

QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE HOME PLACE
Part 2

J. Drew Lanham explores the meaning of his life as an African American author descended from enslaved Africans and how his love affair with Nature has enriched his life. The questions below cover pages 109 to the end on page 212.

Whose Eye is on the Sparrow

1. My parents taught me to treat every gun as if it were loaded. What are the rules for guns in the Lanham household? Does Drew obey them?
2. Describe the two Christmas trees Drew remembers.
3. What does Drew kill with his BB-gun? What does he feel afterwards?

Cows

4. Drew knows mostly about white cowboys. Were there any black cowboys?
5. Caring for cattle is hard work, which Drew does cheerfully. How does his father compensate him?
6. Drew remembers places by the creatures he's seen. Name a few of them.

Life's Spring

7. Where did they get water before Daddy died? Where did they get it after?
8. How old is Drew before he can openly grieve for his father's death? How long after that death does this happen? Where is Drew at the time?

The Bluebird of Enlightenment

9. What is Drew's summer job?
10. What is Drew's first major in college? When he changes his major, what important income does he lose?
11. What do bluebirds' sexual habits teach Drew about good and evil in Nature? About good and evil in his own life?

Hoops

12. An American expression is "jumping through hoops." What do you think it means? What are some of the hoops Drew has jumped through?

Birding While Black

13. While counting birds, Drew is fearful. Why? Is his fear well-founded?

14. What does Drew believe would make bird watching safer for black people?

Jawbone

15. As an ornithologist, Drew dislikes killing animals. How and why does his attitude change while he works on his Ph. D.?
16. Where is Bert when he kills the big buck? What happens next?
17. Does vegetarianism truly eliminate the need for killing? Explain.

New Religion

18. Does Drew believe feeling or knowledge is more important? Explain.

Thinking

19. Name some things Drew thinks about.
20. Drew explains why he thinks so much about land. What is his explanation?
21. What three things does he believe are essential to our sense of purpose and how we fit into the world? Do you agree?

Digging

22. What TV show forces Drew to face his family's origins? Some American states forbid schools to teach "minority history," which is Drew's history. Are we better or worse off learning "bad" truths about our ancestors?
23. Drew can only trace his family back two generations. I trace mine back over ten generations. How far back can you trace yours? Does it matter to you?
24. Is the "Kentucky Lanham" who contacts Drew his relative? What is the clue?
25. Two Lucys are named in this chapter, both from Africa. Tell something about each one. Explain how each might be related to Drew.
26. What does DNA evidence say about Drew's ancestors.

Family Reunion

27. The Republican Baptist Church Cemetery is full of Lanhams, all white. Drew contrasts this with the Jeter Baptist Church cemetery where his family is buried. Describe similarities and differences between the two cemeteries.

Patchwork Legacy

28. After Drew's father dies, the Home Place is sold off "by eyes turned toward quick cash." Where is his new home? How is "home" defined in the book's last line? Do you agree? Explain why or why not.