

Examining *Wabash 2* (pp. 46-91)

1. Aunt Berenice and Deborah make some rather odd small talk when Debbie visits. Reread the Bunny's statement about the weather in *Wabash* on page 48 beginning, "Living in Tornado Alley is an education..." Obviously, this statement goes beyond weather. Using what you know thus far, explain the significance.
2. In the middle of page 55, Jeremy says that he "felt aligned with no one." However, on the following page, he feels as though he is trapped in the ring of fire again, and things begin to "draw his attention." Reread these passages on pages 55 and 56 and explain exactly how he can feel no alignment, but needed and responsible at the same time.
3. Jeremy has an epiphany on page 58 when he realizes that "Old man Hagemeyer did control these lives." What significance does this have on the overall conflict(s) in Jeremy's life? Be sure to examine the whole novel thus far and it may even be helpful to look back at previous questions.
4. Deborah says on page 72 that she feels angry, and "that anger had something to do with hanging here on this June morning like that dragonfly out in the yard." Examine the reasons for her anger and the thoughts she has about children and explain exactly what it is that has angered her so much. Lastly, what is she to do about it? Support your answer with the novel.
5. Grandma Birney has written another letter to the rats beginning on page 74. In the middle of the letter, she reveals personal thoughts, memories, of her own father. Reexamine this letter, with particular emphasis on the memories. What is the purpose of these letters? Why does she "toss in" this bit about her father? You'll need to look at the overall novel for this, including other characters.
6. In the middle of page 82, Nick explains why he hates mosquitoes so much. "The idea of those things sucking my boys' blood...It drives me crazy, you know?" This reference is made on two other occasions, one before this and one after. Find these references and explain the significance of the mosquito in the novel. There are, obviously, two ways to approach this.
7. At the end of a rather long scene in which you see memories from both Deborah and Jeremy of their daughter simultaneously, "they pulled gently apart. Jeremy rose and walked to the western edge of the mound and he looked off to the mill and Deborah lay flat and closed her eyes against the sky..." Define the relationship these two have using support from the book. Examine the end of the quote in particular and explain the reason for the rather strange bit about the mill and the sound of "gliding in the nearby grass."