

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# ***Batman: The Killing Joke***

## **Discussion Questions**

**Directions:** Read each question. Answer in full sentences. Must be at least 5 sentences.

1. What happens in the Joker's life to make him turn to crime?
2. Why does the Joker target Barbara Gordon?
3. Why is this story entitled *The Killing Joke*?
4. What did you know about the Joker before reading this story? Did revelations about his past change your perception of the character?
5. How do Bolland's coloring techniques and use of reds between the present and past help the story?

6. What would have happened to the Joker if he had decided not to go through with the crimes he committed in his past? Would he have become the villain he is today? Explain your reasoning.

7. Considering the Joker's "one bad day" theory, do you think Batman could have become a villain like the Joker? Why or why not?

8. Read this quote: "I'm not crazy my reality is just different than yours." -Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Define the word "crazy."

Do you believe the Joker is "crazy" or justified in his actions? Explain why or not?

9. Critics argue that Batman and the Joker are mirror images of each other in terms of their tragic pasts. Do you agree? How are they similar? How do they differ?
10. What are the roles of women in *The Killing Joke*, and how do they shape your understanding of the story?
11. *The Killing Joke* is considered by many to be one of the best Batman stories ever told. Why do you think this is?
12. The ending of *The Killing Joke* has been a major point of controversy and debate. What do you think happened between Batman and the Joker? Explain why you think this way.