

The River Between Chapters 1-15

I. Joshua beating his wife (p. 31)

A. Possible Motivations

- How is it the Justice of God to beat his wife?
- Maybe shown as a parallel to the Greek gods, as in appeasing the gods by beating his wife
- Joshua's release of his anger that he had been misled in his youth by participating in circumcision
- Misunderstanding the interpretations of God
- Penance to his wife for being circumcised, although he overlooks the fact that he himself was circumcised.
- Joshua wants his family to be an example for the rest of the community

II. Education to the hills as a contamination of the culture

A. Explanations

- Poses a threat to the people, a static way of life cannot stay static if new perspectives are introduced
- Will this change be good or bad?

III. Theme: Coming of Age as compared to our culture

A. Comparing now and then

- Coming of Age then was a set event; circumcision
- There is no set event in today's day
- There is a series of events that add up to our coming of age
- Independence could be seen as our coming of age
- Did American lose something when we spread out the coming of age to an indefinite period of time

IV. Second Birth and Circumcision

A. Comparison

- Two coming of age events
- Do you have to earn the titles, or are they given regardless?
- Making it through circumcision is like making it through college