APPENDICES

Appendix I

James Baldwin’s Biography and works

Early life

Writer and playwright James Baldwin was born August 2, 1924, in Harlem, New York. One of the 20th century's greatest writers, Baldwin broke new literary ground with the exploration of racial and social issues in his many works. He was especially well known for his essays on the black experience in America.

Baldwin was born to a young single mother, Emma Jones, at Harlem Hospital. She reportedly never told him the name of his biological father. Jones married a Baptist minister named David Baldwin when James was about three years old. Despite their strained relationship, he followed in his stepfather's footsteps—that he always referred to as his father—during his early teen years. He served as a youth minister in a Harlem Pentecostal church from the ages of 14 to 16.

Baldwin developed a passion for reading at an early age, and demonstrated a gift for writing during his school years. He attended DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, where he worked on the school's magazine with future famous photographer Richard Avedon. He published numerous poems, short stories, and plays in the magazine, and his early work showed an understanding for sophisticated literary devices in a writer of such a young age.

After graduating high school in 1942, he had to put his plans for college on hold to help support his family, which included seven younger children. He took
whatever work he could find, including laying railroad track for the U.S. Army in New Jersey. During this time, Baldwin frequently encountered discrimination, being turned away from restaurants, bars, and other establishments because he was African-American. After being fired from the New Jersey job, Baldwin sought other work and struggled to make ends meet.

At that time, Baldwin met many artists and writers who frequented William's restaurant. He also began his search for his sexual identity by having a number of one-night affairs with men but also continuing to have relationships with women. During his teenage years in Harlem and Greenwich Village, Baldwin started to realize that he was homosexual. He met and fell in love with a man named Eugene Worth. Afraid of losing a friendship by revealing his true feelings, Baldwin never expressed his love. Unfortunately, Worth committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge after making an oblique comment about the possibility that he was in love with Baldwin. James never recovered from the loss of his friend.

In 1948, disillusioned by American prejudice against blacks and homosexuals, Baldwin left the United States and departed to Paris, France. His flight was not just a desire to distance him from American prejudice. He fled in order to see himself and his writing beyond an African American context and to be read as not "merely a Negro; or, even, merely a Negro writer" Also, he left the United States desiring to come to terms with his sexual ambivalence and flee the hopelessness that many young African American men like himself succumbed to in New York.

James Baldwin commonly are inspired by their own life experiences, the places where they lived, the people they have met, and take all that knowledge,
feelings: happiness, rage, frustration their own life battles and reflect it on their work. He was a man who fought for civil rights, homosexual equality mainly because he was a black person. In those times blacks were in disadvantage and mistreated so James Baldwin recurred to books and stories to express about the dilemmas and social pressure that where happening those days. One of Baldwin's richest short stories, "Sonny's Blues", appears in many anthologies of short fiction used in introductory college literature classes. James Baldwin wrote this story based on what he lived; his battles like his neighborhood, the color of his skin and his views on life, what he learned from it and especially in this story what family means in rough times, its value.

Trying to seek a relationship between the story Sonny’s Blues and James Baldwin is more depth, analyzing the story itself. Not just because James is the author of this short story but, he tries to send a message from it. In this story, we can see that Sonny more like a guy who pursuit his dreams no matter what really happened. He uses his music as an expression just like James did with his writings about social aspects. How blacks were discriminated, like in the moment his father was killed by white people without any reason. An incident that may happen in real life because in those times there was a very tension environment and he could write it in his book like an important event. In the story Sonny is a drug abuser but the passing of time he gets rehabilitated and controls his addictions. In James life, his real father was the drug abuser and maybe he wrote down what he wanted to happen in his life as Sonny. In December 1987, at age sixty-three, Baldwin died of stomach cancer at his home in the south of France.
SOME WORKS OF JAMES BALDWIN

1. **Novels**:  
   - Go Tell It on the Mountain (1952)  
   - Giovanni's Room (1956)  
   - Another Country (1962)  
   - Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone (1968)  
   - If Beale Street Could Talk (1974)  
   - Just Above My Head (1979)

2. **Plays**:  
   - The Amen Corner (1968)  
   - Blues for Mister Charlie

3. **Short story collections**:  
   - Going to Meet the Man (1964)  
   - "The Rockpile"  
   - "The Outing" (1951)  
   - "The Man Child"  
   - "Previous Condition"  
   - "Sonny's Blues" (1957)  
   - "This Morning, This Evening, So Soon"  
   - "Come Out the Wilderness"  
   - "Going to Meet the Man"

4. **Poetry collection**:  
   - Jimmy's Blues

5. **Essay collections**:  
   - Notes of a Native Son (1956)  
   - "Everybody's Protest Novel" (1949)  
   - "Many Thousands Gone" (1951)  
   - The Fire Next Time (1963)  
   - No Name in the Street  
   - The Devil Finds Work  
   - The Evidence of Things Not Seen  
   - The Price of the Ticket

6. **Collaborations**:  
   - Nothing personal  
   - A Rap on Race  
   - One day when I was lostS  
   - A Dialogue  
   - Little Man Little Man: A Story of Child
Appendix II

Summary of *Sonny's Blues* Short Story

The unnamed narrator of the story discovers from a newspaper that his younger brother, Sonny, has been arrested for selling and using heroin. As he prepares to teach his algebra class, the narrator remembers Sonny as a young boy. His students, he realizes, could someday end up like Sonny, given the obstacles and hardships they face growing up in Harlem. At the end of the school day, the narrator heads home, but he notices that one of Sonny's old friends, who is always high and dirty, is waiting for him by the school. The two men walk together, talking about Sonny. The narrator simultaneously hates and pities Sonny's friend, who, despite his problems, makes it painfully clear to the narrator just how difficult Sonny's drug-addicted life has been and how difficult it will continue to be.

Time passes, but the narrator never writes to Sonny in prison until the narrator's young daughter, Grace, dies. Sonny writes a long letter back to his brother in which he tries to explain how he ended up where he is. The two brothers then stay in constant communication. When Sonny gets out of jail, the narrator is there for him. He takes Sonny back to his own family's apartment.

In an extended flashback, the narrator recalls how Sonny and their father used to fight with each other because they were so similar in spirit. He remembers the last day he saw his mother while on leave from the army, when she told him to watch out for his brother. She told him that when his father was a young man, he watched his
own brother get run down by a car full of white men who never bothered to stop. The experience traumatized and damaged the narrator's father for the rest of his life.

After that conversation with his mother, the narrator went back into the army and didn't think about his brother again until their mother died. After the funeral, the two brothers sat and talked about Sonny's future. Sonny told his brother about his dream of becoming a jazz pianist, which the narrator dismissed. The narrator arranged for Sonny to live with his wife's family until Sonny graduated from college. Sonny reluctantly agreed to do so. He didn't want to live in the house and spent all his spare time playing the piano. Although Sonny loved the music, the rest of family had a hard time bearing his constant practicing.

While living with his sister-in-law, Sonny got into trouble for skipping school. He tried to hide the truancy letters, but one eventually made it to the house. When his sister-in-law's mother confronted him, Sonny admitted to spending all his time in Greenwich Village, hanging out with musicians. The two fought, and Sonny realized what a burden he'd been on the family. After two days, Sonny joined the navy. The narrator didn't know whether Sonny was dead or alive until he received a postcard from Greece. After the war, the two brothers returned to New York, but they didn't see each other for quite some time. When they eventually met, they fought about Sonny's decisions in life. After one especially difficult fight, Sonny told his brother that he could consider him dead from that point on. The narrator walked away, telling himself that one day Sonny would need his help. The flashback ends there.
After having Sonny lives with him for a few weeks, the narrator debates whether he should search Sonny's room. As he paces back and forth, he sees a street-corner revival occurring outside his window and thinks about its significance. Eventually Sonny comes home and invites his brother to watch him perform later that evening. The two brothers go to a small jazz club where everyone knows and respects Sonny. Sonny and the band get on stage and play, and as they play, the narrator watches Sonny struggle with the music. He watches his entire brother's struggles come pouring out as he plays, and only then does he finally realize who Sonny is and what he's made of.