

## **Curative Reading Questions** ***At Home*** **By Wendell Berry**

***Notes About Answering Questions Curatively:*** *These questions are meant to deepen your understanding of the story and its curative aspects for you, others, and the world around you. Curative Reading goes beyond understanding a story from a literary perspective to a place where your imagination gets to reshape a meaning that supports you and inspires you to move forward through challenging change. There are no right or wrong answers, only curiously curative ones. Sharing these questions when we gather is optional.*

Pg 188 - If it has been 40 years since Art was in the war, what time period is this story taking place in? Think about this time period and what was happening to rural life and small family farms in the context of big agriculture at that time. Write a line or two about your life in this time period. How connected were you to farms and country life?

Pg 188 – “The valley revealed itself now... as familiar to him as the palm of his hand.” Is there a place as familiar to you as the palm of your hand? Write a line or two about it. Are you still connected to it or is it from your past? Is it rural or urban?

Pg 190 – “He needed time only to take his time. To have time for the day and the weather...to take a ‘long cut’ ... the day coming to him unburdened.” When was the last time you took a long-cut. Write a line or two about what it would mean to you to spend time as Art is doing on this day.

Pg 193 – “They were a membership ... a gathering... held together by kinship, friendship, history, memory, kindness, and affection.” Do you have a membership, or would you like to be a part of one or create one? Write a line or two about this.

What is the name of Art's youngest brother and what happened to him on the farm in the 1930's? Do you recall any emotions while reading this part of the story? If so, write a line or two about that.

Pg. 194 – Who is writing this story about Art and remembering him?

Art is an older man who remains deeply connected to his ancestors and their ancestral land. He keeps his ancestors alive in his thoughts which are described as being “placed and peopled.” Turn your thoughts in this way and write a line or two about the people and places from your past.

Do you have a question about this story you would like to bring to the group? If so, write it down.

Has reading this story revealed any curative insights to you about your own life or the life of the world around you? If so, write a line or two about this.