



James Baldwin

Native Son:

Discussion questions

- What do you think Baldwin meant when he said, “I’m only black if you think you’re white...”
- In what ways do you think Baldwin’s writing in the 1950s contributed to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s?
- Baldwin describes scenes in Harlem during WWII. What are some of the conditions that are of concern to the people of Harlem?
- What were the differences in the make-ups of groups on the street that summer? Why do you think this occurred?