The Jim Crow Laws

Grandpa: Jim Crow...The term eventually came to mean a "Negro", Sonny. Do you know anything about the "Jim Crow" laws?

Willy: No, Grandpa....Tell me all about those laws....

Grandpa: Well....Hmmmm....the Jim Crow laws were passed in the late 1800s by the legislatures of the Southern states. They deprived African Americans of their civil rights and defined blacks as inferior. Negroes gradually lost their jobs, which they gained after the Civil War. Blacks were even denied the right to vote.

Willy: How unfair!

Grandpa: Yeah, it was actually, it really was.... You know, what happened was: after the Civil War, which ended in 1865, about 4 million slaves were freed by the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States. So many former slaves, like my ancestors, left the rural areas to live in towns and cities.

Willy: Yes, Grandpa, I see.....

Grandpa: ....and blacks and whites often rode the same buses together; they would eat in the same restaurants, and they'd use the same public facilities, like drinking fountains. But the white southerners you know, they couldn't control these new communities the same way they had been able to control the blacks on plantations, for instance...

Willy: White people were frightened, right?

Grandpa: Yes, they were! By 1914, every southern state had passed laws that created two separate societies: one black, the other white. Ironically there was a set phrase that described systems of segregation: 'Separate, but equal'! Blacks and whites could not ride the same sections of buses, nor sit in the same waiting rooms, use the same washrooms, eat in the same restaurants, nor sit in the same theaters. Black pupils weren't allowed to attend the same schools as the whites. Signs were put up to separate facilities saying "whites only" and "coloured" or "Negroes". They appeared everywhere on parks, toilets, waiting rooms, theaters, and water fountains. Newspaper and magazine writers began to refer to blacks as 'niggers', 'coons', and 'darkies'.Our society remained totally segregated.... until the 1970s.....

Willy: I can't believe that Grandpa! When I think of Barak Obama's election.....

Grandpa: I know how you feel my boy.....With Barak Obama's election as president of the United States, Dr King's dream has come true....

Willy: You mean the famous speech he made in Washington, 'I Have a Dream'?

Grandpa: Yes my boy, I can still hear Martin Luther King's unique voice claiming 'Free at last....'

Willy: And I can hear Obama's voice telling the world 'Yes, we can'!

Global Comprehension

Present the document

_____

_____

_____

_____

Detailed Comprehension

Tick the boxes.

1- Who are the **two people** talking?

☐ father and son	☐ uncle and nephew	☐ grandfather and grandson

Justify your answer by picking out one word, which is repeated twice (two times):

.....

2. How does the character called Willy sound?

☐ rather young
☐ middle-aged
☐ rather old

So what can you assume? .....

3. **About their origins** (ethnicity): They are :

☐ Native Hawaiians	☐ White Americans ("Caucasian Americans")	☐ Asian Americans (Americans of Asian descent)
☐ Native Americans (indigenous peoples from North America)	☐ African Americans (citizens of the United States descending from West African slaves)	☐ Hispanic /Latino Americans

Justify your answer by picking out the right words or expressions.

.....

.....

3. **About the context:**

☐ The conversation started after a documentary they had just watched on TV
☐ It all started with an object that belonged to one of the two protagonists
☐ It started out of the blue (it came from nowhere, it was unexpected)

Justify your answer by picking out the right words or expressions.

.....

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4. The names of **two famous people** are mentioned at the end of the dialogue. Write their names down.

Person # 1: .....

Person # 2: .....

5. Complete:

The Jim Crow Laws	
Dates	Passed in:_____ Segregation ended in:_____
Other name given to 'Jim Crow Laws'	
Location	
Examples of Jim Crow Laws	
Origin of Jim Crow Laws	
Date	
Important event in the 19th century	
Number of slaves freed	
Reference in the American constitution	
Reaction of White Southerners	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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