



By: Mildred D. Taylor

ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY **CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Identify the setting of the story.

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Answer

The story is set in Mississippi in the 1930s.

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. Answer

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. Answer

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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.

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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.

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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.

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

CHAPTERS 1 & 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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.