

Fences: Critical Thinking Questions

- 1.) In what ways has Troy's character been shaped by his contact with the white world?
- 2.) Is Troy a tragic hero? If so, what is his flaw?
- 3.) How does the conflict between Troy and Cory reflect conflicts within the African – American community? Does the play suggest any possibilities for compromise?
- 4.) Do you consider the message of this play to be optimistic or pessimistic? Explain.
- 5.) In *Fences* Relationships are broken and relationships are built. What is the setting of younger Troy's life? What occurs between him and his father?
- 6.) After Troy wins the suit against the Garbage Company, what do we learn about him? How does this affect your perception of him? Is he any less of a man? Is he less powerful?
- 7.) Describe the conflict that Troy and Cory have about playing football.
- 8.) What is symbolic about the fence?
- 9.) How does Bono influence Troy?
- 10.) What does Troy's affair reveal about his character?
- 11.) How is power exerted between Troy, Rose, and Cory?
- 12.) In what ways does the setting change from the beginning of the play to the end?
- 13.) The death of Alberta leads to major changes. Why does Rose decide to take care of Raynell?
- 14.) List two or three major themes that you've noticed in *Fences* thus far. Be sure to provide details as to why these themes exist.