

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Knowledge Organizer

Key Dates: Civil War and Reconstruction	
1861 - 1865	Civil War: The Northern part of the United States fights to preserve the Union after the Southern states (Confederacy) secede over the issue of slavery. The Union defeats the Confederacy in 1865.
1865 - 1877	Reconstruction: After the Civil War, North and South attempt to rebuild the country. People disagree about how to bring the Southern states back to the Union and what to do with formerly enslaved people.
1916 - 1970	The Great Migration was the movement of 6 million African Americans out of the rural South and into urban areas of the North, Midwest, and West.

Key Terms: Race and Class in the 1930s	
Jim Crow	Laws and customs meant to separate people of color from whites in schools, housing, jobs, and public gathering places
Plessy vs. Ferguson	Supreme Court ruling in 1896 saying that racial segregation was constitutional if facilities were "separate but equal"
Night Rider	Groups of people who wore masks and committed violent acts at night for the purpose of punishing or terrorizing black people
Boycott	When a group of people refuse to buy or use something or go somewhere in order to protest or bring about a change

Key Terms: Land Ownership and Usage	
Sharecropping	A type of farming in which families (often former slaves) rented small pieces of land from a landowner. Sharecroppers farmed the land and were paid in a share of the crop. If they couldn't pay their debts to the landowner, they faced eviction (having land and home taken away).
Debt	Money owed to someone as a result of borrowing.
Credit	The ability to borrow money. With credit you can buy something now by promising to pay later.
Interest	The fee for using someone else's money. You pay back money borrowed plus interest , a percentage of the amount borrowed.
Mortgage	A loan used to buy property. A person often cannot pay for a house or land all at once. They pay as much as they can while a mortgage covers the remaining cost. Over time, they pay back the mortgage and interest on the loan.
Taxes	Fees people pay to the government. Taxes include sales tax (tax on what you buy), property tax (tax on land), & income tax (tax on money earned).

Families in Roll of Thunder	
Logan	Black landowners & main characters of the novel. Stacey, Cassie (narrator), Christopher-John, Little Man, Papa (David), Mama (Mary), Uncle Hammer, Big Ma (Caroline).
Avery	Black sharecroppers. T.J. and Claude are friends of the Logans.
Granger	Harlan Granger, a white landowner wants to buy back Logan land.
Wallace	White family that runs the general store on Granger land. Kaleb, Thurston, and Dewberry are brothers.
Jamison	White lawyer and his wife whose early relatives bought land from Harlan Granger and sold some of it to the Logan family.
Simms	White family living near the Logans. Melvin, R.W. , and Lillian Jean (seventh grader), and Jeremy (befriends the Logan children).

Key Literary Terms		
Term	Definition	Roll of Thunder Example
Allusion	Reference to a significant historical, literary, cultural, or political figure/idea	"But my daddy didn't hardly have time to finish hearing them boys' story when them devilish night men swept down like locusts." (p. 149)
Dialect	A particular way of speaking linked to a specific region or culture of people	"You sure giving folks something to talk 'bout with that car of yours, Hammer," Mr. Granger said in his folksy dialect. (p. 166)
Foreshadowing	Clues or hints about what is to come	"But one day we'll have to pay for it. Believe me," she said, "one day we'll pay." (p. 139)
Irony	The opposite of what's expected; dramatic irony refers to situations in which a reader's awareness of a situation exceeds a character's	"Go on, child... apologize." "But, Big Ma—" Her voice hardened. "Do like I say. Go on!" (p. 115)
Mood	A feeling created in the reader from text	Then all of us began to laugh and were deliciously happy. (p. 57)
Personification	The attribution of human characteristics or emotions to inanimate or non-living things	The dust seemed to be rejoicing in its own resiliency and laughing at the heavy raindrops; but eventually the dust was forced to surrender. (p. 42)
Point of View	The perspective through which a story is told. In first person narration , the narrator is a character whose perspective may not always be reliable .	"It ain't fair. I didn't do nothin' to that Lillian Jean. How come Mr. Simms pushed me like he did?" (p. 126)
Symbolism	When an object, person, or idea in a text has an additional meaning beyond its literal one	"That fig tree's got roots that run deep, and it belongs in that yard as much as that oak and walnut." (p. 206)