The Whistle Stop Café as a challenge to the Jim Crow bipartition of society in Fannie Flagg's Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café

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Summary/Abstract: The American South's social order, based as it was on white supremacy and subordination of women, is reflected in the space of the café in Fannie Flagg's Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café. The titular café run by two white women, Idgie Threadgoode and Ruth Jamison, becomes a site of contestation of that very social order. In the early 1930s Idgie and Ruth, the main heroines in Flagg's novel, move out of their respective homes into the back of the café, which will offer its
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Fannie Flagg. Random House (2012). Whistle Stop, Alabama, a Southern kind of Cafe Wobegon offering good barbecue and good coffee and all kinds of love and laughter, even an occasional murder. And as the past unfolds, the present—for Evelyn and for us—will never be quite the same again Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe. Fannie Flagg. Random House (2012). Folksy and fresh, endearing and affecting, Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe is the now-classic novel of two women in the 1980s; of
gray-headed Mrs. Threadgoode telling her life story to Evelyn, who is in the sad slump of middle age. The tale she tells is also of two women—of the irrepressibly daredevilish tomboy Idgie and her friend Ruth—who back in the thirties ran a little place in. Whistle Stop is the name of a very small town in rural Alabama on one of the main trunks of several railroads. Ruth and Idgie's story takes place in the early 1900's in and around the cafe that they own. Using flashbacks, Flagg re-creates these women's lives and experiences from the flapper era of the 1920's to the women's movement of the 1960's and 1970's. Big George and his mother Sipsey are the African Americans who have the responsibility of taking care of Idgie's family. They are the household help that are part of the family. As the story continues readers learn about Big George's family.