**“Black Boy” by Richard Wright**

Ch. 10 (pgs. 194-207) & Ch. 11 (pgs. 208-222)

Summary Ch.10 (pgs. )

Richard drifts from job to job, so exhausted and dispirited by the constant threat of racism that he frequently makes mistakes that get him fired. Richard takes a job at the same hotel where his classmate’s brother had worked until he was murdered for consorting with a white prostitute. Richard hesitates to engage in the thievery rampant among the hotel workers because he does not consider it worth the risk of being caught. He acknowledges, however, that racism encourages such theft, as whites would rather have a dishonest, uneducated black worker than an honest, educated one. Eventually, Richard changes his mind and decides to steal so that he can raise money to move North, reasoning that living honestly would merely prolong his stay in the South. He leaves his job at the hotel and takes one at a movie theater, where he helps his coworkers steal money by reselling tickets. Burning to leave the South, he steals a gun from a neighbor and pawns it for money. He then resells some fruit preserves that he has stolen from a nearby black college. With this money, Richard goes to Memphis. His stealing pains him, and he vows never to do it again.

Summary Ch. 11 (pgs. )

In Memphis, Richard rents a room from a black woman named Mrs. Moss. She delights Richard with her kindness and generosity. It immediately becomes clear that, although she has just met him, she wants him to marry her daughter, Bess. Unaccustomed to trusting people, Richard feels stunned and slightly disgusted that Mrs. Moss can so wholeheartedly accept and trust someone she barely knows. Moreover, Bess is not attractive to him; he finds her childish and dull. The next morning, Richard meets another young black man while sitting on the waterfront. They find some bootleg liquor hidden in a patch of weeds and decide to sell it. A white man says he will give them five dollars for the liquor if they will move it to his car. Richard feels uneasy, but the young black man appears more than willing, and Richard assists. The black man leaves Richard to get change for the five-dollar bill so they can split it, but he does not come back..

Guide Questions

*Ch. 10*

1. Why did the white night watchmen pull his gun on Richard?
2. How much money did Richard’s co-workers make off re-selling tickets?

*Ch. 11*

1. When Richard found the house on Beale street with a room for rent, what kind of house did he think it was?
2. What does Richard realize about the white man and the black boy and the illegal liquor?

Important Quotes – *answer in a minimum 3-4 sentences each*

**Explain the importance of the following quote to the overall theme of Chapter 10 (pg. 207)**

“I never did feel it again, for I never stole again; and what kept me from it was  the knowledge that, for me, crime carried its own punishment.”

**Explain the importance of the following quote to the overall theme of Chapter 11 (pg. 217)**

“Her simplicity frightened me. The girls I had known had been hard and calculating, those who had worked at the hotel and those whom I had met at school.”

Follow Up Question - *Answer in a minimum 1 paragraph – must include at least 2 DIRECT quotes from the text with page numbers. Use the graphic organizer below to put your paragraph together.*

**Richard struggles with not breaking the law throughout chapter 10 & 11, especially with stealing. Do you think it was ok for him to break the law if it meant being able to leave the South? Why or why not?**

Use quotes from CHAPTER 10 & 11 in the book to support your theory.

Direct Quote #1 (with Page #)

Explanation of Quote #1

Direct Quote #2 (with Page #)

Explanation of Quote #2

Topic Sentence