

Song of Solomon Group Work #5 - Chapter 11 Hens & Chickens

As we get near the end of this book, the end of this year, your group work takes on new importance. You need to show yourself what you are capable of doing if you push yourself. Try to be as creative, thoughtful, and specific here as possible. Break new ground... ABOVE ALL – be specific and focused – though this is not about quantity, for this group work you should have at least 2 pages of specific answers.



1. How does Milkman find out that Guitar is “looking” for him? What is the message – what is its significance? Ok – that was easy – time to think: Look at the paragraph that begins “Remembering those days now...” (on the bottom of 264). Carefully read the entire paragraph and comment on the importance of the words, and images used (without me giving you any hints).

2. How, specifically, does Milkman insult the men in the store? Would members of your group consider his statements as offensive? Why do the men? What, specifically, do Milkman's insults tell us about **him** (use at least 2 direct quotes in the answering of this question)? What was the “book end” for this insult in the previous chapter.

3. In an earlier Chapter, when he waits for Hagar to come attack him – Milkman says that wasn’t going to run away any more. Is that (and then how or how not) significantly different than what he says in this chapter (top of 271) “He had stopped evading things...” use the rest of what he says in this paragraph in your answer.

3b. Where does the climax of this chapter occur (you may list more than one candidate here, but make sure you indicate the group's best choice)? What fundamental change in Milkman's thinking occurs? Why does he go hunting with a bunch of men after nearly getting killed by one of their comrades? What does this have to do with Milkman's thinking? (see your answer to 3)



4. What **saves** Milkman from Guitar? How is his new "connection" apparent after the attempt of murder (while walking home, or elsewhere)? Do you remember Paul in *All Quiet* being saved by the same thing – in great detail? If any of you have your All Quiet books take a minute and look it up.



5. A half-step back: Why did Guitar come looking for Milkman to begin with? **What does his helping the white man at the freight yard have to do with him asking Circe about Jake to him washing and being kind to Sweet?** What does all that add up to about Milkman? Be specific in your answer. What about the red ball in the park with Milkman and Macon – connect.

6. Look at page 283 – Why does the peacock soar here? What does Milkman come to realize? About Pilate, about Hagar (see a few pages earlier), about himself? Why does it happen after the skinning of the bobcat? You’ll need a total of 4 quotes to answer this question.