

Examining *Wabash* 1 (pp. 1-46)

As you are analyzing and interpret the book and synthesizing your responses, be sure to use SPECIFIC text (quotes) from the novel to support your evaluations. Any reasoning that is not supported will NOT be deemed acceptable!

1. Much of the beginning of the book concerns Aunt Bernice being in the tree. Deborah has several thoughts about her aunt in the tree, about how “she was sad for her aunt, for the fearful impulses that sometimes drove her; and she was happy for her aunt, for her perch there above the hard times” (p. 2) and how “she was better off in the tree than on the porch swing” (p. 5). This incident tells you a lot about this family. Look back at these instances, especially the discussion of Bernice’s “transformation” when her daddy came home, why Grandma Birney lives where she does, and the explanation of Effie starting on page 20 and explain why Deborah wants Bernice to “teach her to climb trees”. Also, answer the question as to why Deborah doesn’t “quite believe” all of Bernice’s problems can be blamed on Joe (p. 6).
2. Examine Jeremy’s reason for leaving the University of Illinois on page 11. He has several thoughts, but gives only one. Why do you think he gives this as his answer? What do these reasons tell you about what kind of man Jeremy is? In answering this, also consider Jeremy’s reaction to Cronin’s death and his wife’s reaction starting on page 18.
3. Explain the following thought Deborah has from page 27: “And just before he did, she thought: I her were to make love to me again, if we could love each other physically as we once did, I’d just be one of them, I’d be just like my mother and my aunts...”
4. The quote on page 29 beginning “His daughter was dead...” says a lot about Jeremy’s character. Explain the quote and the significance it has characterizing Jeremy up to this point in the novel. Use other pieces of the novel for support.
5. Explain the significance of the ring of fire image on pages 30-31. Why is this inserted into the book? Also, consider and answer the question: why does Jeremy love the mill so much? Explain using other pieces of the book for support.
6. Examine and explain Jeremy’s “reason” for going to the labor meeting? Use support from your book—and possibly other questions asked here—in your answer.