DISCUSSION Qs MX

1. Who is Elijah Muhammad? Nation of Islam? What was “electrical effect” of receiving Elijah Muhammad’s letter on Malcolm X?
2. Malcolm X writes about bending his knees. Why? What is the symbolism of bending his knees? What inner change is happening?
3. Who does he Write Letters to (3 different groups)?
4. MX writes: It was because of my letters that I happened to stumble upon starting to acquire a kind of **homemade education**. . . . “Look, daddy, let me pull your coat about a cat, Elijhah Muhammad.” What is the significance of this quote. Translate that last quote about Elijah Muhammad into regular English. Then why did he write this quote into his essay?
5. Why does he describe Bimbi? Then, describe Malcolm X’s act of “book-reading motions”?
6. What steps did MX take to learn to read?

FOCUS ON FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

1. The hardest test I ever faced …. I didn’t know what to say to Allah.
2. It was because of my letter writing that I happened to stumble up on starting to acquire some kind of a homemade education. . . . “Look daddy, let me pull your coat about a cat, Elijah Muhammad.”
3. Par 9: Let me tell you something: From . . . I hever had been so truly free in my life.”
4. Par 12: When I had progressed to really serious reading, every night about ten PM. . . Often in years in the streets I had slept less than that.”
5. Par 15. As I see it today, the ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive. . . . What’s your alma mater? I told him, “Books.”

Define dormant, alma mater

1. I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity – because you can hardly mention anything I’m not curious about…. Fifteen hours a day.