

Glory Field
Section 1: July 1753 - March 1864

1. Strength and courage have a tendency to reveal themselves in people when they least expect it, allowing us to do extraordinary things in the worst circumstances. Choose a character from the opening who you believe represents this idea and describe this notion at work in them before, during, and after the challenging events.
2. Grandma Dolly's memories of her grandfather "Hammad" suggest the kind of person that Muhammad Bilal grew up to be. What specific words and phrases would you use to describe this person? Use them in complete sentences.
3. The Muslim cultures of early West African nations stressed such values as maintaining personal integrity, respecting family elders, and keeping alive the memory of ancestors. How do Dolly, Moses, and Saran reflect these values in their lives?

Glory Field
Section 2: April 1900 - May 1930

1. Why does the Lewis family work so hard to hang on to the land they own?
2. Money is an impressive motivator. Is Elijah justified in asking for money for helping to rescue David? Imagine yourself in Elijah's place; would you have asked for money to rescue David? Why or why not?
3. Abby Lewis says that he, Elijah, and Goldie are a "new breed", different than the older generation. Compare and contrast the values of the older and younger generations? Use of a Venn diagram or a basic T-chart to organize your thoughts prior to writing your response is often helpful.
4. Racism can be overt or subtle. Keeping this in mind, do you think racism is as strong today in America as it was in Elijah's time, over 100 years ago? Does it exist here in our town? Does it exist here at our school? Explain your views.

Glory Field
Section 3: May 1930 - January 1964

1. Miss Etta does many things in support of Luvenia throughout the course of this story. What are some of things she does, and why is it important for people to have an “advocate” like that? Who is your “Miss Etta”?
2. How would you explain why Florenz Deets doesn’t try to make amends to Luvenia Lewis for the loss of her job? What does this say about her character? Is it possible or very likely for people like Florenz to change? Why or why not?
3. Many people think of a “northern” city like Chicago as a place where racial tolerance would perhaps be much greater than in a similar “southern” city. Describe whether or not you think Luvenia’s Chicago is an example of this racial tolerance? Support your answer with details from the text.

Glory Field
Section 4: January 1964 - August 1994

1. Walter Dean Myers once commented, *“You see kids who are really struggling to make something of the world and to fit into it in a way that doesn’t say that they are garbage.”* Which character(s) in this section does Myers’ comment make you think of and why?
2. Interpret in your own words the message you think Tommy was trying to convey by shackling himself to the sheriff. Support your answer with details from the text.
3. Skeeter Jackson might be described as “color blind” in the sense that he seems committed to being Tommy’s friend no matter what. Analyze what it is about Skeeter’s experience and character that allows him to be so supportive of Tommy.
4. Tommy’s actions in this section prevent him from getting a chance to play basketball for “State”, although he is very much intrigued by the possibility of playing for them. Describe a situation from your personal experience where you did what was “right”, knowing full well that it would probably negatively affect your chance to do or get something you wanted. Would you make the same decision again?

Glory Field
Section 5: August 1994 - Present

1. Choose a character from this section that captures your imagination. Pick a word or phrase that describes that character's personality. Use at least three examples from the text to support your answer and the word or phrase you chose.
2. Planter Lewis has a whole family of Lewis children whom he might give Muhammad Bilal's shackles to. Why do you think Planter Lewis chooses Malcolm to inherit the shackles? Explain who other than Malcolm might also be a good candidate
3. Reflecting on his own life, Walter Dean Myers realized that he had "acquired the strengths to turn away from disaster." Do you think it's possible for somebody like Shep to acquire these strengths? Why or why not?
4. Malcolm thinks of "invisible shackles" that members of his family have struggled to overcome. Describe some "invisible shackles" that young people of today must struggle to overcome.