

Richard Wright

“The Man Who Was Almost a Man”

1. Does the use of strong dialect distance the text from the modern reader?
2. What is the main type of conflict Wright utilizes in the story?
3. What is symbolic about the timing utilized in the story?
How does it parallel the action Dave experiences?
4. How is Mr. Hawkins, the white landowner, characterized in the story?
How are Dave’s parents portrayed? How is Dave himself depicted?
5. What is Dave’s main goal and purpose? In what manner does Wright show Dave to lack a sense of identity?
6. What is the resolution to his story?
7. Pinpoint the scenes when Dave seems in control of his environment.
Compare these moments when he seems without control.

Ray Bradbury

“The October Game”

1. What was the meltdown of this family’s connections? —or in other words, what pushes Mich over the edge?
2. What conflict is used in this story?
3. What is symbolic with the season and timing of the party?
4. How is Marion characterized? Likewise, how is Louise characterized?
How is Mich depicted?
5. Can you trust Mich’s account of Louise? Is his perception skewed?
Is Mich manipulating the reader’s feelings towards Marion?
6. How honest is Mich to himself? Is this story his full misconception of reality?
7. What do you discover when you map the layout of the house and compare it with the unfolding events of the story?