

Advanced Placement English and Composition
The Autobiography of Malcolm X
Assignment

As you read the book, answer the following questions thoughtfully on a separate sheet of paper. This can be typed or handwritten. Be prepared to discuss your answers.

1. What is the significance of opening the first chapter “Nightmare” with the incident of the Klu Klux Klan riders?
2. “My restlessness with Mason...began as soon as I got back home and entered 8th grade”. (37) Explain, including Mr. Ostrowski’s advice.
- 3.
3. Why does he include the chapter entitled, “Laura”? Why do you think he refers to her again at the end of the book?
4. Describe some of the things Malcolm did to hustle? Does this make him hypocritical or believable, or both?
5. Describe Malcolm’s Harlem- both positives and negatives.
6. Describe Bimbi’s influence on Malcolm. How does Bimbi command respect? (Satan)
7. How is Malcolm spiritually and educationally saved? (Saved) “I don’t think anybody ever got more out of going to prison than I did”. (183) Include the dirty glass analogy.
8. How does Malcolm use pathos, repetition and anaphora to get his message across? (Savior)
9. Explain how Malcolm uses language (eg: diction, ethos) when he is responding to reporters. (Black Muslims)
10. What does Malcolm believe is the irony of the educated black man? Explain the parallel to Frederick Douglass’ educated slaves.
11. Point out the use of analogies/historical allusions/metaphors to explain the black man’s situation. (Icarus)

12. What is the significance of the title of the chapter, "Icarus"?
13. What is Malcolm's opinion of integration? (Icarus)
14. What led to Malcolm's separation from the Nation of Islam? (Out)
15. What does Malcolm mean when he says, "politically sick"? (Out)
16. How much of this is still true today?
17. Describe Malcolm's transformation in Mecca. (Mecca)
18. Explain the difference in the definition of the term "white man" in America and Arabia. ("color blindness") (Mecca)
19. Comment on his letter. (Mecca)
20. Why black nationalism? (1965)
21. What is a socially disinherited black ghetto youth?
22. What reason does Malcolm give for the rise in violence? (1965)
23. What term does Malcolm use to describe the civil rights bill? Why?
24. What is his purpose of doing this?
25. Why does Malcolm believe he will be used as a symbol?
26. Describe Malcolm's relationship with Alex Haley.
27. Describe the circumstances of Malcolm's death.
28. What were some reactions and reflections? (include Ossie Davis)
29. What were Malcolm's opinions of Martin Luther King Jr. and Elijah Mohammed?
30. What did you learn from this book? Explain.