**“Black Boy” by Richard Wright**

Ch. 9 (pgs. 179-193)

Summary Ch.9

Richard takes a job at a clothing store where the white bosses humiliate the black customers on a daily basis. During two deliveries Richard gets a bottle of whiskey smashed in his face from a group of white men as well as getting pulled over by suspicious policemen and searched at gunpoint. Eventually, Richard’s boss fires him because he does not like Richard’s silent disapproval of the way he runs the store and treats black people. Griggs, a former classmate, admonishes Richard for not knowing how to act around white people. Griggs helps Richard secure a job with Mr. Crane, a Northerner interested in training a black boy in the trade of optics and lens-making. When Richard reports to work, his white coworkers, Pease and Reynolds, refuse to teach him how to work the machines, asserting that it is “white man’s work.” Richard quits, knowing that the men are trying to drive him out of the shop. Richard feels totally demoralized. Crane feels bad and then pays Richard more than he has earned for the week, apologizes for being unable to do more, and tells Richard he approves of Richard’s plan to move to the North. Crane says he understands that blacks lead a hard life in the South, and believes that a move to the North is perhaps Richard’s best hope. Richard feels terribly violated and ashamed.

Guide Questions

*Ch. 9*

1. Why did Richard get hit in the face with an empty whisky bottle?
2. How much did Richard get paid to start at the optics shop?
3. What did Pease and Reynolds accuse Richard of that he could not figure out how to respond to?

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

**Explain the importance of the following quote to the overall theme of Chapter 9 (pg. 184)**

“You act around white people as if you didn’t know that they were white.”

Follow Up Mini-Project

Directions: Choose ONE of the following (4) mini-projects*.* (2) of the projects are individual projects, and (2) of the projects are group projects. Each project gets gradually more difficult, but it also gets worth more points, so choose wisely which project you would like to accomplish. Read the directions for each carefully and complete by Friday.

* Mini-Project #1: INDIVIDUAL - *25 points*
  + **Comic Book**
    - Create a 3-4 Window Comic Book of a scene in Ch. 9
    - Each window must have dialogue directly from the book
* Mini-Project #2: GROUP (No more than 2 people) – *30 points each*
  + **Job Timeline**
    - Create a timeline of at least (4) jobs that Richard held throughout the book
    - Include the (2) jobs he held in Ch. 9
    - Beneath each explain:
      * How he got the job
      * How he lost the job
    - Make sure it’s in chronological order
* Mini-Project #3: INDIVIDUAL – *40 points*
  + **Jim Crow Laws**
    - Identify minimum (3) Jim Crow laws that Richard “broke” in Ch. 8
    - Explain how he broke them, and what he could’ve done different to avoid “breaking” them
    - Must present your findings on a Poster physical poster or online through MS Publisher or another presentation site
      * Go to: [www.cchslopez.weebly.com](http://www.cchslopez.weebly.com) & click on the “Black Boy” Ch. 9 Project link at the front for more information
* Mini-Project #4: GROUP (No more than 3 people) - *40 points*
  + **Video Interview**
    - Video Tape an interview of any character other than Richard Wright , as if they were being interviewed on TV
      * You must create a script of the interview with questions & answers
        + Must have at least (5) questions & answers
      * Your video can be no longer than 1 min.
      * (2) people should be in the video, while one videotapes
      * Video should be uploaded to YouTube and share with Mr. Lopez