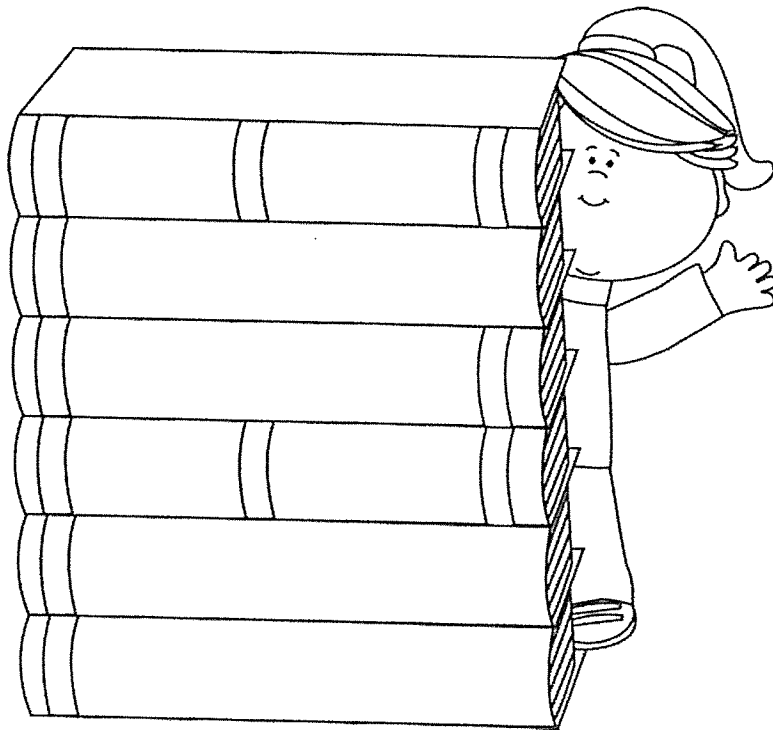


# One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williams-Garcia



Literature Unit by:

Elise Brunner

# One Crazy Summer

By Rita Williams-Garcia

Reading and Writing Assignment #1  
(Pages 1 - 55)

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions in complete, detailed, and clear sentences. Remember to use correct capitalization and punctuation!

## **"Cassius Clay Clouds"**

1. What did the narrator, Delphine, mean by, "Pa had tried to act like he was dropping off three sacks of wash at the Laundromat"?

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2. What images of life in California did Delphine and her younger sisters dream about?

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3. Who was being referred to as "us" and "them"?

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## **"Golden Gate Bridge"**

4. The narrator of the story, Delphine, shows that she is a responsible and mature eleven-year old. Give one example of this character trait. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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### **"Secret Agent Mother"**

5. According to Delphine, how is the word "Mother" different from "Mommy" or "Mom"?

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6. Why does Delphine want to write to Merriam Webster?

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### **"Green Stucco House"**

7. Describe the "flashes" that are coming to Delphine.

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8. How would you describe Cecile? Cite evidence from the text to support your description.

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### **"Mean Lady Ming"**

9. What was Cecile's reason for not having a phone?

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10. Why did Delphine and her sisters think the Chinese lady at Ming's was mean?

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### **"Collect Call"**

11. *"They (Vonetta and Fern) were expecting a mother. At least a hug .... a look of sorrow and a plea for forgiveness. I knew better."* What do you think Delphine meant by that?

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### **"For the People"**

12. Why do the sisters think Cecile is a secret agent? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

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13. Who were the Black Panthers?

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14. Based on what Big Ma watches on the news, what time period does this story take place? (hint: LBJ was President of the United States).

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### **"Glass of Water"**

15. Give one example of Cecile being "crazy."

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16. What was the reason why Cecile left her family?

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Reading and Writing Assignment #2

(Pages 56 - 110)

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions in complete, detailed, and clear sentences. Remember to use correct capitalization and punctuation!

## **"Inseparable"**

1. What actions did Cecile not do for her youngest daughter, Fern?

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2. Who is Miss Patty Cake, and why is she so important to Fern?

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## **"Breakfast Program"**

3. What problem did Kelvin have with Miss Patty Cake? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

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4. What are "air sandwiches"?

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## **"Even the Earth is a Revolutionary"**

5. Explain the title of this chapter.

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6. Research and find out who said the following, "*I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired.*" Give one fact about this individual.

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## **"Crazy Mother Mountain"**

7. What is Cecile's theory or belief about names?

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8. Delphine describes Cecile as "crazy." Do you agree or disagree with this assessment? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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## **"Everyone Knows the King of the Sea"**

9. Is Delphine's belief about names similar or different than Cecile's? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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10. Why does Delphine's attitude about her name change?

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11. What is the connection that Delphine sees between her name and her mother, Cecile?

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**"Coloring and La-La"**

12. What is a "la-la-la" song?

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13. What did Vonetta do to Miss Patty Cake? What do you think was her reason?

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**"Counting and Skimming"**

14. How would you describe Sister Mukumbo? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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15. Why did Delphine want to read the newspaper she was stacking?

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**"Big Red S"**

16. Infer. What caused Fern's aching stomach? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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Reading and Writing Assignment #3

(Pages 111 - 158)

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions in complete, detailed, and clear sentences. Remember to use correct capitalization and punctuation!

## **"China Who"**

1. What conclusions can you draw from Delphine's curiosity about Hirohito? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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2. Can you explain the meaning of Delphine's thought, "*Thank goodness you can't see cherries in a chocolate bar?*"

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## **"Expert Colored Counting"**

3. Why were the three sisters "expert colored counters"? How would this activity compare or contrast in today's society?

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4. Fern managed to "flummox" Cecile. Define the word "flummox."

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## "Civic Pride"

5. How would you evaluate the role of women in society in the 1960s? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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6. What conclusions can you draw from the reaction Pa had with the state policeman?

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## "Rally for Bobby"

7. How did the three sisters' attitudes toward the rally differ?

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8. What type of song did Vonetta and Fern want to sing at the rally?

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## "Eating Crow"

9. What did Delphine mean by her declaration that, "*Fern had always been mine*"?

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10. Why did Delphine have to "eat crow"? How do you think that made her feel?

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### **"Itsy Bitsy Spider"**

11. Why was Delphine punished by her 4th grade teacher?

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12. How does Delphine compare Vonetta to Cecile? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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### **"Movable Type"**

13. What did the stool by the stove represent?

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14. In what way did Delphine learn to behave around Cecile?

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### **"San Francisco Treat"**

15. Explain the significance of Delphine's repeated thought about a "back-to-school essay."

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16. Why do you believe Fern stopped talking about Miss Patty Cake?

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17. While cooking in the kitchen, Delphine had a "flash." What do you think it was?

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