DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS
Chapter 1:

1. Explain why it was the most terrible day of Tony Gibb’s life. ___________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. How old was Tony when his father left home? Why didn’t it matter to Tony? __
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. Why did Tony decide to go to school after Mr. Jefferson’s murder? ___________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

4. Describe what kind of man Hiram W. Jefferson was (how was he? What did Mr.
   Jefferson do for a living? Give examples that tell what kind of man he was in the
   neighborhood). ____________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

5. What dream did Mr. Jefferson and Tony share? _____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

6. Describe the type of neighborhood Tony lived in. ___________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

7. Who was Mr. Campbell? What was he always telling his students about school
   and studying? __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

8. What did Tony have a talent for doing? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
9. How did Mr. Jefferson help Tony with his talent? _________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

10. How did Tony feel about Mr. Jefferson? ______________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________

11. What did Tony’s friend Soroya tell him to do? ___________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
Chapter 2:

1. What helps Tony when he is feeling down?
   
2. What is the problem that Andre tells Tony about?
   
3. Who does Andre blame for his problem?
   
4. How does Tony tell Andre to solve the problem?
   
5. What kind of necklace does Michelle get?
   
6. Who gave her the necklace?
   
7. Why was the necklace really given to Michelle?
   
8. Where does Tony think the necklace came from?
   
9. At one point, Tony is angry with Mr. Jefferson. Why?
   
10. What does Tony promise Zenza he will do?
Chapter 3:

1. What was Tony able to tell about Andre’s and Mr. Campbell’s conference? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________

2. What grade did Andre get on the test? 
________________________________________________________________________ 

3. What grade does he have to get on the next test to pass the class? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________

4. What kind of person was Dwight Stokes? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 

5. What did Dwight call Andre? 
________________________________________________________________________ 

6. Why did Tony tell Andre that he should be worried about his sister Michelle? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________

7. Why is Andre afraid of his father? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 

8. Where is Dwight’s father? 
________________________________________________________________________ 

9. Why is Dwight’s father there? 
________________________________________________________________________ 

10. What had Mr. Jefferson done for Soroya and her family? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 

11. How does Soroya feel about Tony? 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________ 
________________________________________________________________________
12. Why did Tony think Zenza killed Mr. Jefferson?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

13. Who did Soroya think killed Mr. Jefferson?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

14. Explain how Dwight feels about his foster mom, Mrs. Jenson.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

15. Why did Dwight think Wayman Townes killed Mr. Jefferson?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 4:

1. How did Wayman get Mr. Jefferson’s stamp book? _______________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

2. How did he prove that he got it honestly? _______________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

3. What was different about the track meet that Tony was in on Saturday? _______
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

4. Who won the track meet? ___________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

5. How did the winner behave? _________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

6. What did Zenza do to Tony before the race? _____________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

7. What new thing did Michelle get from Zenza? ___________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

8. Why does Tony feel worse about losing Mr. Jefferson than he did about his father
   leaving? _____________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

9. How did Michelle’s parents find out that she was dating Zenza? _____________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

10. What does Michelle do and say to Tony at the end of the chapter? ___________
    ______________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________
Chapter 5:
1. How did people treat Tony when they found out what he had done to Michelle?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. What does Andre tell Tony about Mr. Jefferson? __________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. Who is still friendly toward Tony? ______________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. What did Tony feel when the market reopened? __________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. What did Zenza tell Tony would happen if Michelle’s parents got any more calls?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. How does Tony feel about running? __________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7. What kind of car were Zenza and Michelle seen in? ______________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8. How was Michelle able to get out of the house to be with Zenza? __________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9. What happened between Zenza and Michelle? ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

10. How does Tony help Michelle? ________________________________________
Chapter 6:

1. Who did Tony talk to at the police station about Mr. Jefferson’s murder? ______

2. Why was the investigation of Mr. Jefferson’s murder so difficult? ___________

3. What kind of person did the policeman think killed Mr. Jefferson? ___________

4. How did Tony feel when he left the police station? _____________________

5. What did Tony decide to do about Mr. Jefferson’s death? __________________

6. Who did Tony talk to first about the murder? __________________________

7. Who did Tony talk to second about the murder? _________________________

8. What did Shamica tell Tony? _______________________________________

9. What was Tony going to do about the corner near Mr. Jefferson’s store? ______
Chapter 7:

1. What happened the two nights Tony watched the corner? __________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. What did Tony tell Mr. Campbell about people’s dreams? __________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What was Mr. Campbell’s reply to Tony’s comment? ________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. What did Soroya tell Tony about Wayman’s face when Tony was talking in
   class? __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. Where did Soroya ask Tony to go with her? _______________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. What was Tony’s answer? _____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7. What did Tony find in his locker one morning? __________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8. Why were these put in the locker? ______________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9. How did Tony feel about what was in his locker? _________________________
________________________________________________________________________
10. Two of the things in Tony’s locker have something different done to them. What was it? _______________________________
Chapter 8:

1. Who did Tony see on the drug dealer’s corner? __________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. What was he doing there? ___________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. Where is the drug dealer supposed to be from? _________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. How is Soroya’s family described? ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. Where does Tony plan to go after high school? _________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. What does Tony want to do with his life? ______________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7. What are Soroya’s plans for the future? ______________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8. What does Tony give to Soroya? ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9. Where does Tony go after the picnic? ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

10. What happens on the way home? ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
11. Who does Tony see on the rooftop?

12. What does Tony hear on the rooftop?
Chapter 9:

1. Who did Tony find on the roof? ______________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. Did he throw the lid? _______________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. How did Tony talk the person into telling him what he saw? ________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. Who did he say threw the lid? ________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

5. Why was the person on the roof? ______________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

6. When Tony went around asking questions, who did he talk to who was helpful?
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

7. What had Mr. Jefferson done for this person? __________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

8. What did this person hear? ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

9. Why didn’t this person see anything? _________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

10. How did Tony know who killed Mr. Jefferson? __________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________
11. Who killed Mr. Jefferson? 

12. How did Tony feel once he got back home after finding the murderer?
Chapter 10:

1. With the track meet only a few days away, how was Tony feeling about it? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. Why didn’t Tony feel a desire to run? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. How does Tony help Reggie Dunne? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

4. Who helps Tony when he is having trouble concentrating on reading his English assignment? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

5. How does this person help him? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

6. How does Tony feel after the assignment is complete? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

7. How is Michelle treating Tony? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

8. Why is she acting this way? 
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
9. What does Tony do with the trophy from the track meet? Why? ________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

10. What do you do when a hero dies? ________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Character List: (please include as much information as possible about each character)

Tony Gibb: __________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Hiram W. Jefferson: __________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Shauna Gibb: ________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Mr. Campbell: ______________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Michelle Calder: ____________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Andre Calder: ______________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Wayman Townes: _____________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Zenza Dunne: ________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 1 - 3:

1. Hassled
   The homeroom bell rang and announcements began. A few minutes later, Wayman and Zenza swaggered in, late as usual. Mr. Campbell hassled them, as he always did. But they didn’t seem to mind. It was like a play. Everybody had lines to say.

   My definition: ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

   Dictionary definition: ______________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

2. Stonily
   Tony sat stonily during the service, only saying “Amen” once. And that was when the minister said Mr. Jefferson was surely in heaven.

   My definition: ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

   Dictionary definition: ______________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

3. Pathetic
   The other flowers were pathetic little bunches tied with homemade ribbons. Though they looked shabby, Tony liked them better than the ones from the florist.

   My definition: ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

   Dictionary definition: ______________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

4. Ferocity
   “Yeah,” one of Zenza’s gang said, “he was your lucky charm. Now he’s gone.” “Shut up!” Tony said with such ferocity that Zenza backed away. Zenza looked around for support.

   My definition: ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
5. Ethnic

“This one does. It’s a special film I was fortunate enough to get. It stresses the role _ethnic_ groups played in the Revolution.”

My definition: ________________________________________________________________

6. Fund

Mr. Campbell smiled gratefully at Dwight. Just when nothing seemed worth it, there was Dwight and his amazing _fund_ of information.

My definition: ________________________________________________________________

7. Mannequin

As they passed a closed dress shop, Soroya spotted a beautiful _mannequin_ in the window. “Hey, Tony, look at that mannequin. Doesn’t she look like Michelle?”

My definition: ________________________________________________________________

8. Convenient

“It was real _convenient_,” Dwight said. “The old lady sends me out for milk and stuff. Now I gotta walk twice as far.”

My definition: ________________________________________________________________


9. Casually
   Dwight was silent for a moment. Then he said **casually**, “Wayman
   Townes probably did it.”

My definition: __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 4 – 6

1. Debris
   Wayman turned and dug in a pile of **debris** on the floor. He finally pulled
   out a large loose-leaf notebook. “Here, this is it!”

My definition: __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Trumpeting
   Tony picked up the book. It fell open on a page with bold, bright stamps.
   One from the Kingdon of Burundi showed a big gray elephant
   **trumpeting**.

My definition: __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. Gloated
   Just then Zenza came up. “Want to see my trophy Gibbs?” he **gloated**,
   waving it in Tony’s face.

My definition: __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
4. **Sacrificed**

   Tony kept telling himself he had done it for Michelle’s sake. She was a nice girl. She deserved better than Zenza Dunne. Her parents, who’d **sacrificed** so much for their kids, deserved better, too.

   *My definition:*

5. **Retorted**

   “I just wanted to see what it was like. But old Jefferson ratted on me – just like you ratted on Michelle. I was so mad, I could’ve smashed in his skull. I thought, who does that old man think he is?”

   Tony angrily **retorted**, “Maybe you *did* smash in his skull.”

   *My definition:*

6. **Spiteful**

   “I know you did a rotten thing, Tony. But I also know that you didn’t do it to be mean and **spiteful**. You did it to help Michelle.”

   *My definition:*

7. **Sociopath**

   “Is that right?” said Lt. Peters. He looked sympathetic. “I’m sorry I didn’t know him. But, you see, all that kindness wouldn’t mean a thing to a **sociopath**.”

   *My definition:*
8. Harping

“Tony Gibbs, I am sick to death of you harping on that old man’s murder. He’s dead and gone. Now we’ve got to think about other things. We’ve got enough of our own troubles.”

My definition: ____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________

Chapters 7-10

1. Philosophy

Mr Campbell stared at Tony in amazement. “Why – why, that’s well put Gibbs. You’ve come up with a very mature philosophy of life.”

My definition: ____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________

2. Terrorize

As Tony waited outside the movie theater, he studied the posters. One showed a giant dragonfly breaking loose from a laboratory to terrorize a city. He smiled to himself. This was really Shauna’s kind of movie!!

My definition: ____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________

3. Frail

Tony walked through the tiny apartment and went into the back bedroom. There he found an old woman sitting with a shawl around her frail shoulders.

My definition: ____________________________________________________________
4. Cunning
Tony stared into Dwight’s brown eyes. They were not full of hate. Nor were they full of cunning. They were simply empty.

My definition: ________________________________

-------------------

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. Grasp
That night Tony had some homework to do for English. But however many times he picked up his book, he couldn’t seem to grasp the words. He knew Mrs. Bailey would be furious if he didn’t read the story she assigned. But he just wasn’t in the mood.

My definition: ________________________________

-------------------

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. Confidential
Tony pulled up a chair and began to read. “One confidential evening, not three months ago, Lionel Wallace –‘.”

My definition: ________________________________

-------------------

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7. Indifferent
By the time the track meet rolled around on Saturday, Tony was no longer indifferent. He was very nervous, however.

My definition: ________________________________

-------------------

Dictionary definition: _____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
8. Bickering
   “Hear that ugly dog barking at me, Wayman?” Zenza laughed. “Michelle Calder, I do swear somebody put a curse on you ‘cause you’re getting as ugly as a dump truck.”
   Tony turned away from the bickering and stared at the stands.

My definition: ___________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: ____________________________________________________

9. Poised
   The meet announcer startled Tony out of his thoughts. That was his event. Tony moved to the starting line and crouched in readiness. He held his position, left knee poised inches above the ground.

My definition: ___________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: ____________________________________________________

10. Exulting
    Then they presented Tony with a big, beautiful, gold trophy. He grasped it and held it tightly. Slowly everything and everyone around him seemed to fade. He looked up into the great blue sky as if he were in a trance. Then he held the trophy up, high over his head. The people watching thought he was exulting in his triumph.

My definition: ___________________________________________________________

Dictionary definition: ____________________________________________________
Essay Questions
Choose either essay 1 or 2 and write a 5 paragraph essay answering the questions posed. Be sure to check your spelling, use correct punctuation and begin every sentence with a capital letter.

1. Mr. Jefferson gave Tony support and admiration. Describe a relationship you have had with an adult who helped you. (If you have not had such a relationship, tell how you wish it could have been). What did the adult give you? What did you give in return?

2. Is Tony fooling himself about making it to the Olympics? Suppose he doesn’t really have a chance – is he still right to work toward his dream? What might happen to him if he fails? Explain.

Complete essay 3, using the brainstorming sheet provided to help you plan your writing. Your essay should be 5 paragraphs (introduction, Tony, Dwight, Andre, your opinion/conclusion). Be sure to check your spelling, use correct punctuation and begin every sentence with a capital letter.

3. Mr. Campbell says that education is the way to escape poverty. Analyze how each of the people prove or contradict his theory: Tony, Dwight, and Andre. Then give your own views about Mr. Campbell’s statement.

NOTES:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tony</th>
<th>Dwight</th>
<th>Andre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Your own views:
“Education is the way to escape poverty” – proof or contradiction.

PROJECT IDEAS
Choose one of the following projects to complete:

1. Make a timeline or map of the story action. You can use different colors to indicate characters involved or the importance of the action (There is a brainstorming sheet available if you choose this option).

2. Make posters to teach the meaning of 5 vocabulary words or other significant words from the novel.

3. Create a magazine spread to advertise the novel. In their ads they might include photos, illustrations, quotes from the book and recommendations from authors or readers.

4. Create a newspaper for the neighborhood or school where the novel is set. Include references to characters and action found in the novel.