

Friday Night Lights, Chapter 5

Discussion Questions:

1. What tone does the author imply on page 97? What are Bissinger's feelings about how White citizens treat minorities based on his tone on page 97?
2. Read this line from page 98: "She loved her hometown, because of what it represented and despite what it represented." What does the author mean? How do you know?
3. What symbolism do you see in the sentences that begin with "She relished..." and end with "... reassuring about that." on page 99? What effect does it have on the meaning of the chapter?
4. In the first full paragraph on page 101, Bissinger explains how citizens felt about the government's involvement in desegregation. In Chapter 1, on pages 32 and 33, he presents a different perspective on America of the citizens. Why do you think he presents these opposing perspectives?
5. On page 102, Bissinger states that the Black population of Odessa is about 5 percent. This comes immediately after a rather detailed description of how White citizens feel about minorities in Odessa. Why does he point out the percentage of the Black population?
6. Read the last sentence on page 104. What is Bissinger's tone? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Discussion Questions:

1. On page 108, what symbolism do you see in the first full paragraph?
2. The author states Hurd "undertook the challenge of desegregating the schools and obliterating the boundary of the railroad tracks." What does he mean? What is the connection between the two? What is the tone in these sentences? Do you think this goal is possible?
3. Consider the last line on page 108. How does Hurd's observations about his employment opportunities fit with Bissinger's tone regarding race relations? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Bissinger clearly details what each race does during one week in 1980. Explain the difference in what he highlights about what each race does that week, and what each race finds important. How does this fit into the narrative he has created about race relations?
5. What is the significance of Ector High School to the Black community?
6. What message do the events Bissinger describes on page 113 send to the Black football players? Do you think they noticed?

“Unchecked, Unchallenged, and Unabashed: Is Racism in High School Sports Being Tolerated?”

Discussion Questions:

1. The author states, "Under the proverbial Friday night lights that shape so much of a young person's high school experience, racism seems to be courting a foothold on the field and court—unchecked, unchallenged and unabashed: Is Racism in High School Sports Being Tolerated?" This seems to be the author's main claim, or his thesis statement. How does this statement relate to what we have read in *Friday Night Lights*?
2. Throughout the article, the author points out the races of the speakers he quotes. Why does he do this?
3. The author states, "Sometimes, it's not so much what is said, but how it is said." Do you think this is an accurate statement? Does she support this statement in the article? Use evidence to explain your answer.
4. Consider the author's statements on page 223, beginning with the paragraph that starts with, "The race card, at times..." and ends with the paragraph that ends with, "... they are officiating." What does this teach high school athletes?
5. On page 226, the author states, "In a venue inflamed by school rivalries, the competitive desire to win, and frankly, teenagers at the cusp of young adulthood, inappropriate and hateful language has become a by-product of the heat of the moment." What allows him to make this statement? Is it fair and accurate?
6. On page 228, the author provides comments from opposing schools, one denying anything happening. Explain how one side can see things as a problem while another side does not.
7. Reread this paragraph from page 230. "It's that stigma that really bothered me," Hailey said. "It was portrayed unfairly, but that stigma is out there. People cross their arms and say, 'See, I told you.' And that's not fair to our kids, our staff or the school. But there are certain things you can control, like staying onside and making a block. There are certain things in life you can't control, so what can you do?" How does the fact that the author only interviewed one side impact his argument?

Friday Night Lights, Chapter 6

Discussion Questions:

1. On page 120, the author describes Ivory Christian after making a tackle "as if he were walking down the runway at the Miss America contest... but careful not to show too wide a smile because he had, after all, a reputation for self-restraint to keep up." Why does the author describe Ivory in this way?
2. Why does Ivory not take the SAT or ACT? Why do you think he is preventing himself from succeeding? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Does the fact that Ivory attended a segregated school prior to sixth grade impact his outlook on football? Why do you think that? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Reread Paragraph 2 on page 121. How does Bissinger use the town to discuss race in this paragraph?
5. On page 122, Bissinger spends a few paragraphs explaining Ivory's isolation. Why does he explain this trait in such detail?
6. Bissinger says, "But Ivory's metamorphosis was total...." What does Bissinger mean? Why is this important?