Part II Between the World and Me Discussion Questions:

1. On page 60, Coates states that “Hate gives identity.” What does he mean? How can we make sense of this bold statement in the context of our identities as Americans? As Jews?

2. Coates says on page 69 that “…the struggle, in and of itself, has meaning.” What is he talking about here? Israel means to struggle with God. Is this the same type of struggle to which Coates refers, or a different one? What is the meaning in struggle?

3. “Perhaps struggle is all we have because the god of history is an atheist, and nothing about his world is meant to be.” (page 71) What is Coates saying? What does he mean that “the god of history is an atheist?” Is the Jewish God of history an atheist? What does a God have to believe in?