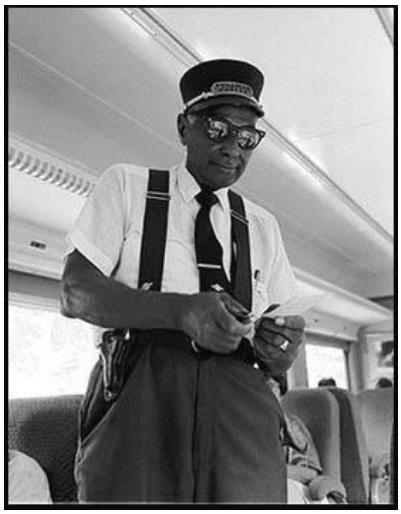
# *Song of Solomon* - Group Work #2 - Chapter 3



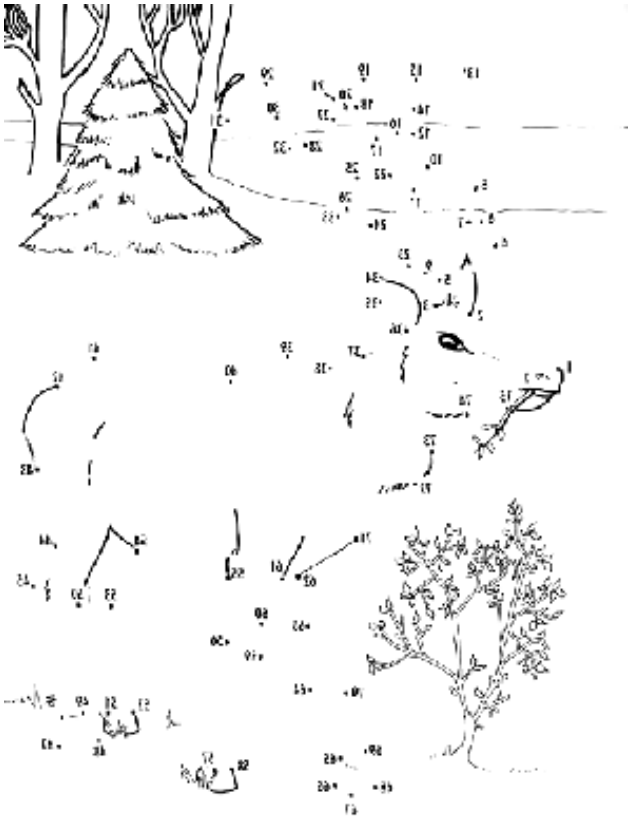
1.Look at Railroad Tommy's speech on pages 59-61 of your books. First, the speech appears, to me anyway, to be written (spoken) in three distinct parts – for instance, the first part is about what Milkman and Guitar will never experience because they won't work on a railroad train, like Tommy did? What are the other two distinct parts? What else won't they experience because of who they are and what specific aspect of who they are? Use a quote in justifying each of these two parts.

1b. Get out your earlier group work and notes from class. How do these things that they won't experience resemble other objects or powers in the book that have power not because of what they are – but because of what they aren't (or won't be, or won't have). For instance, you may want to start by discussing how the watermark is like the things that Tommy mentions. Explain this relationship and find at least two other objects, ideas, or people that give their presence by **not existing**. Check out the examples below (in question 3) and make sure that you don't use them).

1c. Connect some more dots: Hospital Tommy's speech (59-61) and Macon's hating the doctor for not giving him the money to buy the railroad real estate (72). What about the tragic death of Emmett Till (consider his age)? Guitar's father (remember the candy and sweets story)?

1d. What hard liquor won't he drink? Which animal under coconut leaves? What very specific trait do these animals share (ah-ha – cool, yes?). Remember what Milkman learned when he was 4…

2. How does Milkman react to his naming? Use specific text from chapter 3 (88-89) to explain Milkman's and Guitar's outlooks on the importance of names. Notice the dual queasiness that the two characters feel. One towards candy, one towards his name. Is that important? Is there a connection with question 1b? What does Pilate do with her name? (comments?) How does this fit in with what you wrote about her (NOT facing backwards) in your solo work.



3. Look at the top of page 69. What do the narrators comments "so he thought…" and "so he imagined" tell us about Milkman, what he is – what he thinks he is and the relationship between these. Remember, the contradiction on page 71 that Macon makes about the Doctor and his interests during his granddaughters' births? Again, how, specifically, does Milkman resemble his father?



4. Page 71 – towards the bottom of this page, you should have made a huge discovery; what Ruth perceived to be Macon's indifference to her driftwood arrangement, really wasn't – explain fully. Link it with Macon's keys.

5. When, specifically (and use the quote in your answer) does Guitar Ruth deserved to be hit. How does it tell us about Guitar – how can you link question 1c – be specific. BIG COOL Pilate & Macon remember

suggest (perhaps kiddingly, perhaps not) that contradict his story of the doe, what does it this to what you wrote in your answer to IDEA: Guitar hates sweets – yet what do both

simultaneously about their childhood (a single memory about something Pilate made for Macon). Comment if you care to, but just REMEMBER this.