

Fences Act I Comprehension Questions**Name** _____

Act I, Scene i (p. 1-20)

1. How long have Troy and Bono been friends? What is their relationship like?

2. What do Troy and Bono do on Friday nights? What purpose does this ritual serve?

3. What racial issue does Troy bring up to his boss at work? What does Bono fear will happen to Troy?

4. What can you infer Bono suspects about Troy? Provide an example that shows why Bono has this suspicion?

5. How does Troy seem to view women? Provide an example.

6. What is Troy so bitter about when it comes to baseball? What does he blame for the loss of his dream?

7. What does Troy mean when he says he “wrestled with death”? What does this tell you about Troy as a character?

8. Describe Troy's view of Lyons. What does Lyons want from Troy? How does Troy react?

Act I, Scene ii (pages 21-28)

9. What is Rose's view of a fence? What does this reveal about her?
10. What does Troy think about Pope hitting the numbers on the lottery? What does this reveal about Troy and his views on money?
11. Describe Gabriel in detail. What kind of person is he? How does he act? Why?
12. How does Troy feel about what has happened to Gabriel? Look for clues on pages 25 and 28.

("That's the only way I got a roof over my head . . . cause of that metal plate.")

Act I, Scene iii (p. 29-40)

13. Explain Troy and Cory's argument about football and chores.
14. What is Troy's response when Cory suggests he buy a TV?
15. What are Troy's opinions about white baseball players? Provide a quote that shows his attitude about letting Cory try out for football.

16. Troy believes he deserves respect. Does he give respect? Explain.
17. What do you think of Troy telling Cory, “Who the hell say I gotta like you? What law is there to say I gotta like you?” What kind of father is he? Why do you think he feels the way he does?
18. Read Troy’s monologue on p. 38. What are his views on responsibility?
19. How do Troy and Rose differ in their views on Cory?

Act I, Scene iv (pages 41-58)

20. How does Troy talk to Rose? How does Rose respond? Is there any evidence that neither takes their “role” completely seriously?
21. On. p. 44, what do we learn has changed at Troy’s work? How is he responsible for this change?
22. p. 46 Why does Lyons come to the house? How does Troy respond?

23. p. 47 What kind of language does Gabriel use? In what ways does Gabriel actually make some sense?

24. Describe Troy's father and the relationship he had with his family. What effect did this have on Troy?

25. p. 54-55 What kind of past does Troy have? In what ways can you justify his previous behavior?

26. How does the conflict between Troy and Cory intensify at the end of this scene? Who do you agree with and why?

27. Explain how Troy uses baseball as a metaphor. What is he trying to say to Cory?

BIG QUESTION: Overall, what do you think of Troy as a father? As a husband? As an employee? As a man? Provide evidence for each role.