

Grade 12 General – Summer Reading (extra credit)

**River, Cross My Heart** by Breena Clarke

Directions: Students, complete the study guide review to prepare for the test that will be scheduled by your teacher the first week of class. Bring the completed study guide review sheet the first day of class.

### Chapter 1

1. Where are the girls going? How many girls are in the group?
2. Cite several words or phrases that indicate mood and foreshadowing?
3. Describe Higgins Hole.
4. What is the setting? (time and place)
5. Explain how the Theme of Prejudice is apparent in the first chapter.
6. Identify and describe the main character.
7. What do you think the author means by this quote:  
"The Potomac River has a face no one should trust"
8. Summarize the Three Sisters' Story.
9. What happens to the girls at the river?
10. How did the girls in the group react?

### Chapter 2

11. What type of parents are Alice and Willie Byrum?

12. How is Johnnie Mae a contrast to Clara?

Chapter 2 continued

13. How is Ann-Martha Pendel regarded in the community?

14. What are "runners"?

15. How are the Bynums different than most people of the time period?

16. Why is Aunt Ina unique?

17. Define – Profligacy.

" Johnnie Mae seethed at the profligacy of the pale girls who lined the edges of the pool..."

18. How is Georgetown different than the Carolinas?

19. How is the pool on Volta Place a symbol?

Chapter 3

20. How do the women handle the tragedy? How do the men handle the tragedy?

21. Who helps avoid an autopsy? (explain the situation)

22. Describe Ella Bromsen.

Chapter 4

23. What act of kindness does Press Parker show Clara?

24. Why is Rev. Jenkins upset?

25. In your own words, summarize Rev. Jenkins' funeral sermon.

"We only borrow people – They belong to the Lord"

Chapters 5-7

26. Why had the family moved to Georgetown?

27. List several facts concerning a black working woman's employment.

28. What does Alice realize after her walk along the Potomac?

29. How has Alice changed physically since Clara's death?

Chapters 8-10

30. What simile is used in Chapter 8 to compare the loss of a loved one?

31. What happened to Alice? Why?

32. Describe Pearl Miller.

33. How does Johnnie befriend and identify with the new girl?

34. What oddity does Johnnie expect to occur on Halloween? (use a quote)

35. Why is Press Parker surprised at Johnnie's costume choice?

36. What does this quote mean?

" Aunt Ina had said the white people's swimming pool was built on hallowed ground."

37. Why is Ella Bromsen generally thought to be a witch?
38. What does this quote mean from Chapter 10?  
"All she wanted was to be friendly – to put the girl at ease. Then maybe the haint would come out." (hint: haint is a spirit)

#### Chapters 11-13

39. What was the purpose of Elizabeth Boston's home visit?
40. What is the superstition regarding the turkey?
41. What news has Alice worried?
42. How does Johnnie Mae view her situation with the realization her mother is pregnant?

#### Chapters 14-16

43. What is being built that makes a political statement?
44. What are Alice's dreams for her daughter?
45. How does Pearl confront Johnnie Mae at the Three Sisters site?
46. Explain the significance of appearance in Chapter 16.

#### Chapters 17-19

47. What happen to Alexis? How does it affect Alice?
48. What bit of progress is seen in Georgetown?

49. How does Johnnie Mae get selected as "best of the girls" in swimming?
50. What angers Charlie?
51. How does the birth of Calvin alter life at the Bynums?
52. What bizarre plan did Johnnie Mae challenge Pearl to participate in?
53. How did her parents react? (cite a quote)  
Chapters 20-22
54. Where is Johnnie being sent? Why?
55. What is the conflict between Alice and Willie?
56. What is a symbol of bad luck?
57. What is the biggest social gathering of black Georgetowners?
58. What worries Johnnie about Calvin?
59. What happens in the water while Johnnie is swimming?
60. Johnnie's victory had double meaning. Explain.