

**Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts: K-12 Close Reading Task**

**Text grade band placement:**

6-8

Text	Text Complexity Analysis
<p><b>Title:</b> <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> (Chapter 9)</p> <p><b>Author:</b> Midred D. Taylor</p> <p><b>Citation/Publication info:</b> Taylor, Mildred D. <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>. New York: Puffin Publishing, 1976.</p>	<p><b>Quantitative:</b> Lexile: 920L</p>
	<p><b>Qualitative:</b> This text is complex due to the wide range of dialogue, use of dialects, and varied sentence structure. The word choice of the author reflects historical and cultural context as well.</p>
	<p><b>Reader and Task:</b> Relationships between ideas will require inferences or interpretations, and understanding content requires a cultural and historical span of knowledge. Students may have difficulty with the dialect of the text, and struggling readers will be given support by having individual read aloud.</p>

**ELA Common Core Standards addressed by task\***

\*Because these tasks apply across multiple grades, they are aligned to the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCRA). R stands for Reading, W for Writing, SL for Speaking and Listening, and L for language.

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

CCCRA.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**What key insights should students take from this text?**

- 1) Dialogue
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Historical social issues
- 4) Sense of belonging (Theme)
- 5) Never giving up (Theme)

**Text-Dependent Questions**

1. Comprehension: Vocabulary – The author states, “that oak and walnut, they’re a lot bigger and they take up more room and give so much shade they almost overshadow that little ole fig.” Overshadow means to be more important or significant by comparison. How does the author use this as a comparison to life for the family?
2. Significance: How does the example of the fig tree emphasize the story’s theme of never giving up?
3. Interpretive: In the first paragraph, what is Papa saying to Stacey? Discuss your answers using evidence from the text.
4. Analytic: The author changes the dialogue in the last two paragraphs by changing the character to which Papa is speaking. What evidence does the author provide that shows a change in dialogue?
5. Analytic: How does the author let you know that life for this family must be difficult? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. Analytic: How could the author have said things more clearly to Cassie? How would that have changed the way that Cassie viewed Papa’s lesson of never giving up?

Writing Mode	Writing Prompt
Explanatory	Due to the setting of <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> , what can you infer that this family has experienced? Explain how Papa addresses each issue of belonging, family strength, and never giving up with Stacey and Cassie. Use evidence from the text to support your conclusions. Your writing must have a clear beginning, middle and end. Punctuation and grammar must be correct.

**Scaffolding and support for special education students, English language learners, and struggling readers:**

Extra support for SPED, ELLs, and struggling readers can be provided by reading aloud the text, additional vocabulary support, opportunity for classroom discussion on the issues addressed, providing an outline, and ongoing assessment and feedback.