Group 1 Ch. 5: Jeremiah Hawkinson, Kaeleen Vorakoumane, Sarah Sanchez, Savanha Moore, Yesica Rosas

Summary: This chapter begins following Lord Murray in a governance house, then quickly switches to a young man traveling with a purebred Arabian horse. The young stranger spots a beautiful white woman possibly belonging to the richest family on the island trying to purchase a white ivory fan from a Chinese man. The Chinese man speaks no common language with the woman so the young stranger helps her by speaking Chinese with the seller earning the praise from the women trying to buy the fan. We learn that the young man learned this language as he was taken care of while young by a woman who spoke and taught him that language. Leaving the women the stranger went down a road and saw an old man he recognized starring from the cliffs at the incoming port ships. The stranger talks to the old man revealing that he is a mulatto, and the old man tells him that he is waiting for the return of his two sons, Jaques and Georges. At this point we learn that the young man is actually Georges and he wanted to surprise his father, the old man he has been talking to. They have a tearful reunion and hug each other.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Lord Murray?
2. What did Sara want to buy from Miko-Miko?
3. How did the old man define himself?

Group 2 Ch. 6: Samuel Shell, Colin Morris-Moncada, Tristan Lovvorn, Adriana Alcocer



Summary: This chapter begins as a sort of retelling of Pierre Munier’s life. “...the hero of our story during the last fourteen years - years that changed him from a boy to a man.” With this, the chapter begins with Pierre aboard the Bellone, sailing away from ile de France. We learn that Georges father, despite being a war hero and a very rich landowner, is looked at with disdain by many other landowners due to his skin color. The passive way that his father acted inspired him to try and fight back against the discrimination that they felt. While he lacked in strength, he still had a method to fight the cruelty of the white man: through submission and humility.

Both Jacques and Georges enroll in the College Napoleon

Jacques leaves on a ship which is a French military vessel while Georges stays in school

Georges is shunned and beaten for his academic prowess. To fight the bullies he balances his academics with defending himself and tries to get better at it. He eventually gains muscles and strength then endurance and stamina.

Georges then felt that he needed to return to the ile de France  since he felt that there was not much to do in Europe. He “had battled civilization, conquered it,...was a proud and enthusiastic soul, one that could never be satisfied by living in European luxury” due to how much he worked to build his strength (61). Georges and his father go to the Munier landholdings in which slaves gathered around to hear George’s return. However, the slaves were very fearful of him and adored his father. Georges then proceeds to give a speech about how each and every one of those individuals were going to “ have a small garden where they may grow potatoes, tobacco, yams, raise chickens, and pigs” (63). This speech was the voice for their freedom.

Discussion Questions.

1. Will Pierre overcome his discouragement and continuing submission and humility when it comes to white men such as M. de Malmedie?
2. What was Toukal forced to share? And with who?
3. What did Cambeba steal? Why did Cambeba steal it?

Group 3 Ch. 7: Alexandria De La Torre, Alyssa Castillo

Summary:

The slaves on M. de Malmedie’s plantation were asking Antonio to sing them a song, because he was the man of the plantation that made everyone laugh. After singing them a song, he asks the others to give him some of their supplies (like tobacco and a wooden spoon) in exchange for his services (songs and stories). He eventually asks a man named Cambeba for his banana, but he does not want to give it to him. He claims the banana is for his sick wife. The other slaves agreed with Antonio and cheered him on as he and Toukal hung him up by his feet 10 feet in the air. Eventually, a man named Nazim tried to tell them to put him down. Antonio refused to do so, because Nazim’s brother, Laiza, was not there to help him. Cambeba was let down, but he was still upset about his banana being taken. Laiza asked the crowd of slaves if anyone could give him a banana, and dozens were offered to him since he is highly respected by them. He gave one to Cambeba for his sick wife. In exchange for the banana that person gave to him, Laiza gave him Antonio’s portion of the meat everyone was feasting on.Antonio was told that he would have the banana he took from Cambeba instead of the meat even though the banana was lost. Later, Naizem and Laiza left the barn in secret.

Discussion Questions:

1. Was it right for Georges to refuse Henri’s request for the flag?
2. Why was M. de Malmedie upset after the battle?
3. Would you be as excited to hear your native tongue as Miko-Miko was when Georges spoke it?

Group 4 Ch. 8 Tristan Crawford, Nazaret Montejano, Jose Rodarte,

Summary:

Nazim and Laiza are brothers, sons of a Chief. Both were kidnapped and enslaved. Nazim was determined to kill himself and found any way he could. The captures prevented this from happening, even forcing him to eat. Once Nazim figured out Laiza was alive, he stopped this behavior. Now Nazim is determined to go back home but Laiza is hesitant about this. Nazim mentions that his mother's spirit visits him in the nights and has told him to go home. Laiza tells him to leave but states that he is staying behind because they are planning to revolt.

Discussion Questions:

1. How long did Nazim say he was visited by the Nightingale?
2. What did Laiza hide alongside the riviere Noire and why?
3. Why would Nazim have to hide behind rocks and trees once he left?

Group 5 Ch. 9: Jacob Pasillas, Alexander Ermels, Elizabeth Campos

Summary:

Sara has acquired a new fan (with the help of Georges). She mentions to Henrietta that she has never seen him before, and that she cannot stop thinking about him. Sara mentions that she wonders if the new governor is a young man, and Henrietta mentions that it shouldn’t matter considering Sara is engaged to be married. Sara and Henri agree that they both are allowed to do as they please, despite their engagement. A letter arrives from the governor inviting M. de Malmedie, Henri, and Sara to a ball. Henrietta assists Sara with her preparations.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Sara mean when she says she is unable to hide her “liking and disliking”? What reason does she give for this?
2. Why does Henri feel like it is easy to obtain the Legion d’honneur?
3. How do Henri and Sara speak of Georges in reference to him knowing Chinese?