***Uncle Jed’s Barbershop* by Margaret King Mitchell**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Uncle Jed is important to his community because he provides a valuable service. What service does Uncle Jed produce?

*Uncle Jed cuts hair, and he is the only barber for miles around who will cut the hair of black people.*

1. Uncle Jed uses many capital resources in order to cut hair. What are some of his capital resources (or tools)?

*A short brush, clippers, and scissors are capital resources. (Soap and lotion are not because they are goods that can be used up.)*

1. Uncle Jed wants to have a barbershop one day. The shop is his savings goal. How will Uncle Jed reach his goal?

*He will keep working and saving some of the money he earns.*

1. Why did the father have to travel so far to get Sarah Jean to the hospital?

*They had a scarcity of doctors and hospitals to treat people who were ill.*

1. The doctors would not help Sarah Jean even though she was very sick until her father paid them $300. Did Sarah Jean’s father have enough money? What could he do to save his daughter?

*Sarah Jean’s father does not have the money for the operation, so he asks Uncle Jed to help.*

1. Uncle Jed had to choose how to use the money he saved. He could build his barbershop or help Sarah Jean. What was his choice and what was his opportunity cost?

*Uncle Jed chooses to help Sarah Jean. His opportunity cost is being able to open his barbershop sooner with his savings.*

1. Does Uncle Jed give up his savings goal after he helps Sarah Jean? What does he do to reach his goal?

*Uncle Jed does not give up his goal; he begins to save again from the money he earns until he can afford the land and the cost of the building.*

1. Uncle Jed has enough money for the land and the shop but he still doesn’t have enough money for all the capital resources he needs. What does he still need money to buy?

*Uncle Jed cannot afford to buy the capital resources he needs for his shop—barber chairs and equipment.*

1. Uncle Jed kept all his savings in a bank. We know that nowadays, banks are a very safe places to keep our money. But during the time this story takes place, most banks didn’t have insurance to protect the money they held. What happened to Uncle Jed’s money when the Great Depression hit in the 1930s?

*The banks closed, and he lost all the money he had saved.*

1. Did Uncle Jed give up on his savings goal after he lost his money in the bank failure? What made it even harder for him to save money now?

*Uncle Jed did not give up. But most people had very little money during the Great Depression so they could not pay Uncle Jed in money.*

1. When there wasn’t any money, how did people pay Uncle Jed for his services? Was he able to save?

*They bartered for his services with food they grew and raised such as vegetables and eggs. Uncle Jed could not save eggs and carrots like he saved money.*

1. When people were able to pay Uncle Jed money for cutting hair, what did he do with the money he earned?

*He began to save some of the money he earned so that he could get the barbershop he dreamed of having.*

1. Did Uncle Jed reach his goal? How did his customers react to the new business?

*Uncle Jed did get his beautiful shiny shop and his customers were happy to come to the shop and pay him for haircuts.*

1. Uncle Jed was an entrepreneur. Can anyone tell me what that is and how Uncle Jed was an entrepreneur?

*An entrepreneur is someone who takes a risk to start a new business or bring a new product to market. Uncle Jed took a risk that enough people would come to his shop for haircuts that it would cover all his expenses and have some profit for himself.*