

Scat- Chapters 5-8

Vocabulary:

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| ___ 1. Culprits | a. Guessed |
| ___ 2. Evacuated | b. Doubtful |
| ___ 3. Surmised | c. Wrongdoers |
| ___ 4. Tolerable | d. Shared |
| ___ 5. Elated | e. Removed |
| ___ 6. Skeptical | f. Frightened |
| ___ 7. Intimidated | g. Bearable |
| ___ 8. Collective | h. Overjoyed |

Questions:

1. How did the Truman School get its name?
2. Why does Dr. Dressler have hopes that Mrs. Starch is all right? Why does he still have some nagging doubts?
3. When the deputy implies that Smoke might be involved in setting the wildfire, why does Nick fail to tell her about the videotape?

4. Why do the police officers conclude that the fire in the swamp was arson?
5. Why doesn't Dr. Dressler believe Mrs. Starch's excuse for requesting a leave of absence?
6. Why does Mrs. Winthrop have mixed feelings about Duane Sr.?
7. How does Nick's father react to his injury of his family?
8. How does the discovery of Mrs. Starch's outgoing phone message affect the case?
9. Why does Drake McBride fear that someone will see a panther?
10. Why does Nick wrap his arm and decide to do everything left-handed? What does this suggest about him?

11. Why are Nick and Marta surprised to see Wendell Waxmo as their substitute teacher?

Discussion Question:

1. Do you think there is any evidence in Mrs. Starch's house to suggest that she is mentally unbalanced or in danger?
2. From what you have read so far, do you think Mrs. Starch is alive and unharmed?
3. Would you be amused or upset to have Wendell Waxmo as a substitute teacher?
4. Why do you think the author jumps so much from person to person and situation to situation? What is the effect of this technique?

Literary Devices:

Onomatopoeia- Onomatopoeia is the use of a word that imitates a sound. Some examples are the words "snap," "crackle," and "pop." Underline the examples of onomatopoeia in each of the following sentences adapted from novel.

a. Dr. Dressler was uncomfortable in such an untamed place, far from the comforting clatter and clang of civilization.

b. The keys clunked the vermin on the head.

c. Mrs. Winthrop rapped sharply on the screen door and barked her grandson's name.

d. Duane Sr. rose with a squeak from the chair while his macaw chirped loudly.

Cliffhanger- a cliffhanger is a device borrowed from silent serialized films in which an episode at a moment of heightened tension or suspense. In a book it usually appears at the end of a chapter to encourage the reader to continue the reader to continue on the book.

What is the cliffhanger at the end of Chapter 8?

Humor in a story is the quality that makes you laugh aloud or smile. Even though this novel deals with some serious topics, there is humor throughout. Sometimes absurdity or exaggeration can create humor. Wendell Waxmo, for example, is a humorous character. What is funny about him?
