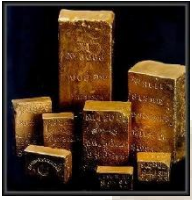


Song of Solomon – Group Work 3c – Chapters 7 & 8

The more I read this book, the more I marvel both at its simplicity and its complexity. There are new connections found in every reading. Push your group – look for new things as well as what you’ve seen during your readings. Stay Focused : Stay Specific. Your answers when done well and seriously will approach that same complexity and simplicity of connections.



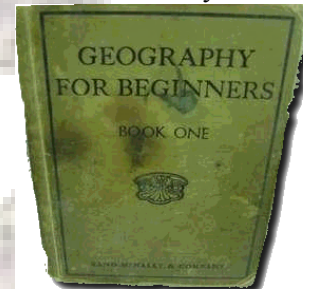
1. What does Macon want to do with the Gold – that is back when he was a boy and they first found it (look at the text, and get his specific wish – write it or a paraphrase down). How does this desire pre-reflect (foreecho) how he will act later in his life (think keys, Honore, Lakawana). Be specific and find the quote of what he wants to do with the gold and match it later with one or two quotes of how he acts later.

2. What about the other characters? What do they want to do with the gold? Pay special attention here: the answers are not always simple and the promise of gold may mean more than one thing to each character, especially Guitar... How does his dual wish reflect other contradictions. While your at it – how does his desire for the gold reflect his very naming? (not because he had a guitar but...)

3. What does what Circe say (on page 166) about the killing of their father and the implications regarding children have to do with The Birmingham Bombing, people’s disbelief, and the nature of these killers? Any implications for the Seven Days?

4. Why does Macon kill the old man in the cave? Is it just fear of what the man might do? Look carefully at what goes through his head (everyone in your group turn to that quote and look closely at the exact words) just before he throws the rock. Link this to our discussion of The Seven Days and certain member’s motivations for being in the group. Turn to page 170 –

what does it say Pilate does as she stands by the old man? How does this fit in with the Pilate that we know? The Geography book? Her name?



5. If you view Macon’s slap of Pilate as the climax of this chapter as well as the turning point in their relationship what is the significance of what dangles on her ear during that slap. Be specific and thoughtful here.

6. We have talked in class how Milkman seems to be just like his father (though Macon is the person he least wishes to emulate) – well, **who else** seems to be (in chapter 8 and earlier as well) a lot like Macon, though he too has distanced himself more from Macon than from anyone else in the novel. Be specific and have at least 1 (but better yet 2) quotes to back up your answer.

7. What is the significance of the white peacock spotted by Guitar and Milkman? Why can’t it fly? Which character(s) does it seem

to implicate (if implicate it does)? Look closely at your answer to question #1. If the peacock is a metaphor for a certain character, then what does that say about what that character must do (try and be as specific as possible here—look closely at the relevant text)? What does it have to do with a four year old Milkman? When was the last time a peacock was seen (think back to Macon and Pilate’s experience)? What is the link between the two sightings? Can you link this answer to the second part of your answer to question number 2? Why put it on a fancy Buick (note, it could have been an Escalade, Amanda).



EVEN if you don’t have time for the extra-credit, read it outloud as a group before you go – I want you to consider it as you continue reading even if you don’t answer it.

8. Extracredit (for homework) What does the discussion of landlocked people on pages 162-163 have to do with what is going on in the rest of this chapter, this novel? Can you make a connection between this idea and what Pilate says about making sure to appease the cravings of expecting mothers and the consequences if they are not. Be specific – and use at least 4 quotes in answering this.

Extra credit #2: Find the scene in the park where Milkman returns something that the Children are playing with. What is it? Why (as author) choose this? What does it evoke (think fruit)? Then why here? What are Milkman and his father plotting? Against whom – think hard on their motivations. How is this small act of Milkman somewhat atypical for him?