

1. How do you feel about Bigger Thomas? Did you sympathize with him at all?
2. How are white people portrayed throughout the book? Mary vs. her parents vs. Max vs. Jan? Also, discuss any stereotypes that the book portrays.
3. Did Bigger change throughout the book at all?
4. Many ideas and themes are continued throughout the book such as “blotting out” himself or certain people, or Bigger’s view of black and white. Discuss these recurring ideas.
5. Discuss Bigger’s relationship with his family and his hatred toward them. Why does he feel this way?
6. How did both the Communists and Black people experience prejudice in similar and different ways? What did you think of the Communist viewpoint in the book? Were they on to something?
7. Discuss the idea of Mary’s murder as a meaningful act that gave Bigger purpose.
8. How does Mary’s death compare to Bessie’s? Is it worse? How does Bigger feel about each one?
9. How did the press treat Bigger? How do we see prejudice even in today’s press?
10. Who is the real villain of the book, according to Richard Wright?
11. How is blindness used in the novel?
12. Describe the necessity of Bigger taking on a different persona when communicating with different groups of people.