



## **SAMPLE**

One example of racism demonstrated in the novel is the violence against African Americans who attempted to receive the rights granted to them by the Civil Rights Act. Rosaleen, Lily's nanny and stand-in mother, tries to register to vote—something she legally should be allowed to do. On her way to town, three racist men taunt her, and when she pours tobacco spit on their shoes, they call the police (Kidd 14). Later when Lily goes to rescue Rosaleen, she finds her in the hospital, badly beaten because the three men were allowed into the jail to beat her (Kidd 20). This type of violence was very common in the U.S. when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964, the same year in which this book is set (“Civil Rights 101”). In fact, a year later when there was a march to support voting rights in Alabama, state troopers “mounted on horses and swinging clubs and firing tear gas” attacked the marchers. This day was eventually called “Bloody Sunday” due to the horrible acts of violence committed against innocent men and women who were demonstrating peacefully (“Civil Rights 101”). This proves Kidd's description of the attack on Rosaleen for wanting to vote is representative of actual racial violence in 1964.