*Mississippi Trial, 1955 -* Discussion Questions

**Chapter 1**
How are Hiram's dad and grandfather different?
What happens when Hiram tries to work on the cotton field? What does this show about Hiram's grandfather?
What do you predict changed Hiram the summer of 1955?

**Chapter 2**
Describe RC Rydell. How does he act? How does Hiram react to him?
Describe Naomi.
Describe Ronnie and Ralph Remington?

**Chapter 3**
What tragedy happens in this chapter?
Why does Hiram's father want to move out West?
How does Hiram feel about moving to Arizona?
What does Naomi share with Hiram at the cemetery?
What does Hiram promise?

**Chapter 4**
How does Harlan (Hiram's dad) feel about Tempe, Arizona?
What makes Harlan change his mind about Hiram visiting his grandpa in Greenwood?
What does Harlan warn Hiram about?

**Chapter 5**
How does Hiram feel about coming back to Greenwood?
Describe Bobo.
Who does Hiram see as he leaves the station?
How does this make Hiram feel?
How has Hiram's grandfather changed?
How does Hiram feel about Greenwood at the end of chapter 5?

**Chapter 6:**
Describe Hiram's conversation with Ralph Remington.
Why does Hiram like fishing?
What happens when Hiram is fishing? What does this show about Hiram?
How does Hiram's Grandpa feel about integration?

**Chapter 7**
What is the White Citizens Council?
What was Mr. Paul's experience with a segregated school?
How does Hiram feel about segregation at the end of the chapter? What makes him feel differently?

**Chapter 8**
Why does Hiram agree to go fishing with RC?
How does RC react to Ruthane's lunch?
What did RC do to Ralph REmington?
How does Hiram feel about RC?
What does RC do to Emmett? How does this make Hiram feel?

**Chapter 9**
What is Grandpa's reaction to RC's bullying?
Why does Hiram worry about people like RC getting together?
How is Hiram starting to understand his father?
What is RC planning on doing? What does Hiram do to stop him?
Explain this simile:
"My life felt like it had been tied into a giant knot, one that would take a long time to untangle." (Hiram's thought p. 103)

**Chapter 10**
Describe Hiram's dream about his father. What do you think this means?
What is the headline on the front page of the newspaper?
How does Hiram react to this headline?
Why does Sheriff George Smith call Hiram?

**Chapter 11**
Why does Hiram have to stay in Greenwood longer?
What is the editorial "A Just Appraisal" about? How does Grandpa feel about this?
How does Hiram feel about his Grandpa's reaction to the killing of Emmett Till?

**Chapter 12**
What does Hiram get from the deputy?
Do Hiram and Grandpa feel the same way about the trial? explain with details from the book.
What surprises Ruthanne about the way Emmett's murder has been handled in Mississippi?
Why does Naomi say Hiram can't say anything in court?
How does Naomi feel about Hiram? Explain with details from the book.
How does Hiram feel about Naomi? Explain with details from the book.

**Chapter 13**
What is Mr. Paul's advice for Hiram?
Explain the 4th paragraph on p.153 that says, "Both men had heads harder than cement, and both charged ahead full speed with whatever they thought was right. What they had in common was what kept them apart."
What does Hiram decide to do about the trial?

**Chapter 14**
What type of figurative language is this an example of: "Outside of Greenwood, the sun cast patches of light and shadows across the cotton fields revealing a thin gray mist, unstirred by morning breezes, that clung to the tops of the cotton plants." (p.156)
On p. 163, what does Grampa do when he is leaving the cafe? What does this mean?
Why doesn't Hiram go see Naomi after the trial?
What happens to Grampa when Willie says he saw Emmett in a Ford truck? Why do you think Grampa had this reaction?
What does Mrs. Bryant say happened in her store?
How do the people in the court room react to this?

**Chapter 15**
What do the witnesses for Bryant and Milam say about them?
What is the verdict of the trial? How does Hiram react to this?
How does Grampa react?

**Chapter 16**
Where has RC been?
How did his father react to him? What happened?
Does Hiram think RC is lying about where he has been?
What plans does Hiram have for Naomi?
Why does Grampa sell his truck? Why doesn't he sell it himself?
Why does Grampa want Hiram to leave?
What does Hiram find out from Ronnie Remington?
What does Grampa admit?

**Chapter 17**
What does Ruthanne think is wrong with Grampa?
What happened to Naomi?
What does Grampa mean when he says, "... you can't believe everything you hear. Nothing's as simple as you might think."(p.224)
Why does Naomi look different?
How has Hiram and his dad's relationship changed?