

*Appendix***SYNOPSIS**

The novel draws loosely on Baldwin's family experience to recount the conversion of John Grimes on his 14th birthday. John is a young boy who lives at Harlem slums, New York, as the eldest of a black Baptist Preacher named Gabriel Grimes ... *He isn't John's biological father. He married to John's mother, Elizabeth, when John was an infant over six months old and John never known about the fact.* John has one stepbrother, Roy Grimes, whose character is John's opposite, and two stepsisters, Sarah and Ruth Grimes. To be known as a fine young boy, the community where John takes part mostly then often convince him that someday he would take over his father's place. However, to be a preacher is not John's wish of a future life that he begins to realize around the days approaching his 14th birthday. John is aware of his superiority that he's a smart boy and should have a chance to get rid of his slum neighborhood and reach for a better life which is his true dream. At the tarry service in the night of John's birthday where John is looking for confirmness the readers are brought back to Gabriel's, Florence's, and Elizabeth's former lives.

John stepfather, Gabriel Grimes, is a factory worker beside a preacher who doesn't earn enough money to give his family a fancy life. He was once married to his sister's best friend and had a childless marriage that prompted him to have an affair with another woman who gave him a son out of wedlock. He refused to recognize his son who was killed in a tavern some years later. Therefore, Gabriel lavishes his hope

on Roy, his legal son who was born in a holy marriage. Unfortunately it's appeared to be true that his stepson is the one who's going to follow his path to serve the Lord. Gabriel is very disappointed to learn about the fact and gives rein of his disappointment by being a very hard father to John. He has allowed his religious fervor to evolve into a form of hypocrisy directed especially at John.

John's mother, Elizabeth Grimes, is the only daughter who was taken care by her aunt. Her mother died when she was just a little girl. Her aunt didn't allow her to meet her father for she considered him to have a bad influence toward his daughter. And a longing for father's love has brought her to Richard who is John's biological father who committed suicide soon after he was wrongly accused of abetting in a robbery by white police. Elizabeth agreed to marry Gabriel who's the brother of Florence, her co-worker as a domestic servant, for he promised to recognize John as his own son. Gabriel does honor the letter of his promise to Elizabeth to care for the material needs of her illegitimate son, but he refuses to accept or love John, caught as he is in his dream of a regal procession of saints springing from his own loins. However, Elizabeth is very grateful that his poor son turns up to be a good boy and she is very proud of him.

Pampered and protected by his mother, John lavishes his love on her. Ridiculed and rejected by his stepfather, he responds with fierce hatred and longs for his love all at once. Symbolically emasculated by his stepfather, John turns to a slightly older, more virile youth, Elisha, for compensatory affection. Through a religious experience that's described in it's most intimate detail in Part Three John tries to find the answer of his dilemma.