

Jayber Crow  
by Wendell Berry

Reading Guide  
Chapters 8-13

## Jayber #2 - Chapters 8-13

### Reading Questions

The following reading questions will help you notice important aspects of your reading. The application questions will help you connect your reading to your own life. But don't let them get in the way of actually reading! If you don't have time to write out your answers, just answer them in your head and let them guide your reading.

**Remember: the more you put into this, the more you'll get out of it!**

#### Chapter 8 - The Gathering Waters

1. As Jayber stands on the bridge over the flooding river, he remembers verses from Genesis 1. Why does he do this? How is the flood like a new creation for him?
2. Why does it take Jayber so long to find help and shelter?
3. Who helps Jayber Crow finally come to Port William? What advice does he give Jayber?

#### Chapter 9 - Barber Horsefield's Successor

4. What kind of person is Burley Coulter? What odd impulses does he have?
5. What kind of person is Mat Feltner? How does Jayber describe the way Mat looks at a person?

6. How does Jayber feel when he purchases the barbershop? Why does he feel this way?

### **Chapter 10 - A Little Worter Drinking Party**

7. Who invites Jayber to the Worter Drinking Party? Who makes Jayber feel welcome when he arrives?

8. Why is this gathering called a “worter drinking party”? What happens to Burley after Jayber has become an accepted part of the party?

9. Who is Cecelia Overlord? In what two ways does she hurt Jayber?

**Application for Chs. 8-10:** These three chapters explain the process Jayber goes through to enter the society of Port William. This process is quick and Jayber finds warm hospitality. But how is it also very costly for Jayber? What is the advantage of this cost for Jayber? Think of the times when you've entered into new communities: did you go through a similar process as Jayber? Was it also costly?

## **Chapter 11 - An Invisible Web**

1. How does Jayber feel about his customers? How does he describe his duty toward them?
2. What does Jayber do with his backyard? What fascinates him about this activity?
3. Why does Jayber feel a sense of loss after coming to Port William? What is the “invisible web” he discusses?

## **Chapter 12 - The Gay Bird's Heel**

4. What kind of person is Mattie Keith, according to Jayber? How does he describe Troy Chatham?
5. How does Mattie's father feel about Troy? How does Jayber know this?
6. How does Jayber realize he is “involved” in the growing relationship between Mattie and Troy? How does he characterize his action of looking through the messages written in Mattie's textbook?

