English 4: Contemporary Literature Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Color of Water Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 1-6

1. Why is James’ mother, Ruth, considered “Dead” to her family?
2. Describe Ruth’s father. What does he do for a living? What kind of a husband is he to Ruth’s mother?
3. From what disease did Ruth’s mother suffer all of her life?
4. Why is chapter 2 entitled “Bicycle”?
5. What does the bicycle symbolize for James?
6. Who is Hunter Jordan?
7. When James is in kindergarten, what interesting question does he ask of his mother?
8. After “Daddy” died, what became of James?
9. What did James’ mother believe when she first arrived in America?
10. What did all the men in the family have?
11. What type of Judaism did the family practice? List some of the practices.
12. How long does the Jewish Sabbath last?
13. What was the mother’s greatest fear?
14. What did James think Black Power might do to his mother?
15. What is Red Hook?
16. What did the mugger steal from James’ mother?
17. Why did the family travel form town to town?
18. Why did the family store do a booming business on Sunday?
19. What was James’ Mother’s hobby?
20. What color did Richie believe he was?
21. What color did Richie believe Jesus should be?
22. What happened when people “got happy” at Ruth’s church?
23. Why did Mother “beat Billy’s butt”?
24. What is the tone of chapter 6?