

1. Background of Story: Emmett Till
  - a. Murder case
    - Northerner
    - flirted with white woman
    - kidnapped, beaten, murdered, thrown in river
  - b. Comparison to story
    - Also Northerner
    - White hookups
    - Lyle
    - Murdered
2. Author: James Baldwin
  - a. Life and Ideas
    - Baptist preacher stepfather
    - Harlem
    - Pursued real theater
    - Ex-Christian
  - b. Comparison to story characters
    - Meridian / Richard relationship
    - Richard in NYC
    - Christianity
3. Character analysis
  - a. Father Meridian
    - cracks in Christian ideology
  - b. Richard
    - murdered son
  - c. Lorenzo
    - advocates violence
4. Theme breakdown
  - a. Religion and non-violence break down, converge towards violence
  - b. Comparison to Civil Rights Movement
    - MLK was Christian, non-violent
    - timeline
  - c. Testing of ideals
5. White characters
  - a. Lyle
    - introduced to be sympathetic
    - shown with wife and son
  - b. Parnell
    - journalist, neutral
    - friends with both Lyle and Meridian
    - why neutrality doesn't work
  - c. Baldwin's intro
    - racism is a plague
    - maybe whites don't want to be racist
    - racism as a burden