Part One: Language.

1. List 15 Mandinka words or phrases **AND** what these words mean.
2. Why did Kunta Kinte resist accepting his new name of Toby so greatly?
3. How did learning English hurt Kunta? How did it help him?
4. A major part of this novel is the passing down on Mandinka words and phrases. How did this connect Kunta’s family?

Part Two: Culture

5. What was daily life like for Kunta in The Gambia?
6. What qualities did the Mandinka people cherish and encourage?
7. How did the Mandinka punish those who did not live according the group beliefs (cite specific examples)?
8. How is life in America different for Kunta?
9. After living in America for some time, how does Kunta come to see slaves in America as similar to the town he came from in Africa?
10. In what ways does Kunta continue his Mandinka ways in America, and how do others feel about these practices?

Part Three: Slavery

11. Unfortunately, slavery is what makes the stories of Alex Haley and Kunta Kinte so popular. After reading of Kunta’s experiences, which experience stands out to you as the worst and why?
12. The Wallers own Kunta and Bell, but they are also models for what people would call “good” and “bad” slaveowners. How are the Waller brothers opposites, and how is the idea of “good” and “bad” owners ridiculous?
13. How would you assess Kunta’s frequent attempts at escape? Was this smart? Was it right?
14. When Kizzy is sold to North Carolina, things change for Bell and Kunta. How does Kizzy continue the traditions of Kunta and Africa, even though she never sees her parents again?

Part Four: The Epic Story

15. *Roots* is not only the story of one African, but of America. After Kunta, Bell, and Kizzy, how do the descendants of Kunta Kinte show the evolution of America and slavery?

16. Kunta’s family becomes quite eclectic through the years. How many different races become part of the genetic makeup of author Alex Haley through marriage and pregnancy (cite members’ names and how they became part of the family)?

17. Where do Tom and his father, Chicken George, take their families after Emancipation? What kinds of lives do they live there?

18. Do you think the story of *Roots* is typical for most families in America, white, black, or other? Why or why not?

Extra Credit (You May Need to Look Up These Answers)

19. Into what American port city was Kunta Kinte originally brought?

20. Super extra credit: Get your picture taken by a Spotsylvania, Virginia, sign, or at the Haley-Kinte memorial at the port where Kunta Kinte entered the United States.