Questions on *The Piano Lesson*

These are the questions about the play that the groups came up with in class today, listed in no particular order.

They are very good questions to keep in mind as you re-read the play this weekend, because they are almost all focused on Level 2—the “why” of the play, its deeper meaning.

1. Who killed Sutter? Ghosts of the Yellow Dog? Boy Willie? Was he pushed?
2. What would have been the motivation to kill Sutter?
3. Why was Sutter’s ghost calling for Boy Willie?
4. What was the meaning or purpose behind the inclusion of a supernatural element? What does the ghost really mean in the story?
5. Did Boy Willie find a way to buy the property?
6. What really happened to Crawley? Was there more to the story? Did Lymon kill Crawley?
7. What’s the story behind Lymon and Berniece kissing? Why did they act like nothing happened the next day?
8. Does Berniece or the piano have some kind of spiritual power?
9. Who is Daddy (Doaker’s father)?
10. What was the underlying theme of the play? What is the deeper meaning?
11. Why does Doaker seem so impassive? He doesn’t seem to have an opinion on selling the piano.
12. Why did the author choose a piano as a symbol of the past?
13. What do each of the characters represent?
14. Why is it called *The Piano Lesson*?
15. What is the significance of the suit?
16. Why didn’t Boy Willie try to get Berniece to buy out his half of the piano? (Probably she couldn’t afford to.)