Sometimes in April

1. Look for a visual symbol of the genocide in the opening scene of Augustin's classroom. What is it? Hint: check out the faces.
2. Look for an irony in the rap song the students are listening to on a boom box after the class. What is it?
3. In "Sometimes in April," the leader of the Rwandan government army during the genocide reminds a U.S. State Department official that Rwanda has no oil and no natural resources. Why did he say this?
4. The scene in "Sometimes in April" in which the Hutu girls in the classroom at the Catholic school choose to risk death and refuse to be separated from their Tutsi classmates recalls an actual event. Virtually all of the girls were killed. Why did they do this?
5. All genocides are gruesome. What was the special and particular horror of the Rwandan genocide compared to the Nazi extermination of six million Jews and six million Gypsies, Russian prisoners of war, Poles, the handicapped, and their political opponents?
6. Honore said, "When I finally realized that I was an actor in this tragedy I chose not to live with that. I thought death would bring me peace. I was wrong. Only the truth can ease my guilt." What did he mean?
7. What was the role of the civil war in setting the conditions in which the genocide could occur?
8. Give some of the code words broadcast over the radio at the start of the genocide.

One page response

Remember the priest who cooperated with the Hutu officials and helped them cull the people seeking refuge in his church? He justified his conduct by saying "I do not have the power to change this situation." Did he act correctly?