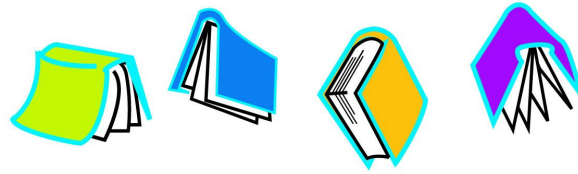


# Midday Book Club

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

### *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

1. How would you describe the "style" of this book and what do you think that style contributes to the content of the book? Note particularly the use of repetition.
2. This book traces how the loss of faith, the breakdown of the family concept and communication between people leads to moral breakdowns and a complexity of problems. Note the particulars of these losses and those breakdowns.
3. In the book *Shane*, we studied how the main character was a Christ-type. Do you see any Christ-types in this novel? Who is a Christ-type (perhaps more than one) and why and how?
4. In one or two sentences articulate the theme of this novel, a theme that is universal applying to all people at all times of history.
5. What is Alan Paton's greatest concern in this novel? How does he define racial reconciliation?
6. The opening poetic scenes of the novel introduce beauty and ugliness. How does this foreshadow themes?
7. The novel is full of biblical allusions. Note as many as you can find.
8. The concept of fear is found on almost every page. In what way does this contribute to the story? What is Paton's spiritual answer to the problem of fear in Book III?
9. What does the main character Stephen Kumalo have to learn? How does he change?" What does he do that shows you his dark places? What role does Msimangu play in Stephen's spiritual progress?
10. Both Jarvis and Kumalo must learn much about problems and possible solutions; they must both come to terms with their faults and lack of vision. List instances of what they must learn, how they must change.