

## *Kaffir Boy* Close Reading Questions

- 1) How has the environment Mark Mathabane has been raised in impacted his perception of school? Use specific examples for the story to support your answer.
- 2) On the way to school, Mark, his mother, and his grandmother run into a woman who relates the story of her son to them. What happened to her son and why might his story encourage Mark to want to attend school?
- 3) What are the main reasons that Mark does not want to attend school?
- 4) Explain the basic difference between Mark's mom's perception of school, and Mark's father's perception of school. Why is it so important, according to one of his parents, for Mark to attend school?
- 5) "With tears streaming down my cheeks and falling on my mother's bosom, I promised her that I would go to school 'forever.'"
  - a. Why do you feel that Mark decides to go to school "forever" in the end of the story?
- 6) Pick a side: Should Mark go to a school that is designed to oppress blacks? Or should he decide not to go to school? Explain your answer.