**“Notes of a Native Son” Questions**

1. In what year did Baldwin's father die?

2. What happened on the same day that Baldwin's father died?

3. What occurred a few hours after the funeral of Baldwin's father?

4. What other event shared the same date as the funeral of Baldwin's father?

5. When and where was Baldwin's father born?

6. What was the profession of Baldwin's father?

7. Describe Baldwin's father.

8. How long had Baldwin been gone from home when his father passed away?

9. Who were the only white people that visited Baldwin's childhood home?

10. What emotion of Baldwin's father does he describe as "never to be trusted"?

11. Whose records did Baldwin's father forbid his children to play?

12. Where did Baldwin and his white friend from New York go on Baldwin's last night in New Jersey?

13. What color clothing did Baldwin say he did not have to wear to his father's funeral?

14. Who traveled with Baldwin to visit his dying father on Long Island?

15. What did Baldwin drink before his father's funeral?

16. What is the name of the first church that Baldwin can remember attending with his family as a child?

17. Where did Baldwin go after his father's funeral to celebrate his birthday?

18. How did the death of Baldwin's father change his thinking about how he would deal with racism (At least 25 words with textual evidence)?

19. How does Baldwin connect his father's death to the race riots in Harlem? His father's mental illness to the disease of racism (At least 25 words with textual evidence)?

20. What parallels exist between Baldwin's bitterness and his father's bitterness? Baldwin's hatred for his father and for white people (At least 25 words with textual evidence)?

21. What technique did Baldwin say he used in arguments with his father?

22. Why do you think Baldwin distrusts his father's warnings about the weight of white people in the world (At least 25 words)?

23. Describe Baldwin's first experience with real-world hatred (At least 25 words with textual evidence).

24. How do certain events foreshadow key elements in the essay? Be specific (at least 25 words).

25. How does Baldwin trace the geopolitical shifts of race in America to the first and second World Wars? How does each war affect the African American communities in the United States?

26. What are the two ideas (which "seem to be in opposition") that Baldwin proposes as a paradigm for social justice and race activism? According to Baldwin, is the model a viable one? Do you agree or disagree?

27. Baldwin uses his own personal experience to help the reader understand racial prejudice. What is the significance of Baldwin using his own personal story to relay his message? How does his own personal experience help the reader to understand racial prejudice? Please use examples from the book to support your answer (at least 50 words).

28. Baldwin describes his relationship with his father in Notes of a Native Son. After his father's death, Baldwin feels a sense of melancholy that he never had a chance to bond with his father. Why do you think Baldwin feels this way? What regrets, if any, do you think Baldwin had at the end of his father's life? Please use examples from the book to support your answer (At least 50 words).