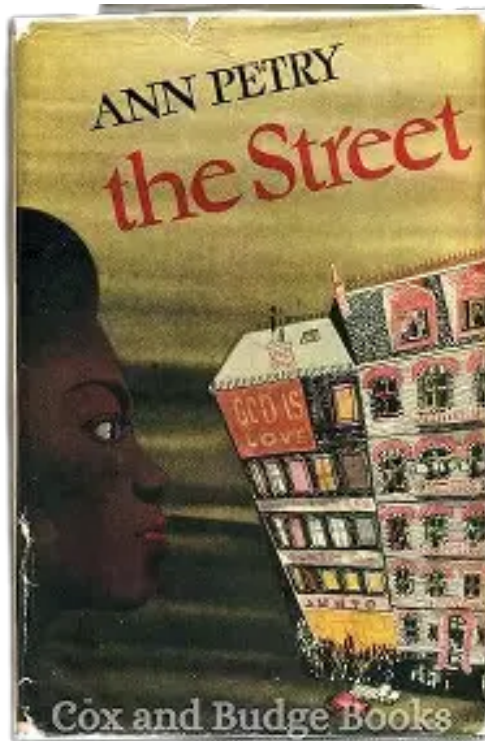


THE STREET

Ann Petry



RESOURCE GUIDE

Reading + Writing + Analysis

NO PREP

PRINT & GO

HIGH SCHOOL ELA

About the Text

The Street tells the story of Lutie Johnson, a single mother trying to build a better life for herself and her son in Harlem. As she works toward independence, she faces constant challenges from her environment, including poverty, sexism, and limited opportunities.

The novel shows how a person's surroundings can shape their choices and experiences. Through Lutie's journey, readers see how determination, hope, and struggle all play a role in the search for a better future.

Key Themes

- Environment and its impact
- Power and control
- Gender and expectations
- Dreams vs reality
- Survival and resilience

Before You Read

- Think about how your environment affects your choices.
- What does it mean to be truly independent?
- Can someone fully control their future, or do outside factors always play a role?
- What challenges might a single parent face while trying to improve their life?

SECTION BREAKDOWN

- **Section 1: Chapters 1–4**

Introduction to Lutie, setting, and early struggles

- **Section 2: Chapters 5–9**

Environment and growing pressures

- **Section 3: Chapters 10–15**

Conflict, relationships, and limited choices

- **Section 4: Chapters 16–20**

Climax, consequences, and resolution

Comprehension Questions:

SECTION 1

1. Who is Lutie Johnson, and what is her situation at the beginning of the novel?
2. Where does Lutie move, and why does she choose this location?
3. How is the street described when Lutie first arrives?
4. What are Lutie's hopes for her future?
5. What early challenges does she notice in her new environment?

Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

How does the setting begin to shape Lutie's experience?

Comprehension Questions

SECTION 2

1. How does the street affect the people who live there?
2. What role do other characters play in shaping Lutie's experience?
3. What pressures does Lutie face as she tries to succeed?
4. How is power shown through different characters?
5. What choices does Lutie begin to make in response to her situation?

Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

How does environment influence people's decisions?

Comprehension Questions

SECTION 3

1. What conflicts does Lutie face as the story develops?
- How do her goals begin to change?
- What obstacles stand in her way?
- How do other characters impact her progress?
- What emotions are strongest in this section?

Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

What challenges make it hardest for Lutie to reach her goals?

Comprehension Questions

SECTION 4

1. What major turning point happens in the story?
2. How does Lutie respond to this moment?
3. What consequences follow her decisions?
4. How does the setting continue to affect the outcome?
5. What message does the ending send?

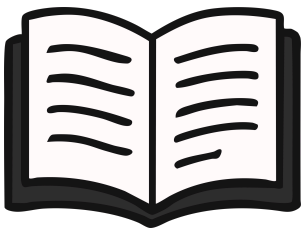
Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

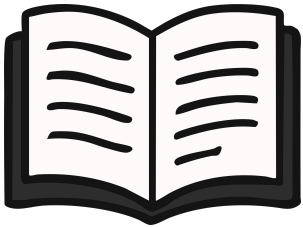
What does the ending suggest about control and opportunity?

Extension Activity

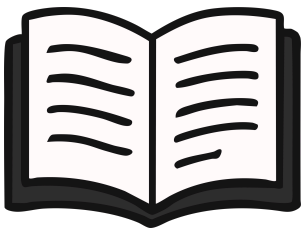
Choose one activity to complete.



- Analyze how setting influences another character



- Compare *The Street* to another text about environment and opportunity

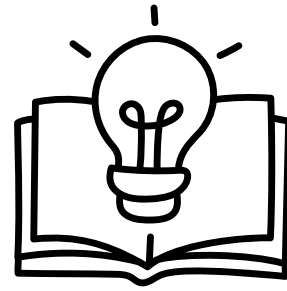


- Create a visual representation of the setting and its impact

Understanding the Big Ideas

This story explores:

- **Environment and its impact on choices**
- **Power and control**
- **Identity and independence**
- **Struggle for opportunity**



How does Ann Petry use setting to shape Lutie Johnson's experiences? Use examples from the text to support your response.

Final Project

- Analyze how environment shapes the main character
- Explain how power is shown throughout the novel
- Create a presentation on the novel's main themes

Character Notes