rule that the Sherriff's testimony was irrelevant to this case?
- 9) What outlandish story does Sherriff Strider come up with to explain the body in the river?
- 10) Why is the ring such an important piece of evidence?
- 11) Describe Willie Reed's testimony, what did he see and hear?
- 12) What does Grampa do during Willie's testimony?

### Chapter 15

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- 1) Before the defense rests they call up defense witnesses. What do the witnesses say about Milam and Bryant?
- 2) What does Mr. Chatham say was the worst punishment Emmett should have received for whistling? Do you think that punishment would be appropriate or not?
- 3) How is it that Mr. Breland can claim there was no motive for the defendants to kill Emmett Till?
- 4) What outlandish claim does Breland make about the NAACP and their motives?
- 5) How long did the jury take to reach their verdict and what was it?
- 6) What gesture did Milam send to Grampa after the verdict was delivered?

### Chapter 16

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- 1) How did Grampa respond when Hiram wanted to keep talking about the trial? What does he tell Hiram about his Elders?
- 2) Who was the only person Hiram would miss from Greenwood and how has that changed over this summer?
- 3) Where has RC been and what did he reveal about the night of the kidnapping?
- 4) Briefly describe what happened between RC and his dad? Why is he leaving for good?
- 5) What does Grampa do with his pickup truck after the trial?
- 6) How does Grampa respond when Hiram tells him RC couldn't have been the 3<sup>rd</sup> man in the vehicle?
- 7) Ronnie Remington rambles on and on to Hiram. Through his rambling, what does he accidentally reveal?
- 8) Why couldn't Hiram just forget what Ronnie told him and enjoy the cozy home and the love he felt from his grandfather?
- 9) What does Grampa say when Hiram confronts him about "being there"?
- 10) Think back to Grampa's reactions about Emmett's kidnapping and murder. With this new information, why did Grampa react the way he did?

### Chapter 17

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- 1) Why did Hiram go looking for Naomi on his last Sunday in Greenwood?
- 2) How does Ruthanne "misread" Grampa's mood and the fact that he is basically hiding in his bedroom? Why is he really up there?
- 3) When Ruthanne does realize there is tension between Hiram and Grampa, what does Hiram tell her?
- 4) What does Mr. Paul say about the trial in general and what does he say that gives Hiram something to think about?
- 5) What has changed for Naomi?
- 6) Who met Hiram at the train station in Arizona?
- 7) Describe how or why the good relationship Harlan had with his dad started to change.
- 8) What is Harlan asking when he says "What about you?"

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