

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## THE GARMENT CENTER

1. On page 114 Walter writes, "Future engineers, physicists, doctors, all sat around me while we waited for the beginning of the annual 'Beat Clinton' rally." What is the symbolism of the idea that he writes they sat around him?

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2. Walter lies to his cousin Joseph about being able to take a job at the garment center. Why would he lie to his cousin about this?

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3. Typically African Americans were expected to do the grunt work in the garment district but Walter also mentions Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics would also move into these jobs in their turn. What does this mean?

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4. Walter ends up working in the garment district despite his efforts to avoid it. Why do you think he ended up there?

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5. What did Stuyvesant do and do very well?

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6. Walter references voluntary segregation on page 119. What does he mean by voluntary?

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7. In this chapter Walter is trying to figure out what he wants to do with his future. What does he say never occurred to him as being a job? Why did he not view this as a job? (use text evidence)

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8. On page 122 it says "To me, not going to college meant that I would join the army of black laborers sweating and grunting their way through midtown New York." There is a metaphor in this quote. What are the two unlike things being compared?

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9. Walter's writing is recognized outside of school. How was it recognized?

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10. A white boy was given the job of working the ticket machine that Walter was originally promised. What does the employer "see" when they look at the white boy vs when they look at Walter? (use text evidence)

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11. Walter writes, "People wanted to look at me and make a quick and simple decision as to who I was." What are the three different assumptions people made about Walter?

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12. Walter saves his money to start making an attempt at becoming a writer. What happens to this goal?

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