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**Questions for Study and Discussion: “Shame” by Dick Gregory**

*Directions*: After having read “Shame” by Dick Gregory, answer the questions. Write in complete sentences. Whenever possible, make sure to use evidence from the text to support your answers. *The space provided is inadequate*: make sure to use another sheet of paper to answer the questions. Do NOT try to fit your answers in to the minimal space provided after each question.

1. (a) What does Gregory mean by “shame”? (b) What precisely was he ashamed of, and (c) what in particular did he learn from the incident?

2. How do the first three paragraphs of the essay help to establish a context for the narrative that follows?

3. (a) Why do you think Gregory narrates this episode in the first-person point of view? (b) What would be gained or lost if he instead wrote it in the third-person point of view?

4. (c) What is the teacher’s attitude toward Gregory? Record (a) her own words and actions as well as (b) Gregory’s opinions in arriving at your answer.

5. (a) What role does money play in Gregory’s narrative? (b) How does money relate to his sense of shame?

6. Specific details can enhance the reader’s understanding and appreciation of a narrative. Gregory’s description of Helene Tucker’s manners or the plaid of his mackinaw, for example, makes his account vivid and interesting. **Create a chart** offering *at least 2 details* that are given in the piece and how the narrative would be different without them. *Consider the chart organization below* when planning your graphic organizer/chart.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Details from “Shame”** | **Without the Details** |
| “Insert a quotation from the piece. Make sure to use quotation marks.” (Gregory #) | Discuss how the piece would be different if the detail to the left was NOT in the piece. |

7. Consider the diction of the essay. (a) What effect does Gregory’s repetition of the word *shame* have on you? (b) Why do you think Gregory uses simple vocabulary to narrate this particular experience?