

Chapter 6

Symbol

Theme

Characterization

Objectives: Explaining the significance of a symbol
Recognizing the key thematic issues of respect and fear
Defining a character's personality

Activity I

In this chapter, Uncle Hammer gives Stacey his Christmas present early. It is a new coat, but not just any coat. This one carries a significant meaning. As a class, brainstorm what the coat might symbolize.

Activity II

Fear and respect are two recurring issues that play an important part in this novel. Reread Mama's dialogue with Cassie on pages 126-130, in which Mama explains why Cassie must call Lillian Jean "Miz" and why Mr. Simms acts as he does.

In a carefully planned paragraph, discuss the roles that respect and fear play in Cassie's life. Support your answer with details from the novel.