



Synopsis

Miguel Chavez, twelve-year-old son of a large sheep-herding family in Los Cordovas near Taos, New Mexico, bides his time and lives overshadowed by his silly baby sister, Faustina, complacent little brother, Pedro, and super-successful older brother, Gabriel, while hiding a great secret—his desire to accompany the men to the Mountains of the Sangre de Cristo where they pasture the Chavez flock for the summer.

His grandfather, called the Padre (“Father”) de Chavez because he established the family’s sheep business and secured a government permit to use the mountain pasture, reminds Miguel of the great family heritage, coming all the way from their ancestors in Spain. Yet he and the other family members are too busy to listen when Miguel tries to express his wish to take part in their traditional profession.

At first, Miguel keeps his secret to himself, but eventually he tells Faustina and Pedro about his plan. The children pester Miguel, who works busily to impress his father, Blas, and his older brothers, Blasito and Gabriel, with his dedication to the job of shepherding. During lambing season, he makes himself useful by marking the pairs—ewe and lamb—with numbers for easy identification. For his trouble he earns the name of “bookkeeper.”

A storm causes the loss of part of Blasito’s flock. By chance, Miguel learns from his friend Juby, who chased a missing cow that same evening, that the dozen lost sheep are in Arroyo Hondo. Miguel races from the schoolyard in midmorning, searches the mesa until late afternoon, and considers running away from home before he smells the sheep. Still carrying his school books and limping from a stone in his shoe, he hustles the animals back toward Los Cordovas, stopping to pick up lamb number 119, which lies down.

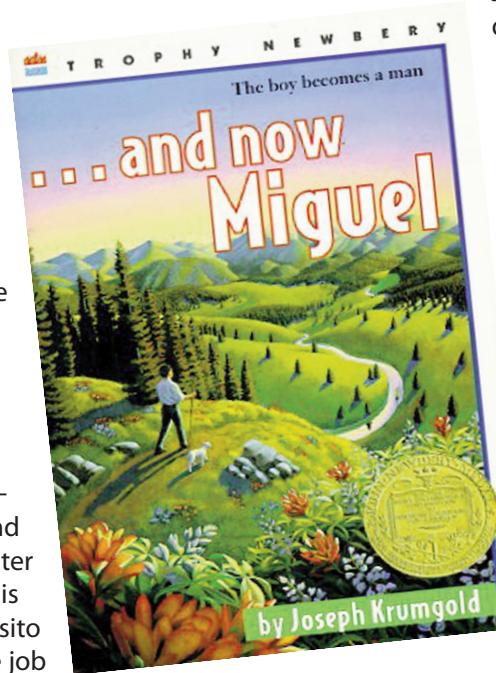
The passage goes smoothly, even the crossing of the river. Blasito is overjoyed that Miguel has saved his family the loss of the sheep. Miguel tries to narrate his story, but his grandfather and father ignore his efforts, forcing him again into frustration. Still, he earns a handshake and a compliment from Grandfather, who calls him a “real pastor (*shepherd*).”

Buoyed by his feat, Miguel interrupts his father, who is helping Blasito fix the tractor, and asks for a real job for the summer. His father agrees that he deserves the job. Miguel presses to be included in the trek to the summer pasture. His father’s firm “No!” extinguishes Miguel’s hopes. Instead, Blas assigns Miguel to tend Jimmy, the orphan sheep the girls have been caring for.

In despair, Miguel turns to San Ysidro, the patron saint of farmers and of the village of Los Cordovas. On festival day, May 15, Miguel finds no opportunity to plead his case during Vespers or the next day at Mass. In the fields when the family kneels to pray before the newly-carved figure of San Ysidro, Miguel makes a long prayer for the saint to intercede and grant his wish.

After the fiesta, things begin to change. To Miguel’s amazement, Blas asks Miguel’s opinion about collecting the flock and about designing a chute for the pens. Miguel tries hard to please his father, particularly when Johnny Marquez and the other shearers come from Colorado to harvest the wool. Miguel sweeps the shearing floor and earns the nickname Twister for his brisk actions. At mealtime, Miguel is pleased to be invited to sit with the other men.

In the afternoon, disaster strikes when Miguel mans the huge burlap bag into which he stuffs bound fleeces. When he steps onto the top layer to press it down, Miguel falls in and drops slowly to the bottom of the sack. At first, the packing goes on above him until the



workers notice his absence. Blas stops work and angrily retrieves Miguel from the sack. Johnny tries to restore Miguel's spirits, but Miguel is inconsolable. Humiliated, he and Jimmy wander off to the river.

Miguel's luck changes a second time. Faustina comes for Miguel while he is fishing and announces that he is going with the others to take the sheep into the mountains. Miguel, believing Faustina is teasing him, races back to the sheds and finds the whole family discussing a new development—Gabriel's induction letter from the draft board.

In confusion, Miguel goes into the fields at dusk and prays to San Ysidro to reverse the state of affairs so that Gabriel will not have to leave for two years in order for Miguel to have his wish. The next day, Miguel steals the letter. Gabriel catches up with him and explains that destroying the letter will make no difference to the U.S. government—Gabriel still must go to the army. To prove his point, Gabriel tears the letter into small pieces and drops them into the Rio Pueblo.

The brothers' discussion is an important moment for Miguel. He confesses that his prayer to San Ysidro is the reason Gabriel has been drafted. Gabriel eases the boy's conscience by explaining that he, too, made a wish—to see the ocean. By joining the military service, Gabriel can have his wish. Miguel rethinks his attitude toward San Ysidro. Insisting that a saint is not a fairy godmother with a magic wand, Gabriel concludes, "For whatever you get, you got to give something."

On the day before Miguel leaves on the journey to Sangre de Cristo, he promises to do a favor for Gabriel—to finish the carving of a girl's name on a tree on the mountain. Ironically, the girl is named Carlotta, the same name as Juby's lost cow. Miguel abandons his nicknames and assumes full membership in the Chavez family. The men herd 1,800 sheep up the mountain, where Miguel finds trees carved by his grandfather and father. True to his word, Miguel finishes Gabriel's carving and saves the inscription of his own name for a later time.

Timeline

Beginning Miguel, the middle son of a rural sheep herding family in the Southwest, is overshadowed by his siblings. He dreams of accompanying the grown men on when they take heard to the

Sangre de Cristo Mountains to pasture for the summer.

Lambing season Miguel, who has been working hard to impress his father and older brothers with his dedication, marks pairs of ewes and lambs for easy identification, earning the nickname "bookkeeper."

A storm A storm causes the loss of part of Blasito's flock, and Miguel, acting on a tip from Juby, retrieves them; Blasito is overjoyed, and Grandfather gives him a rare compliment.

Later Miguel is granted a "real job" by his father, but is crushed when his father still denies him the right to accompany the men to the summer pasture.

Festival time A desperate Miguel prays to San Ysidro to be granted his wish. His fortunes seem to immediately improve, but he is humiliated when he falls into the huge burlap bag when he is packing fleeces.

Later Miguel learns he will accompany the men—because Gabriel has been drafted by the Army. Miguel is guilt-ridden, but Gabriel assures him that he, too, made a prayer, which has been answered by the draft. The brothers reconcile.

Finally Miguel accompanies the men to pasture, fulfills a promise to Gabriel by completing a carving of a girl's name on a tree, and takes his rightful place among the men of the Chavez clan.

Author Sketch

From a wartime job at the Office of War Information, Joseph Quincy Krumgold (1908-1980) set out to make documentary films, a career he had decided on at the age of twelve from the twofold influence of his father, a film exhibitor, and his older brother, an organist who accompanied silent films on the pipe organ. Krumgold was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, and centered his life at Shiloh Farm in Hope, New Jersey, even serving a term on the local school board. Yet, his travels took him to faraway places, including the major capitals of Europe and the Middle East, where he made films about real

people involved in creating the state of Israel. He was the president of Palestine Films from 1946-1952.

A member of the Screenwriters Guild, Krumgold began writing and producing films for MGM, Paramount, RKO, Columbia, and Republic in 1938. In 1950 he began his own firm, Joseph Krumgold Productions, which filmed a documentary for the U. S. State Department in 1953 that evolved into ... *and Now Miguel*. Krumgold developed the novel ...*and Now Miguel* (1953), a fictionalized version of the documentary, as well as *Onion John* (1959), and *Henry 3* (1968), as a trilogy on coming of age.

The first of the three, about growing up in a rural, religious Hispanic community, leads into life in a small town and concludes with life in a big city suburb. The film version of ...*and Now Miguel*, dubbed in fifteen languages, was remade by Universal Pictures in 1966. To insure realism, Krumgold lived with the Chavez family in Taos, New Mexico. Of his experience he reports, "In speculating on what was familiar through working on the book, I finished richer than when I started. I knew better who I was."

In addition to numerous scripts for NBC, CBS, NET, and Westinghouse TV, Krumgold's published works include *Thanks to Murder* (1935), *Sweeney's Adventure* (1942), *The Most Terrible Turk: A Story of Turkey* (1969), *The Children's Crusade* (1971), and *The Oxford Furnace, 1741-1925* (1976). An active participant in farming, swimming, skating, and fishing, Krumgold died of a stroke in 1980 at his farm.

Critic's Corner

The first author to win two Newbery Awards—in 1954 and 1960, for ... *and Now Miguel* and *Onion John*, respectively—Joseph Krumgold was no stranger to medals. He won recognition for his films at festivals in Edinburgh, Venice, and Prague and for his books through the American Library Association (1954, 1960), the Boys' Clubs of America (1954), Lewis Carroll Shelf Award (1960), and Child Study Association's Children's Books of the Year (1969).

His personal involvement with ... *and Now Miguel* led him to comment: "The only way we can get back to a life of choice, of personal change that will at least match the irresistible evolution of our own technology, must certainly be to learn to grow again. ... My own way of going back is through the children's books I've written."

General Objectives

1. To relate setting to the theme of the novel
2. To discuss family values as they apply to coming of age
3. To note the importance of coincidence
4. To envision the family structure as it applies to the division of labor
5. To assess the importance of religious beliefs in individual lives
6. To analyze the relationships between siblings
7. To discuss family pride and its effect upon productivity
8. To contrast the rhythms of work and fiesta
9. To discuss the theme of self-image

Specific Objectives

1. To translate unfamiliar Spanish words and phrases
2. To contrast Miguel's relationship with Pedro and with Gabriel
3. To note the various stages in sheep-raising
4. To explain the importance of the Sangre de Cristo mountains to Miguel
5. To define Miguel's concept of divine intervention
6. To characterize Miguel's relationship with his parents
7. To account for Miguel's choice of twelve as the proper age to become a man
8. To discuss Miguel's rapport with outsiders
9. To explain how fate can be a combination of good and bad.

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning of each. Page numbers are provided so that you can re-read the passages from which the item is taken.

1. It comes as sure as the time for the lambs to be born, and the time for the Fiesta de San Ysidro, and then the shearers arrive and the wool is clipped. (p. 11) (*The Catholic feast day in honor of San Ysidro, held near the middle of May, honors a "saint for all the farmers everywhere, that is, all the farmers in the world." The patron saint of Miguel's village "keeps an eye out special for Los Cordovas." Thanks to his intervention, the village has never suffered earthquake, volcano, flood, war, or anything that was too bad." San Ysidro's statues follow a traditional pattern—the saint with a plow and oxen in front and an angel behind.*)
2. And the government name for the Sangre de Cristo is the Carson National Forest. (p. 19) (*The mountains that the natives refer to in Spanish as the Blood of Christ is known to the government as the Carson National Forest, near Carson, New Mexico. The area is named in honor of Christopher "Kit" Carson (1809-1868), brigadier general, fron-*

tiersman, trail guide, farmer, hunter, and scout from Kentucky who led John C. Fremont's westward expeditions, distinguished himself in the Mexican and Civil Wars, and helped settle the area around Taos from 1846-1865 during a series of Indian uprisings.)

3. The storms came with a great wind that blew in from the deserts where live the Navajo Indians, Gabriel told me, wide places that stretch to the west across our state, which is New Mexico, and into Arizona, which is the state next to ours. (p. 72) *(The Navajo Indians occupy over fifteen million acres of reservation land in three states—Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Fray Alonso Benavides gave the tribe its name in 1630, when he referred to them as Apaches de Navajo. Navajo means "great planted fields," in reference to the Indians' skill in coaxing crops from the arid, sandy soil around the Rio San Juan by means of deep planting. They are equally adept at raising flocks of sheep and goats and herds of beef and dairy cattle.)*
4. "Miguel, Miguelito!" he yelled. (p. 134) *(The variations of nicknames Miguel answers to suggest his position in the family and among strangers. To Johnny, he is Miguelito, which implies youth or small size. To other people he is Mike, Mickey, Miquito, even Babaloo, all of which denote fondness and acceptance.)*
5. "Miguel, hombre," said Johnny. (p. 135) *(Johnny alters his first address to the Spanish word for man, since Miguel obviously wants the other workers to accept him as an adult and a fellow herder.)*
6. I kept up with all the rest, so busy with my broom that Johnny started to call me "Twister!" (p. 150) *(To acknowledge Miguel's usefulness to the sheep-shearing operation, Johnny informally christens Miguel with a nickname that recognizes his ability with a broom. "What he meant was that wherever I went, there was always a cloud of dust moving around on account of how hard I swept, such a cloud that it looked like a sandstorm.")*
7. In one corner it said SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM, with a lot of little words underneath. (p. 182) *(Gabriel's letter is a form letter from the draft board, known formally as the Selective Service System, which is ordering him to appear for induction into the Army. Gabriel accepts the responsibility because*

both Blas and Uncle Eli have served their time in the military, setting an example for Gabriel to follow.)

8. "Good luck, mi amigo, good luck to you." (p. 227) *(Gabriel's words help heal the momentary rift between the brothers. After listening to Miguel's explanation of San Ysidro's part in their fate, Gabriel moves closer to his younger brother in understanding and appreciation. He honors his brother with a manly phrase, "Good luck, [my friend], good luck to you.")*
9. "Goodbye," he said, "whatever you name is." "That part is settled," I told him. "What is it? Twister, Miguel, Babaloo?" "Chavez." (p. 227) *(Pedro, the contented, somewhat philosophical little brother, parts with Miguel man to man. Extending his hand, he accepts Miguel on whatever grounds he must. Miguel, finally at peace with his self-image, places himself firmly in the family tradition, among the Chavez clan.)*
10. It was easier to do the favor for Gabriel first and carve T-T-A, all straight lines, for a start. (p. 245) *(To prove his loyalty to Gabriel, Miguel searches for the tree on which Gabriel began carving Carlotta, but stopped before completing the last three letters. Miguel is pleased to tackle a simple task, composed of three straight letters, and willing to postpone the task of carving Miguel Chavez until later.)*

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Describe the traditions of the Chavez family. *(Since the family began in Spain, "wherever you find a man from the Chavez family, with him will be a flock of sheep." Eighty-year-old Grandfather Chavez, whom others refer to as Padre de Chavez, obtained the government permit by which the family fattens sheep on rich mountain grass in the Carson National Forest throughout the dry summer months. Although Grandfather no longer works, he supervises the family's labors according to the traditions he established with the first herd. Grandfather, who carved his name on a tree on Sangre de Cristo on July 1, 1901, worked as a partido—a shepherd who*

accepts sheep in place of wages in order to build his own flock and establish himself as an independent herder. He credits both luck and hard work for his success. For Grandfather, it is a proper way for a man to live under heaven, you and the sheep both. ")

2. What is Miguel's position in the family?

(Third to last, Miguel shares a room with the two little ones—his seven-year-old brother Pedro and tiny Faustina, who occupies herself making nonsense rhymes. Above Miguel in age are Blasito, the oldest, who drives a school bus; Gabriel, his nineteen-year-old brother and a senior in high school; and two sisters, Leocadia and Tomasita. In addition, there are his parents and two uncles, Bonifacio and Eli, and, of course, Grandfather.)

3. How does the village celebrate the Fiesta of San Ysidro?

(On Sunday, May 15, the village prays to San Ysidro, patron saint of farmers and the patron of Miguel's village, Los Cordovas, New Mexico. Beginning with vespers outside the new chapel, special services include a lace and flower decorated altar, altar boys, a choir of nuns, and luminarias or candles anchored in sand inside paper bags to light the scene. On the altar reposes a new statue of San Ysidro, carved by a local artist, George Perez, and featuring the saint with traditional plow, oxen, and guardian angel. After the service, worshippers pile torches made of branches on a bonfire and walk down the road to Mrs. Esposito's house while the choir leads the singing of Latin hymns. The next day, villagers, dressed in their holiday best, attend mass and then lead a procession into the fields. Mrs. Esposito carries the image of San Ysidro into the fields so that the family can pray for a good year. The Father blesses the harvest; each worshipper offers silent prayers for personal needs and desires. A fiesta ends the day with "laughing and talking and joking and singing. " "Under the big cottonwood tree near the river, " a pit holds the featured dish—barbecue, served with beer, wine, soda, sauce, beans, slaw, canned peaches, and biscuits. The big meal ends with coffee, beer, cake, and more fellowship. Mr. Medina plays his fiddle and others play guitars while the villagers sing and dance.)

4. What is Miguel's opinion of Gabriel?

(There is a mixture of pride and jealousy in Miguel's comments about his brother, who is president of the senior class in Taos. Miguel pictures himself midway

between Gabriel and Pedro in terms of ambition. "Everything that [Gabriel] wants he can get. With Pedro, it is the opposite. Everything that he has is enough. "

From the beginning, Miguel envies the position of Gabriel, who, next to Blasito "who wears a badge and drives the school bus, ... is the greatest man in the world." At the fiesta, Miguel watches Gabriel's skill in dancing and notes, "he was Gabriel and everything he did was good, whether it was being a president, or playing basketball or working as a shepherd and going to the mountains. ")

5. Describe preparations for the trip to the Mountains of Sangre de Cristo.

(Everyone looks tired as the preparations rob them of sleep. They pack gear on three mules—Pablo, Herman, and Rosalie—which are shod along with Blackie, the horse. Blasito and Eli attend carefully to the shoeing so, necessary to keep the animals from going lame on the rocky trail. Miguel observes their blacksmith chores, helps check the tent for tears, and packs it along with new ropes after it is mended and patched. Blas arranges boxes, cans, and sacks of food, including beans, flour, eggs, bacon, ham, salt meat, canned vegetables and fruits, jams and jellies, tobacco, salt, candy, coffee, and canned milk. Across the backs and curving around the bellies of the mules, the cupboard-like packing boxes carry pots and pans, bedding, and ammunition for two guns, plus medicine and books.

Miguel's personal bundle contains his Indian stone along with a mackinaw, three pairs of long underwear, two sweaters, and a hat that covers his ears. Over the mules go blankets, pack saddle, a poncho or tarpaulin, and a rope tied in a diamond hitch. Before Gabriel takes leave of Miguel, he gives his little brother a knife with a "corkscrew and can opener.")

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. How does Johnny help Miguel make the transition from boy to man?

(When the Marquez brothers, Juan and Salvador, arrive from Colorado and set up the shearing plant, Juan (or Johnny) compliments Miguel on his growth and refers to the boy as hombre, man. His joking and good-natured kidding make Miguel feel like one of the adults. Miguel exults, "And Johnny, it was good to have him around."

It is Johnny who suggests that Miguel sweep the shearing floor. Quickly the boy gets into the swing of work and enjoys watching the shearers, who are "better than the dancing on San Ysidro day." So diligent is Miguel that Johnny dubs him Twister for the clouds of dust he stirs with his broom. The flow of encouragement makes Miguel "work twice as hard."

At mealtime, Johnny questions Blas, "Chavez, what is this? Your new hand, ain't he going to eat with the rest of the men?" Miguel, warmed by his wholehearted acceptance as a sheep man, is certain that Johnny is an agent of San Ysidro.)

7. Why do Gabriel and Miguel quarrel?

(During their conversation about Gabriel's departure for the army, Gabriel insults Miguel, who is sensitive about his budding maturity. Gabriel's brusque comment, "The way you talk is like a three-year-old," brings Miguel sharply to attention. He also rejects being compared to Faustina, his silly little sister.

Gabriel hurries to repair the damage to their relationship, particularly on the eve of their departure—Miguel to the mountains and him to the army. In the ensuing moments, Miguel comes up with an answer to Gabriel's criticism—he realizes that his concept of San Ysidro is too limited, that a saint would not have time to answer the prayers and wishes of each petitioner. Gabriel, to smooth things over, concurs. Together they collect wood for the house as they conclude their discussion of saints and their work. The brothers, their friendship restored, enter the house laughing.)

8. How does the journey up the mountain bolster Miguel's grasp of family tradition?

(On the way up the mountains, Miguel has plenty of time to think. He compares his anticipation to the Big Minute Just before the arrival of the new year, when the whole family watches the clock so that they can celebrate together. As Miguel arrives at the other side of the crest of U.S. Hill," he feels that the Big Minute will last forever. For five days, he savors the experience of hard work, fatigue, teamwork, happiness, and anticipation. While climbing Cerro Vista Mountain, he sees his grandfather's name carved on a tree with the date, July 1, 1901. Snuggled in his blankets against the cold on Jicarita Peak, he thinks about his family, member by member. He dwells on Gabriel and feels better the next day. He spies his father's name on a tree along with

the date, June, 1919. After supper, Miguel sings Gabriel's song about the "girl with the red flower."

When the party arrives at camp, Miguel does his share of work before locating the tree that Gabriel began carving. From his high vantage point atop the mountain, he concludes, "In this place many men named Chavez had come. Those I could not remember, and then my grandfather as well. And my father, Blas, and my uncles, Eli and Bonifacio. And my brothers, Blasito and Gabriel. And now, watching the shining world as I knew it would look when I came to this place, I stood, Miguel." With much pride, Miguel fulfills his obligation to Gabriel and carves T-T-A on the tree.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. Explain how Krumgold uses similes to clarify aspects of the story.

(Krumgold relies heavily on similes to complete images. Many of his similes are visual, clarifying ideas or events that would otherwise be meaningless. When Miguel tries to explain the difficulty in being himself, he states, "Being Miguel—it's not like playing basketball. No, it's a hard thing to train for."

Other similes describe nature. To predict the weather, he looks toward the mountains: lilt it is white on their peaks with snow, like blessed white clouds that have come to rest, it will be a good year." On the journey up the mountain, the lambs leap up and down as if on the end of a rubber band."

At times, Krumgold clusters similes for maximum effect. As Miguel runs from the schoolyard, he experiences physical exhilaration throughout his body: "My arms, like I had a dozen of them, each one going off by itself. My feet, like I was on a bike, working away to keep my balance. ... I came down that hill, like a boulder bumping in bigger and bigger bumps, bumping its way down a cliff. Straight for the river.")

10. How does Miguel change?

(Miguel learns how to transform ambition into reality—not by supernatural means, but by work and acceptance of responsibility. From his grandfather, he realizes the importance of family tradition. From his father, he learns he must accept the consequences of his actions. Through interaction with Gabriel, Miguel is able to refine his expectation of divine intervention and to perceive the give-and-take of personal experience. By the end of the book,

Miguel is ready to face his part in the family sheep business with a realistic outlook.)

Question 11 Creative Level

11. Compose an episode from your own life in which you learned that ambition means dedication and hard work. Like Joseph Krumgold, clarify your thoughts on paper with similes, which are comparisons using like or as.

Student Involvement Activities

1. Draw a mural featuring the area in which the Chavez family lives and raises sheep. Refer to encyclopedia articles and travel books for colors of mountains, grasslands, wild flowers, birds, and trees. Include houses in which Navajo Indians might live.
2. Listen to a record of "On Top of Old Smoky." Explain why Miguel likes to sing this song.
3. Make a luminaria to bring to class. Place sand in a brown bag and anchor a candle in the sand. Under the supervision of your teacher, demonstrate the kind of light given off by a luminaria and explain why it might be useful for a festival worship service.
4. Draw pictures representing different stages in the life of a sheep, from birth to branding to grazing to shearing.
5. Write a report on what happens to fleece after it is taken to market. Explain how it is cleaned, spun, and woven into cloth. Include information about how much wool a single sheep grows in a year.
6. Make a list of the Chavez family members from the grandfather down to the youngest child. Look in the book for information about age so that you can place the members in order of birth.
7. Write a poem about Jimmy, the orphan sheep. Refer to the nursery rhyme, "Mary Had a Little Lamb," and imitate its rhythm and style.
8. Locate Spanish words and phrases from the story and translate them. Look them up in a Spanish dictionary or ask for help from someone who speaks Spanish. Add and translate simple words that refer to the story, such as sky, cow, school, fish, brother, sister, mother, church, army, desert, friend, and sheep.
9. Make an oral report to your class on different ways to catch fish. Explain Miguel's method. Describe your own style of fishing. Explain how fish are cleaned and made ready for cooking.
10. Read aloud Miguel's prayer to San Ysidro, pp. 186-

187. Emphasize the parts that Miguel feels most deeply, particularly his desire to take his wish back.

11. Write a letter from Miguel to Gabriel explaining what you did and saw during the summer in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Don't forget to mention the carving in the tree. Write a second letter from Gabriel describing how you like army training.
12. Using information from the novel or a restaurant menu or cookbook, make a formal fiesta dinner menu of traditional Mexican foods and beverages. Draw colorful table settings that include place mats, napkins, cups, plates, glasses, silverware, bread baskets, platters, bowls, and pitchers. Add a centerpiece to make the table look more festive.
13. Explain in your own words what Gabriel means when he says: "You can't go around making wishes, like Faustina, and expect some fairy godmother with a wand to come down and, bueno, make it all come true. For whatever you get, you got to give something."
14. Write a descriptive paragraph about a shepherd's care of orphaned sheep.
15. Describe the rules in your house which govern bedtime, meals, school, and helping with family chores. Compare them to the rules observed by the Chavez family.
16. Explain why Mr. Chavez is both angry and pleased that Miguel finds the lost sheep.
17. Make a list of the tools and supplies you might find in a shepherd's barn, such as branding tools, paint, clippers, and liniment. Explain how each is used.
18. Read a history book that gives details of Spanish settlements in New Mexico and Arizona. Describe how the settlers got along with the Indians. In what years were the states admitted to the Union?
19. Act out the scene in which Miguel falls into the bag of fleeces. Try to express his frustration and humiliation.
20. Write a short note in which you give Miguel advice about growing up and accepting adult responsibility.

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Vocabulary Test

Part A

Match the following important terms from the book with their definitions. Write your answer in the blank.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. beans | 7. celebration |
| 2. shepherd | 8. tableland |
| 3. female sheep | 9. evening worship |
| 4. sun-dried brick | 10. wool |
| 5. donkey | 11. dry gully |
| 6. passageway | 12. thicket |

arroyo, burro, adobe, mesa, mesquite, coyote, ewe, corral, fleece, pastor, juniper, chaparral, peyote, vespers, mass, fiesta, pinon, frijoles, ensaladas, chute

Part B

Choose five words that are left over and write sentences with them about the story. Refer to a dictionary if you don't know what the words mean.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Quotation Completion (20 points)

Supply a word to complete each of the following statements. Choose your answers from the list that follows. Place them in the blanks provided at left.

- _____ 1. I missed a shot at a _____ just yesterday, in the afternoon, about half a mile west of the wagon.
- _____ 2. His coat is all close and curly and sort of yellowish or brown. It takes days before it turns _____.
- _____ 3. Give thanks, too, Miguel, for the _____ that is ahead.
- _____ 4. This was my _____, to go up there—into those mountains that are called the Mountains of the Sangre de Cristo.
- _____ 5. Your new _____, ain't he going to eat with the rest of the men?
- _____ 6. I know now why he can't go out and fix up things in general. He doesn't have the _____.
- _____ 7. It took us five days to get up to the place where we had our first regular sheep _____.
- _____ 8. "Give me your hand, Miguel, or I'll pull you out by the scruff of your _____.
- _____ 9. They fed each one milk out of a _____ bottle with a nipple on it.
- _____ 10. That's why in the winter we must rent from the _____ to pasture the flock.

angel, black, beer, camp, coyote, family, fiesta, foot, government, hand, head, Indians, milk, neck, pasture, river, statue, time, truck, vulture, water, white, wish, wool, year

Part II (pp. 16-69): Matching (30 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the lettered list. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ___ 1. is usually satisfied with what he gets. | A. Blas |
| ___ 2. is nineteen years old and a senior in high school. | B. Gabriel |
| ___ 3. locates sheep while searching for a cow. | C. Grandfather |
| ___ 4. carves his name on a tree in 1901. | D. Gutierrez |
| ___ 5. needs an ironing board. | E. Johnny |
| ___ 6. accompanies the two Marquez brothers from Colorado. | F. Juby |
| ___ 7. prefers shearing sheep to selling gas. | G. Melchior |
| ___ 8. brings work for Miguel to do. | H. Mr. Martinez |
| ___ 9. interrupts Miguel's prayer to San Ysidro. | I. Mrs. Chavez |
| ___ 10. is the <i>Mayor Domo</i> of the ditch. | J. Mrs. Mertian |
| | K. Pedro |
| | L. Tomasita |

Part III (pp. 70-105): True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- ___ 1. At ditching time, Miguel is counted as half a man and works two days.
- ___ 2. Pedro insists that he, too, wants to be included in the shearing if Miguel is going to help.
- ___ 3. Faustina likes to repeat interesting nonsense words, like Babaloo.
- ___ 4. The rich grass on the mountains never suffers from dry weather.
- ___ 5. Faustina delivers the news that Miguel is going with the others to take the sheep to the mountains.
- ___ 6. Miguel prays to San Ysidro for an opportunity to help with the shearing.
- ___ 7. Mrs. Mertian explains to Blas how Juby finds the sheep while searching for Carlotta, his cow.
- ___ 8. Miguel has difficulty making people listen to his explanations.
- ___ 9. Orphans are wrapped in the hides of their dead mothers so that new mothers will not recognize their smell.

___10. Gabriel is glad that the army promises to send him across the ocean, where he will be free of sheep forever.

Part IV (pp. 106-187): Essay Questions (40 points)

Choose any four of these topics and write a complete answer.

1. Discuss Grandfather Chavez's importance to the family.
2. Explain how Miguel falls into the bag of fleeces and is rescued.
3. Describe the shepherds' preparations for the trip to the mountains.
4. List the most crucial steps in saving newborn lambs at birthing time.
5. Explain how Blas changes in his treatment of Miguel.
6. Describe the village festivities that honor San Ysidro.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with names of speakers from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. But to be in between, not so little anymore and not yet nineteen years ... and to have a great wish that is hard.
- _____ 2. If you will let me tell you something, there is something I have to tell you
- _____ 3. To become something different from what you are, it takes more than being strong. Even a little time is needed as well.
- _____ 4. That is the real work of a pastor ... of a shepherd. To see that in all the flock there is no one that is alone by himself.
- _____ 5. No reason to be sorry, Miguel. Most of the kids from high school get drafted.
- _____ 6. Everybody's back at the house talking. And father said this year it's time for Miguel to go.
- _____ 7. I saw them across the river. Maybe fifteen, ewes and lambs. They looked like they were heading straight for Arroyo Hondo.
- _____ 8. So you can do me my favor ... And finish the T-T-A.
- _____ 9. On this farm we can feed no more than fifty sheep. ... That's why in the winter we must rent from the Indians to pasture the flock.
- _____ 10. Miguel, hand me one of those planks I want you to pick out the one that you figure is the best one.
- _____ 11. Miguel, hombre Let me tell you about this father of yours. When you talk business with him, don't take chances.
- _____ 12. San Ysidro, Galgoleno. GalgoGalgoleno.
- _____ 13. Back to bed or we'll see about this!
- _____ 14. It was true I was lucky But it was work, too. Me, alone, without cousins and uncles or you and the other boys.
- _____ 15. This summer, you too will have an important job. Instead of the girls, it will be you who will take care of [Jimmy].

- A. Blas
- B. Faustina
- C. Gabriel
- D. Grandfather
- E. Johnny
- F. Juby
- G. Miguel
- H. Mrs. Chavez

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list that follows in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. With what are the newborn lambs and their mothers branded?
- _____ 2. What does George Perez carve out of wood for the village?
- _____ 3. Who gives Miguel the job of sweeping during the shearing?
- _____ 4. Who follows Miguel as he leaves for the mountain?
- _____ 5. What does Miguel throwaway at the end of the drive?
- _____ 6. Who serves as bookkeeper during lambing season?
- _____ 7. What does the family need in order to pasture the sheep in the mountains?
- _____ 8. When he reaches the mountain pasture, what does Miguel carve on the tree?
- _____ 9. Who is the first to see Miguel returning with the Jost sheep?
- _____ 10. Who saves Miguel from the bag of fleeces?

BC, Blas, Blasito, Cyclone, Faustina, Gabriel, Grandfather, hot irons, Jimmy, Johnny, Jubby, letter, Miguel, 1901, paint, Pedro, permit, shepherd's crook, statue, stick, Tomasita, TTA, wind

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list that follows to complete each of the following statements.

- _____ 1. The rich men who own sheep are called _____.
- _____ 2. _____ is called Padre de Chavez out of respect for his importance.
- _____ 3. Before the ewe gives birth to a lamb, she smells a spot and turns in a _____.
- _____ 4. Miguel compares the lamb that is being born to an _____.
- _____ 5. In a few days the coat of the newborn changes from yellowish or brown to _____.
- _____ 6. When lambs get cold, the shepherd feeds them medicine or a little _____.
- _____ 7. Part of Miguel's job is to carry bucketfuls of _____ cake to the pens.
- _____ 8. The marker must not push the brand too hard against the wool, or else the number will spread out into a _____.
- _____ 9. If the lamb is on the wrong side of the _____, its mother may not recognize it.
- _____ 10. Blas uses _____ to remove excess wool so that the lamb can find its mother's nipple.

airplane, beer, black, Blas, circle, cottonseed, Grandfather, hot irons, Jimmy, *Mayor Domo*, number, orphans, patrons, pen, raspberry, shears, splotch, *Vamanos*, whiskey, white, wind

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose three of the following topics and write complete answers.

1. Describe how Johnny's crew shears the sheep.
2. Explain how Blas keeps track of how many sheep each man shears.
3. Summarize Miguel's second prayer to San Ysidro.
4. Explain why Miguel tells Pedro and Faustina about his secret.
5. Describe the meal Mrs. Chavez and her daughters cook for the shearers.
6. Explain how Miguel returns the lost sheep to his family's flock.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. frijoles | 7. fiesta |
| 2. pastor | 8. mesa |
| 3. ewe | 9. vespers |
| 4. adobe | 10. fleece |
| 5. burro | 11. arroyo |
| 6. chute | 12. chaparral |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. coyote | 6. time |
| 2. white | 7. camp |
| 3. year | 8. neck |
| 4. wish | 9. beer |
| 5. hand | 10. Indians |

Part II: Matching (30 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. K | 6. G |
| 2. B | 7. E |
| 3. F | 8. J |
| 4. C | 9. A |
| 5. I | 10. H |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. F |

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

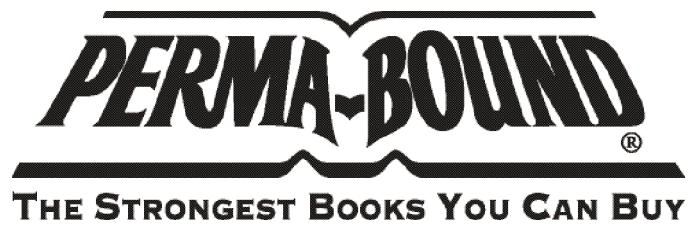
- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. B | 11. E |
| 2. G | 7. F | 12. B |
| 3. H | 8. C | 13. H |
| 4. D | 9. A | 14. D |
| 5. C | 10. A | 15. A |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. paint | 6. Miguel |
| 2. statue | 7. permit |
| 3. Johnny | 8. TTA |
| 4. Jimmy | 9. Blasito |
| 5. stick | 10. Blas |

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. patrons | 6. whiskey |
| 2. Grandfather | 7. cottonseed |
| 3. circle | 8. splotch |
| 4. airplane | 9. wind |
| 5. white | 10. shears |



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