

April 29, 2004

QUESTIONS ON STACK *CALL TO HOME*

1. Stack says that the reverse migration to places like the nine counties in the two Carolinas she studied “is a difficult fact for standard migration theories to digest.” What does she mean?
2. “The appeal of God’s little acre crosses all bounds of race and time, but the urgency could seem shrill for African Americans. If security and liberty were to be found anywhere, wouldn’t it be under one’s own roof, safe on one’s own land?” (p. 42)

Discuss this quote.
3. Stack mentions “Jim Crow” a couple of times. What does this mean?
4. People who had migrated to northern cities used the argument that things “changing for the better back home” as a reason for returning. What examples did they use?
5. Which one of the stories particularly struck you as memorable?
6. When people in places like Burdy’s Bend speak of family values, what sorts of values are they talking about?
7. Stack mentions how all of Miss Pearl’s child-keeping “paid off.” What was she talking about?
8. Stack introduces the term “kinwork.” What does she mean?
9. What is the downside of such “kinwork?”
10. Describe Stack’s “research construct” reported on in the chapter “Clyde’s Dilemma.” How useful was it for her? How did it help you understand the situation being discussed?
11. In several places in the book the people Stack spoke with expressed anxiety about raising their children in northern cities. Why?
12. What was the white reaction to the attempt to get Holding Hands going?
13. Isabella discovered that local officials preferred not to provide the poor people of the county with such services as day care, even if the services could be provided without spending a penny of local money. Why?
14. What are some of the ironies spelled out by Stack when talking about this kind of reverse migration?

15. Donald Hardy was interested in bringing more industry to the region. Why did the Eastern Carolina Regional Development Council turn him down?
16. Mrs. Jones, on pp 176-177, is of the opinion that the county “has just died.” Why?
17. What happened with Vernon Bradley’s bid for re-election as a member of the Chestnut County School Board?
18. Stack mentions the Underground Railway, ending in Philadelphia. What is she referring to?
19. Stack says that “the one place we don’t go is home again.” Discuss. Is this true for you and your family, your culture?
20. What do you think of Stack’s writing style? Compare it to Wolf’s. Contrast it with the typical article in Skolnick—what are the advantages and disadvantages of Stack’s approach?