

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF UNCLE TOM'S CHILDREN

“Big Boy Leaves Home”

There are four black boys whose names are Big Boy, Buck, Lester and Bobo. One day, all of them want to swim in a creek which lies in a white man's property. When they are swimming, a white woman finds them and she calls her husband, an army officer. Her husband comes and gets angry with them. The four black boys feel scared, so they decide to leave. The white man shoots Buck and Lester. And then he tries to kill Big Boy and Bobo. Big Boy tries to protect Bobo from being killed. Finally, Big Boy shoots the white man. Big Boy and Bobo run away.

When Big Boy comes home and tells what has happened to his parents, his parents decide that Big Boy must leave home to hide, because they know that the whites will be looking for him. When Big Boy is in his hiding place, Bobo is caught by the whites and Big Boy sees the whites burn Bobo to death. At last Big Boy can escape from the whites.

“Down By The Riverside”

A black man whose name is Brother Mann needs a boat to take his pregnant wife to the hospital. Mann tells his cousin, Bob, to buy a boat, but Bob steals one from a white man. Mann uses that boat as he has no choice. However,

on their way the white man who owns the boat sees Brother Mann and recognizes his boat. The white man gets angry with Mann and wants his boat back. And then the white man starts shooting at Mann. Mann shoots him back and the white man is dead. Unfortunately, when they reach the hospital, his wife has already passed away. Along with another black man, Brinkley, Mann is asked to rescue the people in the Riverside. They turn out to be the woman whose husband has been killed, and her children. Although he has a chance to kill them, he decides to rescue them, instead. Later, the soldiers catch him. Before the soldiers kill him, he tries to run away. However, the soldiers shoot him and he dies in the river's edge.

“Long Black Song”

Silas is a hard worker. He has bought a farm so that he can grow his own crops like white men. One day, when he comes back from selling his crop, he finds the fact that his wife has slept with a white salesman. He gets very angry.

In the morning, the white salesman comes back. Silas whips him and then shoots him to death. Silas knows that if he kills the white man, he can never be free. He waits for the whites who want to take revenge on him. Later, Silas has a gunfight with the white people who come to get him out of his house. In the end he dies when the whites burn his house. Silas never gets out of his house when the house collapses.

“Bright and Morning Star”

An old woman Sue, has two sons. They are members of communist party. Sug, his first son, has been imprisoned. Sue waits for her another son, Johnny-Boy, to come home. A white fellow communist, Reva, who is the daughter of a major organizer, stops by to tell Sue that the sheriff has discovered about the meeting at Lem’s and Sue must tell the comrades about it so the sheriff can not catch them. And then Johnny-Boy comes home. Sue sends him to tell his comrades not to go to the Lem’s for the meeting.

Later, the sheriff comes to her house looking for Johnny-Boy. He slaps and hits her because she does not want to tell where Johnny-Boy is. When she gains her consciousness, she tells everything to Booker. However, Booker is the sheriff’s informer. Sue realizes that she is the only person who can save the comrades and her son. She soon takes the risk to save them. Remembering the sheriff’s words, she brings a white sheet and wraps a gun in it. Then she goes through the woods to stop Booker from telling the sheriff. The sheriff tortures Johnny-Boy in front of her. When Booker comes, Sue shoots him before he mentions anything about the comrades. And then, the sheriff shoots Johnny-Boy and Sue.

BIOGRAPHY OF RICHARD WRIGHT

Richard Wright was born near Natchez, Mississippi, on September 4, 1908. His father, Nathaniel, was an illiterate sharecropper. His mother, Ella Wilson, was a well-educated school teacher. Their poverty forced them to move to Memphis when Richard was six years old.

Richard Wright attended a local public school for a few years. In spring 1924, the Southern Register, a local black newspaper printed “The Voodoo of Hell’s Half Acre”, which is his first story. From 1925 to 1927, he worked several menial jobs in Jackson and Memphis. During the time, he continued writing.

In 1927 he moved to Chicago. In 1937 he moved to New York and became the editor of Daily worker. In 1938 his four short stories were published together as Uncle Tom’s Children. His first novel Native Son was published in 1940. In 1939 he married a white dancer, Dhimah Rose Meadman, but then they separated. In 1941 he married Ellen Poplar, a white member of Communist Party, and they had 2 daughters whose names are Julia (1942) and Rachel (1949).

In his last years he was plagued by illness. After his death on November 28, 1960, another collection of his short stories Eight Men was published. Black Boy was published in 1945. The importance of his works comes from the impact of his ideas not from his style and technique. His most significant contribution was his desire to accurately portray the blacks to the white readers and destroy the white myth of patient, humorous, and submissive black man.