Native Son – Pages 1-42

1. After learning more about Bigger and his unwillingness to hold a job – do you have more of an understanding for his mother’s point of view? Why/Why not?
2. How is robbing Blum symbolic? Explain the symbolism of Bigger humiliating Gus and then blaming him for not going through with the robbery. Please include text to support your stance.
3. Bigger explains how it feels to be black in a white world – find his descriptions and comment on how you think they’ve shaped Bigger as a person. Cite examples.
4. Who is Mary Dalton?
5. Reread the second full paragraph on page 34…”He was a fool..” How is this a departure from Bigger’s attitude before seeing Mary Dalton on the big screen? Why the change?
6. Overall, how have your impressions of Bigger changed from the rat scene to the end of page 42? Exaplin.