Roll of Thunder Vocabulary

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

Chapters 1-2 Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

¾ WRITER’S NOTEBOOKS-

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read

the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge,

and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. "Ain't no need gettin' mad," T.J. replied undaunted."How you know?" I questioned

suspiciously.

2. Stacey pulled back, considering whether or not T.J.'s words were offensive, but T.J.

immediately erased the question by continuing amiably.

3. He was often ridiculed by the other children at his school and had shown up more than once

with wide red welts on his arms which Lillian Jean, his older sister, had revealed with

satisfaction were the result of his associating with us.

4. In front of it were two yellow buses, our own tormentor and one that brought students from

the other direction, and loitering students awaiting the knell of the morning bell.

5. He just stood staring down at the open book, shivering with indignant anger.

6. It seemed to me that showing up at school at all on a bright August-like October morning . . .

was concession enough; Sunday clothing was asking too much.

7. "Ah, Cassie, leave him be," Stacey admonished, frowning and kicking testily at the road.

8. I glanced at the boys and it was obvious to me that they were wondering the same thing as I....

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 1-2 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning

You have tried to figure out the meanings of the vocabulary words for Chapter 1. Now

match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you

cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up

in a dictionary.

1. undaunted A. hanging around with nothing particular to do

2. amiably B. a compromise

3. ridiculed C. easy to see or understand

4. loitering D. made someone the object of scornful laughter

5. indignant E. not faltering or hesitating

6. concession F. feeling anger at something unjust

7. admonished G. cautioned against; warned

8. obvious H. having a pleasant and friendly disposition

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 3-4

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read

the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge,

and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Knowing that the bus driver liked to entertain his passengers by sending us slipping along the

road to the almost inaccessible forest banks . . . we continuously looked over our shoulders. . .

2. It was as if the bus were a living thing, plaguing and defeating us at every turn.

3. And for once in his life, Little Man was happily oblivious to the mud spattering upon him.

4. Yet just one glance at each other and we were lost, slumping on the table in helpless,

contagious laughter.

5. I crept precariously near the edge of the high porch. . . .

6. She also spoke of finding another store to patronize, one where the proprietors were more

concerned about the welfare of the community.

7. I had learned that at times like these it was better to just sit and wait than to go asking

disrupting questions (that) might *vex* her.

8. John and Christopher-John nudged Little Man, and the three of us forced ourselves to stare

into the fire in feigned disinterest.

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 3-4

Part II: Determining the Meaning

You have tried to figure out the meanings of the vocabulary words for Chapter 2 & 3.

Now match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you

cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up

in a dictionary.

9. inaccessible A. unaware of; not mindful of

10. plaguing B. dangerously lacking in stability or security

11. oblivious C. impossible to reach or enter

12. contagious D. pretended

13. precariously E. afflicting; troubling

14. patronize F. to trouble or bother

15. vex G. easily transmitted; catching

16. feigned H. to go to regularly as a customer

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapter 5-6

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read

the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge,

and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. I watched him go, but did not follow. Instead, I ambled along the sidewalk trying to

understand why Mr. Barnett had acted the way he had.

2. "I already know what I am!" I retaliated.

3. "I ain't nobody's little nigger!" I screamed, angry and humiliated.

4. "If he don't," said Little Man ominously, "I betcha Uncle Hammer'll teach that ole Mr. Simms

a thing or two.

5. Suddenly Mama lunged to the side door, blocking it with her slender body.

6. His eyes, which showed a great warmth as he hugged and kissed us now, often had a cold,

distant glaze, and there was an aloofness in him which the boys and I could never quite bridge.

7. Big Ma nodded mutely and I went on.

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 5-6 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning

You have tried to figure out the meanings of the vocabulary words for Chapters 5 & 6.

Now match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you

cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up

in a dictionary.

17. ambled A. returned like for like

18. retaliated B. threateningly

19. humiliated C. at a distance; removed

20. ominously D. without speaking

21. lunged E. suddenly thrust

22. aloofness F. lowered in pride or dignity

23. mutely G. moved at a smooth, easy gait

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 7-8

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read

the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge,

and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. I don't think your Paul Edward would've condoned something like this and risked losing this

place.

2. You back the credit with it now and he'll seize this opportunity to take it away from you.

3. Mr. Jamison nodded. He was a long, thin man in his mid-fifties with a perfect lawyer face, so

placid that it was difficult to guess what thoughts lay behind it.

4. Christopher-John, Little Man, and I exchanged apprehensive glances.

5. The last days of school before Christmas seemed interminable.

6. When we caught up with them, it was obvious that the jovial mask T.J. always wore had been

stripped away.

7. Avoiding us in the morning, he arrived late, only to be shunned by the other students.

8. "Mama gonna whip you good, too," said prideful Little Man, still fuming as we approached

the school.

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 7-8 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning

You have tried to figure out the meanings of the vocabulary words for Chapter 7 & 8.

Now match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you

cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up

in a dictionary.

24. condoned A. tranquil; calm

25. seize B. full of hearty, playful good humor

26. placid C. boiling over with anger

27. apprehensive D. endorsed; given his blessings for

28. interminable E. ignored; kept out of association

29. jovial F. to grasp; take; arrest

30. shunned G. unending

31. fuming H. anxious; uneasy

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapter 9-10

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read

the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge,

and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. A few minutes later he emerged from the field alone, got into his car, and left.

2. Mama laughed lightly in exasperation.

3. The heat swooped low over the land clinging like an invisible shroud and through it people

moved slowly lethargically, as if under water.

4. Christopher-John, Little Man, and I stared open-mouthed and even Stacey, who had witnessed

Mr. Morrison's phenomenal strength before, gazed in wonder.

5. Melvin nodded, a condescending smirk on his face which was lost on T.J.

6. "No," said Papa adamantly, "you do better in Chicago."

7. Long hours after we should have been in bed, we sat on the front porch lit only by the

whiteness of the full moon and listened to the comforting sounds of Papa's and Uncle

Hammer's voices mingling once again.

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapters 9-10 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning

You have tried to figure out the meanings of the vocabulary words for Chapters 9 & 10.

Now match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you

cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up

in a dictionary.

32. emerged A. extremely unusual

33. exasperation B. boldly; not giving in; firmly

34. shroud C. something that conceals or screens like a garment

35. phenomenal D. descending voluntarily to the level of an inferior person

36. condescending E. mixing together

37. adamantly F. came forth into view

38. mingling G. irritation or annoyance

Vocabulary - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Chapter 11-12

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read

the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge,

and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. "Hush, Cassie," Stacey said, his eyes intent on the men.

2. Afterward both Mama and Big Ma changed their clothes, then we sat, very quiet, as the heat

crept sticky and wet through our clothing and the thunder banged menacingly overhead.

3. A crescendo of ugly hate rose from the men as the second car approached.

4. Perhaps he felt that even a person as despicable as T.J. needed someone he could call "friend,"

or perhaps he sensed T.J.'s vulnerability better than T.J. did himself.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

You have tried to figure out the meanings of the vocabulary words for Chapters 11-12.

Now match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you

cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up

in a dictionary.

39. intent A. threateningly

40. menacingly B. a gradual increase in loudness or intensity

41. crescendo C. concentrating on a single purpose; engrossed

42. vulnerability D. ability to be injured or wounded