

Chapter 4 – English **Answer KEY**

Comprehension Analysis

1. When was Jack's last time digging up someone's background – which he was considered a failure?
In college when he was researching Cass Mastern
2. Who is Cass Mastern?
Great uncle who lived in poverty and is saved by Gilbert Mastern
3. Read the summary and be able to orally retell the Cass Mastern story.
4. Who is Duncan Trice?
Annabelle's husband and who commits suicide because of the affair
5. What is Cass and Gilbert's association with Jefferson Davis?
Jeff Davis had great influence and was responsible for Cass getting to Transylvania.
6. Why is chapter 4 a pivotal point in the novel?
Everything before it sets the necessary background for The dramatic series of events to unfold
7. What is a frame story?
A story that mirrors the life of Jack Burden (story-within-story)

8. What two purposes does Cass Mastern story serve?
 - a. length parallel to the story of Jack & Willie (foreshadows later events)
 - b. reveals more about Jack's past and mindset and defines the transformation he will go through in future chapters.
9. At the end of the chapter, what time/point-of-view is Jack writing in? Why does he do this?

He narrates his earlier life from the perspective of 1939. He also writes in a later time and explains his past; however, he could not understand Cass Mastern's motivations. During chapter 4, the point of view shifts to Cass for a time.