

1. Part 1 of Notes of a Native Son, Baldwin mostly talks about his father. He lets us know that his father was very intimidating to him and his other children. He was sometimes abusive with his punishment for example when he would help them with homework. Baldwin likes telling us about the things he hated about his father and how his death changed him as a person. Out of the whole section the thing that stood out the most was that Baldwin hated all the segregation and that made him bitter. The phrase "we don't serve Negroes here" also stood out a lot due to the fact that this phrase made him break. It caused him to try to kill the waitress at dinner.
2. Baldwin is a man who was changed by his father's death and sees America's true colors. (Inequality)
3. The poison mentioned in the funeral is the hatred of the white people. The way I see it is that Baldwin's father didn't like the whites because of the way he was treated by them and that changed him drastically and that's the poison right there. It also makes sense why he would hate them because he was the first generation of "freed black people". This was the "poison" Baldwin talks about, and that it is the way white people changed the black people. The cure Baldwin mentions is acceptance and equal power. As stated at the end of the story "acceptance, totally without rancor, of life as it is, and men as they are".- James Baldwin he also states "equal power: that one must never, in one's own life, accept these injustices as commonplace but must fight them with all one's strength" these two things are the cure to the poison Baldwin mention
4. The fight was between a black soldier and a policeman. They were fighting over a black girl. The fight turned out to a shootout and the soldier died with gunshots to his back protecting the girl so the story goes. But in reality that never happened it was a huge exaggeration. The policemen never killed the soldier, in fact it was never said what happened, only that it was just lies from the press. This was made just to get the attention of people and just to cause problems. Baldwin mentions that this lie or invention was made because it expressed and corroborated their hates and fears so perfectly. To me this means that they were just getting at each other white againsts black. The invention people make causes problems like the riot of the summer of 1943. All of the inventions made the opposing side to target white business establishment. As you can see the facts that stand out are the one that are critical to the story like for example the policemen shooting a black soldier. The word gets around and it leads to problematic situations. Baldwin also explains that all of this is just to provoke people. "The effect, in Harlem, of this particular legend was like the effect of a lit match in a tin gasoline" meaning that these invention were made only for the Benefit of the colored person who wrote it.