***Fences* Act I** **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.

Fences Act II

Act II, Scene i (p. 59-72)

1. What do you think Bono means when he says "Some people build fences to keep people out and other people build fences to keep people in"? Which character thinks of fences the first way? How about the second way? (p. 61)

2. On p. 62, what is Bono warning Troy about? Why do you think he cares?

3. What has happened to Gabriel? Why? What does Rose think should be done about him? How does Troy disagree?

4. What does Troy tell Rose on p. 66? How does Rose react? Find a quote that illustrates how she feels about this.

5. On p. 69, how does Troy explain why he cheats? Describe the baseball metaphor used on p. 69-70.

6. Rose has a monologue on p. 70-71 that relates to the theme of "deferred dreams." What did she used to dream of in life? What metaphor does she use to explain how she held on to a dream even when it seemed like it would never come true?

7. How does the scene end? Predict what will happen next.

Act II, Scene ii (pages 73-77)-SIX MONTHS LATER

8. What has changed between Rose and Troy? Give 2 examples.

9. What has Troy done to his brother Gabe? Why?

10. On p. 76, what happens to Troy?

11. What does Troy say to Death at the end of the scene?

Act II, Scene iii (p. 78-79)

12. What does Troy ask Rose to do for him? In your opinion, is this too much to ask?

Act II, Scene iv (pages 80-89) TWO MONTHS LATER

13. Why does Lyons come to visit? What is Troy's reaction?

14. What has changed between Troy and Bono? Provide some evidence.

15. Why do Troy and Cory begin arguing? How has Cory changed from the beginning of the play? Provide a quote that shows how Cory views his father in this scene.

16. On p. 86, what does Troy tell Cory to do? What is Cory's response?

17. What does Troy say to Death at the end of this scene?

Act II, Scene v (pages 90-101)

18. What event is taking place at the beginning of this scene?

19. Where has Cory been the past few years? What happened to Lyons? (p. 94) What do you think Lyons means by "You got to take the crookeds with the straights"?

20. How did Troy die? (p. 95-96) What does Cory tell Rose about the funeral?

21. How does Rose respond to Cory?

22. On p. 98, what mistake does Rose admit making in her marriage?

23. What do you think is the significance of the lyrics to the song "Old Blue" (p. 99) that Raynell and Cory sing together?

24. What final decision does Cory make? What does it reveal about him in terms of character growth?

25. What is the mood (attitude) of the end of the play? What do you think is the purpose of Gabriel's final dance?

BIG QUESTIONS:
Explain the significance of the title, *Fences*. How does August Wilson fences as a symbol in the play?

Why is it important that Troy uses baseball as a metaphor for his dreams and Rose uses plants and flowers?