

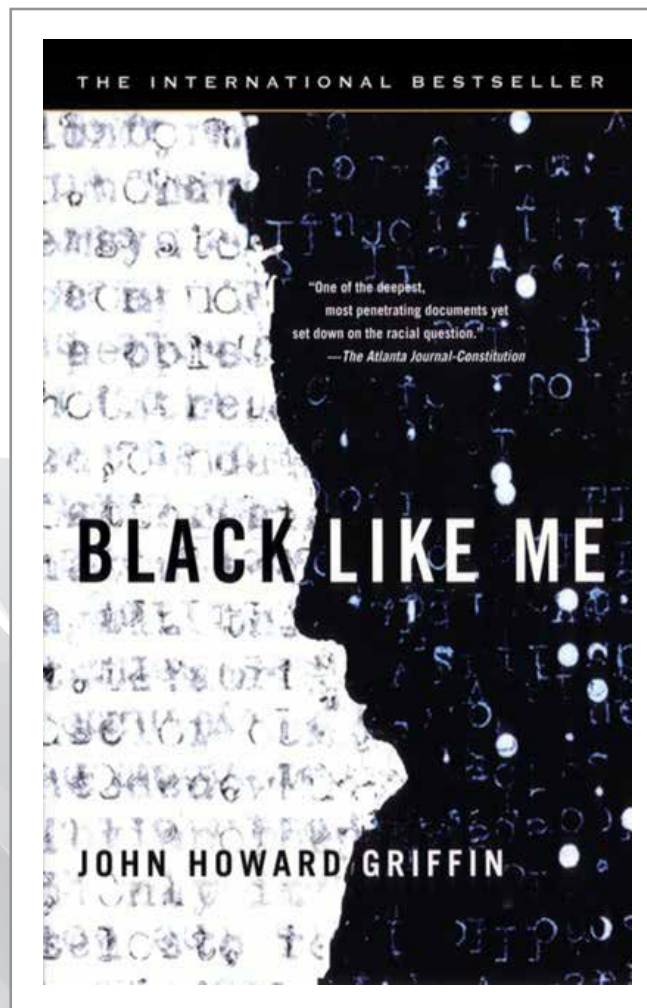


**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 6-8**

# Black Like Me

John Howard Griffin



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# Black Like Me

John Howard Griffin

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting the “Lay of the Land”

**Directions:** Prepare for reading by answering the following short-answer questions.

1. Who is the author?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the title suggest to you about the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. When was the book written?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many pages are there in the book?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Thumb through the book. Read three pages—one from near the beginning, one from near the middle, and one from near the end. What predictions can you make about the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does the cover suggest to you about the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Read the back cover. What is the Deep South known for?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What four states will the author visit?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What does “disenfranchised” mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What words on the back cover make you want to read the book?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

dossier (47)	placated (54)	abject (57)	emanated (62)
animosity (64)	lasciviousness (64)	ingenuity (67)	innocuous (73)
reprisal (74)	flagrant (75)	cynicism (75)	juxtaposition (76)
monologue (77)	ostentatiously (79)	incredulous (80)	

**Directions:** Complete each item with the correct vocabulary word from the list above.

1. Thomas Edison’s \_\_\_\_\_ helped him invent many useful products that people still use today.
2. The fighter’s \_\_\_\_\_ was evident in his clenched fists.
3. After taking the baby’s candy, Amber \_\_\_\_\_ her by giving her a toy.
4. The attorney carried a \_\_\_\_\_ of information pertinent to the trial.
5. Carla \_\_\_\_\_ showed off the new car she received for her birthday.
6. Many Victorians were \_\_\_\_\_ when they heard about David Livingstone’s African discoveries.
7. A soliloquy is actually a \_\_\_\_\_ by a dramatic character, displaying his feelings and views to the audience.
8. The author of *Black Like Me* was afraid of \_\_\_\_\_ because of his efforts to present the true life of a black man.
9. In Charles Dickens’ *Oliver Twist*, many employers used children in the work houses in a \_\_\_\_\_ misuse of child labor.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of some Southerners regarding the future of black people in America turned to bitterness and eventually to violence.
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the peasants’ huts next to the landowners’ estates was a statement of how poorly the landowners treated the peasants.
12. Archaeologists digging in Pompeii found lewd scenes painted on walls depicting the \_\_\_\_\_ of the population.
13. French peasants in the 1700s lived lives of \_\_\_\_\_ poverty because of the great taxes levied upon them.
14. Leaders of the newly formed country \_\_\_\_\_ ideals of freedom, liberty, and equality.
15. The English king and Parliament thought that the Stamp Act would be an \_\_\_\_\_ law that would help pay for the French and Indian War.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

12. Give three reasons why Atlanta is ahead of the rest of the South in race relations.
13. What do economists L. D. Milton and J. B. Blayton say is the “key to the racial solution”?
14. Where do Don Rutledge and Griffin return to take photos of his life as a Negro?
15. What plan do Griffin and Rutledge create to take pictures more easily?
16. As Griffin flies home, how does he summarize the consequences of “the dreaded task before him”?
17. What does Griffin want to bring to blacks through his articles?
18. Who is the first person threatened as a result of Griffin’s writing?
19. Through what media is Griffin able to share his findings? In 1960, what type of responses did he get?
20. What happens in the middle of Mansfield on April 2?
21. How many favorable letters does Griffin receive? How many abusive letters does he receive?
22. Where do Griffin and his family eventually move for safety reasons?

### **Epilogue–Afterword, pp. 165–200**

1. When most Americans thought of racism in 1959, whom did they think about?
2. What does Griffin decide not to change when he changes his skin color?
3. What does Griffin learn immediately about being a black man?
4. How does Griffin describe the Negro’s life?
5. What is a reprisal? Name three types.
6. Why did white racists entrap white and black civil rights leaders?
7. According to Griffin, what one goal did civil rights leaders have?
8. What is amusing about P. D. East’s being stopped by a policeman?
9. What major breakthrough occurred in 1964?
10. How did white audiences react to a black person telling the same truth a white person presented?
11. What truth did the black doctor share with the Bible professor?
12. What does Griffin say was a mistake made by the entire community when dealing with their race problem?
13. What reaction does Griffin warn the city leaders about?
14. What President spoke of social justice and civil rights in his State of the Union address? What part of his Presidential speech got a round of applause?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Using Dialogue

**Directions:** Choose some dialogue from the book. Fill in the chart to evaluate the purpose of the dialogue and whether or not it is effective in moving the plot along.

