

## 10H Summer Reading Assignment

The following must be presented to your teacher on the first day of class.

- A. Identify, list and define all unfamiliar vocabulary words from the novel.
- B. Complete the following questions :
  1. Were you surprised to learn that R. Ray used to be different, that once he truly loved Deborah? How do you think Deborah's leaving affected him? Did it shed any light on why T. Ray was so cruel and abusive to Lily?
  2. Had you ever heard of "kneeling on grits"? What qualities did Lily have that allowed her to survive, endure, and eventually thrive, despite T. Ray?
  3. Lily's relationship to her dead mother was complex, ranging from guilt to idealization, to hatred, to acceptance. What happens to a daughter when she discovers her mother once abandoned her? Is Lily right – would people generally rather die than forgive? Was it harder for Lily to forgive her mother or herself?
  4. What compelled Rosaleen to spit on the three men's shoes? What does it take for a person to stand up with conviction against brutalizing injustice? What did you like best about Rosaleen?
  5. How would you describe Lily and Zach's relationship? What drew them together? Did you root for them to be together?
  6. Project into the future. Does Lily ever see her father again? Does she become a beekeeper? A writer? What happens to Rosaleen? What happens to Lily and Zach? Who would Zach be today?