Characterization And Relationships:

Madame Clothilde and David's Relationship -
PAGES 52-59
1. Why does David introduce Madame Clothilde as a person that is “unable to focus their eyes until they came to rest on the cash register” (Baldwin 51)?

David and his Father-
PAGE 92-93
1. Look at the passage “Is it a woman, David? Bring her home. I don’t care who she is. Bring her home and I’ll help you set up […] an answer in the negative would have revealed what strangers we had become” (Baldwin 91). What does “strangers” mean in terms of their relationship?
2. Do you think David has begun to resemble his father?

David and the Italian Caretaker -
PAGE 65-69
1. In what ways does she mirror Giovanni’s perspective of Hella? How does Giovanni view the Italian caretaker?
2. Why does David act so cautious around the caretaker?

Symbols/Other
1. What types of symbols are portrayed throughout Giovanni’s bedroom as it is described in the text?

America vs France

*Please keep in mind: France decriminalized homosexuality in 1791 where as it was illegal in the US until 2003 (yes that is really messed up, so much for “freedom”).*

PAGES 89-91
1. Read the passage “When Giovanni wanted to know that he was displeased with me…” (Baldwin 89).

2. Why does David seem to hate the fact that he is American? Does this relate to how he also won't accept his sexuality?

Truth- *David as an Unreliable Character*
PAGE 77, 87-88
1. Why does Giovanni stay with David if he knows he’s going to leave him? Why does David claim that Giovanni already knew about Hella when in reality, David had put off telling Giovanni about her?
2. Why does David sleep with Sue? What does the line “what I did with Giovanni could not possibly be more immoral than what I was about to do with Sue” imply about how he views what he is doing with Sue? What does it imply about how he views sex with Giovanni? (Baldwin 99)

**Gender Roles - Women and Men**

PAGES 88-89

1. David enjoys cleaning up after Giovanni, and while he is away David makes a point of tidying up after him. However, David readily denies that he is able to fill the role of a woman as they are the only ones that can truly be “housewives.” What do you make of this?

**Hella’s and David’s Relationship -**

1. In what ways is Hella’s and David’s relationship defined? Could readers infer that it’s a strained relationship or a close one?

2. What are the contents of Hella’s letter? How does David respond after he receives the letter from Hella? What are the future implications of their relationship and Giovanni?

**Giovanni and David -**

PAGES 80-81 PAGES 99-101

1. How does Giovanni view women? In particular Hella as a wife for David?

**Sexuality**

**Jaques’ and David’s Relationship -**

PAGES 54-57

1. Why is David so repulsed by Jacques? In what ways is Jacques a reflection of David’s true identity?

2. In what ways can readers interpret Jacques exploitations as a foreshadowing? Why Jacques so insistent and supportive of David’s romantic endeavors with men? Specifically Giovanni?

**Guillaume and Giovanni’s Relationship -**

1. How did Giovanni get his job as waiter? How do Guillaume’s and Giovanni’s past sexual encounter set up Giovanni’s outlook on sex? And how is this different from David’s?

PAGE 77

2. Why do you think Guillaume dislikes David?