“Coming of Age in Mississippi”

By Anne Moody pgs. 609-617

1. What are “Jim Crow” laws? (p. 609)

They are laws that discriminated against African Americans that denied them the right to vote, attend state universities, and use public facilities like swimming pools, restrooms, and lunch counters.

1. What does the term “coming of age” mean?

It is the process of gaining a deeper understanding of the world and becoming an adult.

1. What was the narrator able to do, since she couldn’t graduate like she had planned?

Now she could work with the Movement.

1. What is “the Movement”?

It is the organized struggle of African Americans to obtain civil rights.

1. What is the purpose of picketing?

It involves a group gathering outside a business or institution to express a grievance and to discourage others from entering.

1. What did Moody do that caused the waitresses to run to the back of the store?

She placed her order, and she wouldn’t move to the section for Negroes.

1. What did the white high school students start to do when they entered the diner?

They started heckling Moody and her friends and chanting anti-Negro slogans.

1. Why do you think these students acted this way?

Opinion

1. What happened to Memphis?

He got thrown down and kicked in the head.

1. Why was the crowd calling them communists?

They were basically calling them traitors, because they felt like their actions were going against the government.

1. What happened when the manager tried to close the store?

No one would leave.

1. Why were the policemen remaining uninvolved outside of the diner?

Because they would not enter unless the manager invited them in.

1. How did Moody’s attitude change toward the whites?

At first she hated them, but then she realized that they were sick, and she couldn’t hate people for being sick.

1. Why did Moody’s letter from her Mama make her mad?

She felt like she had to live her life like she saw fit, and it hurt her to realize how scared her family was.

1. What did Moody think was going to happen to her family?

She was afraid that someone was going to be murdered.