*Desire Under the Elms* – Part I

1. Characters
   1. Eben:
   2. Ephraim:
   3. Simeon:
   4. Peter:
   5. Abbie:
2. Dialect
   1. Purty
   2. Ay-eh
   3. I rec’lect
   4. Hoss
   5. Yaller
   6. Wuked
3. What does Eben reflect on in the opening of the play?
4. Why do the brothers’ shoulders stoop so much?
5. Who did Peter say was making them dig up stone walls to fence them in?
6. How do all the sons feel about their father?

Scene 2

1. Dialect
   1. Indians’ll skulp ye
   2. Hain’t
   3. A good stepmaw’s scurse
2. What did Simeon and Peter give as reasons they prevent their mother from being enslaved?
3. What is the influence of his mother on Eben? How does he expect to enable her to rest in her grave?
4. Why, according to Simeon, had their father left?
5. Who is Min?

Scene 3

1. Dialect
   1. A fa’r trade
   2. Dunno
   3. Vittles
   4. Stringin ye
   5. A true and faithful he’pmeet
   6. Wuk a lik
   7. Go t’ blazes
2. Where had Eben gone away to all night?
3. To what were they toasting drinks of whiskey?
4. What makes the brothers actually decide to go to California?
5. Why did Eben give Peter and Simeon money?
6. What is Eben’s attitude toward love?

Scene 4

1. Dialect
   1. ‘t hoss us round over
   2. The cows air bellerin’
   3. We be ‘t hum
   4. Likker don’t pear ‘t set right
   5. We harby ‘bolishes
   6. Pizened the stock
2. Peter warns Abbie not to say something to Eben. What is it?
3. What is the meaning of Simeon and Peter’s throwing stones?
4. What did Abbie say about her own mother?
5. Do you feel sympathy for Abbie and her motives in marrying Cabot?
6. What kind of God was Cabot’s?