

Discussion Questions: "The Dark Child," Chapter One

Discussion Questions

1. What type of narration is used in this chapter?
2. Construct a list of characters introduced in the chapter as they appear.
3. Draw a map of the locations mentioned.
4. According to the first chapter, how many people are in the narrator's family?
5. Does the family seem to be organized in a way that is familiar to you? What is different?
6. What is the significance and the function of the little black snake?
7. On page 2, what is implied by the word "race" ?
8. Upon the revelation of the snake's importance by his father, what is the dilemma that torments the child? Illustrate with a specific quote.
9. Does this first chapter foreshadow how the child will eventually resolve his dilemma? Give examples.
10. Compare the beginning of the chapter to the end. What image appears upon making this comparison?
11. Though they may be subtle, which elements evoke a colonial presence in this chapter?