

DREAMS FROM MY FATHER READING GUIDE

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE

WEEK

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Remember: Reading is required (pp. 53-112). Discussion questions are for ****extra credit**** and are due Monday in class.

Chapter Three

1. Why does Obama's mother send him back to Hawaii to live with his grandparents?
2. What was special about Punahou Academy?
3. How do the other school children react when they hear Barack's full name and where his father is from? Why does he say he feels like a novelty?
4. What wakes him from his "long hibernation" on pg 62? What kind of reaction do his grandparents have to the news in the telegram?
5. Why does Obama lie about his father and his family in Kenya?
6. On Page 67, Obama describes how his father has an effect on the people around him. What does his presence do to the family?
7. What kinds of expectations does Obama's father place on him? How are those different than the ones of his mother? His grandparents??

8. How do the kids at school react to Obama's father?

9. What do we learn about Obama's general feelings toward his father at this time in his life?

10. Is Obama's father who you expected him to be based on the stories Obama's mother and grandfather tell in chapter 1 ?

Chapter Four

1. How old is Obama at the beginning of this chapter?

2. Who is Ray and why are he and Obama friends?

3. What is Ray's explanation for why he doesn't go out with many girls from their high school? What is Obama's explanation? How does this connect to some of Obama's claims about race and identity?

4. Why doesn't Obama want to go back to Indonesia with his mother and sister? What is so difficult about being raised by his mother and grandparents?

5. Why don't Gramp's black male friends really connect with Obama? He says that he would have to find whatever he was searching for somewhere else? Why can't they give that to him and what exactly is it that Obama is searching for? pg 78

6. What does he turn to instead of Gramp's friends for clue about how to be a young black man?

7. Why is talking about race with Ray so complicated for Obama?