Name:

***The Rock and the River* Reading Check**

**“Chapters 17, 18 and 19”**

**Directions:** Choose ***six*** out of the following seven questions to answer in ***complete sentences*.** If you answer more than eight questions, I may not have time to read all your answers. You can and should ***use your book***.

1. Why did Sam believe testifying “wouldn’t be enough” to get Bucky released? (237) You may want to consider what he says on 237 and what he notices about the jury on 236.
2. When police start to flash their sirens at Raheem as he drives everyone back to their neighborhood, why does Raheem tell Stick to look at the speedometer?
3. Explain what makes Sam think, “Until then, I had never known such anger, the kind of coiling rage that slid sharp through my gut. I had never known how much one moment could hurt.” (246)
4. Why does Sam start questioning why he testified, if there was even a point? (Look at the beginning of Chapter 18.)

OVER

1. What is Raheem talking about when he says, “Tell a story a certain way enough times, and you start to believe it”? ( 249) What does he mean by that?
2. When Sam is thinking about everything that’s happened--to Bucky, his dad, Stick-- why does he think, “It should have been me. I deserved it, I deserved it all”? (257) Why would he think he deserves everything that’s happened?
3. What is Sam’s motivation for destroying the last part of the block tower?

This is not a question, so you don’t have to answer. It’s a head’s up so you can start to think about it. I am going to assign you a character: Sam, Stick, Roland, or Marjorie (the mom). WIth a small group, your job will be two choose three quotes you think helps to understand who that character truly is and who and what they value most. You will also be asked to come up with a picture to symbolize that character.