

Name: _____

Date: _____

Homeroom: _____

Class: _____

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (3-12) "Logan Land"

Lesson Objective: Consider the importance of land to the Logan family.

Do Now **10 mins.**

Directions: Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

-Move to Q2 at 4 mins in

Excerpt from Mildred Taylor's Acceptance Speech for the 1997 Alan Award

Mildred D. Taylor wrote *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, the fictional story of the Logan family, in 1976. In 1997, she was recognized with the Alan Award and gave this speech explaining her inspiration for the book:

Many years ago when I first started writing the stories told by my family about our family history and about neighbors and friends and the community in which my family lived, I envisioned¹ presenting an aspect of American history which during my own childhood was not presented in the history books. I envisioned presenting a family united in love and self-respect, and parents, strong and sensitive, attempting to guide their children successfully without harming their spirits, through the hazardous maze of living in a discriminatory² society. I wanted readers to know this family, based upon my own, and I wanted them to feel akin³ to them and to walk in their shoes.



Mildred D. Taylor

¹envisioned: imagined or pictured

²discriminatory: unfairly treating a group of people differently from other groups

³akin: similar or related to

1. Reread this line from the text above: **Show Call 1-2 responses**

didn't see

I envisioned presenting an aspect of American history which during my own childhood was not presented in the history books.

Showing

Paraphrase this line by writing it in your own words from Taylor's perspective.


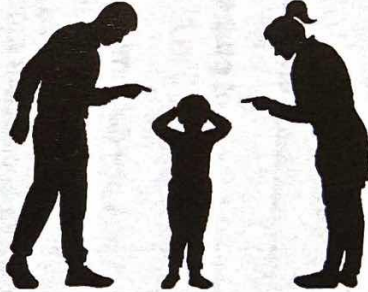
I imagined showing a part of history that I didn't see in the books I was taught as a child.

2. According to the excerpt above, what did Taylor hope to show in her novel, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*? What are some of her goals for her readers? **TFT -> cold call 2-3 students**

Notes

- a strong Black family with loving parents who help their children learn to live in an unjust society
- stories about her own family + their history; underrepresented

Vocabulary: Meticulously, Admonish (4 mins. total)

Word	Definition	Related Parts of Speech	Situations	Image
meticulously adverb	<p>CC student</p> <p>done carefully and with attention to small details</p>	<p>meticulous adjective</p> <p>meticulousness noun</p>	<p>CC student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chef used tweezers to meticulously place each piece of food on the plate. <p>T+T How might tweezers help the chef work meticulously?</p>	 <p>Hand</p> <p>How do you know this scientist is meticulous?</p>
admonish verb	<p>CC student</p> <p>to criticize or warn someone in a serious or firm way</p>	<p>admonition noun</p> <p>admonishment noun</p>	<p>CC student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The girl admonished her little sister for getting red marker on the white table. <p>T+T Why did the little sister get admonished? Is this fair? Why/why not?</p>	

Vocabulary Active Practice (6 mins total)

As we apply our new word knowledge, be sure to use the vocabulary word in your answer!

① 2 mins silent solo, actively monitor
② Hands

1. Think of something a coach might **admonish** you about. How might that make you feel?
- late multiple times to practice] serious
- making same mistake in games]
2. In which situation would you be more **meticulous** about what you're wearing? Why? Hear from one of each

③ Poll
CLASS

- a. the first day of school
- b. going to a party with friends

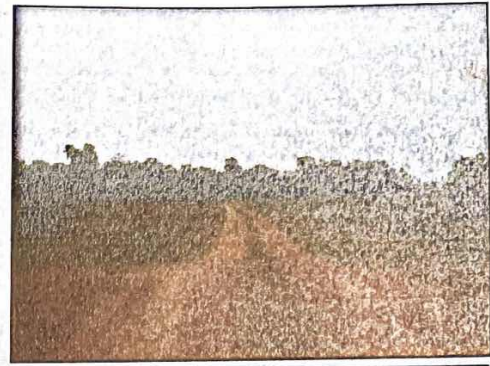
use if multiple usage errors on Q1/Q2

3. Finish this sentence: The **meticulous** librarian **admonished** the student when...
4. Explain a job in which you would need to be extremely **meticulous**. Why would **meticulousness** be important in that profession?

Intro novel

Pages 3-6 (10 mins. this page)

Annotation Task: As we read the opening of the novel, pay attention to the characters we meet. Annotate anything you notice about each new character, their relationships with one another, and their personalities.



The novel is set in 1933 in rural Mississippi; at this time, roads were made of red dirt rather than pavement.

Notes

Students to Show Call Annotations

1. **Turn and Task:** Share your first impression of these characters with your partner. Who have we met in these opening pages? What details stand out to you? *Show call strong responses + time to revise*

Character	Notes
Cassie (narrator)	- doesn't want to be dressed for school, gets frustrated with her brothers, would rather be barefoot + playing in woods
Little Man	- youngest brother - very neat (meticulous) - starting school for first time
Stacey	- oldest - annoyed at being in Mama's class
Christopher-John	- second youngest + cheerful, friendly - peacemaker

(10 mins)

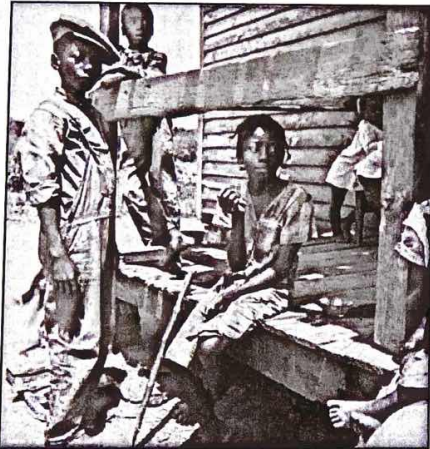
① Jacob/Cephon/Louie

Sunday Clothes FASE Reading

During the 1930s, the United States was in the midst of the **Great Depression**, a severe economic downturn in which many families struggled to make ends meet. Very few families living in rural areas had enough money to buy new clothing at a store, mothers typically mended or patched clothes and passed them down to younger siblings in the family. A child might have one set of clothing that could be worn every day, for play and work, and Sunday clothes (their finest or best outfit) reserved for church on Sundays and special occasions. Shoes were often a luxury reserved for church and cold weather.

② Arthur/Emily/Franny

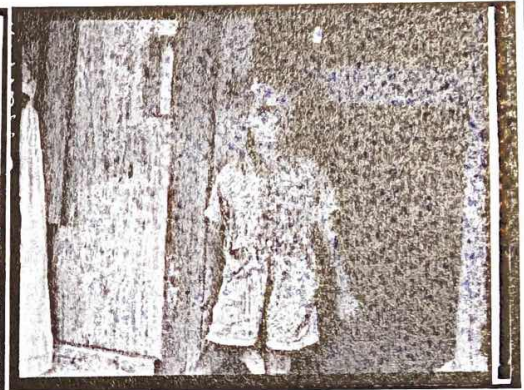
③ Peter/Veunis/Martin



Children on the Mississippi Delta, 1936
Photograph by Dorothea Lange



Child on the Mississippi Delta, 1936
Photograph by Dorothea Lange



Child of a sharecropper family near Cleveland, Mississippi, 1936
Photograph by Dorothea Lange

2. Complete the following sentences: **Cold Call**

• The Logans are dressed in their Sunday clothes **because** it is the **first day of school** and Mama wanted them **to dress up!**

• The Logans are dressed in their Sunday clothes, **but** - the road is dusty and it's **hard** to keep their clothes **clean** as they walk

OR

Cassie **hates** the clothes **she's** wearing

SAY:

Preview: we are going to learn a lot about the Logan's land today - let's take out KO to preview important terms.

Pages 6-8

Annotation Task: As we read, annotate anything new we learn about the Logan family and the place they live. Use the following terms from your Knowledge Organizer (copied below) to support your understanding.

15 mins

Show Call List -

Notes

Reconstruction	A time of rebuilding after the Civil War during which attempts were made to reunify the divided nation and rectify the inequities of slavery and its legacy.
Sharecropping	A system where a landowner allows a farmer to rent and use a piece of land in exchange for a share of the crop. Sharecropping agreements typically favored the landowner and sharecroppers were often in debt .
Debt	Money owed to someone as a result of borrowing.
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 (a form of debt) 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).

3. Turn and Talk: Where is Papa? Why? What else have you noticed about the Logans and where they live?

- Has to work on railroad to pay for land - smuggle to afford

Hands to share

4. Reread the following excerpt from p. 6. (Note: 400 acres is about half a square mile).

In 1887, when the land was up for sell again, Grandpa had bought two hundred acres of it, and in 1918, after the first two hundred acres had been paid off, he had bought another two hundred [...] [T]here was no **debt** on half of it. But there was a **mortgage** on the two hundred acres bought in 1918 and there were **taxes** on the full four hundred...

- a. Turn and Talk: What does it mean that the first two hundred acres "had been paid off"? Challenge: How long did it take Grandpa to pay off the first two hundred acres? owe no \$ 31 years
- b. The excerpt above states, "There was a **mortgage** on the two hundred acres bought in 1918." Using what you learn in your Knowledge Organizer, what does this mean? How has it impacted the family? Include the word **debt** in your response.

This means that while the first 200 acres was totally paid for, they still had a **debt** for the second 200 acres, meaning they are still paying for it. They paid money every month towards the cost of that land and the interest to the bank. The bills are high and the money they earn from the land is not enough to cover it,

So Papa had to find another job

5. Reread this excerpt from pp. 7-8:

But Papa never divided the land in his mind; it was simply Logan land. **For it** he would work the long, hot summer pounding steel; Mama would teach and run the farm; Big Ma, in her sixties, would work like a woman of twenty in the fields and keep the house; and the boys and I would wear threadbare clothing washed to dishwater color; but always, the taxes and the mortgage would be paid. Papa said that one day I would understand.

a. What does the pronoun "it" (in bold) in the second sentence of this excerpt refer to?

cc the Logan land

b. What is the family willing to do for "it"? Why might this be? TTT (pacing)

The family is willing to make sacrifices for the land + work as hard as they can - everyone in the family contributes. Papa explains to Cassie that she's "never had to live on nobody's place but her own" and that one day she'll understand the importance of this.

Read Aloud

Excerpt from "This Land Was Our Land"

by Vann R. Newkirk II, published in The Atlantic, September 2019

Land has always been the main battleground of racial conflict in Mississippi. During Reconstruction, fierce resistance from the planters who had dominated antebellum¹ society effectively killed any promise of land or protection [for formerly enslaved people], forcing masses of black laborers back into de facto² bondage [through sharecropping]. But the sheer size of the black population—black people were a majority in Mississippi until the 1930s—meant that thousands were able to secure tenuous³ footholds as landowners between Emancipation and the Great Depression.



W. E. B. Du Bois was a prominent 20th century author, sociologist, and civil rights activist.

Driven by what W. E. B. Du Bois called "land hunger" among freedmen during Reconstruction, two generations of black workers squirreled away money and went after every available and affordable plot they could, no matter how marginal⁴ or hopeless. [...]

¹antebellum: existing prior to the American Civil War
²de facto: in fact, or in effect, whether recognized by law or not
³tenuous: very weak, fragile, or flimsy
⁴marginal: limited or not very important

6. Turn and Task: Why might the author describe the position of Black landowners as "tenuous" in the first paragraph? In what ways might the Logans' land-ownership be considered tenuous?

monitor for strongest responses - TTT for pacing

Notes
- white planters resisted Black land ownership
- forced Black laborers into sharecropping
- Logans barely make enough to keep the land

7. Reread Papa's explanation of the importance of the land to Cassie on p. 7 of the novel:

"Look out there, Cassie girl. All that belongs to you. You ain't never had to live on nobody's place but your own and as long as I live and the family survives, you'll never have to. That's important. You may not understand that now, but one day you will. Then you'll see."

Consider the article on p. 7 of this packet. What is Papa trying to explain to Cassie about the land? Why might he (and the rest of the family) be so willing to make sacrifices to maintain it?

Track Discussion Papa is trying to explain the **symbolic importance** of land ownership for **Black families** + the significance of **living in freedom** with their own property

- Black land ownership increasing ~~increasing~~ but still **tenuous**
- Papa explains they are willing to **make sacrifices**
- a way to **pass on** land + build wealth in family

Additional Insights *Raise based on discussion*

Pages 8-11: On Your Own (15 mins)

Annotation Task: In this section of the novel, we'll meet two new characters, T.J. and Claude. What do you notice about their personalities and relationships with the Logans?

[Skip review for pacing]

Notes

- seem very different from Logans
- must be hungry, not able to get enough food to eat

8. Reread this description of T.J. and Claude from p. 8:

When the fields ended and the Granger forest fanned both sides of the road with long overhanging branches, a tall, emaciated¹-looking boy popped suddenly from a forest trail and swung a thin arm around Stacey. [...] Neither boy had on shoes, and their Sunday clothing, patched and worn, hung loosely upon their frail² frames. The Avery family share-cropped on Granger land.

Silent solo → HD

¹emaciated: very thin and weak, especially from a lack of food

²frail: fragile, weak, or delicate

a. What do you think Taylor is emphasizing about the Avery boys in this paragraph? Annotate any words or phrases that support your response.

The boys are hungry, possibly even starving, and do not have what they need. Their family might be struggling to have enough food or clothing.

b. What might this description reveal about differences between the Logan and the Avery families? Begin your response with the phrase, "As sharecroppers..."

As sharecroppers, the Avery family seems to be struggling more than the land-owning Logans. Because they own land, the Logans seem to be more financially stable than Avery family.

9. **Turn and Task:** What news is T.J. sharing with the Logans? What do you notice about the way he shares it? What questions do you still have? Hands

Notes

- explain that Mr. Avery + his nephews were burned by white men
- shares as if it is gossip instead of the terrifying incident it is
- might want to frighten children

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Exit Ticket (8 miss-silent solo)

1. Complete each of the following sentences:

- The Logan family owns land because during Reconstruction, Cassiel's grandfather bought all the land he could/the family works hard to make + save money to keep it.
- The Logan family owns land, but must work hard + sacrifice to maintain it and to pay the mortgage + taxes.
- Since the Logan family owns land, they are more independent than families forced to sharecrop for other owners.