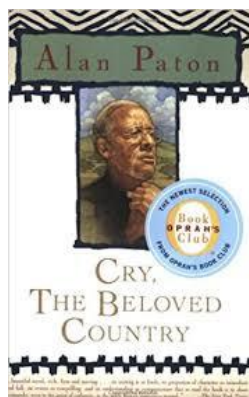


Cry, the Beloved Country



ISBN-10 0-684-81894-9

ISBN-13 978-0-684-81894-8

Author Paton, Alan

Publisher Scribner

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Lexile 860L

Genre Novel, Fiction, Children's literature

Synopsis In the 1950s, a black South African accused of a crime turns to his minister father and a white attorney for help, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice from being served. Human rights violations in South Africa during apartheid are depicted.

Themes Race, Religion, Suffering

Protagonist Male, South African

Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 1



Family is important to the Umfundisi. Write an argumentative paragraph, support Umfundisi's view by providing three strong arguments that prove family is important. Use information from the today's reading to back up this assertion. In a second paragraph, include your own experience to support your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 2



Gertrude claims to have had no choice but to work as a prostitute. Pretend you are Kumalo and oppose her claims. Write an argumentative paragraph and create three counterclaims to prove that Gertrude has other choices and options available. Use technology to find information for other work alternatives for individuals with financial instability.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 3



Msimangu hopes for a day when white and black people can come together. As Msimangu, write an argumentative paragraph explaining why white and black people can come together.

- Describe what changes must be made.
- Support your claim with examples from the reading and the research information.
- Use print and digital sources, research the situation in South Africa in 1948.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 4



Write an argumentative letter to the South African government, whose mission is to improve housing in the Shantytown, to develop housing. Describe the conditions of the Shantytown and the challenges squatters face with the weather, crime, and illness. Explain the long-term implications of children being raised in these living conditions. Use the description from the reading as evidence to support your claim for change.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 5



Key Paragraphs

“I tell you, you can do nothing. Have you not trouble enough of your own? I tell you there are thousands such in Johannesburg. And were your back as broad as heaven, and your purse full of gold, and did your compassion reach from here to hell itself, there is nothing you can do.”

And

“Oh, it is too hot to argue. Get your racquet, my dear, they’re calling us. Look, it’s Mr. Harvey and Thelma. You’ve got to play like a demon, do you hear.”

Writing Prompt

Here are two rather negative opinions about the situation in South Africa. Both believe that there is nothing to be done. Do you agree or disagree? Write an argumentative paragraph using information from the text to develop three reasons to support your argument. Be logical in your approach. Remember to state your position at the beginning, and to restate it in closing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 6



Key Paragraph

“Cry the beloved country for the unborn child that is the inheritor of our fear. Let him not love the earth too deeply. Let him not laugh too gladly when the water runs through his fingers, nor stand too silent when the setting sun makes red the veld with fire. Let him not be too moved when the birds of his land are singing, nor give too much of his heart to a mountain or a valley. For fear will rob him of all if he gives too much.”

Writing Prompt

Write an argumentative paragraph to explain how the author chose the title of the novel, *Cry, The Beloved Country*. Reference the paragraph above to provide quotes to support your claims. Who is the author talking about? Why does he not want this person to *love the earth so deeply*? Create a topic sentence explaining what this quote mean? Include 2-3 examples from the reading to support your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 7



Key Paragraph

The young man stopped frowning. "About this lawyer," he said. "I think you must have a lawyer. Not because the truth must not be told, but because I do not trust your brother. You can see what is in his mind. His plan is to deny that his son and the third man were with your son. And now you and I do not know whether that will make matters worse or not, but a lawyer would know. And another thing also, Absalom says that he fired the revolver because he was afraid, with no intention of killing the white man. It needs a lawyer to make the court believe that is true."

Writing Prompt

Study the paragraph above. Write an argumentative to explain why Absalom should have a lawyer. Begin with a position. Provide three reasons from the text to support your position as well as any evidence from your personal experience. Restate your position in the conclusion.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 8



Key Paragraph

“Pray for Gertrude and for her child, and for the girl that is due to be your son’s wife, and for the child that will be your grandchild. Pray for your wife and all at Ndotsheni. Pray for the woman and the children that are bereaved. Pray for the soul of him who was killed. Pray for us at the Mission House, and for those at Enzenzeleni, who try to rebuild in a place of destruction. Pray for your own rebuilding. Pray for all white people, those who do justice, and those who would do justice, were they not afraid. And do not fear to pray for your son, and for his amendment.”

Writing Prompt

Write an argumentative paragraph, providing three reasons why Father Vincent is counseling Kumalo to pray for everyone beside himself. Conclude the paragraph with a reflection from your own experience or from an outside source of literature/media of how concentrating on others, rather than focusing on ourselves, creates a positive outcome.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 9



Key Paragraph

"There's one thing that I don't get the sense of," said Jarvis. "Why this should have happened..."

"You mean...to him, of all people?"

"Yes."

"That's one of the first things that we said. Here he was, day in and day out, on a kind of a mission. And it was he who was killed."

Writing Prompt

Write a persuasive paragraph making the argument that in an unjust world, everyone suffers. Be logical. Use the example of Arthur Jarvis to help make your point. You may wish to reference the paragraph outline you made today.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 10



Key Paragraph

“It is permissible to develop any resources if the labor is forthcoming. But it is not permissible to develop any resources if they can be developed only at the cost of the labour. It is not permissible to mine any gold, or manufacture any product, or cultivate any land, if such mining and manufacture and cultivation depend for their success on a policy of keeping labour poor. It is not permissible to add to one’s possessions if these things can only be done at the cost of other men. Such development has only one true name, and that is exploitation. It might have been permissible in the early days of our country, before we became aware of its cost, in the disintegration of native community life, in the deterioration of native family life, in poverty, slums and crime. But now that the cost is known, it is no longer permissible.”

Writing Prompt

In the above essay, written by Arthur Jarvis, a connection is made between poverty and criminal activity.

Write an argumentative paragraph, arguing whether or not you believe there is a connection between poverty and criminal activity. Begin the paragraph with a strong introductory opinion statement, and to conclude in a similar fashion. Include two examples from the text or from an outside digital/print source. Lastly, address readers' counterclaims and rebuttal the claim with supportive evidence.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 11



Imagine you are Father Vincent. You have given Kumalo very good advice in the past. Counsel him as to what he might say to James Jarvis, if he should explain his son's mistake, plead forgiveness, apologize, etc.

Write an argumentative paragraph that provides three clear and logical points a father could say to another father. Include James Jarvis counterclaim or response.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 12



Key Paragraphs

"There are some men who long for martyrdom, there are those who know that to go on to prison would bring greatness to them. These are those who would go to prison not caring if it brought greatness or not. But John Kumalo is not one of them. There is no applause in prison."

And

"Therefore I shall devote myself, my time, my energy, my talents, to the service of South Africa...I am lost when I balance this against that, I am lost when I ask if this is safe, I am lost when I ask if men, white men or black men, Englishmen or Afrikaaners, Gentiles or Jews, will approve. Therefore I shall try to do what is right, and to speak what is true."

Writing Prompt

Both of the paragraphs above talk about the importance of courage - courage to do the right thing, simply because it is right, regardless of consequence, especially when it comes to ensuring human minimums are upheld.

Write an argumentative paragraph about the importance of courage. Use John Kumalo and Arthur Jarvis as examples. Conclude your paragraph with a reflection of courage from your own life. You may want to refer to the graphic organizer you created today.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 13



Key Paragraph

"They were shocked. These were the headlines that men feared in these days. Householders feared them and their wives feared them. All those who worked for South Africa feared them. All law-abiding black men feared them. Some people were urging the newspapers to drop the word native from their headlines, others found it hard to know what the hiding of the painful truth would do.

"It is a hard thing that this should happen at this moment," said the stout woman, "just when the case is to finish..."

Writing Prompt

Write an argumentative editorial expressing your opinion on Absalom's trial and sentence.

When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Was justice served?
- Did the report of the new murder have anything to do with the judge's decision?
- How did *intent* contribute to the judge's decision?
- Do you believe the crime fits the punishment?
- Begin your editorial with a strong topic sentence stating your position on Absalom's trial and sentence.
- Each argument should be backed up with evidence, either anecdotal, or factual.
- Concluded with a strong restatement of your topic sentence position.
- Be sure your editorial is clearly and well organized.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 14



Key Paragraphs

So when the train had gone, young Harrison turned it over to look at the cheque underneath. He looked at the train as though he might have to run after it. "One thousand pounds," he said. "Helen of Troy, one thousand pounds."

OR

Out there in the street, he was humiliated and ashamed. Humiliated because the people passing looked in astonishment, ashamed because he did not come for this purpose at all. He had come to tell his brother that power corrupts, that a man who fights for justice must himself be cleansed and purified, that love is greater than force. And not one of these things had he done. God have mercy on me, Christ have mercy on me. He turned to the door, but it was locked and bolted. Brother had shut out brother, from the same womb they had come.

The people were watching so he walked away in his distress.

Writing Prompt

Write an argumentative letter to John Harrison, as James Jarvis, describing your trip to Johannesburg has changed the way you view South Africa.

Convince John Harrison that South Africa has become an injustice and inequality country. Provide three examples to support your claim. Conclude your letter by describing the changes you intend to make upon returning to Ndotsheni. Start your letter with a statement of fact, value or policy.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 15



Write an argumentative letter to Kumalo to encourage him to stay in Ndotsheni. Start with an opinion statement that uses three qualifiers. Describe how Ndotsheni the possible changes that can be made through his guidance as a moral leadership.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 16



Write an argumentative paragraph to explain why you believe urban society in Johannesburg or rural community in Ndotsheni will produce a more just South Africa?

When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Describe the contrast of rural and urban life in South Africa.
- How is Johannesburg different from Ndotsheni?
- Support your position with three arguments based on evidence provide from the text.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 17



Reflect on the role of women in the *Cry, The Beloved Country*. Write an argumentative paragraph to explain why Mrs. Lithebe, Gertrude Kumalo, Absalom's girlfriend, and Margarette Jarvis are faced with injustice?

When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Do you believe that they suffer from different injustices than the males in the novel?
- Provide three examples from the text or outside digital/print sources to support your answer.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Cry, The Beloved Country, Day 18



Final Argumentative Essay Assignment:

Pretend you are Kumalo or Jarvis. Your trip to Johannesburg has opened your eyes to the larger conflict and suffering in South Africa. You have learned that the suffering of people locally, in Ndotsheni is related to the conflict and struggle in Johannesburg. You have learned that the inequalities of racial laws and segregation, and forced second-class citizenship are harming your beloved country.

Write a argumentative essay on how to heal *The Beloved Country*.

1. Draw upon your experiences in Ndotsheni as well as Johannesburg.
2. Provide a clear opinion-based thesis.
3. Include both logical and anecdotal arguments, and be sure to provide at least one concession.
4. You may wish to refer to previous snapshot journals.