

## **The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature**

By J. Drew Lanham (part 1 of 2, pages 1-107) to be discussed Sept. 3

This book is filled with the author's nostalgia about his childhood. As you read, take note of a few of his memories that remind you of your own childhood.

### Me: An Introduction

1. The author starts with a quote from Frederick Douglass. Who was he? Who was Walt Whitman? (Google will help with this.)
2. Drew lists many titles for himself. What are some of them?
3. On page 6, Drew says that saving wildlife has to be done by "poets, prophets, preachers, professors and presidents." Why do you think he chose those professions?

### The Home Place

4. What wildlife frequented the Home Place? What crops did they grow?
5. What did Drew have a craving to learn? How did he attempt to satisfy that craving?
6. How has Edgefield County discouraged human diversity?
7. Where did Drew spend a large portion of his childhood? How was that place different from his parents' home?
8. In what season does nature speak most clearly to Drew? What does it make him feel like doing?
9. How did Mamatha cook her meals? Why did she prefer that old-fashioned method?
10. What did Drew do to get a closer look at the vultures in the pasture?

### Mamatha Takes Flight

11. What are examples of the latest technology when Mamatha was a girl?

12. Drew takes us through his grandma's life by describing milestones in the history of flight. What are some of them?
13. What was Daddy Joe's WWI experience like?
14. In what ways was Mamatha like a witch?

#### A Good Name

15. Drew's father had Hoover as a middle name. Who was he named for? How did it turn out not to be an auspicious name?
16. What was Hoover's involvement in the Korean War?
17. Drew greatly admires his father. What were some of his dad's interests?
18. What were the 3 basic rules that Hoover enforced? How did he enforce them?
19. In what ways did Drew's mother "move mountains"?

#### A Field Guide to the Four

20. It's believed that birth order determines your personality.  
Oldest = intelligent & ambitious    Youngest = socialite, wandering attention  
Middle = introvert who pleases others  
Does your family follow this pattern? Did Drew's?
21. What was Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic?
22. How was the relationship between Drew and his brother Jock? What did Drew envy in his brother?
23. What did Bug want to do most? Why wasn't she allowed to pursue it?
24. What happened to begin forming a bond between Drew and his sister Jennifer? How did they get out of that predicament?

25. What is the current connection between the Lanham children and the Home Place?

#### First Sunday God

26. What fascinated Drew about Catholicism? What was his baptism experience at Jeter Baptist Church?

27. What did Drew mean when he said, “The church was a kind of social glue”? How did he prefer to worship?

28. What caused Drew’s family to break from Jeter Church? How was Mt. Canaan different?

#### Little Brown Icarus

29. What was Drew’s closest attempt at free flying? Who did Drew think about when he saw birds in flight?

30. Who turned on Drew’s love for identifying birds? Do you have a field guide for birds? How successful are you at identifying birds?