Part I

Discussion Questions: Use specific evidence to answer questions. (5 pts. Each)

1. Who is the narrator of the story and in what form is his story told to the reader? What important decision does his parents make and what are his first feelings about that decision? What disturbing information does he learn about the arriving foster child and how does that information change his feelings?

2. In your own words summarize how the four kids end up in court. Explain the reaction of Steve's parents when they get the news. What makes their reaction worse than it might have been? In your own words, briefly summarize the judge's decision in the case.

3. Why was the Micheaux House for Senior Citizens going to be closed down and why were the kids needed to work there? What are the three depressing things that Steve writes about in his July 3rd entry? What skill does Eileen Lardner have and what conclusion does she reach about the future of Micheaux House?

4. Give two examples from the July 14th entry that prove that Earl is getting along better with both Steve and London Brown. What is the problem that Steve is struggling with at the end of the July 14th entry? How is Twimsy, his diary, making this conflict worse for Steve instead of better?

5. In the family's discussion about Earl (July 15th), Steve learns that there were really two reasons that his parents decided to adopt a child. One had to do with giving and the other had to do with getting something in return. Explain why Steve's parents think that Earl isn't working out for both reasons.

6. In the July 21st diary entry, Steve discusses the plans that the residents of Micheaux House have made. For each part of the plan, list who is involved and summarize how they intend to make money:
   a. fast-food
   b. store-front cleaning
   c. floor waxing
   d. maintenance and bookkeeping

7. Several times in the story, Micheaux House is compared to the juvenile home in which Earl used to stay (pages 95, 96, 106, 110, and 117). How is life the same for the residents of both places?
8. Steve was frightened by the visit from the youth worker, but Earl was angry. Explain why Steve and Earl had such different reactions. What important thing did Steve learn about Earl's past in the August 9th diary entry? How does that affect Steve’s feelings about Earl?

9. At the end of the August 29th entry, Steve explains that he has learned something important about judging other people, like the seniors, Earl's mother, and Earl. In your own words, explain what it is that Steve has learned.

10. Briefly summarize what happened to each senior after the Micheaux House closed down.

Part II Literature Questions: Write a 1-2 paragraph response to answer each of the following questions. Make sure each paragraph has a clearly stated topic sentence. Make sure you use textual evidence to support your answers. Use complete sentences, spelling, punctuation, and grammar count. (25 points each)

A. There are many examples in the novel, Won't Know Till I Get There, of Steve expecting people to act in a certain way and then finding out that they are really very different. Choose three such examples from the novel and explain in detail the difference between Steve’s expectations about people and the reality.

B. Our society does not treat senior citizens with the respect and understanding that they deserve. Give three specific examples from the novel that support this point of view. Explain how each example proves that elderly people are not treated fairly.