***O Brother Where Art Thou?***

**Parallels to:**

**Homer’s *The Odyssey***

**Ulysses**- Latin form of the Greek name Odysseus (Ulysses Everett McGill)

**Menelaus “Pappy” O’Daniel**- Menelaus was the King of Sparta

**Homer Stokes**- Homer (author of *The Odyssey*)

**Penny**- Shortened form of Penelope (Odysseus’ wife)

**Song, “Man of Constant Sorrows”**- Odysseus was the man of many sorrows

**Women washing clothes in the river**- Represent the Sirens (dangerous and devious creatures that lured sailors in with their singing. They also correspond to the witch Circe, who turns men into animals. In addition there is a maiden named Nausicaa who Odysseus encounters on the beach doing laundry.

**Railroad Hobo**- Tiresias (blind ghost prophet)

**Big Dan Teague**- Cyclops

**Everett’s speaking abilities**- Odysseus was well known for using his cleverness and speaking skills to get out tough situations.

**“My Hair, My Hair”**- Odysseus would often fall asleep on his journey and suffer misfortune.

**Vernon T. Wells**- Odysseus’ wife finding another man

**KKK**- Represent the sheep that Odysseus hides amongst from the Cyclops.

**Hay barn**- Represents the cave

**Blind Radio Station owner**- Represents Homer who is also blind.

**George Nelson**- Proteus, who is shape-changing, just like George’s mood.

**Sheriff**- Poseidon (giant hay fork=trident) (dogs- Cerberus, 3 headed watch dog), the sheriff also represents Hades, the ruler of the underworld.

**Trance-like people getting baptized**- Lotus eaters

**“Oh, George, not the livestock”**- Odysseus warns his men not to kill sacred oxen. Odysseus’ ship is struck by lightning because of this (George is going to get the electric chair.)

**LATIN TERMS**

**Pater Familias**- Father of the family

**Succubus**- swearword for “lady that gets around;” a female demon that sleeps with men while they sleep

**Bona fide**- made with earnest intent

**Fornicate**- make love