

***Cry, the Beloved Country* Socratic Seminar Ticket #1**

*(Answer the following questions on using CEA's – claim, evidence w/p#s, & analysis – using no more than 1 page, front and back; you may bullet your responses)*

How is **Cry, the Beloved Country** part story, part prophecy, and part psalm? How do the various father/son relationships (Stephen/Absalom K; John/Matthew K; James/Arthur Jarvis; Stephen/Gertrude K; Msimangu/Stephen; Stephen/Absalom's wife; James/Stephen/little white boy) resemble the biblical parables of the prodigal son and King David/Absalom? Identify and explain the thematic significance of specific moments in the text when the prodigal son and King David and Absalom stories are used to trace motifs of confession, repentance, and forgiveness. Explain how each is used to inform Paton's larger theme of Tribal breakdown & rebuilding through compassion and the theme of injustice and inequality.

What is the significance of Arthur Jarvis's interest in Abraham Lincoln, particularly Lincoln's Gettysburg Address? What parallels do you think Paton was drawing between race relations in SA and the US? Describe or characterize the separate worlds inhabited by blacks and whites in the novel and how they intersect. How does this depiction inform the separate worlds of blacks and whites in the US during the 1950's and 60's leading up to the Civil Rights Movement? How about today?

Kumalo and the demonstrator have very different opinions about the white man. Kumalo says, "Where would we be without the white man's milk? Where would we be without all that this white man has done for us? Where would you be also? Would you be working for him here?" And the demonstrator answers, "It was the white man who gave us so little land, it was the white man who took us away from the land to go to work. And we were ignorant also. It is all these things together that have made this valley desolate. Therefore, what this good white man does is only repayment." How do Kumalo and the demonstrator reconcile their different points of view? How might the other characters in the book feel? What is your point of view?

Arthur Jarvis says "It was permissible to allow the destruction of a tribal system that impeded the growth of the country. It was permissible to believe that its destruction was inevitable. But it is not permissible to watch its destruction, and to replace it with nothing, or by so little, that a whole people deteriorates, physically and morally." In that last line, Jarvis' words "whole people," seem to suggest that both white and black South African "deteriorate, physically and morally" through the propagation of injustice and inequality. Identify signs of physical and moral deterioration among both races. What events in the novel illustrate the breakup of the tribal system? How is the tribal system destroyed? What does Jarvis suggest should have been done to replace it?