Witness Study Guide

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11 People

5 Acts- depicting a thoughtful at people and their capacity to both love and hate…

Current Event Connections?

1. Words collected from your review of the KKK Gallery:
2. The characters speak in a series of free verse poems, each having a distinctive voice. What makes this style effective?
3. How do Ester’s speech patterns affect your perceptions of her?
4. Sara says of the Klan: “There’s a kind of power they wield, a deceptive authority.” Why does the Klan burn crosses and hide their identities?
5. Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa said, “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” What does he mean? Why do some in Witness try to remain neutral? Who changes and why?
6. Why did the author choose the word witness as the title for this book? Can you think of a better title?
7. How are Leanora and Esther the same and different?
8. Why is Iris an important character?
9. What part do Viola and Harvey play in the story? Why do we hear their voices together?
10. When does Merlin begin to change his feelings about Leanora? What causes him to begin to fear the Klan rather than be drawn to it?
11. What characters are changed because of their connection to another in their town?

12.Do you think any or all of the events that occurred in this story could happen today? Explain?

1. In what ways can you relate to any of the characters?
2. What lessons can we learn from Witness about ways to counteract prejudice and mistrust?