

I love Nikki Giovanni's
foreword to the 50th
anniversary edition,
especially her points
about the Trans-Atlantic
slave trade & black power.

Margaret Walker 6
wants us to understand
the significance of the
black family, extended
& immediate, & especially
black women.

How do these opening
scenes impact you
as a reader? What
purpose do they
serve?

The "death chant" 17
is fascinating as a
folk tradition. What
should we make of
it?

We learn about 21
the dynamics of white
families throughout
Jubilee too, both
rich and poor.

Rising Glory Church⁴⁶
and Black Christianity
play key roles throughout
the book. What should
we make of them?

"Po huckra" references⁶⁰
poor whites and is a
colloquialism that we
don't hear any more.
How is class constructed
by Margaret Walker?

White power is⁶⁸
often manifested in
violent ways across
class lines, as is the
case here with Grimes.

I always wonder⁹¹
how the appearance
of Randall Ware
makes the reader feel.

I always find this¹¹⁹
section of the book
to be emotionally
draining. What do you
make of this 4th of July?

What do we learn¹⁴⁴
about Dutton and
notions of white
southern paternalism
here?

At this point, do you¹⁵¹ believe Randall Ware when he says one day his son will be free?

Note how the Civil¹⁷⁷ War shifts the balance of power in race relations in the South.

What does Dutton¹⁸⁸ reveal, reflecting that "northern radicals" would not care about "containing slavery" if they "knew and understood" slaves?

Do any of these¹⁹⁵ scenes make you feel any sympathy for the Duttons?

How do we explain²⁰¹ the confidence that white southerners felt going into the War,

We see Jim assert²²¹ his claim to freedom, tentatively at first, even surreptitiously, but that phenomenon for enslaved people expands rapidly as the war drags on.

We learn a lot in 232
this section about the
institution of slavery,
slave owners, and the
slaves themselves as
emancipation nears.

Families, defined in 269
a myriad of ways, play
huge roles throughout
Jubilee. What do you
make of these familial
intersections & how
various characters saw them?

Was there ever 289
"honor" in the Dutton
house? What does
that mean to you?

Pay close attention 315
to how class & race
intersect in this
final section of the
book.

Should Vyray 304
wait for Randall Ware
or go with Innis Brown?
How do those men
make you feel as the
reader?

How do you feel 328
about Randall Ware
at this point? What
should he do?

Faith clearly 338
sustains Vryy. How
do we rectify the
version of Christianity
espoused by most
white southerners at the
time? How does Vryy?

Race and class 350
pop out in vivid
detail here. How
does this story inform
our views on race
relations then,

Vryy and Innis 353
are thrust into
sharecropping here.
Note that it feels
mutually advantageous
at first...

What is the 368
white backlash that
Vryy, Innis, & other
freedpeople face rooted
in? Should they/we
be surprised by it?

How does this 380
scene & the following
pages make you feel?
What do you think
you would have done?

Let's remember 386
that the South is
occupied by federal
troops until 1877.
Should Vryy feel better?

I believe we get 406
a real sense here of
the tangible & intangible
things that Vyray, her
family, and other freed people
value.

What do you make 419
of Vyray's desire to
see her children
educated?

What does this 426
interaction tell you
about Vyray's "whiteness"
& the social construction
of race?

This scene becomes 435
comical, but Vyray
had to be mortified
deciding if she should
reveal that she's black.

This part of 446
the story makes us
feel good as readers,
but is it realistic?

How do you 452
feel about Innis
Brown now?

What do you think 468
about the
return of Randall
Ware & Iris Brown's
frustration with him?

What do you think 479
about Randall Ware's
insults of Vyrty? Is
he right?

Does Vyrty make 493
the right choice?
Should she have
gone with Randall
Ware?

How should 501
Minna feel about
all of this?

The entire book is 504
based on the experiences
of Margaret Walker's
family, who were real
people from these real
places. How does that

impact you? In 504
1966, some Black writers
criticized her for not
making her characters,
especially Vyrty, more
"radical." What do you think?