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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1 Nevada judge Samuel Bendix sentences 14-year-old Rick Walker to six months at the rough Blue Canyon detention center in Las Vegas, Nevada, for repeated brushes with the law. Rick's latest problem involves throwing stones at a stop sign. Rick is unable to explain his reasons for his actions, although readers understand that his rebellion comes from being orphaned after his grandmother's death. The social worker explains that Rick has had a tough time in foster homes all over California, but the judge is obdurate.

Chap. 2 Four and a half months into his sentence, Rick is still shocked at the turn his life has taken. He lifts weights, stays out of trouble, and enjoys spending time with Mr. Bramwell ("Mr. B") in the library. Dreams of flight have haunted Rick all his life and he enjoys reading stories of flight, especially the myth of Icarus and Daedalus.

Chap. 3 Killian, the resident known as "The Kid Who Eats Glass," tells Rick that his "name is on the cigarettes," which means that he is going to be beaten. Rick knows that he might even be killed, and so that evening he escapes.

Chap. 4 Rick hitchhikes away from Blue Canyon. The driver lets him out at a gas station, where Rick is nearly attacked by Jasper, a fierce pit bull. Jasper's owner, Nuke Carlile, is as cruel as his dog. Rick hides in a Hummer parked in the gas station. He is baffled because the car is filled with cow carcasses and other odd provisions.

Chap. 5 The Hummer leaves the gas station, Rick hidden inside. As he travels, Rick recalls his beloved grandmother, who died of lung cancer. When the driver stops and walks away, Rick drives the car into the canyon.

Chap. 6 Rick's mad escape takes him to Lon Peregrino, an amiable man involved in a condor reintroduction program.

Chap. 7 Lon gives Rick food and leaves to take care of his condors. Rick discovers a photo identifying Lon as "Kenny McDermott." Rick overhears Nuke and his companion Gunderson sneaking around camp and realizes that they are not friends of Lon's.

Chap. 8 Lon explains his work with the Condor Project tracking endangered condors in Utah's Canyonlands National Park. Rick tells Lon all about Nuke and Gunderson. Lon thinks they are "pothunters" who pillage Native American artifacts.

Chap. 9 The next day, Lon explains that M4 is a maverick because he never socializes with the other condors. Lon has Rick drive to the condor site, showing his trust. There, they feed the dead calves to the birds. Rick admires Lon's dedication to his lonely career.

Chap. 10 Rick dreams of flying above the natural Maze. Rick is Lon's assistant as the biologist uses a hang glider to take an injured eagle for a flight. Rick shares his dreams of flight with Lon, who understands his desire to soar like a bird.

Rick admires the beauty of the man-kite soaring above the canyonlands.

Chap. 11 Years ago, Nuke had been a rancher, but now he hates the government and anything associated with it, including Lon's bird project. Rick starts to care about the condors, seeing them as outcasts like himself. Rick calls M4 "Maverick," a nickname Lon had been using for him.

Chap. 12 Rick and Lon discuss the Condor Project.

Chap. 13 Lon and Rick try to catch M4, the maverick condor.

Chap. 14 Rick helps Lon grab the condor, wrap him in Rick's jacket, and take him to base camp. Rick is amazed to feel the condor's heart beat against his chest. Rick tells Lon about the detention center. Lon cares about Rick's problems and understands what he is experiencing.

Chap. 15 Lon explains how gliding works and describes the thrill of riding on a "thermal," a column of rising warm air. Lon reveals that he was a foster kid, like Rick. He became interested in condors from his last foster father, a veterinarian. Lon explains that he was born Kenny McDermott, but changed his name to Lon Peregrino when he began working with birds. Lon's childhood was as lonely as Rick's, but he tells Rick to forgive his parents' desertion and his grandmother's death and move on. Lon concludes that he and Rick are survivors, as tough as condors.

Chap. 16 Maverick flies and Rick explores the Maze. Nuke and Gunderson arrive at the camp and allow their pit bull to kill Maverick. Rick and Lon are shattered by the bird's death. "You flew too close to the sun," Lon says about the bird, as Rick concludes that life is cruel and unfair. Lon decides to take Rick hang gliding as homage to Maverick.

Chap. 17 Rick thrills to the ride, the culmination of all his dreams of flying. Lon reports Maverick's death to the home base. Lon announces that he has arranged to take Rick back to the detention center and have his record cleared. He doesn't make any promises, but seems confident that he can help Rick close this painful chapter in his life.

Chap. 18 Under Lon's tutelage, Rick learns to hang glide.

Chap. 19 Rick finds Nuke's hiding place in the canyon and realizes that he and Gunderson are hiding guns and bombs, not Native American artifacts. Chased by the pit bull Jasper, Rick is forced to ask Nuke and Gunderson for help. Although a fierce storm is brewing and Rick could likely be killed by flash floods, the two men leave him trapped in the canyon. Rick manages to save himself and tells Lon what happened.

Chap. 20 For four days, Rick practices flying. Lon must recover M1, a bird that has gone off track.

Chap. 21 Back at camp, Rick realizes that Nuke has drained all their gas, stranding them. It begins to rain and Rick hears gunshots. Terrified that Nuke has killed Lon, Rick tracks Nuke and Gunderson. He overhears them talking about Lon being trapped in a canyon and their decision to clear out their

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gun cache.

Chap. 22 Rick decides to fly into the canyon to save Lon. Just as Jasper runs at him, Rick takes off, but the dog has grabbed on. When Jasper opens his mouth to grab a better hold, he plunges into the canyon and dies.

Chap. 23 Just as Rick spots Lon, the storm begins. Rick breaks his left arm while landing. Despite the pelting rain and severe pain from his broken arm, Rick rescues Lon and they make it back to camp.

Chap. 24 The story flashes forward to the courtroom. Rick tells the judge that he has felt like a rat in a maze since his grandmother's death but now he feels free to make something of himself. The judge rules that Rick will enter a group home in Paige, Arizona, and serve the rest of his 6 months' time by serving the Condor Project. Rick realizes that he has forgiven his parents and has moved on.

Author's Note Will Hobbs explains how he first got the idea for *The Maze*. The condor project is real, although there is no condor project in this location.

BACKGROUND ON CONDORS

"Condor" is the common name for two large American vultures, the Andean condor and the California condor. Among the largest living flying birds, the Andean condor has a wingspread reaching about 10 feet; the California condor, about 9 feet. The California condor weighs up to 31 lb.; the male Andean condor, about 25 lb. Both condors have black feathers and a large white area in the wing. A fluffy white ruff encircles the lower neck.

Andean condors lay their single eggs on rock ledges; California condors, on cave floors. The young condors begin to fly at about six months of age. Both species feed almost entirely on carrion; the Andean condor, however, may occasionally attack wounded or newborn animals.

The Andean condor is found along the Andes mountain chain from Venezuela to the Strait of Magellan, sometimes descending to feed on eggs in seabird colonies along the Pacific. The California condor had a wide range in prehistoric times, but for many years before 1987 was restricted to California. That year, there were only 21 condors left in the wild. These few surviving condors were brought into captivity. A breeding program was begun the following year to allow the return of condors to the wild in some appropriate areas. The program has shown good results: today, about 52 condors live in the wild and 105 in captivity.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Will Hobbs was born in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1947 and educated at Stanford University, earning his B.A. in 1969 and his M.A. in 1971. From 1973-89, Hobbs taught junior high and senior high reading and English in the Colorado public schools. In 1990, he left teaching to become a full-time writer. Hobbs writes for six hours a day, as he explained in an interview for *Authors and Artists for Young Adults*. When he's not writing, Hobbs enjoys hiking in the mountains and canyons, white water rafting, archeology, and natural history. He actually hiked through the Maze in Utah's canyons to gather research for this book.

Hobbs's father was an engineer in the Air Force, so the family moved often. Will was only six months old when the family moved to the Panama Canal Zone. After that, the family lived in Virginia, Alaska, California, and Texas. The five children were all involved in scouting, and Hobbs developed a

love for nature and the outdoors at an early age. As Hobbs explained: "[My mother] contributed the gusto to my makeup. She feels that life is best lived as an adventure. At the age of seventy-three she rafted the Grand Canyon." His father introduced him to rivers in Alaska. Hobbs recounted, "Years later he joined me for three trips up the Pine River... It's my idea of heaven on earth, and I'll always be able to find him up there."

Although Hobbs has hiked and backpacked in many regions, it was the Southwest that captured his imagination. He spent two summers during high school and two during college in New Mexico as a guide and camp director at Philmont Scout Ranch. In 1973, Hobbs and his wife Jean settled in southwestern Colorado, in a wooded area adjoining thousands of acres of public land. From his writing desk in his upstairs office, he looks out at snow-capped mountain peaks. From his windows, Hobbs has seen black bears, coyotes, badgers, and bald and golden eagles, and "in late winter, a herd of elk comes out of the forest in the late afternoons and browses in the meadow, digging up the grass under the snow."

Although Hobbs has experienced first-hand many of the adventures about which he writes, his descriptions of hang gliding in *The Maze* are based on time spent with friends who fly, watching them jump off cliffs and soar. Recalling flying dreams from his childhood, Hobbs knew he wanted his young character to actually fly. "The idea for *The Maze*," he explains in his Author's Note, "came as I trained a spotting scope on a juvenile condor soaring above the majestic Vermilion Cliffs near the Grand Canyon. My wife, Jean, and I were huddled there with three hardy bird biologists on a bitterly cold, windy day in late December 1996.... I started thinking about putting fledgling condors together with a 'fledgling boy' in a story." Hobbs set the story in the Maze, a remote region of Canyonlands National Park in Utah, "for thematic purposes and for its stunning beauty."

Hobbs advises young writers, "Put the readers in your characters' shoes. Let them smell, hear, see, taste, and touch through your characters' senses." Hobbs stated, "I believe that if kids come to care about and identify with the characters in stories, they will also learn more about and ultimately care more about preserving the treasures of our natural world."

CRITIC'S CORNER

As with many of Will Hobbs' books, *The Maze* has won numerous prestigious literary awards, including Best Books for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, ALA; Pick of the Lists, ABA; and Teachers' Choice, International Reading Association, all in 1998. In his review of *The Maze* in *School Library Journal*, critic Todd Morning asserted: "What sets this book apart is the inclusion of fascinating details about the condors and hang gliding, especially the action-packed description of Rick's first solo flight above the canyons.... Many young readers will find this an adventure story they can't put down."

Readers are equally enthusiastic. A reader from Illinois offered this praise: "This book is a true adventure story at heart. I really enjoyed the action in this book and it kept me on the edge of my seat." A reader from Nebraska said: "Once I started reading *The Maze* I couldn't put it down. I am happy to say that this is my favorite book. I recommend it to all young adults...READ IT!"

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WRITINGS BY THE AUTHOR

Beardance (1993)
Beardream (1997)
Bearstone (1989)
The Big Wander (1992)
Changes in Latitudes (1988)
Downriver (1991)
Far North (1996)
Ghost Canoe (1997)
Howling Hill (1998)
Jason's Gold (1999)
Kokopelli's Flute (1995)
River Thunder (1997)

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Hipple, Ted, ed. *Writers for Young Adults*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1997, pp. 121-129.
Horn Book, May-June 1988, p. 358; January-February 1993, p. 91; March-April 1996; November-December 1996, p. 745.
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Kirkus Reviews, March 15, 1997, p. 462.
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School Library Journal, March 1988, pp. 212, 214; September 1989, p. 272; March 1991, p. 212; November 1992, p. 92; December 1993, p. 134; October 1995, p. 134; April 1997; September 1997, p. 217; October 1998, p. 136.
Seventh Book of Junior Authors and Illustrators. Wilson, 1996, pp. 133-135.
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GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze teenage rage
2. To evaluate how friendship can change a person's life
3. To recognize the themes of loyalty and acceptance
4. To analyze how some people stray from the law
5. To understand the novel's title
6. To explore the ways dangerous situations can get out of hand
7. To probe the importance of conserving the environment
8. To appreciate the novel's suspense
9. To analyze the foster care system and youth courts
10. To predict what the future holds for Rick

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explore why Rick rebels and throw rocks at a stop sign
2. To analyze Rick's grief over his grandmother's early death
3. To understand Lon's character
4. To see why Lon befriends Rick
5. To compare Lon's background to Rick's

6. To probe the relationship between Lon and Rick
7. To understand Lon's devotion to the condors and the environment
8. To grasp the importance of flying to Rick and how flying functions as a metaphor in the novel
9. To trace Nuke's rage against the government
10. To identify the novel's structure, especially its climax

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Will Hobbs' style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

Allusion a reference to a well-known place, event, person, work of art, or other work of literature. Allusions enrich a story or poem by suggesting powerful and exciting comparisons. In *The Maze*, Will Hobbs alludes to the myth of Icarus and Daedalus to reinforce the theme of flight and the simultaneous danger and exaltation it represents. On one hand, flight poses terrible risks, as shown by Icarus' deadly plunge into the sea. On the other hand, flight elevates humankind to the realm of the gods, as shown by Daedalus' successful ascension.

foreshadowing clues that hint at what will happen later on in the story. Writers use foreshadowing to create suspense and link related details. For example, in *The Maze*, Will Hobbs uses foreshadowing in Chapter 21 when Rick feels uneasy about being separated from Lon: "Lon," Rick whispered urgently, facing the truck. "Let's stick together. I have a bad feeling." (page 192). Rick's uneasiness foreshadows the trouble he and Lon will encounter at Nuke's hands.

suspense the feeling of tension or anticipation an author creates in a work. Writers create suspense by unexpected plot twists. This keeps readers interested in the story and makes them want to read on to find out what will happen. Hobbs builds suspense by having Rick track Lon to try to find out what has happened to him in the canyon. The mysterious gunshots and fierce storm add to the tension, as readers wonder if Lon will be swept away in a raging flash flood.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

Fiction

Avi, *Perloo the Bold*
Joan Bauer *Squashed* and *November*
Nancy Butts, *The Door in the Lake*
Robert Cormier, *The Chocolate War*
Chris Crutcher *Chinese Handcuffs* and *Athletic Shorts : Six Short Stories*
Mark Delaney, *The Vanishing Chip*
Carol Fenner, *The King of Dragons*
Vicki Grove, *Reaching Dustin*
Robert Heinlein, *Citizen of the Galaxy*, *Have Spacesuit, Will Travel*, *Starship Troopers*, and *Tunnel in the Sky*
Jeanette Ingold, *Pictures*
Melinda Lilly, *Huatya Curi and the Five Condors: A Huarochiri Myth*
Elizabeth Moon, *Once a Hero* and *Rules of Engagement*
Gary Paulsen, *Brian's Winter* and *Hatchet*
S. L. Rottman, *Hero* and *Rough Waters*
Larry Segriff, *Spacer Dreams*
Sherry Shahan, *Frozen Stiff* and *For Mike*
Charles Sheffield and Jerry Pournelle, *Higher Education*
Zilpha Keatley Snyder, *And Condors Danced*
Glendon Swarthout, *Bless the Beasts and Children*
Frances Wilbur, *The Dog with Golden Eyes*

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Nonfiction

Steve Allen, *Canyoneering 3: Loop Hikes in Utah's Escalante*
Steve Allen and Harvey Halpern, *Canyoneering 2: Technical Loop Hikes in Southern Utah*

Caroline Arnold, *On the Brink of Extinction: The California Condor*

Robert F. Burgess, *Where Condors Fly*

David Houston, *Condors & Vultures*

Judy Leden, *Flying With Condors*

Ray Rosenbaum, *Condors*

Nancy Schorsch, *Saving the Condor*

Alvin Silverstein, et al., *The California Condor*

Alison Tibbitts and Alan Roccoft, *California Condors*

Michael R. Weibe and Dan Miller, *High in Utah: A Hiking Guide to the Tallest Peak in Each of the State's Twenty-Nine Counties*

Tom Wharton, et al., *Compass American Guides: Utah*

David Urmann, Kevin E. Bowditch, *Trail Guide to Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument*

Multimedia

Webster's Birds of the World (Multimedia 2000)

Internet

"California Condor Conservation,"

<www.lazoo.org/condorco.htm>

"Conservation Projects: California Condor Restoration,"

<www.pereginefund.org/conserv_cacondo.html>

Videos/Films

Bless the Beasts and Children (1972)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Will Hobbs' *The Maze* should include these aspects:

Themes

- alienation
- the importance of family
- being orphaned
- friendship
- grief and loss
- loyalty
- maturity
- murder
- preserving the ecosystem
- wild creatures

Motifs

- dealing with physical danger
- the difficulty of being on your own, without family or friends
- the juvenile foster care and court system
- the powerful effect of friendship
- rescuing and tracking endangering species
- criminals and cruelty
- flight and the freedom it represents
- how even "good" kids can get derailed
- coping with setbacks and personal problems
- the importance of forgiveness

MEANING STUDY

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

1. Rick thought hard. Again he was swimming in confusion.

Deep down, he didn't really know who he was. He hadn't for a long time. (Chap. 1, page 6)

(Rick is in trouble with the law for throwing rocks at a stop sign. This is not his first brush with authority, unfortunately. Rick never knew his father, and his mother deserted him soon after birth. He was raised by his grandmother, who has recently died. Basically a good-hearted and intelligent young man, Rick has been so buffeted by the fates that he has not been able to form any coherent sense of self.)

2. When he was younger, he had been able to keep the dream going all night—hovering, weightlessly hovering, with his arms outspread. (Chap. 4, page 34)
(Rick is captivated by the idea of flying. He dreams of literally flying over the ground, soaring weightlessly in the air. Flying also represents a wish to surmount his difficult family and personal life, to have the freedom denied him by circumstances. If he could only fly, Rick could be master of his own fate, he feels.)
3. Rick couldn't help that he'd started to care about the condors himself. (Chap. 11, page 100)
(After working with Lon, Rick comes to admire the condors. He identifies with the condors as fellow outcasts who have the deck stacked against them — just as he does. Rick is also growing fond of Lon, even though he has yet to find out about Lon's past or even his real name. Like Rick and the condors, Lon is himself damaged goods.)
4. "Back to the slammer for this juvenile delinquent," Rick said. "You're busted, Maverick." (Chapter 14, page 119)
(After Lon and Rick capture Maverick, the wild young condor, they put him in a cage. Rick has already begun to identify with all the condors, but most especially with Maverick because of their similar personalities. Even their names are similar: "Rick" and "Maverick." This incident with Maverick opens the door for Lon to probe Rick's past. This, in turn, allows Lon to help Rick return to court and make arrangements to complete his sentence and clear his past. Rick then has a fresh start.)
5. "Actually it was in one of my foster homes, when I was about your age. My foster dad was a vet." (Chap. 15, page 124)
(Lon reveals that his past is very similar to Rick's. Both had shattered birth families and ended up in a string of foster homes. Rick had sensed that Lon really understood his dilemma and personality — and Rick was right. Lon's understanding, of course, stems from having experienced the same dislocation and tragedy.)
6. "I'm saying it's time to move on, find your way into the clear, where you can shape your own life." (Chap. 15, page 131)
(Lon gives Rick excellent advice. As Lon's own past proves, Rick isn't the first child who has been wronged, and he won't be the last. It is time that Rick forgave his parents their desertion, his foster families their indifference, and his grandmother her premature death. When he is able to forgive, Lon suggests, he will be able to move on and become an adult.)
7. Lon's eyes were brimming, his voice breaking. "Too close to the sun, Maverick. You flew too close to the sun."

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(Chap. 16, p. 143)

(Maverick died when Nuke's pit bull Jasper attacked him, not when he flew too close to the sun. Although Lon jumped on top of the dog and tried to pull him off the bird, it was too late. By attributing the bird's death to the legend of Icarus and Daedalus, Lon is speaking metaphorically: he admires the bird's heroic spirit and daring.)

8. Lon shrugged. "It's about you. I'm going to drive you out. I've been thinking about it all day." (Chap. 17, page 154) *(Lon has arranged to leave his beloved birds to help Rick get a hearing with the judge who sent him to Blue Canyon. This is an enormous sacrifice for Lon, who does not especially like to be among people. It shows his determination to help Rick as well as his innate goodness and kindness.)*
9. "Name's Rick," he replied. "Not Mav-rick. Ten-four, Daedalus. I'm coming back to earth." (Chap. 20, page 185) *(While Rick is hang gliding, he soars too high in the air. As he calls him down, Lon refers to the boy as "Icarus." This is a reference to the Greek myth about the boy who died when he flew too close to the sun. When Rick chooses to stay in the air, Lon calls him "Maverick." This is a reference to the condor who died. At this, Rick begins his descent.)*
10. "I'm out of the maze now, sir. I'm free to make something of myself." (Chap. 24, page 225) *(Speaking to the judge, Rick explains that before he met Lon, he had been trying only to survive yet kept running into dead ends. Rick gives credit to Lon for helping him mature and find his direction in life. Now Rick would never go back to the same maze in his mind.)*

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. When and where does the story take place?
(The story takes place in the present in Nevada and Utah. The action starts in a court in Nevada, moves to a youth detention center in Nevada, and then concludes in Utah. The bulk of the novel takes place in Utah's Canyonlands National Park.)
2. Why does Rick run away from the detention center?
(Rick has learned that he is going to be beaten up. A fellow juvenile delinquent, Killian, reveals this in code: "Your name is on the cigarettes." Rick knows that the guards will look the other way, so he must escape or be severely injured.)
3. What are Nuke and Gunderson hiding in the canyon?
(They are hiding a cache of weapons, including guns and the materials for bombs. Initially, Lon and Rick believed they were hiding ancient Native American artifacts with the intention of smuggling them out.)
4. What does Lon teach Rick?
(Lon teaches Rick how to take care of the condors. He also teaches Rick about survival in the harsh desert and the importance of preserving the fragile ecosystem. Rick is especially excited to learn hang gliding from Lon. Most

of all, Lon teaches Rick to be an adult, to help others, and to take responsibility for his actions.)

5. Who is Maverick and what happens to him?
(Maverick is a condor who is mauled to death by Nuke's pit bull dog Jasper. Even though Lon warns Rick about projecting human characteristics on the wild birds, both he and Rick have strong feelings for the brave young bird.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. How does Rick change as the novel progresses?
(At the beginning of the novel, Rick is confused and lost. He feels very angry because his mother deserted him and his grandmother died, yet he cannot recognize or articulate his feelings. By the end of the novel, he becomes a mature young man who is ready to take charge of his fate. This transformation occurs in large part because of Lon's gentle guidance and deep concern.)
7. What does flying represent to Lon and to Rick?
(Flying represents freedom from the constraints and worries of everyday life. It stands for independence and liberty, as well.)
8. Compare and contrast Rick and Lon. How are they the same and different?
(Both characters were abandoned by their families and left to fend for themselves. As a result, both were thrown into the foster care system, where they experienced abuse. Rick had a grandmother who loved him, while Lon had his last foster family, who cared for him and influenced him to work in conservation. Rick is a teenager who still has to complete his education and establish himself, while Lon is a mature adult well settled in a career that gives him great satisfaction.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What meaning does the myth of Icarus and Daedalus have in the novel?
(The myth serves as inspiration to fly and also as a warning not to exceed humankind's natural limitations. As such, it motivates Lon and Rick while it simultaneously reminds them of the essentially earth-bound human condition.)
10. What purpose does the Author's Note serve? Do you think it should have been included? Why or why not?
(The Author's Note provides additional background and information about the topics raised in the novel. It also explains the author's fascination with hiking, helping endangered species, and the southwest. Most readers will agree that it serves as a fitting coda to the novel.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways that you might have coped with Rick's situation had you been in his place.
12. Argue that endangered species should or should not be protected.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art and Music

1. Design a poster for a movie version of *The Maze*.
2. Divide a piece of paper in half lengthwise. On the left side, draw Rick's anger before he meets Lon and spends time with him in the wild. On the right side, draw Rick's

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calmer, more mature mood at the end of the novel. Use colors and shapes to capture Rick's emotions.

3. Create a maze. Challenge a classmate to solve the puzzle.
4. In Chapter 10, Lon sings "Buffalo Gals" to Rick. Get the words to the song and perform it for the class.
5. Construct a scale model of a hang glider. Demonstrate it for the class.
6. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main themes.

Drama

1. Rick's grandmother died of lung cancer brought about by smoking. Write and perform a commercial to alert students about the dangers of smoking. Include both short-term and long-term health hazards.
2. Role-play a scene between Rick and Lon, in which Rick thanks Lon for all he has done for him.
3. Create a scene in which the police interrogate Nuke and Gunderson to find out what they have been doing in the canyon.
4. Dramatize the opening scene in the courtroom. Then try several variations in which matters turn out differently for Rick.

History and Social Studies

1. Locate Utah on the map and explain its climate, history, and topography.
2. Imagine that you are Lon or Rick. Create a map of the region, marking all the landmarks that are mentioned in the novel.
3. Using the information in Chapter 1 as a guide, trace Rick's route through different foster homes. Include Fresno, Stockton, Merced, and Sacramento, California; as well as Reno, Nevada.
4. Make an Ice Age timeline. Show where each of the creatures mentioned in the book belong. Include bison, condors, giant ground sloths, camels, mastodons, and the dire wolf.
5. Learn more about the Native American tribes in Utah. Prepare a chart showing the tribes and their membership.
6. What would happen in your state to a teenager with Rick's criminal record? Investigate the youth detention system in your state. Share your findings with the class.
7. Rick hitchhikes to escape from Blue Canyon. Make a poster warning teenagers of the dangers of hitchhiking—and of picking up hitchhikers.
8. Decide how Nuke and Gunderson should be punished.

Language Arts

1. Imagine that you had written this novel. Write a dedication for someone you know who you think would appreciate this novel and the themes it expresses.
2. Write a eulogy that Lon might deliver over Maverick's body.
3. Lon renames himself to reflect his interests and to make a fresh start. Rename yourself to reflect your talents and interests. Be ready to explain how your new name fits you.
4. List at least ten books that Mr. B. might recommend to Rick. Next to each book, write a sentence explaining why Rick would like this book.

5. Read the Greek myth "Icarus and Daedalus." Compare and contrast the characters in the myth to Rick and Lon.
6. Lon says, "No point in gilding the lily. Less is more." Explain this saying and decide whether or not it applies to its context in Chapter 11.
7. Lon is a biologist. See how many words you can list that begin with the prefix *bio*. Define each word and use it in a sentence.
8. Create a new title for the novel. Explain how it fits the story's plot, mood, and theme.
9. Write a newspaper article about the Condor Project.
10. Read another book by Will Hobbs. Compare and contrast it to *The Maze*.

Science and Health

1. Plan a vegetable garden for your school. With the principal's permission, plant the garden and share the harvest with the school.
2. Are pit bulls as dangerous as Jasper appears to be? Prepare a report describing the breed and their habits.
3. Find out more about condors and their status as endangered species. Include information about reintroduction programs. You may wish to share your information in the form of a web page.
4. Explain what a "thermal" is and how it works.
5. Debate whether or not condors *should* be protected. How else could this time and money be spent?
6. Rick works for the Condor Project to help prevent the condors from becoming extinct. Organize a classroom conservation project by adopting a tree, animal, or fish in your region and working to help maintain it.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Explain what a child needs to grow up to become a secure, happy adult. Apply the criteria to Rick to see what he did or did not receive.
2. Stage a news conference in which the police explain what Nuke and Gunderson were doing in the Maze and how the situation was resolved.
3. Retell the events in this novel from Rick's point of view.
4. Compose an extended character sketch of Rick and Lon, in which you compare and contrast their personalities, goals, and achievements.
5. Write a critical review of the novel for publication in the school newspaper.

THE MAZE

VOCABULARY TEST

Match each word on the left with its synonym on the right. Write the letter of your answer in the space provided.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ 1. pristine | A. advanced |
| _____ 2. arid | B. guess |
| _____ 3. forlorn | C. added flavoring |
| _____ 4. murky | D. carefully |
| _____ 5. precocious | E. cheerful |
| _____ 6. revoked | F. smirk |
| _____ 7. arson | G. believable |
| _____ 8. conjecture | H. very lonely |
| _____ 9. gruff | I. rough winds or seas |
| _____ 10. condiments | J. out of control |
| _____ 11. canny | K. jailed |
| _____ 12. methodically | L. top |
| _____ 13. pinnacle | M. shrewd |
| _____ 14. optimistic | N. dry |
| _____ 15. grimace | O. gloomy |
| _____ 16. berserk | P. pure and clean |
| _____ 17. plausible | Q. surly |
| _____ 18. turbulence | R. deliberately-set fire |
| _____ 19. incarcerated | S. took back |
| _____ 20. tethered | T. tied |

THE MAZE

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 blanks provided.

- | | | |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| _____ | 1. a gas station owner who hates the government | A. Rick Walker |
| _____ | 2. nicknamed "the Kid Who Eats Glass" | B. Kenny McDermott |
| _____ | 3. throws rocks at a stop sign | C. Maverick |
| _____ | 4. a vicious pit bull | D. Killian |
| _____ | 5. sentences Rick to a stay at the Blue Canyon Detention Center | E. Judge Samuel Bendix |
| _____ | 6. Nuke's side-kick | F. Jasper |
| _____ | 7. teaches Rick to hang glide | G. Lon Peregrino |
| _____ | 8. Lon's birth name | H. Nuke Carlile |
| _____ | 9. the librarian at Blue Canyon | I. Gunderson |
| _____ | 10. the condor who is killed by a dog | J. Mr. B |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements **T** if they are true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Rick serves four and a half months of his six-month sentence at Blue Canyon.
- _____ 2. Rick learns that his "name is on the cigarettes," which means that he is going to be released early.
- _____ 3. Rick hides in a Hummer parked in the gas station.
- _____ 4. Nuke, Gunderson, and Lon are all old friends who enjoy each other's company.
- _____ 5. M4 is a new type of weapon that Nuke and Jasper have invented.
- _____ 6. "Pothunters" are men and women who pillage Native American artifacts.
- _____ 7. Lon and Rick feed dead calves to the condors.
- _____ 8. Rick has always been terrified of flying, especially in a hang glider.
- _____ 9. Rick trusts Lon and tells him all about his past in foster homes and the detention center.
- _____ 10. At the end of the novel, Rick goes to live with Lon.

THE MAZE

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each line below with a reason or explanation.

1. Rick escapes from Blue Canyon because
2. Rick likes spending time with Mr. B because
3. Lon is in Utah's Canyonlands National Park because he is
4. Lon eats handfuls of unheated hot dogs because
5. Rick starts to care about the condors because
6. Maverick dies because
7. The condors need help from humans because
8. Rick admired Lon because
9. Lon helps Rick because
10. At the end of the novel, the judge rules as he does because

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain what purpose Nuke and Gunderson serve in the novel.
2. Compare and contrast Lon and Rick.
3. Describe the novel's setting.
4. Describe how Rick changes as the novel progresses.

THE MAZE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

1. Nevada judge Samuel Bendix sentences 14-year-old Rick Walker to six months at (Blue Canyon, the Maze) detention center in Las Vegas, Nevada, for repeated brushes with the law.
2. Rick's latest problem involves (skipping school, throwing stones at a stop sign).
3. At the detention center, Rick very much enjoys (reading, playing cards).
4. Rick (hang glides, hitchhikes) away from the detention center.
5. Rick hides in a (gas station, car).
6. Lon's birth name was (Nuke Gunderson, Kenny McDermott).
7. For most meals, Lon eats (steak, unheated hot dogs)
8. Rick dreams of (flying, escaping from Lon).
9. Nuke and Gunderson hide (Native American artifacts, bombs and guns).
10. Trying to help Lon, Rick (breaks his arm, gashes his head).

Part II: Matching (20 points)

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

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------|
| _____ | 1. Lon's nickname for Rick | A. Rick Walker |
| _____ | 2. a former rancher who is very much against the government | B. Kenny McDermott |
| _____ | 3. a former juvenile delinquent who turns his life around | C. Maverick |
| _____ | 4. an amiable man involved in a condor reintroduction program | D. Killian |
| _____ | 5. the boy who tips Rick off that he is going to be beaten | E. Rick's grandmother |
| _____ | 6. a vicious pit bull | F. Jasper |
| _____ | 7. the librarian at Blue Canyon | G. Lon Peregrino |
| _____ | 8. an anti-social condor who is killed by a dog | H. Nuke Carlile |
| _____ | 9. Lon's real name | I. M4 |
| _____ | 10. died of lung cancer | J. Mr. Bramwell |

THE MAZE

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Explain why each is important in the story.

1. Icarus and Daedalus
2. Maverick
3. the Maze
4. Lon Peregrino
5. Rick's grandmother

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Who is the novel's main character? Why?
2. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and denouement
3. Is Lon a good friend to Rick? Why or why not?
4. Compare Rick Walker at the beginning and end of the novel.

THE MAZE

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

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

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

1. he wishes to avoid a severe beating
2. Rick enjoys reading and Mr. B is kind
3. working for a condor reintroduction program
4. he is too busy and distracted to bother cooking them
5. seeing them as outcasts like himself
6. he is attacked by Jasper, the pit bull
7. the condors are an endangered species
8. Lon is decent, honest, and kind
9. Lon experienced the same painful past as a foster child; Lon is a kind man
10. he realizes that Rick has learned and matured from his experiences

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Blue Canyon | 6. Kenny McDermott |
| 2. throwing stones at a stop sign | 7. unheated hot dogs |
| 3. reading | 8. flying |
| 4. hitchhikes | 9. bombs and guns |
| 5. car | 10. breaks his arm |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

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

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. The myth of Icarus and Daedalus symbolizes certain aspects of Rick and Lon, respectively. The mythic figure represents the human desire to exceed limitations and fly like the gods.
2. Maverick, the doomed condor, represents the rebellious spirit that outsiders possess.
3. The Maze, the novel's setting, comes to symbolize Rick's early inability to get past his problems and forgive the people who have hurt him.
4. Lon Peregrino becomes a father figure to Rick. Lon helps Rick mature and move past his pain.
5. Rick's grandmother is the only person who had loved Rick. As a result, Rick was deeply attached to her and her death left a wound on his psyche.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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