

-Name _____

Read paragraphs 1-5.

Angelou uses the word *apprehensive* in paragraph 2. What does that word mean and why would she describe the mood that way?

Read paragraphs 6-12

What is the significance of the term “Master’s voice” used in paragraph 12? (Be sure to read the footnote as well.)

Read paragraphs 13-15

Annotate the paragraph. Use it to complete the chart below:

There were only a few calls for RC Colas, Dr Peppers, and Hires root beer. The real festivities would begin after the fight. Then even the old Christian ladies who taught their children and tried themselves to practice turning the other cheek would buy soft drinks, and if the Brown Bomber’s victory was a particularly bloody one they would order peanut patties and Baby Ruths also.

Bailey and I laid the coins on top of the cash register. Uncle Willie didn’t allow us to ring up sales during a fight. It was too noisy and might shake up the atmosphere. When the gong rang for the next round we pushed through the near-sacred quiet to the herd of children outside.

What it says:	What it means:
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Why is it significant?

Read paragraphs 16-18.

To what extent are the statements in paragraphs 16-17 to be taken literally? Why does Angelou include them?

Not literal -- this is figurative language. These are metaphors. She includes these to show how serious it felt and was for the AA people.

Read paragraphs 19-26.

What do you notice about the pace of the writing in these paragraphs?

Read paragraph 27- end.

Look closely at this passage and annotate it.

Champion of the world. A Black boy. Some Black mother's son. He was the strongest man in the world. People drank Coca-Colas like ambrosia and ate candy bars like Christmas. Some of the men went behind the Store and poured white lightning in their soft-drink bottles, and a few of the bigger boys followed them. Those who were not chased away came back blowing their breath in front of themselves like proud smokers.

It would take an hour or more before the people would leave the store and head for home. Those who lived too far had made arrangements to stay in town. It wouldn't do for a Black man and his family to be caught on a lonely country road on a night when Joe Louis had proved that we were the strongest people in the world.

Discuss the irony in this passage.

