

# Hope Was Here

by Joan Bauer

## Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Laura Rozakis, Ph.D.

A Perma-Bound Production

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### SYNOPSIS

**Chap. 1** The novel opens with a flashback as the narrator, Hope Yancey, remembers how she got started as a waitress in the Rainbow Diner in Pensacola, Florida. Hope was fourteen years old. Now, two and a half years later, Hope and her aunt Addie (her guardian), are leaving Brooklyn, New York, for a job running the Welcome Stairways Diner in Mulhoney, Wisconsin. They are forced into this action because the part owner of their previous diner, Gleason Beal, cleaned out the business account and ran off with the night waitress. Hope had been born prematurely. Her mother Deena had been unable to accept the responsibility of a baby, and so Hope (born "Tulip") was entrusted to Addie's care. When she was twelve, Hope legally changed her name.

**Chap. 2** On the road to Wisconsin, Hope explains that she has never met her father. She keeps scrapbooks to show her father in case he ever shows up. Hope recalls their last move, when she had run away. Addie had patiently waited for her. When Hope returned, Addie said, "I need you as much as you need me." Hope now realizes what a fine parent Addie has been. Addie and Hope arrive in Mulhoney, a typical small town. Hope is nervous that she won't fit in.

**Chap. 3** Addie and Hope eat in the diner and realize it is a fine, happy, homey place. They meet Flo the waitress and Yuri the Russian bus boy.

**Chap. 4** G.T. Stoop, the diner's owner, has hired Addie and Hope because he has leukemia. Addie and Hope also meet the handsome teenage cook, Braverman. At the Memorial Day parade, G.T. shocks the town when he announces that he is running for mayor against the incumbent, the corrupt Eli Millstone! G.T. is an honest, upright man who plans to force the dishonest Real Fresh Dairy to pay all its back taxes. This will help the town repair roads, schools, and hospitals.

**Chap. 5** Hope waitresses in the diner. She likes her work serving and helping people enjoy Addie's good food. Hope meets G.T.'s close friend Pastor Al B. Hall. Hope learns that G.T. has quietly helped many people in the town.

**Chap. 6** Hope makes friends with other teenagers as they gather signatures on G.T.'s nominating petition. Everyone likes G.T., but many people are afraid of Millstone because he is corrupt and controls so much of the town. Also, people are afraid to support G.T. because he is so ill and they fear he will die.

**Chap. 7** Hope says that boxing saved her, because it helped her deal with her anger over her mother's rejection and her fa-

ther's desertion. She has fantasies that her father will swoop in to her life and help her. Back at the diner, Sid Vole, a "spin doctor," enters the campaign to help G.T. publicize his reform platform. Millstone attempts to intimidate G.T. by parking a hearse at the diner. Stoop kindly invites the hearse driver in for a meal.

**Chap. 8** Five days later, G.T. shows Hope all the trees he has planted in his yard. He explains that the trees represent hope because they will be here long after he is gone. Hope's fellow waitress Lou Ellen has a baby, Anastasia, who is failing to thrive.

**Chap. 9** The woman at the Election Board shows G.T. that 55 names on his petition have the wrong addresses. Since the kids have checked all the petitions so carefully, G.T. wonders if the Election Board made a mistake. The woman denies it and throws out G.T.'s petitions—so he is not on the ballot! Pastor Hall saves the day by convincing the woman to give G.T. more time to get more signatures. The Carbinger brothers, neighborhood thugs, try to intimidate Hope, but Deputy Babcock arrests them. G.T. is officially on the ballot. He continues to challenge Millstone publicly.

**Chap. 10** G.T. has Lou Ellen bring baby Anastasia to the diner. Hope's new friend Jillian and the other kids campaign enthusiastically for G.T. Jillian decides that Hope and Braverman would be a great couple. Hope is astonished at the idea but intrigued.

**Chap. 11** Millstone steps up his intimidation, robbing the homes of campaign workers. Two strangers in the diner scream they have found a mouse in their salad. Deputy Babcock investigates and discovers it is yet another dirty trick to discredit G.T.

**Chap. 12** G.T., accompanied by Hope, goes on the campaign trail, speaking all around town. It is a great strain for him because of his ill health. Hope grows very fond of the kindly man.

**Chap. 13** Masked men attack Braverman and beat him badly. Hope visits Braverman's home and realizes his family is poor. Braverman writes an article about the beating for the local newspaper, the *Mulhoney Messenger*, describing the attempt at intimidation. Sid Vole leaves the campaign for another job. G.T. becomes a surrogate father to Hope.

**Chap. 14** Hope tries to convince a cheap customer, Mr. Woldenburg, to vote. Hope's mother Deena announces she is coming for a visit. Hope is upset.

**Chap. 15** Deena sails into the diner, trailing perfume and waving her long red nails. She and Hope do not get along. To help Hope cope with her heartache at being rejected, Braverman gives Hope a red clown nose. This helps Hope deal with her sadness.

**Chap. 16** G.T. asks Addie on a date and she accepts. They stay out late but Addie refuses to tell Hope how it went.

Braverman asks Hope on a date. She is too embarrassed to say yes, but later tells Braverman the truth. They have a charming, romantic meal in the diner late at night.

**Chap. 17** That fall, School starts and Hope enrolls. To her delight, G.T.'s cancer is in remission. More good news: Deputy Babcock discovers that the Carbingers were the thieves. As part of a plea bargain, they reveal they had been paid by the Real Fresh Dairy to frighten people like Braverman who opposed the mayor. Things turn sad when Millstone starts spreading lies about G.T.'s health. Tragically, G.T. loses the election by 114 votes.

**Chap. 18** G.T. thanks everyone for their support. By accident, Hope discovers that Woldenburg did not vote—even though his name appears on the voting list! All told, 120 registered voters on the official books claimed they never registered, much less voted! When the kids picket the mayor's office, Millstone resigns and G.T. takes office.

**Chap. 19** G.T. and Addie get married. Hope is even more pleased when G.T. asks if he can adopt her. She shows him all her father scrapbooks and realizes that he is the father she has been waiting for all along. G.T. rids the town of corruption and helps schools, hospitals, and other important institutions.

**Chap. 20** Two years pass. Hope graduates high school and plans to attend college at Michigan State when she learns that G.T.'s cancer is no longer in remission. He dies soon after.

**Chap. 21** The town holds a touching memorial for G.T., filling the diner with flowers. Hope realizes how far she has come, in large part due to G.T.'s gentle fathering. Deputy Babcock becomes the new mayor.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joan Bauer was born in River Forest, Illinois, the eldest of four sisters. The girls were raised by their mother, a single parent. Like the father of her fictional creation Hope Yancey, Bauer's father was not involved in the family. Bauer describes her father as "...an alcoholic [who was] married four times, a chronic gambler."

Bauer had a trying adolescence. Her beloved grandmother, who lived with the family, suffered from Alzheimer's disease, and when Bauer was twenty, her father committed suicide. She remembered that event as "the saddest day of my life." Again like Hope, Bauer started working young—as a waitress. In her early twenties, Bauer began a ten-year career in advertising sales. Although she was successful, she eventually grew frustrated with the job and quit to devote herself full-time to writing newspaper articles and young adult novels. Bauer's writing took off quickly: her first novel, *Squashed*, won the 1992 Delacorte Press Prize for a first novel. Bauer's career has continued to blossom.

### CRITIC'S CORNER

Bauer's well-received *Hope was Here* earned Newbery Honor recognition. "When it comes to creating strong, independent, and funny teenaged female characters, Bauer is in a class by herself," asserted *School Library Journal* contributor Tracey Firestone in a review of *Hope was Here*. "Bauer tells a fast-paced, multilayered story with humor but does not gloss over the struggle of someone who is unable to trust, . . . who avoids getting close to anyone for fear of being left again," Firestone added.

*Horn Book* reviewer Roger Sutton also offered a favorable as-

essment of the characterization of Bauer's central protagonist, calling Hope "the latest of Joan Bauer's strong, kind, and funny heroines." Frances Bradburn of *Booklist* praised the author's storytelling and subject matter, maintaining: "It's Bauer's humor that supplies, in Addie's cooking vernacular, the yeast that makes the story rise above the rest, reinforcing the substantive issues of honesty, humanity, and the importance of political activism."

### OTHER BOOKS BY JOAN BAUER

*Backwater* (1999)

*Rules of the Road* (1998)

*Squashed* (1992)

*Sticks* (1996)

*Thwonk* (1995)

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ALAN Review*, winter, 1996, Joan Bauer, "Humor, Seriously."  
*Booklist*, Frances Bradburn, review of *Hope was Here*, p. 231.  
*Horn Book*, May-June, 1998, p. 339; September, 2000, Roger Sutton, review of *Hope Was Here*, p. 563.  
*Los Angeles Times Book Review*, February 26, 1995, Suzanne Curley, "A Few Well-Placed Arrows," p. 9.  
*New York Times Book Review*, June 20, 1999, p. 21.  
*Publishers Weekly*, Feb. 27, 1995, p. 104; Feb. 23, 1998, p. 77; Sept. 4, 2000, review of *Hope Was Here*, p. 109.  
*School Library Journal*, Tracey Firestone, review of *Hope was Here*, p. 150.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze hope
2. To understand the importance of role models
3. To understand the novel's title
4. To recognize the significance of courage
5. To assess each character's personality
6. To recognize the novel's theme
7. To explore the ways kindness can be shown
8. To find examples of compassion
9. To understand the importance of meaningful work
10. To describe the author's use of humor

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze how one person's optimism can cheer up others
2. To see how Hope deals with her mother's desertion and her father's total absence
3. To understand how Aunt Addie and G.T. become Hope's surrogate parents
4. To probe the symbolism of the characters' names
5. To examine the relationship between Hope and Braverman
6. To see the effect of setting on a person's life
7. To understand the plot structure
8. To explore parallels between Hope and Anastasia
9. To understand why G.T. runs for mayor, even though he is very ill
10. To visualize the story's action

### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Joan Bauer's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

**conflict** in literature is a struggle or fight. Conflict makes a story interesting because readers want to find out the outcome. There are two kinds of conflict. In an *external conflict*, characters struggle against a force outside themselves. In an *internal*

*conflict*, characters battle a force within themselves. Novels often contain both external and internal conflicts. In *Hope Was Here*, Hope experiences an internal conflict when she realizes that she has hurt Braverman by not immediately accepting his invitation for a date. She apologizes and says, "I need to tell you that I would love to go out with you, Braverman, but I'm scared to do it. That's why I acted like a jerk when you asked me out." Hope has external conflicts when she joins the fight to get G.T. elected mayor.

**characterization** is the different ways an author tells readers about characters. Sometimes, writers tell about characters directly. Other times, writers let readers reach their own decisions by showing the comments, thoughts, and actions of the other characters. Bauer uses indirect characterization to suggest that Hope is self-reliant, optimistic, and intelligent. We see this when she copes with repeated moves to new locations, works hard at each diner, and makes friends easily.

**style** is an author's distinctive way of writing. Style is made up of elements such as word choice, sentence length and structure, figures of speech, humor, and tone. An author may change his or her style for different kinds of writing and to suit different audiences. In poetry, for example, an author might use more imagery than he or she would use in prose. Bauer uses long sentences, rich figures of speech, and gentle humor to tell her story.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

#### Novels

David Almond, *Skellig*

Edward Bloor, *Tangerine*

Beverly Cleary, *Dear Mr. Henshaw*

Sharon Creech, *Walk Two Moons*

Roddy Doyle, *The Giggler Treatment*

Jack Gantos, *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*

Hilary McKay, *The Exiles*

Richard Peck, *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*

Daniel Manus Pinkwater, *The Werewolf Club: The Magic Pretzel*

Louis Sachar, *Holes*

Elizabeth George Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

William Steig, *Abel's Island*

Mildred D. Taylor, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

#### DVDs and Videos

*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

*Pretty in Pink*

*Sixteen Candles*

*Stand By Me*

#### AudioTapes

*Hope Was Here* (Random House, 2002) Read by Jenna Lamia

*Stand Tall* (Random House, 2003) Read by Ron McLarty

#### Internet

Joan Bauer's official web site, <[www.joanbauer.com](http://www.joanbauer.com)>

Author Profile: Joan Bauer,

<[www.teenreads.com/authors/au-bauer-joan.asp](http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-bauer-joan.asp)>

Achuka: Special Guest—Joan Bauer

<[www.achuka.co.uk/guests/joanbint.htm](http://www.achuka.co.uk/guests/joanbint.htm)>

Penguin-Putnam Web site, April 18, 2001), Joan Bauer, interview. <[www.penguinputnam.com](http://www.penguinputnam.com)>

### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Joan Bauer's *Hope Was Here* should include these aspects:

#### Themes

- family problems
- friendship
- hardships, especially in childhood
- parenthood
- maturity
- friendship
- civic duties
- responsibility
- self-realization
- the value of useful work

#### Motifs

- helping others when they need it
- taking responsibility for your own actions
- showing love and support
- coping with family illness
- combating corruption
- being open to new experiences and people
- work as a means to maturity
- self-awareness and maturity
- growth and change
- dealing with anger in a healthy way

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. I took out my blue pen and wrote HOPE WAS HERE in tiny letters on one of the boards. (Chap. 1, p. 3)

(Whenever she leaves a place, Hope writes her name very small in an insignificant spot. She does this as a way of saying good-bye to a place. In so doing, she leaves a little bit of herself behind. The title comes from this quote, showing the importance of Hope as a person and hope as a philosophy and world view.)

2. "I'm not sure if you'll understand this," she said. "But I need you as much as you need me." (Chap. 2, p. 12)

(Hope rebels and refuses to go along on one of the moves. She is convinced that Addie will desert her as her parents have deserted her. But Addie loves Hope and will never leave her behind. This shows the importance of love, constancy, and reliability in life. It also shows the strong bond between Hope and Addie, a bond that is the essence of true "parenthood.")

3. "Deena doesn't love you." (Chap.5, p. 44)

(Addie tells Hope this to help the child avoid being hurt by her mother any more than she has already been. Hope is dismayed that her mother, Deena, flits in and out of her life at her own convenience. Addie explains that Deena just doesn't have the tools to be the kind of mother Hope wants her to be—and she never had the tools to begin with.)

4. "Because no one understands how sweet life can be, how blessed every minute is..." (Chap. 6, p. 54)

(When asked why he is running for mayor, G.T. explains that he wants to use the time he has to make a difference in the world. People do not know how important it is to say and do right while you have the time, he explains. While he attributes his decision to his illness, his actions suggest that he has always set clear priorities and made helping others the top of his list)

5. The next morning, Mrs. Pettibone's daylily stood tall in that vase, fully opened—soaking up the goodness of the light. (Chap. 9, p. 84)

*(Mrs. Pettibone tells Hope about "the goodness of the light," a symbol for hope, possibility, and striving against seemingly insurmountable odds. The lily's survival foreshadows G.T.'s victory in the race and his remission from cancer.)*

6. The truth is, you are the weak ones. (Chap. 12, p. 121)  
*(In a newspaper editorial, Braverman explains how he feels about the beating the Carbingers inflicted upon him. He stresses the importance of mental strength over physical strength, the importance of standing up for what you believe. Braverman concludes that by resorting to intimidation, the bullies showed they are weak.)*
7. "I feel like that boat sometimes." (Chap. 13, p. 125)  
*(On his wall, G.T. has a painting of a little sailboat riding on choppy seas. G.T. says the boat reminds him of himself, using the power of the wind to his advantage. By testing himself, G.T. concludes, he knows what he and the wind (his foes) are made of. The boat symbolizes his tremendous courage.)*
8. "Hope," he says, writing it down. "There seems to be a lot of that around here." (Chap. 14, p. 135)  
*(A reporter interviews Hope about the election and the intimidation G.T. and his supporters have faced. When asked why she participates in the campaign in the face of such danger, Hope says, "But for me, an average American teenager, knowing there are real people in the public eye or anywhere who are trustworthy and kind makes the whole thing worth it." Hope's name becomes a symbol for the campaign's optimistic spirit.)*
9. My heart was breaking, but this nose had power. (Chap. 15, p. 140)  
*(Faced with her mother's hostility and indifference, Hope dons a red clown nose that Braverman has given her. Wearing the silly nose allows Hope to overcome her sorrow and cope with her mother's inability to be a parent.)*
10. "You've got your father's eyes." (Chap. 21, p. 183)  
*(At G.T.'s funeral, Mrs. Pettibone tells Hope that she looks like G.T. Since Hope is not a blood relative, she could not resemble him in a literal sense. This comment is meant to be taken symbolically, to show that Hope has G.T.'s compassion, courage, and humanity. It is very high praise indeed.)*

### 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. Why do Hope and Addie decide to move to a new diner in Wisconsin?  
*(The co-owner of their previous diner, Gleason Beal, ran off with their money. Addie had to close the diner before the bill collectors did. The diner in Wisconsin needs a cook—Addie—and a waitress—Hope. Along with the work comes an apartment. It is the best deal they can find on such short notice.)*
2. How has Hope come to live with her Aunt Addie?

*(Hope was born very prematurely. She weighed under three pounds and had difficulty breathing and sucking: as a result, the doctors did not think she would live. Hope's mother, Deena, didn't want the responsibility of a baby, much less a very ill one, so she left Hope with her sister, Addie.)*

3. Why does G.T. decide to run for mayor?  
*(In his declaration, G.T. jokes that when he was diagnosed with leukemia, he realized that he couldn't stand at the short-order grill for ten hours a day so he decided to get a desk job as mayor. Later in the speech, he admits the real reason: "Mostly I've learned how important it is to do the right thing, no matter who opposes you." He runs to clean up the corruption in town.)*
4. How does Millstone intimidate the people who oppose him?  
*(He hires thugs to beat them up, rob their houses, and try to close their businesses. He also gets supporters to park a hearse in front of the diner to try to intimidate G.T. with the fear of death.)*
5. How does G.T. finally become mayor?  
*(By accident, Hope discovers that 120 registered voters on the official books never voted! When the kids picket the mayor's office, the "elected" mayor Millstone resigns and G.T. takes office.)*

#### Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why does Hope change her name from "Tulip" to "Hope"?  
*(She hated to be teased for her odd name. She chooses "Hope" because she thinks that hope is the best thing a person can have. Given her rocky start, difficult family situation, and frequent moves, she needs to believe in possibility.)*
7. What makes G.T. a good father to Hope?  
*(He is kind, patient, deeply principled, and honest. He gives people jobs, money, and emotional support when they are in need and never asks for anything in return. Despite his precarious health, he tries to make life better for everyone around him by ridding the town of corruption. Perhaps most important of all, he cares deeply for Hope and her surrogate mother Addie.)*
8. How has Hope change as a result of knowing G.T.?  
*(He has managed to erase all the deprivation, loneliness, and bitterness of her past. He is like a tree able to shelter her for her life. At the very end of the book, Hope says: "People say that it's awful that I only had a real father for less than two years and then had to lose him. I wish like anything he was still here, but it's like getting an extraordinary meal after you've just eaten junk food for a long time. The taste just sweeps through your sensibilities bringing all-out contentment, and the sheer goodness of it makes up for every bad meal you've ever had.")*

#### Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. Why does G.T. graft the branches together? What do you think this act represents?  
*(G.T. takes two little trees that had been a gift from his close friend Pastor Al. G.T. slices a branch off one tree and a slice from the other tree. He holds the cut branch over the other tree's cut part and lashes them together. His act is a symbol for their new family: Hope, Addie, and G.T. didn't start from the same tree, the same family, but they will grow together into one unit. And so they do. It is a lovely gesture.)*

10. What do you think names Hope, Braverman, and Millstone symbolize?  
(*Bauer often uses the characters' names as a shorthand for their personalities. Students might suggest that "Hope" stands for possibility and trust; "Braverman" symbolizes courage and responsibility; and "Millstone" stands for restraint and being held back.*)

#### Questions 11 and 12 (Creative Level)

11. Writing as Hope, draft a journal entry that describes your life ten years in the future.
12. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways that you might have coped with Deena if you had been Hope.

#### ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

##### Art/Music

1. Make a menu for the new diner. Display it in the classroom.
2. Draw a map of Mulhoney, Wisconsin. Be sure to include all the landmarks mentioned in the novel.
3. Select a dramatic scene in the book, such as G.T.'s death. Choose background music that reinforces the scene's mood or atmosphere. Read the scene to the class as you play the music in the background.
4. Addie makes wonderful food for her customers. Make a homemade gift to share with your classmates. It might be a drawing, painting, or song, for example.
5. Recast this novel as a board game. Include a playing board, playing pieces, and rules. Then demonstrate the game for the class.

##### Language Arts

1. At one point in the novel, Hope explains that she feels like "Dorothy plopped down in Munchkin Land." Explain the reference.
2. On page 60, Hope lists synonyms for words. Add at least 10 antonyms (opposites) to each list. Then explain their different shades of meaning.
3. Read another book by Joan Bauer and compare and contrast it to *Hope Was Here*. Show how they are the same and different from each other.
4. List five rules that good food service workers should follow. Be prepared to explain why each rule is important.
5. Braverman writes an essay he calls "A Political Lesson." Write your own version of this essay, explaining what you think Braverman has learned from G.T.'s campaign.
6. Analyze how Bauer creates humor in this novel. To illustrate your points, give several examples of passages that you found especially amusing.
7. Writing as Sid Vole, create some campaign slogans for G.T. Model your campaign slogans on the campaign slogans in the novel.
8. Rewrite one chapter from another character's point of view.
9. Analyze Yuri's dialect. Explain how his language differs from the language of the other characters.
10. Brainstorm at least five names that would fit Hope's personality as well as the name "Hope" does. Next to each name, explain why it is appropriate for her.

##### History/Social Studies

1. Write a travel brochure for Mulhoney, Wisconsin, the town where the novel is set. Include words and pictures that make people want to visit Mulhoney for a vacation.

2. Addie, Braverman, and G.T. are short-order cooks. Report on people who work as cooks. What special problems do they face?
3. G.T. runs for mayor. List the public officials in your town and explain their responsibilities. If possible, interview one of these men or women.
4. At one time, many people in America had milk delivered from places such as the Real Fresh Dairy. Interview an older person to find out more about milk delivery 30-40 years ago in America.
5. G.T. tells Hope that his mother was a "Quaker." Who are the Quakers? What do they believe? How do they show their beliefs? Report on the Quakers.

##### Speech/Debate

1. Hold a debate between the two candidates, G.T. and Millstone.
2. Working with a partner, role-play a scene in which you are being interviewed for a summer job as a waiter or waitress.
3. Speaking as Addie, explain to the class why you love Hope as a mother loves a daughter.
4. Create a TV panel discussion explaining how G.T. helps Hope.

##### Science/Math

1. G.T. is suffering from leukemia. Explain the disease and its treatments.
2. Hope refers to Wisconsin as the "Cheese Capital of America." Determine what products are produced in Wisconsin and in what amounts. Show your findings on a chart or graph.
3. List emergency first aid procedures to deal with accidents, injuries, and other health problems. Be sure to check with the school nurse as you prepare your list.
4. Addie and Hope are able to support themselves. How much money does a couple need to be considered "middle class" in your community? Make a chart showing the average monthly expenses for two people. Include such expenses as rent, food, utilities, medical, and clothing.

#### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. In your own words, state the novel's theme or message.
2. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main events.
3. List examples of difficulties that Hope faced. Then rank these hardships on a scale from most to least difficult. Be ready to justify your rankings.
4. Compose a scene in which Hope visits Addie ten years after the action described in the novel.
5. Make a character list and describe each character.

## VOCABULARY TEST

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. reverent      | A. bubbly                               |
| _____ 2. snippets      | B. floor covering                       |
| _____ 3. rancid        | C. jumble                               |
| _____ 4. petition      | D. little bits                          |
| _____ 5. discernible   | E. small fish, vegetable, and rice bits |
| _____ 6. bliss         | F. enemy                                |
| _____ 7. legible       | G. solemn                               |
| _____ 8. subtle        | H. old item that is often valuable      |
| _____ 9. hodgepodge    | I. can be seen                          |
| _____ 10. pulverized   | J. average                              |
| _____ 11. lug          | K. easily read                          |
| _____ 12. puny         | L. small and weak                       |
| _____ 13. sushi        | M. crowds                               |
| _____ 14. antique      | N. spoiled                              |
| _____ 15. linoleum     | O. great happiness                      |
| _____ 16. bogus        | P. fake                                 |
| _____ 17. foe          | Q. carry                                |
| _____ 18. hordes       | R. reduced to small pieces              |
| _____ 19. mediocre     | S. indirect                             |
| _____ 20. effervescent | T. application form                     |

## COMPREHENSION TEST A

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| ___ 1. The grill man, a handsome teenage boy around Hope's age             | A. Tulip Yancey      |
| ___ 2. The intelligent female police officer who takes over when G.T. dies | B. Addie             |
| ___ 3. The editor of the local newspaper                                   | C. Deena             |
| ___ 4. G.T.'s close friend, a minister                                     | D. Braverman         |
| ___ 5. Hope's step-father, a kind and decent man                           | E. G.T. Stoop        |
| ___ 6. Hope's aunt, the diner's chief cook                                 | F. Deputy Babcock    |
| ___ 7. The crooked mayor   | G. Eli Millstone     |
| ___ 8. The novel's narrator, a smart waitress                              | H. Pastor Al B.      |
| ___ 9. The "spin doctor" who helps G.T.'s campaign for mayor               | I. Sid Vole          |
| ___ 10. Hope's birth mother  | J. Cecilia Culpepper |

### Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the correct term to complete each of the following statements.

1. Hope and her Aunt run the (Hello Diner, Welcome Stairways Diner) in Mulhoney, Wisconsin.
2. Hope's mother gave her the name (Tulip, Anastasia).
3. Hope has never met her (father, mother).
4. G.T. Stoop has hired Addie and Hope because he has (leukemia, a bad back).
5. G.T. plans to force the corrupt (Wood Kingdom Lumberyard, Real Fresh Dairy) to pay all its back taxes.
6. Hope used (boxing, swimming) to help her deal with her anger over her family situation.
7. Millstone attempts to intimidate G.T. by parking a (bull, hearse) at the diner.
8. Two strangers in the diner scream they have found a (roach, mouse) in their salad.
9. To help Hope cope with her heartache at being rejected by her mother, Braverman gives Hope a (red clown nose, large punching bag).
10. Hope shows G.T. all her (scrapbooks, CDs) and realizes that he was the father she has been waiting for all along.

**Part III: True/False (20 points)**

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Gleason Beal stole money from Addie and Hope and ran off with the night waitress.
- \_\_\_ 2. Mulhoney, Wisconsin, is a surprisingly large and busy city.
- \_\_\_ 3. When Hope and her aunt arrive at their new diner, they are upset to see that it is very run down and serves such poor quality food.
- \_\_\_ 4. At the Memorial Day parade, G.T. shocks the town when he announces that he is running for mayor.
- \_\_\_ 5. G.T. has many large and beautiful marble statues in his yard.
- \_\_\_ 6. Jillian decides that Hope and Braverman would be a great couple
- \_\_\_ 7. Masked men attack G.T. and beat him badly.
- \_\_\_ 8. G.T. and Addie get married and are very happy together.
- \_\_\_ 9. G.T. loses the election by about 100 votes.
- \_\_\_ 10. When G.T. dies, Hope falls apart and decides that she does not want to attend college.

**Part IV: Essay (40 points)**

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Argue that children should or should not work in the summers and during school vacations, as Hope did.
- 2. Describe how Hope changes as a result of her experiences with G.T.
- 3. Explain how Addie is or is not a good parent to Hope.
- 4. Analyze why Hope's name suits her character.



## COMPREHENSION TEST B

### Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

Supply a term or phrase to complete each of the following statements. Place your answers in the blanks provided in the sentences.

1. The novel opens with a flashback as the narrator, named \_\_\_\_\_, remembers how she got started as a waitress in the Rainbow Diner.
2. Hope and her Aunt \_\_\_\_\_ (her guardian), work in the food service business.
3. They leave leaving Brooklyn, New York, for a job running the \_\_\_\_\_ diner in Mulhoney, Wisconsin.
4. Hope's mother Deena named her baby \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Addie and Hope eat in the diner and realize it's a fine, happy, homey place. They meet Flo the waitress and \_\_\_\_\_, the Russian bus boy.
6. At the Memorial Day parade, G.T. shocks the town when he announces that he is running for the political position of \_\_\_\_\_ against Eli Millstone.
7. G.T. plans to force the corrupt Real Fresh \_\_\_\_\_ Company to pay all its back taxes.
8. Hope says the sport of \_\_\_\_\_ saved her, because it helped her deal with her mother's rejection and her father's desertion.
9. Jillian decides that Hope and the grill boy \_\_\_\_\_ would be a great couple.
10. When the votes are counted, it is announced that G.T. \_\_\_\_\_ the election by 114 votes.

### Part II: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each and explain why it is important in the story.

1. G.T.'s trees
2. the daylily
3. Hope's name
4. the mouse in the salad
5. Hope's scrapbooks

**Part III: Motivation (20 points)**

Complete each phrase below with a reason or justification.

1. Hope and her Aunt move to Wisconsin to
2. Hope's mother gave up her daughter because
3. When they arrive in Wisconsin, Hope is nervous because
4. The diner's owner has hired Addie and Hope because
5. People like G.T. Stoop because
6. People in the town are afraid to support G.T. because
7. Lou Ellen brings her baby Anastasia to the diner because
8. Braverman writes an article about the beating for the local newspaper, the "Mulhoney Messenger," so
9. Hope refuses to go out on a date with the grill man because
10. The town holds a touching memorial for G.T. Stoop because

**Part IV: Essay (40 points)**

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare and contrast Hope in the beginning of the novel and the end.
2. Explain the novel's theme or main idea. What lesson does it teach?
3. Describe the novel's setting.
4. Analyze what role G.T. Stoop plays in Hope's life.

## ANSWER KEY

### VOCABULARY TEST

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. O  | 11. Q | 16. P |
| 2. D | 7. K  | 12. L | 17. F |
| 3. N | 8. S  | 13. E | 18. M |
| 4. T | 9. C  | 14. H | 19. J |
| 5. I | 10. R | 15. B | 20. A |

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

#### Part II: Sentence Completion (30 points)

- Welcome Stairways
- Tulip
- father
- leukemia
- Real Fresh Dairy
- boxing
- hearse
- mouse
- red clown nose
- scrapbooks

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

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

#### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

- Hope Yancey
- Addie
- Welcome Stairways
- Tulip
- Yuri
- mayor
- Dairy
- boxing
- Braverman
- loses

#### Part II: Identification (20 points)

- Stoop's trees represent life, hope, and the future. They reveal Stoop's optimistic spirit and show his concern for bringing people together.
- The daylily represents light, life, and hope. It shows the indomitable human spirit.
- Hope's name symbolizes the importance of optimism in the world. It stands for the importance of believing in the goodness of people.
- The mouse in the salad shows how far Millstone is willing to go to hurt Stoop and his business. Millstone is the opposite of Stoop: Millstone is a vicious, underhanded, dishonest politician.
- Hope's scrapbooks show how much she wants a father in her life. Hope explains that she keeps scrapbooks to show her father in case he shows up. Hope has never met her father.

#### Part III: Motivation (20 points)

- make a fresh start after the part owner of their previous diner, Gleason Beal, cleaned out the business account and ran off with the night waitress.
- she is unable to accept the responsibility of raising a child.
- she is afraid that she won't fit in
- he wants to rid the town of corruption
- he is a kind and decent man who has helped many people
- he is so ill and they fear he will die
- the baby is not doing well and she needs help raising her
- people will know all about Millstone's dirty tricks
- she is too embarrassed to say yes
- they love and respect him very much

#### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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