

*Cry, The Beloved Country* Summer Reading Guide

Below are some questions to help you process this lauded novel as you read it over the summer. You will turn this completed packet in the Monday after school starts. If you have questions about the packet, you will have time to ask them the first two days of school.

***Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 1***

Read Chapter 1. List at least 7 examples of imagery and figurative language in the passage.



2. What is the greatest fear? Why is it so seldom spoken?
3. What inferences about society can you make based on the line below? “He looked around, hoping there might be someone with whom he could talk, but there was no one who appeared of that class.”

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 5**

1. Quote and label examples of figurative language in the chapter. What effect does the language have?
2. Name two things that Kumalo finds confusing and quote his description of each.
3. Why does Kumalo call Mrs. Lithebe “mother”?

4. According to Msimangu the tragedy is not that things are broken, but that they are not mended. Explain.
5. Explain how the death of the land is tied to the death of the tribe.

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 6**

1. Explain the line, “I am not a man for segregation, but it is a pity that we are not apart.”
2. Identify the speaker addressed in the following line: “Have no doubt it is fear in her eyes.”
3. “She looks round vaguely. She gets up and goes to the yard. She calls, but the voice that was once so sweet has a new quality in it, the quality of the laughter that he heard in the house. She is revealing herself to him.” What is she revealing about herself? How?

4. Below is the last line in the chapter. Explain the line. “One day in Johannesburg, and already the tribe was being rebuilt, the house and the soul restored.”

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 7-----WRITING RESPONSE**

#### **PROMPT**

In chapter seven, Msimangu says, “But there is only one thing that has power completely, and that is love. Because when a man loves, he seeks no power, and therefore he has power.” In an approximately 250 word journal defend or challenge Msimangu’s assertion. Use evidence from your observations, experience, or reading to develop your position.



*Johannesburg. If the farm is too small to be divided further, some must go to Johannesburg. If there is a child to be born that must be delivered in secret, it can be delivered in Johannesburg.”*

**Write evidence and commentary which analyzes the use of the devices in the paragraph.**

1. Parallel Structure:
2. Repetition:

3. Imagery:

4. What is Shantytown? How and why is it created?

5. Why do the white men come in first in pity and later in anger?

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 10**

1. Explain the healing power of the land.
2. Read the following quote: “It is strange how we move forward in some things, and stand still in others, and go back in yet others.”

3. Identify where Kumalo's people have  
a. Moved forward

b. Stood still

c. Gone backwards

4. Summarize the events of this chapter.

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 11**

1. Who has been killed?

2. What is significant about this death in the midst of so much death?

3. Cite the three lines which are the basis for the title.
4. What new insights into the novel do you have at this point?
5. What is “this thing” that Kumalo feels? Why?

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 12**

1. Fear of what?
2. What is the meaning of the word “crying” in paragraph three?
3. What effect is created by the use of the same word with two different meanings?
4. Why are the churches crying?

5. Identify the paragraph which contains the title reference. What new insight is gained from this paragraph?

**Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 12—WRITING RESPONSE # 2**

In *Cry the Beloved Country*, the English speaking churches cry for more education as a cure for crime. In an approximately 250 word journal defend or challenge the idea that education reduces crime. Use evidence from your observations, experience, or reading to develop your position.



3. Make an inference about Absalom from three pieces of evidence/ facts

#1 evidence:

#2 evidence:

#3 evidence:

Inference:

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 15**

1. Why does the young man visit Kumalo?

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 16—WRITING RESPONSE #3**

List 6 pieces of evidence and make inferences about the girls. Based on your evidence and inferences/commentaries, give an overall assessment of the girl's character.

In an approximately 250 word journal assess the girl's character. Use the evidence from above to support your assessment.

**Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 17**

1. How does Absalom change after this visit?
2. How is the girl different from Gertrude?
3. What do you predict will happen to Gertrude in the chapters to come?
4. What does “pro deo” mean?

**Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 18-29 (Book II)**

1. Compare the opening of Book I with that of Book II.
2. Explain the irony about who Absalom kills.

3. List at least 12 pieces of evidence/facts with inferences/commentaries concerning the older Mr. Jarvis. Your evidence should indicate whether he is or is not a dynamic character.
4. Summarize the events of the trial.

### **Cry, the Beloved Country—Chapter 30-36—(Book III)**

1. What happens to Gertrude at the end of Book II?
2. What does Kumalo pray for when he returns home? What was the hardest thing for him to say? Where is this great fear first mentioned?
3. Who does Kumalo identify as the “best man [he] has ever known”? Explain why he chose this man.
4. Who is the small white boy who comes to Kumalo’s house? Explain the irony of his visit.
5. What changes in the land and the tribe take place in this book? How does the death of Arthur Jarvis affect the change?
6. What vigil does Kumalo keep in the last chapter? How is this trip up the mountain different from those in the past?

7. The last sentence of the book states, "But when that dawn will come, of our emancipation, from the fear of bondage and the bondage of fear, why, that is a secret." Explain the line and its message.
  
8. Explain the title of the book.