

SYNOPSIS

Told in 1914 through the eyes of 22-year-old Hoyt Willis "Will" Tweedy, the May-December post-marital courtship of Civil War veteran and homespun Georgia merchandiser Rucker Blakeslee and his Yankee milliner, Miss Love Simpson Blakeslee, delights grandson Will, who is fourteen at the time of his Grandma Mattie Lou's death from a stroke. During her illness, Rucker sits by her, tends her needs, extols her goodness, and prays for forgiveness for an unnamed sin. After Mattie Lou's death, Rucker lies on her grave in an agony of guilt.

On Thursday, July 5, 1906, three weeks after Grandma's burial, her married daughters, Loma Williams and Mary Willis Tweedy, wear the obligatory black arm bands. Mary's son Will, eager to fish, camp with his pals, and get on with other boyish activities, chafes under the prescribed ritual of family mourning. Will's 59-year-old grandfather arrives for his pre-work snort of whiskey and announces the unthinkable: to keep from burdening his family, he intends to marry Miss Love, a strong-minded suffragette and unusually creative and productive hatmaker at his store.

The sisters and townspeople of Cold Sassy Tree are scandalized at Rucker's temerity in violating propriety by not waiting at least a year. Twenty-year-old Loma, who covets her mother's piano and mirror, revolts; Mary Willis, a more settled and refined dissenter, primly postures and murmurs complaints to indicate her disdain for Grandpa's haste in marrying wife number two. Mary's husband, Hoyt Tweedy, who clerks at Grandpa's dry goods store, bursts in that same day with the unwelcome news that Grandpa has left for Jefferson for an immediate wedding.

The next day, the Blakeslee family creates further uproar after Will tries to cross the trestle over Blind Tillie Creek. A train advances on him so rapidly that he flings himself between the rails and sustains burning cinders and clattering wheels as the cars and caboose pass over him. Lightfoot McLendon, an outcast "linthead" from a family of mill workers, rescues Will's dog T. R. and returns with Will on the train ride back to town. Family members embrace him as though he were a prodigy, but ignore Lightfoot, who sacrifices a bucket of blackberries for her hungry family in her efforts to help Will. The honeymooners return during the bustle about Will. Rucker leads a prayer, blessing both his first and second wives.

Townspeople gossip as Miss Love moves into the Blakeslee home and begins cleaning and rearranging Grandma's furniture. With Will's help, she lets in light through clean, curtainless windows and ends the housecleaning session with a recital of popular songs on the piano, including "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-de-Ay." Will discovers that Love has inscribed in the family Bible the date and place of the marriage and both their names. Her influence on Rucker extends to trimming his hair, cutting his beard, making him a new suit, and convincing him to give up Brown Mule chewing tobacco in favor of more sophisticated cigars.

That afternoon, Miss Effie Belle Tate, the next-door gossip, spies on Miss Love's visitor, flamboyant Texas rancher Clayton McAllister, who tries unsuccessfully to win Love away from Rucker by presenting her a custom-made red saddle. Rucker arrives and welcomes Clayt by ignoring his interest in Love and pretending that the handsome Texan is an out-of-town visitor. After Clayt departs, Love offers to have the marriage annulled to save Rucker public humiliation at her indiscretion. Rucker declines and, to take her mind off the soured romance with "Mr. Texas," arranges for Will to deliver to his wife a racehorse named Mr. Beautiful.

On Sunday, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church refuse to sing when Miss Love takes her accustomed seat at the organ. In embarrassment, she flounces out of church. Like the town pariah, she returns to Sunday mornings cheered by piano playing, singing, and Rucker's liberal style of preaching. To settle untoward gossip, Miss Love announces to shoppers in the store that she is married in name only; she and Rucker made a deal that she would retain her own name, keep house for him, and cook in exchange for the Blakeslee property and \$200 in cash upon her husband's death. Will, a constant visitor to his Grandpa's house, circulates in and out of the house, garden, and barn frequently enough to know that Grandpa intends for a two-bedroom relationship to evolve into a real marriage.

Small family disagreements erupt into cataclysms. Mary Willis assumes that she will accompany Hoyt on the train to New York on an annual buying trip. After Love and Rucker foil the plans by making the trip themselves, Mary Willis mourns to herself. Hoyt relieves her blues by buying her a Cadillac, the first automobile in Cold Sassy Tree. Loma, less controlled, fumes in public in an attempt to shame Miss Love.

During their sightseeing in New York, Miss Love selects items to please Rucker's customers; Rucker buys a Pierce automobile and launches a dealership in Cold Sassy. On August 16, the couple return in triumph and announce free driving lessons for their customers. In September, their auto arrives. Will, who has been temporarily grounded for parking in the cemetery and kissing Lightfoot, teaches Love to drive. She turns to the store's advantage the public's interest in cars by selling dusters and veils.

In October, Will serves his grandpa as chauffeur for an overnight picnic to Cushie Springs. Will shares the newlyweds' temporary accommodations with Gussie and Nolly Jamison after rupturing the car's radiator. During a fitful night, Will pretends to sleep as Grandpa tries to seduce Love. She weeps, rejects him, and justifies her hysteria by revealing that her father, Timothy Simpson, tormented his dying wife, Cleo, by raping Love in the next room when she was a child of twelve. Will simulates snoring as Grandpa Rucker kneels at the window and passes part of the night in prayer and frustration. The trio returns to Cold Sassy Tree in a somber mood, with Rucker

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riding up front beside Will.

Before Christmas, Loma and Grandpa push husband Campbell to the brink of despair by their taunts and blows to his self-esteem. He sends Loma to a reunion of school friends in Athens and attempts to repair a leaky bathtub faucet. Wrapping himself in oil cloth to prevent a mess, Campbell shoots himself, leaving a note expressing his dissatisfaction with his servile, unproductive life. Loma returns to news of his death; overwrought with guilt and self-accusation, she paces the floor. Grandpa takes charge, has Campbell's remains placed in the parlor for a respectable reception, and summons his family to greet mourners. Loma and baby Campbell, Jr., move into Will's room in the Tweedy household. Loma languishes, then cultivates her lifelong desire to write.

Rucker and Love grow closer. He drops the "Miss" and calls her Love. On her birthday on Valentine's Day, he buys her a graphophone and lively recorded music. She teaches him the turkey trot. His interest in the store lessens. To ease the worker shortage following the death of Campbell, he lets Miss Love teach Loma to make hats and hires Hosie Roach, Will's rival for Lightfoot. Hosie surprises the family by ridding himself of body vermin, applying himself to the job, and marrying 15-year-old Lightfoot after school goes out. Will resents Hosie for replacing him at the store and for stealing his girl.

Rucker oversteps his capabilities late one Friday night when two robbers hold him at gunpoint. Rucker frees himself from restraints, fires warning shots, and forces the gunmen to telephone for the sheriff. After wasting his stock of ammunition, Rucker is again at the mercy of the robbers, who steal his savings and beat him severely. As he rests in bed and thinks over his ordeal, he admits his foolish exhibitionism and pride.

Miss Love allows Loma and Mary Willis to help her nurse Rucker. At first the contusions, broken ribs, and twisted knee seem manageable to a man who had long ago lost the lower half of his left arm in a sawmill accident. Will eavesdrops on Miss Love and Rucker as they lie together and discuss their love for each other. Rucker admits that he was smitten by his milliner from the day of her arrival from Baltimore and feared that Love would marry Son Black before Rucker became available. Unexpectedly, Rucker takes a bad turn, develops a high fever, and begins a mortal decline. As he sinks toward death, she tries to tell him her secret — a pregnancy she intended to announce on his birthday and the hope that Rucker will get the male heir he longs for.

After Rucker's death, Hoyt hurries to the store to retrieve Rucker's sealed funeral instructions, which demand immediate interment. At Rucker's direction, Love lines a pine box with feed sacks, arranges him for burial, and rides on a mule-drawn wagon to a graveside service alongside Miss Mattie Lou's grave. Loomis, a black family servant, speaks the eulogy. Will reads scripture. Weeks later, the family celebrates an Irish wake by inviting the townspeople to a party.

Miss Love, who had longed for a family during her years of boarding houses, announces her pregnancy and looks forward to having Will guide her son. Will, who chooses a career in agriculture over ownership of his grandfather's store, attends the University and banishes from his heart his childhood love of Lightfoot, who gave Will his first kiss. Against Rucker's wishes, the citizens of Cold Sassy, which is originally named for a cool grove of sassafras trees, alter the town's name to Progressive City.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Olive Ann Burns was a native Georgian who followed the pattern of other local color novelists by steeping her consciousness in Southern customs, history, and eccentricities. The daughter of William Arnold Burns, who managed a farmers' cooperative, and Ruby Hight Burns, the author was born July 17, 1924, in Banks County north of Athens, Georgia, in the northeast corner of the state, and grew up in Commerce. Educated at Mercer University from 1943-1944, she completed an A. B. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1946. After graduation, she settled in Atlanta and wrote copy for the *Coca-Cola Bottler* and the *Laundryman's Guide* for a year before joining the staff of the Sunday insert at the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*.

In 1956, Burns married editor Andrew H. Sparks and bore a son, John Andrew, and daughter, Rebecca Marie. In the 1960s, Burns adopted the pseudonym of Amy Larkin for an advice column, "Ask Amy." In 1975, she was diagnosed with a pre-cancerous blood condition that threatened either lymphoma or leukemia. Impelled to write fiction during her convalescences, she began her first novel. From stories told by her father about Commerce in 1906, Burns evolved a plot featuring a true situation — the death of her great-grandmother Power and her great-grandfather Power's remarriage three weeks after the funeral. Illness and the side effects of chemotherapy interfered with Burns's completion of the sequel, *Leaving Cold Sassy Tree*, which was published two years after her death on July 4, 1990, from heart failure, a complication of lymphoma.

CRITIC'S CORNER

From the time it left the publisher's warehouse, *Cold Sassy Tree* found willing readers who pushed the book onto the Book-of-the-Month Club list and into the ranks of the American Library Association picks for young adult readers. Other acclamations came from *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and the New York Public Library, which also placed the title among recommendations for teens. In 1989, the novel appeared on cassette for Bantam Audio and Books on Tape and was adapted for television by Turner Network Television, with Richard Widmark as Grandpa Rucker Blakeslee and Faye Dunaway playing the exuberant milliner-turned-bride, Love Simpson Blakeslee.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the importance of romance to marriage
2. To note the relationship between setting and outcomes
3. To evaluate the significance of social class on behavior and expectation
4. To justify the role of the automobile in progress and change
5. To list rural Southern attitudes and prejudices, particularly concerning race, morality, cleanliness, productivity, and religion
6. To account for the author's nostalgia, compassion, and humor
7. To comment on the themes of longing, conflict, and piety
8. To analyze the intermingling of despair, hope, love, yearning, guilt, and failure
9. To typify the ups and downs of an extended family living in a small town.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To characterize the novel's mood before and after Mattie Lou's death

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2. To assess Will's ambitions as opposed to Grandpa's hopes for him
3. To discuss Miss Love's past and its influence on the present
4. To order events in Rucker's marriage to Miss Love, especially her offer of an annulment, pregnancy, refusal of the Texan, and adventures in New York
5. To describe significant minor figures, notably Lightfoot, the two robbers, Clem Crummy, Effie Belle Tate, Aunt Carrie, Son Black, Mary Toy, and Loomis
6. To describe the effects of Rucker's stinginess on the plot.
7. To predict Will's success in agriculture
8. To explain how and why Rucker proposes to Love
9. To evaluate the relationship between Lightfoot and Hosie

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each. Chapter and page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. Sister, with Love bein' Pa's milliner, and them seein' each other down at the store every day, people are go'n say — (Chapter 2, p. 10)
(Love Simpson, a creative, venturesome businesswoman, is bound by the sexist strictures of her day in that she takes the only job open to a single woman with no family, little education or job training, and no guaranteed source of income. As Rucker Blakeslee's hatmaker, she sits at her work table and designs hats to suit his customers. The job demands wit, fashion sense, and skill, all of which Love displays. As her role in the store expands, she exhibits other proof of her pragmatism and business acumen.)
2. According to Temp, the deacons voted to put it in the church records that "Mary Willis Blakeslee has swapped her religious birthright for a mess of matrimonial pottage." (Chapter 3, p. 13)
(A major theme in the novel is the dependence of women on the whims of men who control their choices and limit the accessibility to opportunity, belonging, legitimacy, and adventure. Love, the victim of incest, contents herself with living in boarding houses and working at a menial job; Loma, her plans for an acting career overruled by her strong-willed father, lives a resentful charade of wifeliness and motherhood while longing to write and act. Similarly, Mary Willis manages to get Rucker's approval for her marriage to a Presbyterian, but the Baptist deacons compare her to Esau, a biblical character in Genesis who was tricked by his brother into giving up his birthright in exchange for a serving of stew. At age seventeen, Mary Willis, as cheated as Esau by his wily brother Jacob, finds herself newly wed and newly excommunicated from the Baptist church.)
3. The Katzenjammer Kids had dropped clean out of my life. (Chapter 3, p. 17)
(Hoyt Tweedy's extreme piety brings hardship on his wife and children. Will, who is not allowed to read the funny papers on Sunday, suffers greater deprivation after his grandmother's death. While in mourning, Will gives up boyish pleasures, wears a black arm band, and saves the Katzenjammer Kids, his favorite comic strip, until formal mourning is concluded. In his typically straightforward
4. There were some people in Cold Sassy who called Miss Love "that Yankee woman" or made fun of her for being a suffragette. (Chapter 4, p. 32)
(As a newcomer, Love Simpson makes no inroads into Cold Sassy's inner circle. Ostracized for being from Maryland, her birth so near the north relegates her to Yankeedom, which is equivalent to being a carpet-bagger. Her awareness and support of rights for women marks her as a suffragette, a liberated woman who presses for women's right to vote. It was not until the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920 that women attained full representation in government.)
5. Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep From which none ever wake to weep. . . . Mrs. Mattie Lou Blakeslee, a sacred mother of Israel, has gone to receive the crown of righteousness which God has promised to all those who love His appearing. (Chapter 9, p. 59)
(The journalistic style of the early 1900s produced ornate, euphemistic social commentary on weddings, births, illnesses, and funerals. As demonstrated by the Cold Sassy Weekly, mourning for Grandma takes on a maudlin, sentimental cast. Death becomes a sleep and Mattie Lou, a pious woman, is sanctified in hyperbole as a "mother of Israel." The editor, who speaks in the customary first person plural, notes, "We must believe that the gates of Heaven were thrown open to receive her ransomed spirit, and that a crown resplendent with glory was placed upon her peaceful brow whilst the plaudit "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" echoed and re-echoed through the mansions of bliss. . . .")
6. Not long after he got the top of his head shot off in the Battle of Chickamauga, Cudn Vanna married an Englishman, a blockade-runner for the Confederates. (Chapter 9, p. 70)
(In Southern tradition, family lore is permeated with bloody, melodramatic, and often exaggerated tales of Civil War exploits. Vanna's first husband, killed in a major battle on September 19 or 20, 1863, in northwestern Georgia on the Tennessee border, is replaced by a second husband, a privateer who violates the Union blockade on Southern ports to bring supplies to Southern states. Blockade-runners risked execution in their trade, but the return in Confederate gold was lucrative enough to tempt owners of small ships to make the effort, usually without running lights on a dark night.)
7. Our mill houses were a long sight better than in lots of places, but they looked more like repeating blobs of white than homes. (Chapter 11, p. 83)
(A motif that reappears during the story is the plight of mill families, who are excluded from town society by reason of their ignorance and poverty. Victims of exploitation, they fare little better than blacks or sharecroppers, survive on limited wages, and live in company housing. The dividing line between town people and mill workers causes Will to observe, "Here in Mill Town on my crosstie stage, folks would suspicion her if they saw me acting friendly. Also, I knew I'd be embarrassed if she was sweaty and lintheaded from the factory or if, Lord forbid, I saw her coming out of a privy.")

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8. Mr. Gordy told how, back in aught-one or aught-two, Cold Sassy's first steam fire engine got hit crossing the tracks to the old Sanders Hotel fire. (Chapter 15, p. 108)
(A traditional motif in Southern fiction is gothic detail and delight in morbid details, particularly death and dismemberment. Here visitors to the Tweedy home get "started on hit-by-the-train stories and relish how the "engine was smashed and both horses killed, and a fire hook stabbed young Addis Morgan in the head and spilled his brains out." The irony of a person being killed by firefighters who pulled burning fragments away from the scene with fire hooks adds to the romance of this horror tale. Mr. Frazier embellishes on the story with a reminder that the horses' hoofs were "already crawlin' with maggots.")
9. But ain't no farmer in Georgie seen that prosperity Mr. Henry W. New-South Grady used to write about in them Atlanta newspapers. (Chapter 25, p. 198)
(A native of Athens, Georgia, Henry Woodfin Grady (1850-1889), editor of the Herald and, in the last thirteen years of his life, of the Atlanta Constitution, used his journalistic podium as a rallying point for revival of the South through abandonment of an agrarian economy and support of industrialization. Grady's violation of Southern traditions brought mixed responses, especially from the entrenched "Old South" aristocracy.)
10. Smiling, she put her hand in her pocket and held out a big buckeye. (Chapter 46, p. 420)
(As token of her love for Will, Lightfoot gives a simple gift — a horse-chestnut. In his closing remark, composed in 1914, Will, at the age of 22, treasures a few mementos of his boyhood in Cold Sassy Tree: a piece of sassafras root from the old tree, "my journal, my can of tobacco tags, the newspaper write-up when I got run over by the train, a photograph of me and Miss Love and Grandpa in the Pierce, my Ag College diploma from the University — and the buckeye that Lightfoot gave me.")

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 from the novel.

Questions 1 - 5 Literal Level

1. How do the deaths in the novel affect fourteen-year-old Will?
*(Will Tweedy, a small-town Georgian, experiences many losses in 1906. His friend, Bluford Jackson, is burned while setting off Christmas firecrackers and dies ten days later from lockjaw. The event reverberates in Will's mind after Granny Blakeslee suffers a stroke, lingers under Grandpa's care, then slips away. Will ponders death as he helps Grandpa place blankets of fresh-cut roses in the raw grave, yet quickly puts aside loss when he contrasts Mattie Lou's death with black arm bands, no funny papers, and restrictions on fun.

The poignance and impact of Granny's death contrasts the loss of Lightfoot's father, who, like many "lintheads," suffers tuberculosis, receives inadequate health care, and dies of pneumonia. Because of the segregation of town people and mill workers and their families, Will does not*

learn of Lightfoot's tenuous family circumstances until afterward. He never fully appreciates Lightfoot's privations, although he respects her as a friend and schoolmate.

A third loss, the unexpected death of Campbell Williams, grips the entire community and calls into question the place of religious and social approbation for those who take their own lives. Camp, a ne'er-do-well who works at Grandpa's store, never thrives as husband, father, or worker. In desperation at constant put-downs and failures, Camp arranges a neat suicide to spare his family pain and messiness. At the funeral, which Grandpa insists be conducted as it would for any other family member, Will blames himself for maligning his pathetic uncle; Miss Love alleviates some of the guilt by promising to talk further about the matter at another time.

The final and most devastating loss to Will is Grandpa, who suffers a pistol whipping at the hands of two store robbers late one Friday evening. Grandpa returns home with a twisted knee, contusions, and broken ribs and, with Dr. Slaughter's help, anticipates recovery. The rapid sink in Grandpa's resistance, owing to pneumonia, brings on high fever. Will eavesdrops on his grandfather and wife as they share his final lucid moments and learns more of the humanistic philosophy that Grandpa so willingly shares.)

2. How does Grandpa's funeral reunite the family?
*(At Grandpa's instructions, Hoyt Tweedy hurries to the store safe to retrieve written funeral plans immediately after Miss Love announces her husband's death. Hoyt reads that Grandpa intends an immediate burial orchestrated by the entire family, including Loomis, his black servant. The simplicity of the pine box, mule-drawn wagon, and place of honor for Miss Love forces grieving family to a quiet contemplation of each other and their loss.

At the cemetery, in accordance with Grandpa's wishes, Loomis speaks, Will reads scripture from the gospel of John, and the group completes the burial before Mr. Birdsong, the local undertaker, can assume his usual role as funeral director. As Will tosses in his bed that night, he contemplates the speedy changes in his family—Grandpa's death, Miss Love's pregnancy, and his role in keeping secret the baby who will alter the legacy that all expect to receive. In the midst of his pondering, he mutters, "Oh, law, we forgot to sing, 'Blessed Be the Tie That Binds.")*

3. How does Hosie respond to opportunity?
(At age 21, Hosie Roach is a member of the despised and ridiculed mill community, whom Will labels "lintheads" for the cotton fluff that clings to hair after workers leave their jobs. Hosie, who seldom bathes and offends others with his matted hair, body odor, and possible vermin, attends school while attempting to work. Hosie wars with Will over the rights of mill students to enroll in the town school and over Will's interest in Lightfoot, a matter of some significance as Will enters his mid-teens.

After Camp's suicide, Grandpa needs help at the store. He interviews Hosie for the job of clerk. Hosie refuses to report for the meeting until he has an opportunity to wash and change clothes. Grandpa admires Hosie's spunk, but insists that he comb nits from his hair and apply a foul-smelling antidote to lice and itch. The fact that Hosie shaves his head so impresses Grandpa that Hosie gets the job.

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Will, who feels ousted from Grandpa's affections, resents Hosie's employment. He remarks, "Lord, smart as Hosie was, it wouldn't be any time before he'd know how to drive and start taking people out for demonstration rides." The specter of a smart, successful Hosie grows more onerous after school lets out, when he marries Lightfoot, the girl of Will's fantasies.)

4. What kind of wife is Miss Love?

(Miss Love Simpson, a sprightly, ambitious milliner, catches Rucker's eye from the day she arrives in Cold Sassy Tree. After Miss Mattie Lou's death, Love is surprised but not offended by Rucker's abrupt proposal. According to their business arrangement, she marries Rucker in exchange for a platonically resided-in house and for her role as housekeeper and cook. For the first time in her life, she knows the security of ownership.)

From the beginning, Miss Love demonstrates loyalty and affection as well as a thorough knowledge of how a house should be aired, cleaned, and appreciated. When Rucker comes home for lunch, she stops her energetic remodeling, feeds him well, and welcomes him with cheer and positive suggestions. To her urging that he give up chewing tobacco and get a haircut, Rucker acts like a giddy bridegroom and sits passively while Miss Love grooms and smartens his face, hair, and attire. She sews him a suit and teaches him the turkey trot so that she will never have to depend on other partners when she and Rucker go to New York on buying trips.

During an intimate conversation in the makeshift overnight quarters at Cushie Springs, Miss Love reveals her major shortcoming as a wife. Because Rucker presses her to negate their marriage arrangement and become a real wife and lover, she cowers in traumatic replay of her father's sexual violence against her in girlhood. Although she rebuffs her husband for the time being, Rucker apparently overcomes her fears and guilt in the coming weeks and begins staying home on Wednesdays so they can enjoy more time together.

By the end of their brief marriage, the Blakeslees lie together on Rucker's deathbed in comfort and mutual regard. Rucker, who is tender and appreciative and drops the "miss" from her name, admits that having Love beside him helps him bear some of the pain. As Rucker recedes into a moribund state, she tries to tell him that she is pregnant and begs him to recognize her by name.)

5. What are Will's relationships with other family members? (To Will Tweedy, Grandpa's love and attention are the most significant to his self-esteem and maturity. In the background, Will's pious, hypocritical father attempts to live a decent Christian life and serve as worthy Presbyterian role model. Mary Willis, his dutiful wife, follows the same model of surface goodness, but neither parent offers Will the honesty, acceptance, and pragmatism that he receives from Grandpa.)

The most caustic of Will's family relationships is with 20-year-old Loma, a bitter, self-centered, spiteful woman who is ill-suited to her family responsibilities. Despite their tenuous relationship as aunt and nephew, Loma, whose career plans were thwarted in youth, recognizes in Will a sensitivity and talent for writing and encourages him to keep a journal. After Will ridicules Loma before his

camping buddies, she forgives him. Still, Loma is not able to breach the distaste Will harbors for her vindictive behavior toward Miss Love.)

Questions 6 - 8 Interpretive Level

6. Why is the trestle scene crucial to the novel's development?

(Will's foolhardy walk over Blind Tillie Trestle threatens him after a train arrives at a faster pace than he can outdistance. If he had not drawn in between the rails to make himself as small as possible, he might have lost a limb or his life. The brush with death makes Will a town hero and draws residents into his family circle for admiring and thankful exchanges, including hit-by-train stories. The minister hopes that Will may consider this event a call from the Almighty, similar to John Wesley's near-death experience.)

Closer to the family's core, Papa, an undemonstrative man, enters the room in an emotional state and hugs Will. Remembering their dead infant, Mary Willis comments on "the little grave we've got in the cemetery," a reference that calls up past moments of grief and loss for the Tweedy family. For the moment, Will feels like the Prodigal Son and enjoys the fat of the land as Mama gets out her "gold and white china dessert plates" to serve lemon meringue pie to guests.

In the midst of rejoicing and fellowship, Grandpa and Miss Love make their dramatic return from the wedding in Jefferson. In the presence of company, Grandpa bids his daughters to kiss his bride. He soothes his grandson and insists that God did not will the near-tragedy on the trestle. Grandpa begins a series of talks with Will about divine providence. He notes, "Life bullies us, son, but God don't. He had good reasons for fixin' it where if'n you git too sick or too hurt to live, why, you can die, same as a sick chicken."

As though predicting his own demise, Grandpa enlarges on God's role in human life and questions the way gospel writers recorded the philosophy of Jesus. At the conclusion of Will and Grandpa's chat, Grandpa amazes the group by praying for Mattie Lou and blessing Miss Love, his new wife. The reference to both wives in one prayer adds to the shock of his boldness in marrying only three weeks after his first wife's death. He closes with a reminder that, "if'n they's aught to respect in me, it's because a-thet one in the grave out yonder, what all she learnt me.")

7. What does Olive Ann Burns reveal about 1906?

(By studying source material, interviewing, and summoning information from her memories of her father, Burns recreates a feeling of community in her fictional Cold Sassy Tree. The dependence on one major entrepreneur, the territorial disputes between Protestant congregations, gossip and eavesdropping, and the resistance to change express a small-townish attitude that delineates the stereotypical atmosphere of the rural South. By describing the myriad changes in Cold Sassy after Hoyt buys a Cadillac and Rucker opens a car dealership, Burns demonstrates how quickly lifestyles change and how forceful are the exigencies on people who make the changes. Like the couple in the overturned Ford, people require the forbearance of their neighbors and even of strangers as

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they alter transportation and ally their technology with that of the outside world.)

8. What changes occur in Miss Love?

(As *Cold Sassy Tree* evidences Grandpa's ambitions and progressive attitudes, so does Miss Love. Her rebuff by the non-singing Methodist Episcopal congregation leads her back to her newly acquired home and to the husband whose name she rejects in favor of the more familiar designation, Miss Love Honour Simpson. In the privacy of their Sundays together, Rucker pours out his religious philosophy in impromptu sermons, punctuated by her spirited hymn-playing. Because she is accustomed to regular church attendance, home worship seems questionable, even sacrilegious.)

At length, both Will and Miss Love learn the core of Rucker's beliefs. He rejects the petty, self-serving theology of townspeople, including Hoyt, the pious Presbyterian. To Rucker, God's grace is an open and free distribution of gifts, but not an answer to shallow requests from petitioners. From the sufferings of those who ask and don't receive, Rucker deduces, "Ain't the best prayin' jest bein' with God and talkin' a while, like He's a good friend, stead a'like he runs a store and you've come in a-hoplin' to git a bargain?" Love, at first skeptical of Rucker's perception of God's will, ends simply, "... to me it makes beautiful sense. Thank you for it.")

Questions 9 and 10 - Critical Level

9. How does Burns interweave a parallel plot?

(Burns attempts a complicated plot by reporting various events that indicate Will's coming of age. By including the trestle scene, the camping trip, school tussles, and the release of rats at the Christmas play, she links Will with a childish immaturity that he will soon outgrow. By placing him in the car at the cemetery, where he is caught kissing Lightfoot and punished with loss of driving privileges, she demonstrates his willingness to move beyond the strictures of *Cold Sassy Tree* and to learn for himself where his values lie.)

Unfortunately for the book, the scenes with Lightfoot are faint and fleeting. So vivid are the segments about Miss Love and Grandpa that the parallel plot annoys the reader as though it were superfluous information about an insignificant character. This weakness in plotting is perhaps the hallmark of the beginning novelist. Whatever the critical interpretation of the parallel plot and its reflection of major themes of reconciliation and understanding, the major portion of the novel holds true to its course and delights with its whimsy, dialect, homespun wisdom, and insights into love, reconciliation, and family.)

10. What does the novel impart about the South?

(Olive Ann Burns dwells on the issue of social stratification and prejudice with her creation of a Southern microcosm. In turn-of-the-century Georgia style, people in *Cold Sassy Tree* reflect both pride and ignorance. Will recalls his ancestors' role in settling the area after leading a wagon train from North Carolina. He likewise treasures stories of the Civil War, even if Grandpa twists to his own devices the loss of his arm as a memento of battle rather than a more prosaic sawmill accident.)

The most telling revelation in Burns' fictional town is the

application of social stigma as a natural way to spurn unacceptable people. To spiteful store patrons, Miss Love is not only an old maid, but a pauper and a Yankee as well. To Will and other students, Hosie, Lightfoot, and other mill children are a subclass of laborers whose filth and deprivation make them unfit for school and sociability. Like the use of separate dishes for black servants, the unwholesome creation of a Southern caste system results in a rigidity that separates the loving and loyal Loomis, Queenie, and other fringe residents from full membership in *Cold Sassy* society.)

Questions 11-13 - Creative Level

11. Compose an interview with Will in 1914, after his completion of an agriculture degree and after his reflection on the events of his fourteenth year following Grandma Blakeslee's death. Have him summarize Rucker Blakeslee's strengths and his legacy to Progressive City.
12. Describe a scrapbook in which a citizen of Cold Sassy Tree recounts local events through poems, journal entries, drawings, photos, and newspaper commentary. Note the passing of Bluford Jackson, Lightfoot's father, Mr. and Mrs. Blakeslee, and Campbell Williams. Include a balance of light and entertaining items on the ruined Christmas play, berry picking, camping, and the town party held in honor of Rucker.
13. Compose an oral report on early model automobiles. Discuss changes in the starter, tires, top, automatic choke, steering, brakes, and other necessities that made driving safer and more convenient.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Math

Compose a family time line created from entries in the Toy family Bible and information from the novel, such as Rucker's role in the Civil War, Will's reflection on Grandpa's romance with Miss Love, the arrival of the wagon train from North Carolina, the sawmill accident, Great-Grandma's second funeral, and the date of Will Tweedy's walk across the trestle.

Economics and Social Studies

1. Create a store list of agricultural, practical, pharmaceutical, and personal items available in a dry goods store in 1906 and their estimated prices. Consult historic volumes of the Sears Roebuck catalog and vintage newspapers, magazines, and advertisements for additional data.
2. Discuss the effect of Miss Love's business advice on Rucker's success as a store owner and car dealer. What impact did the automobile have on the rural South?

Psychology

1. Account for Rucker's guilt before and after Mattie Lou's death. Contrast his self-loathing with that of Miss Love, who was raped by her father.
2. Comment on the role of jealousy and envy to the plot. Mention Will, Love, Rucker, Clayton, Loma, Mary Willis, Lightfoot, Hosie, and Effie Belle Tate.
3. Explain the effect of the curtailment of sexual relations on Rucker's love for Mattie Lou. What reason does he give for their brother-sister relationship?

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Cinema

1. Make a list of dramatic scenes from the novel that would require intense use of lighting, costume, makeup, music, props, and stunts for a stage or movie version, particularly the trestle scene, Grandpa's illness, Hosie's fights with Will, Grandpa's beard trim and haircut, the righting of the upended Ford, Camp's suicide, and the collection and arrangement of roses for Mattie Lou's funerals.
2. Contrast the film version of *Cold Sassy Tree* with the novel. Note omissions and additions, such as the trestle incident, Will's lies about his Aunt Loma's wedding, the arrival of Mr. Beautiful, Camp's funeral, and the naming of Love's son.

Science

1. Discuss the use of grits as a sealant for a leaky radiator. What other substances would swell and block holes in the metal?
2. Explain why broken ribs can lead to pneumonia. Why is deep breathing crucial to recovery after an injury to the chest?
3. What are the causes of Hosie's problems with itch and cooties? How would these problems be prevented and cured by modern methods?
4. Why were early automobiles cranked? Why does a turn of the switchkey stop the car's ignition?
5. Draw a diagram of the workings of a crank telephone. Explain how dial systems replaced the need for a local operator.

History

1. Discuss how the Civil War and its aftermath influence the novel. Why does Grandpa claim to have lost his arm in the war rather than in a sawmill accident?
2. Explain how life in rural Georgia alters after the arrival of electric lights, plumbing, central heating, and other home conveniences. Why does the name change to Progressive City suit *Cold Sassy Tree*?
3. Relate the San Francisco earthquake to the period in which the story takes place.

Language

1. Create a glossary of significant terms, for example turkey trot, Pierce, graphophone, privy, philanderer, lockjaw, hoarhound, Pope-Waverley electric automobile, Saint Cecilia, Prince of Wales, camp meeting, Jersey cow, guano, crackerjack, Franklin, Central, applebobbing, dunking booth, shooting gallery, hog-calling contest, crowing contest, buck-and-wing dancing, "She's Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage," "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-de-Ay," Knights of the Grip, Henry W. New-South Grady, and Harrington and Richardson. Define each term and account for its applicability.
2. Using examples from the novel, compose an extended definition of romance. Contrast Rucker's love for Mattie Lou with his passion for Love.
3. Make a list of sense images under the headings of sound, touch, sight, smell, and taste. For example, "The rug is moldy, mildewed, and full of moths, Will," "Miss Love shaved ten years off of him, gettin' rid of that long whitey beard and that mane of bushy hair," and "Grandpa was laughing so hard he hurt — rocking back and forth in his

seat, grabbing his stomach, slapping his leg, flopping his arms, and shouting like somebody getting religion at a camp meeting."

Art and Music

1. Use desktop publishing or other artistic forms to create memorials to Bluford, Mattie Lou, and Rucker, an announcement of the marriage of Lightfoot and Hosie, a placard advertising the Rucker Blakeslee Hotel, instructions on starting and driving a Pierce or electric car, a brochure explaining how hygiene can control cooties and itch, a flier inviting students to sign up for agriculture classes at the University, warnings about the danger of walking on the trestle, and invitations to the party honoring the late Mr. Blakeslee.
2. Pantomime dances such as the turkey trot and buck-and-wing and songs popular during the early 1900s, for example, "Yes Sir, That's My Baby," "It'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," "Maple Leaf Rag," "Georgia Blues," "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis," and "Good Ole Summertime." Contrast the rhythms and focus of the lyrics with Protestant hymns such as "All Hail the Power," "Faith of Our Fathers," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "Rock of Ages," "Abide with Me," and "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds."
3. Sketch fashions suited to particular characters and scenes, such as Loma in widow's dress, Mary Toy on Sunday morning, Hoyt at the store, Miss Love arriving on the train from Baltimore, Rucker in New York, Will on the camping trip, Mattie Lou cultivating her roses, Loomis at the graveside, and Mary Willis riding in the Tweedy family Cadillac. Include accessories, such as shoes, hats, belts, hosiery, jewelry, gloves, veils, dusters, arm bands, and flowers.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Compose a theme describing the type of farming Will Tweedy proposes as his career. Contrast the risks of agriculture with those of store management.
2. Draw an extensive character web detailing various interpersonal relationships from the novel, for example, parents, friends, spouses, courtships, relatives, clients, in-laws, neighbors, church members and minister, employees and hirelings, undertaker and the deceased, schoolmates, rescuer and victim, home owner and boarder, and hosts and guests. Label the name of each character and the situation exemplified by each level of the web.
3. Relate the following literary terms to *Cold Sassy Tree*: literary foils, denouement, dramatic irony, symbol, simile, epistle, flat and round characters, stereotyping, romantic conventions, narrator, metaphor, scenario, dialogue, caesura, dialect, symbol, motif, framework, slang, character motivation, conflict, parallel plot, and flashback.
4. Contrast the people who influence Will, for example Grandpa and Grandpa Blakeslee, Mary and Hoyt Tweedy, Lightfoot, Hosie, Miss Love, Loma, Campbell, Bluford, Pink, Lee Roy, Smiley, and Loomis.
5. Write a minor character's diary entry on significant days, particularly Campbell after Loma departs on the train for Athens, Mattie Lou after the death of a child, Loomis on the arrival of Mr. Beautiful, Nolly following the injury to the

COLD SASSY TREE

Pierce's radiator, Mary Willis after Bluford's firecracker accident, Clayt after receipt of Love's letter, Timothy on the day of Cleo's death, Dr. Slaughter after the robbery, Effie Belle Tate after Rucker's post-funeral party, Lightfoot after Hosie gets the job as clerk, and the minister on the day of Great-Grandma's second funeral.

6. Compose a chapter describing Will's affection for Love's baby. Note his willingness to help around the house and his continued devotion after Grandpa's death.
7. Write an appropriate entry in the Toy Bible on significant days, for example, Rucker's death, the birth of Love's child, Camp's suicide, and Will's graduation from Agricultural College at the University.
8. Create a discussion among store patrons of reasons for changing the name of Cold Sassy Tree. Stress reasons for selecting either Blakeslee or Progressive City.
9. Determine reasons for Miss Love's happiness in the final months of her marriage. Explain why Loma and Mary Willis are able to accept her into the family.
10. Discuss the stratification of Cold Sassy Tree into land owners, business class, townspeople, professionals, Yankees and other outsiders, mill workers, and blacks. Explain how Rucker Blakeslee interacts with each level.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List chronologically significant events in Will's life, such as kissing Lightfoot, driving the Cadillac, burying Grandpa, overhearing Miss Love's confession of rape, surviving on the trestle, losing his friend Bluford, camping with Smiley, lying about Loma, ruining the Christmas play, going to the Ag College, receiving a buckeye, helping Miss Love clean house, giving up his room to Loma, fighting Hosie, and rejecting Grandpa's offer of the store.
2. Make a list of scenes from the novel that express contrasting attitudes toward honesty, friendship, self-esteem, loss, responsibility, fidelity, prestige, independence, hypocrisy, belief in God, secrets, social class, unrequited love, and maturity. Next to each, indicate what you think is the author's personal philosophy.
3. Compose a brief definition of loyalty as it applies to Will. Explain why Rucker treats Will like a son.
4. List examples of progress in Cold Sassy Tree.

OLIVE ANN BURNS'S PUBLISHED WORKS

Cold Sassy Tree (1984)

Leaving Cold Sassy Tree: The Unfinished Sequel to Cold Sassy Tree (1992)

RELATED READING

Frank B. Gilbreth and Ernestine Carey. *Cheaper by the Dozen*
William Faulkner. *The Bear*

Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. *You Can't Take It with You*
Irene Hunt. *Up a Road Slowly*

Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. *Life with Father*

John van Druten. *I Remember Mama*

Edith Wharton. *Ethan Frome*

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COLD SASSY TREE

VOCABULARY TEST

Select words from the list that follows to place in the blanks. You will have answers left over when you finish.

ban	criticized	interfere	procession
bracing	disbelief	mannequin	reigning
bumbling	expressionless	melodrama	spirit
considered	gaping	mourning	sprouting
credit	hesitating	obliged	wry

After my daddy said a prayer, she draped two more of the checked feed sacks over his body and then, (1) _____ only a moment, covered his face. Loomis nailed the box shut, and he and Papa and I toted Grandpa out the back door to the wagon.

It sure would of tickled him to see all the neighbors on his front porch staring with their mouths open as Loomis drove the mule team towards the street.

Miss Love rode in the wagon with Grandpa. Besides lots of perfume, she had on the black dress she wore to church that time Cold Sassy (2) _____ her for acting like she was in (3) _____ for Granny. As (4) _____ as the time she was a store (5) _____, she sat in the wagon on a sawed-off chair, (6) _____ herself with one hand on the driver's plank and the other on the coffin box.

Behind the wagon came the two cars, me driving the Pierce, Papa the Cadillac, and all of us looking straight ahead. It's no (7) _____ to me or Aunt Loma that we were enjoying our roles in this (8) _____. Mama and Papa sure didn't feel that way. They were ashamed. But if Miss Love was feeling anything like shame, she didn't show it.

What Grandpa would of really enjoyed, haw, was the sight of Mr. Birdsong (9) _____ in the black horses pulling his ambulance-hearse just as our (10) _____ turned into the street!

Cudn Hope, Ungle Lige, and Hosie were waiting for us at the cemetery gates. I could tell that Hosie had been crying. It was awful, the burying. Such a pitiful little band of mourners, so (11) _____ without Mr. Birdsong or anybody else to tell us what to do.

There hadn't been time to think or feel much of anything except (12) _____ while we were actually here in the cemetery, we felt shocked and helpless.

Grandpa had only (13) _____ what he wanted when he wrote all those instructions; he didn't give a thought to what it would be like for us to gather around a (14) _____ hole before we'd hardly realized he was dead, before we'd hardly even got started on the grieving.

And what were we supposed to do? How was the service supposed to start?

I could tell the (15) _____ was on Loomis to help us out, but he knew white folks' funerals aren't like colored funerals. He was scared we might not like him taking over.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Identify the characters described below.

- _____ 1. died of lockjaw from a burn caused by Christmas firecrackers.
- _____ 2. tries to lure Miss Love to Texas by giving her a custom-made saddle.
- _____ 3. teaches Loma to make hats.
- _____ 4. carries T. P. like a lamb over the Blind Tillie Trestle.
- _____ 5. leaves the Baptist Church \$1 for its treatment of Campbell.
- _____ 6. insists on no funny papers on Sunday.
- _____ 7. abandons a bucket of blackberries and runs to Will's aid.
- _____ 8. wears out her body trying to conceive a son.
- _____ 9. encourages Will's interest in writing.
- _____ 10. spies on Clayt and Love in the parlor.
- _____ 11. organizes a hotel-naming contest.
- _____ 12. accuses Cleo of passing off another man's child.
- _____ 13. paints around an insect.
- _____ 14. shaves his head before taking a new job.
- _____ 15. resents not using the extra train ticket for the buying trip to New York.

Part II: Quotation identification (20 points)

Beside each quotation place the name of the speaker (a) and the person being addressed (b).

- _____ 1a. And I want the mirror that Cudn Pearl painted Saint Cecilia on.
- _____ 1b.

- _____ 2a. i loved you since the day i layed eyes on you you jus as pretty now as then.
- _____ 2b.

- _____ 3a. If'n a boy wants a piece a-pie, he cain't be all that bad off.
- _____ 3b.

- _____ 4a. Well, you really still just a old maid, ain't you?
- _____ 4b.

- _____ 5a. I wouldn't even mind dyin' if'n I could be buried in a bed of roses.
- _____ 5b.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline an answer to complete each statement below.

1. (Clayton McAllister, Rucker Blakeslee, Son Black, Timothy Simpson) attacks Miss Love out of drunken spite.
2. Rucker personally (fills the radiator with grits, lines Mattie Lou's grave with roses, writes Miss Love's name in the Toy Bible, teaches clients how to drive the Cadillac).
3. Mr. Birdsong is confused by (Mattie Lou's second funeral, Rucker's funeral plans, Will's survival on Blind Tillie Trestle, Queenie's Nigerian dirge).
4. Will loses his driving privileges in punishment for (kissing a mill girl, overturning a Ford near Cushie Springs, making up lies about Loma's rubber bosom, putting blasting powder in sticks of firewood).
5. Rucker says he is taking a second wife because (he doesn't want Loma to move in with him and run his life, he misses Mattie Lou, he needs a housekeeper, he wants a son).
6. By firing the pistol, (Rucker summons the sheriff, Dr. Slaughter halts the second train on the trestle, Rucker uses up the ammunition, Miss Love scares off Clayt).
7. Will surprises Grandpa by (choosing farming over store management, eavesdropping on a private bedroom love scene, pretending to be asleep in the next room, sending postcards to store customers).
8. Residents of Cold Sassy Tree consider Miss Love a Yankee and a (Baptist, poor housekeeper, careless driver, suffragette).
9. Grandpa insists on (respect for Camp's remains, a red saddle for Mr. Beautiful, calling Dr. Slaughter to stop Mattie Lou's hiccups, a headstone for the bird named Tweety).
10. Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church (refuse to sing hymns played by Miss Love, ridicule Mary Willis for choosing an ignorant husband, disapprove of Loma's desire to act, enjoy the chaos after Will releases a cage of rats).

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Place an X by any statement that is true of Miss Love.

- _____ 1. is experienced with horses.
- _____ 2. expects her child to inherit Loma's house.
- _____ 3. wears red after Grandpa dies.
- _____ 4. refuses to play hymns on the piano after Rucker gets sick.
- _____ 5. treats Rucker's pneumonia with ice packs and liniment.
- _____ 6. dances with another man in New York.
- _____ 7. believes that Will looks like his grandfather.
- _____ 8. blames Will for ruining the Christmas play she wrote.
- _____ 9. brings a special hat from New York for Effie Belle Tate.
- _____ 10. is embarrassed by store clerks' poor English.

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Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in a name or term which completes each of these statements.

1. Rucker loves Miss Love Simpson from the moment she arrives on the train from _____.
2. After Grandpa treats Clayton like company, Clayton gathers his bags and returns to _____.
3. To take his wife's mind off Clayt, Grandpa sends _____ to fetch a racehorse for Miss Love.
4. Loma attempts to erase Miss Love's inscription from the Toy _____.
5. After school goes out for the summer, Hosie Roach marries _____.
6. The diploma from the _____ College lies in the box near the buckeye from Lightfoot.
7. People in town assume that Miss Love will marry _____.
8. Miss Love embarrasses Rucker by announcing the terms of her marriage agreement to everyone in the _____.
9. _____ hurries to fetch Rucker's sealed instructions.
10. To get Loma out of the way before his suicide, Camp puts her on the train to _____.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose TWO and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Miss Love changes Rucker's life.
2. Discuss the theme of family pride as it applies to Loma, Mary Willis, Will, Miss Love, and Rucker.
3. Analyze the author's use of envy and jealousy as major themes.

COLD SASSY TREE

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. hesitating | 9. reigning |
| 2. criticized | 10. procession |
| 3. mourning | 11. stumbling |
| 4. expressionless | 12. disbelief |
| 5. mannequin | 13. considered |
| 6. bracing | 14. gaping |
| 7. credit | 15. spirit |
| 8. melodrama | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bluford Jackson | 9. Loma Williams |
| 2. Clayton McAllister | 10. Effie Belle Tate |
| 3. Miss Love Simpson | 11. Clem Crummy |
| 4. Loomis | 12. Timothy Simpson |
| 5. Rucker Blakeslee | 13. Camp Williams |
| 6. Hoyt Tweedy | 14. Hosie Roach |
| 7. Lightfoot McLendon | 15. Mary Willis |
| 8. Mattie Lou Blakeslee | |

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1a. Loma | 4a. Mrs. Predmore |
| 1b. Mary Willis | 4b. Miss Love Simpson |
| 2a. Campbell | 5a. Mattie Lou Blakeslee |
| 2b. Loma | 5b. Rucker Blakeslee |
| 3a. Rucker Blakeslee | |
| 3b. Mary Willis | |

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 |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. Timothy Simpson
2. lines Mattie Lou's grave with roses
3. Rucker's funeral plans
4. kissing a mill girl
5. he needs a housekeeper
6. Rucker uses up the ammunition
7. choosing farming over store management
8. suffragette
9. respect for Camp's remains
10. refuse to sing hymns played by Miss Love

Part II: Identification (20 points)

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

Part III: Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Baltimore | 6. Ag |
| 2. Texas | 7. Son Black |
| 3. Will | 8. store |
| 4. Bible | 9. Hoyt |
| 5. Lightfoot McLendon | 10. Athens |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

TEACHER'S NOTES



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