“Under the Influence” Scott Russell Sanders

Discussion Questions- record in notebook

1. Why does Greeley Ray Sanders drink? Consider those moments in the essay when Sanders seems ready to give an answer. Does he—or does he resist a final explanation?
2. What parallels does Sanders see between his own life as a workaholic and his father’s as an alcoholic? What are the differences between father and son? Why might Sanders want to draw parallels, even though the differences are significant?
3. Is alcoholism a “public scourge” as Sanders suggests in paragraph 8? Why or why not?