

Name _____ Date ____/____/____
(first) (last)

Teacher _____ Grade 6 7 8

Comprehension Questions for *The Cay*

Chapter One

As you read to yourself, please answer the following questions in complete sentences. Write the page number where you find each answer, as well. If answers are not in complete sentences you will not receive credit for them.

1. Describe the setting for *The Cay*. Page #: _____

2. How does Phillip feel about the war coming to his island? Page #: _____

3. On page 14, Phillip writes of his mother: *She was like that. One minute, shaking me; the next, holding me.* What can you infer about his mother from this passage?

4. In which point of view is this story told? How do you know?

5. Compare and contrast Phillip's mother with Phillip's father. How are they the same? How are they different?

6. How does Phillip's mother feel about Virginia? Why?

Chapter Two

1. On pages 18-20, Phillip describes the events of that first evening, when the family is scared the Germans will attack. What do Phillip's parents decide?

2. If you were in Phillip's place would you want to return to Virginia or would you rather stay in Curacao? Why? Explain two reasons.

3. Why was there a shortage of food and a lack of water?

4. Do Phillip and the people on Curacao have a lot of pride in the military? How do you know?

5. Are you someone who has a lot of pride in the military? Why or why not?

6. How did Phillip feel about his parents' decision to return to Virginia?

7. By the end of the chapter, has Phillip's attitudes towards war changed at all? If so, how?

Chapter Three

1. What happened to the *Hato*? What happened to Phillip?

2. Describe Timothy. (at least 50 words)

3. On or near page 32, the author writes that Timothy was, “holding my head in his great clamshell hands.” What literary device is used in the phrase: *great clamshell hands*?

4. Why does Timothy say that they have had good luck?

5. On or near p. 34, the author writes “My father had always taught me to address anyone I took to be an adult as ‘mister’ but Timothy didn’t seem to be a mister. Besides, he was black.” What does this quote mean? Why would Phillip feel this way?

6. On or near page 38 the writer says, “Yes, they were different. They ate raw fish.” Who is “they?” _____

7. Timothy is very patient with Phillip. Why? What does Timothy understand about Phillip and his situation?

Chapter Four

1. Is Phillip racist? Or is he too young or too inexperienced to know any better? Explain in at least one excellent paragraph.

2. Is Timothy American? Why or why not?

3. Phillip describes Timothy as having a “horny hand”. What does this mean?

4. What do you think will happen to Timothy and Phillip’s relationship? Do you have any evidence to support your claim? If so, what is the evidence?

5. What is the most important event of Chapter Four?

6. What does the phrase mean, “his voice was hollow”? (on or near p. 45)
