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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1: On an upland in the Florida scrub near Volusia, thirteen-year-old Jody Baxter lives with his parents, Ora and Ezra Ezekiel "Penny" Baxter. Around 1872, the family home is an island of peace south of Lake George near the St. John's River, where Penny recovers from service in the Civil War. Nearby live the Forresters. In April, Jody leaves hoeing to chase wild bees and build a fluttermill at the creek.

Chap. 2: Jody, the Baxters' treasure, is the only one of their children to survive in a twenty-year marriage. Penny spares Jody adult concerns to let him enjoy boyhood.

Chap. 3: One morning, old Julia barks at the mangled carcass of the brood sow, black Betsy. Slain by Old Slewfoot, a giant black bear, she is one of his many animal victims.

Chap. 4: The dogs catch the bear's scent, but the hunt fails because Penny's muzzle-loader misfires. Julia is badly mauled. Ora stitches the wound and sits up to tend her during the night.

Chap. 5: Julia survives. Jody and Penny mount Old Caesar and ride to the Forresters to trade the feist for a better gun. On the way, Penny points out trails that date to the arrival of the Spanish in Florida. Jody visits with his friend Fodder-wing, a misshapen boy among six tall brothers—Lem, Gabby, Arch, Pack, Buck, and Mill-wheel. Fodder-wing shows Jody the wild animals he keeps as pets.

Chap. 6: After dinner, Penny begins the traditional deal-making for an English double-barreled shotgun in exchange for a worthless hunting dog. Fodder-wing puts eggs under a setting hen. Jody would also like a pet, but his mother would object to the expense of feeding it.

Chap. 8: The smell of venison welcomes Jody back to the cabin. For once, the family eats heartily.

Chap. 9: The next morning, Penny kills an albino raccoon and works at securing their water supply. At the sink-hole, he laments that he has always been behind in his plans to dig a well.

Chap. 10: For two days, Ora treats Jody for chills and fever, then doses him with mullein tea for measles. He confides to Penny that he made himself sick by eating brierberries. He recovers enough to go fishing by moonlight with Penny. They encounter Minorcans hunting gophers. On return to the cabin, Ora fries their bass.

Chap. 11: While hunting on Friday with Penny, Jody climbs a live oak and observes a doe with her fawn. After killing a buck, they carry meat to sell Captain McDonald and to give to Grandma Hutto. They purchase goods from Mr. Boyles, who sells Jody a mouth organ for a dime. Penny refuses him the purchase because he hurls a potato at Eulalie, Boyles's niece. Jody and Penny visit Grandma, a family friend who sheltered Jody and Ora during the four years that Penny was in the army. Grandma cooks for them.

Easy Ozell, her Yankee handyman, courts her in vain.

Chap. 12: At dawn on Saturday, Oliver Hutto, her son, arrives on the steamer with gifts, including a hunting knife for Jody. Oliver leaves to court Twink Weatherby, whom Lem Forrester claims. Lem, Mill-wheel, and Buck assault Oliver. Penny aids Oliver to even out the one-sided match. Lem knocks Jody unconscious in the fray.

Chap. 13: Jody awakens at Grandma's house. He fears the fight will cost him friendship with Fodder-wing. Oliver sends Jody to tell Twink he will meet her on Tuesday at dusk. Boyles lends them a mare to take them home. Jody scribbles a note to Oliver that Twink has left for Sanford.

Chap. 14: In mid-June, Jody checks the scuppernongs in the evening to retrieve stray hogs. A rattlesnake strikes Penny. He shoots a nearby doe and uses the liver to draw out the venom. Jody runs to the Forresters to summon Doc Wilson. Buck and Mill-wheel take Penny home, where Doc treats him for poison.

Chap. 15: By morning, Penny recovers. Buck tends to farm chores. Mill-wheel informs Jody that Fodder-wing is ill. Jody asks to adopt the doe's orphaned fawn. Ora objects, but Penny gives his permission. Jody makes a bed in the shed.

Chap. 16: Jody romps with his fawn while Buck clears two acres for cotton. On the eighth day of Buck's stay, he points to corn stripped by foxes. He and Jody rob a bee tree at the sink-hole. That night, they shoot two foxes at the cornfield and bag a bear trying to steal the fawn and honey.

Chap. 17: Penny and Jody hoe sweet potatoes; Jody fetches water. When he visits Fodder-wing after lunch, he learns that the boy died at dawn. At dinner, Ma Forrester suggests the name Flag for the fawn. At 9:00 P. M., Penny rides up. He builds a pine coffin and delivers a graveside eulogy.

Chap. 18: In August, the crops make a good yield. The Forresters send a brood sow along with the wandering hogs. At the end of August, Jody catches sight of the ghostly Spaniard Fodder-wing had seen.

Chap. 19: In late September, a seven-day rain rots the fields, flattens the cane, and floods the swamp, forcing the animals to flee.

Chap. 20: Two days after the storm, Buck and Mill-wheel arrive. The Baxters find many drowned snakes and few wild animals to shoot for meat. Doc flees his house. Animals grow frenzied from inadequate food supply. The men shoot a panther; the dogs kill her cubs. The next morning, Jody bags a bear.

Chap. 21: For two weeks, Penny tries to salvage crops. In October, the smell of death lies everywhere. He kills a deer sick with black tongue. Jody fears that all animals will die.

Chap. 22: By November, all animals have suffered from polluted swamp water. The Baxters pen up the hogs, but days later, a bear steals one. Penny spends three days in bed with fever. The family kills eight hogs and grinds the

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cane stumps. Penny can't afford a teacher for Jody. Flag tramples the sweet potatoes.

Chap. 23: At the end of November, wolves kill the heifer calf. Penny admits that he needs help from the Forresters, but he refuses to poison wolves. Buck learns that Oliver shipped out from Jacksonville to Boston with Twink following him.

Chap. 24: The Forresters poison thirty wolves in a week. The remaining two dozen wolves kill Penny's calf. One November morning at dawn, Penny awakens Jody to accompany him and the Forresters on a hunt. They kill more wolves and two bears and capture ten cubs for sale in Jacksonville. On the way home, Penny shoots an alligator and a buck. The next morning, the Forresters transport the bears by wagon and take Ora's shopping list. Lem causes ill feelings by accusing Penny of lying about shooting a buck.

Chap. 25: Buck returns with trade goods and some coins in change. Before leaving for Volusia to trade, Penny shoots two deer. After the trade, Ora swaps unfriendly words with Grandma Hutto, who invites them to come for Christmas.

Chap. 26: Three days before Christmas, Slewfoot attacks a young heifer. Penny tracks the bear. On December 24, he stops at Nellie Ginright's cabin. Penny shoots Slewfoot. The Forresters, on their way to a holiday celebration at Fort Gates, agree to transport the carcass to Volusia in exchange for half the meat. At Volusia, the Forresters get drunk and rowdy. Buck dresses in the bear skin to scare people at the church Christmas party. When Oliver arrives with his new wife Twink, the Forresters burn Grandma Hutto's residence. Grandma chooses to move to Boston.

Chap. 27: The next morning, the Baxters depart from Volusia.

Chap. 28: The Baxters withdraw to their home in winter. Ora quilts; Penny performs chores and makes Jody study. Supplies run low. A crippled wolf comes by at the end of January.

Chap. 29: In February, rheumatism cripples Penny's knees. Flag upsets a pan of peas and eats half the tobacco sets.

Chap. 30: In March, Penny plants corn, cotton, tobacco, peas, potatoes, and greens. He strains himself while pulling a stump.

Chap. 31: Penny must admit that Flag ate the corn seedlings. Because he defies fences and eats a second crop of corn, Jody's parents order him to shoot the fawn.

Chap. 32: Jody refuses to kill Flag. He seeks Pa Forrester's opinion, but finds no solace. After Flag eats more corn and the cow-peas, Ora shoots and maims the deer. Jody must complete the kill with a second shot.

Chap. 33: Heartbroken, Jody feels betrayed. Hating his parents, he decides to run away to Boston to live at Grandma's new house. For days in the swamps, he learns the hardship of hunger. He misses his parents and home. A mail boat crew picks him up and returns him to Volusia. He reunites with Penny, who depends on Jody to run the farm until he recovers.

TIME LINE

- 1514 Ponce de Leon explores Florida.
- 1565 Spanish establish colony at St. Augustine, Florida.
- 1819 Spain cedes Florida to the United States.
- 1845 Florida becomes a state.
- 1852 Penny and Ora are married.

1859 Jody is born.

1861 Feb. 10 Florida secedes from the Union.

April 12 Confederate attack on Fort Sumter begins the Civil War.

July 21 Confederates forces defeat Union troops at the battle of Bull Run.

1865 April 9 Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomatox.

1868 Florida is readmitted to the Union.

1872 April Penny and Jody visit the Forresters. Penny trades a dog for an English double-barreled shotgun. mid-June A rattlesnake strikes Penny. He shoots a nearby doe and uses the liver to draw out the venom. Doc treats Penny for poison. Jody adopts the doe's orphaned fawn.

late June Fodder-wing dies.

late September A seven-day rain rots the fields, forcing the animals to flee.

October The smell of death lies everywhere. Penny kills a deer sick with black tongue.

November Penny spends three days in bed with fever. The family makes do on little food.

late November Oliver leaves from Jacksonville for Boston with Twink following him.

Dec. 22 Slewfoot attacks a young heifer. Penny tracks the bear.

Dec. 24 Penny shoots Slewfoot. At Volusia, Buck dresses in the bear skin to scare people at the church Christmas party. When Oliver arrives with his new wife Twink, the Forresters burn Grandma Hutto's residence. She chooses to move to Boston.

January Supplies run low.

February Rheumatism cripples Penny. Flag eats half the tobacco sets.

March Penny strains himself while pulling a stump. Flag eats the corn seedlings. Ora shoots and maims the deer. Jody must complete the kill with a second shot. He runs away to live at Grandma's new house. Days later, a mail boat crew picks him up and returns him to Volusia. He reunites with Penny.

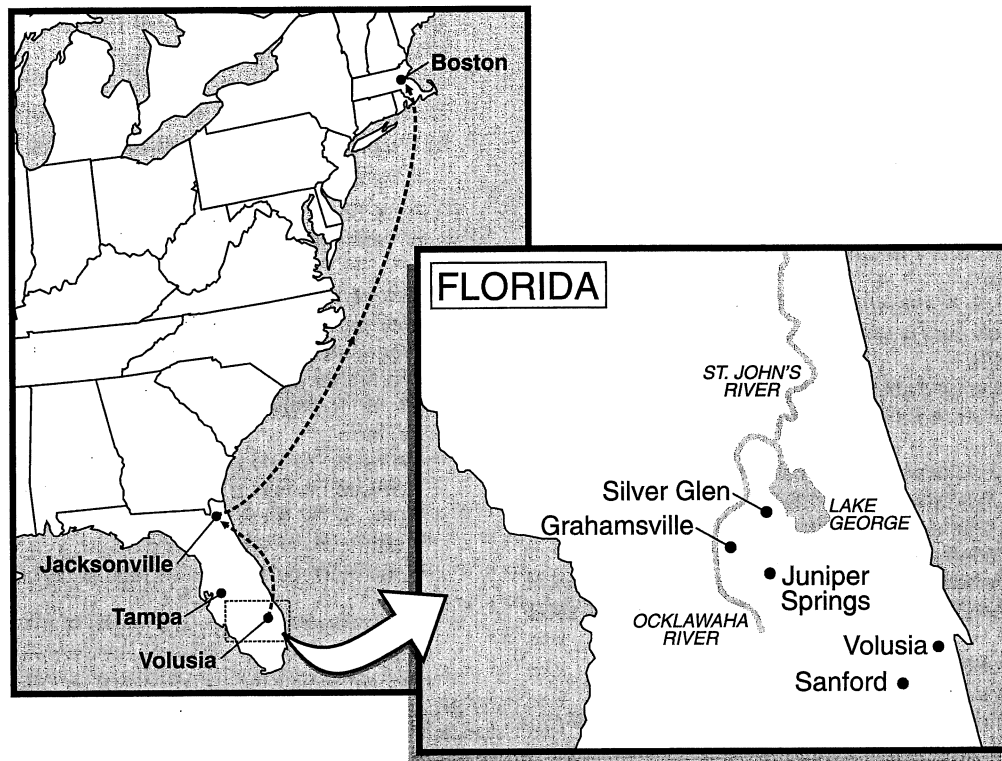
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A popular Florida regionalist and young adult writer of frontier and wilderness fiction, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was a standout spokesperson for conservation, feminism, and local history. She was born August 8, 1896, in Washington, D. C., to Ida May Traphagen and Arthur F. Kinnan, a patent attorney. Her first venture into publication was in 1914, when she won a *McCall's* magazine writing honor.

After the death of her father, Rawlings, her mother, and brother Arthur settled in Madison, Wisconsin. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Wisconsin, she became an advertising copywriter and public relations manager for the YMCA, edited *Home Sector*, and wrote for the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and *Rochester Journal-American*, for whom she produced *Songs of the Housewife*, a syndicated column. For much of her career, she freelanced short fiction for *New Yorker*, *Scribner's*, *Harper's*, *Atlantic*, *Collier's*, and *Saturday Evening Post*.

Rawlings's newspaper work ended with a move to a farm in the scrub lowlands of central Florida. The shift from urbanism to the semitropics came in 1928, when she and her husband, reporter Charles A. Rawlings, discovered the beauties of the panhandle outback. At Cross Creek, she found a wel-

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coming environment among deer and herons near the Ocala National Forest. With the assistance of literary agent Maxwell Perkins, she began a career in regional short fiction. Her first book, *When the Whippoorwill* (1930), displays a mastery of local milieu and dialect.

Rawlings lived alone at Cross Creek after her divorce from Charles and researched a first novel. Success required a retreat to Banner Elk, North Carolina, where she wrote in seclusion near a Cherokee reservation. She produced a frequently anthologized story "A Mother in Manville" (1936) before completing *The Yearling* (1938), her masterwork. In 1941, she married Norton Sanford Baskin, owner of the Castle Warden Hotel in St. Augustine, Florida, and continued contributing verse, nonfiction, and memoir to popular magazines.

In her last years, Rawlings suffered from a protracted libel suit brought by a woman she named in her writings. Divorce from Baskin precipitated alcohol abuse. She grieved the death of her agent, Maxwell Perkins, but kept up a sustaining correspondence with other writers, including John Steinbeck, Thornton Wilder, and Carl Van Vechten. Rawlings died on December 14, 1953, in St. Augustine from a brain hemorrhage.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Rawlings won the Pulitzer Prize, nomination to the National Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Lewis Carroll Shelf Award for *The Yearling*. She was similarly successful with her other works. *Jacob's Ladder* won the \$750 purse of the Scribner's writing contest. *South Moon Under* (1933), which was a Book-of-the-Month Club feature, and nominee for the Pulitzer Prize and French Prix Femina Americana Award,

preceded "Gal Young 'Un," a feminist work and winner of the 1933 O. Henry Memorial Short Story Contest. In 1946, she published "Black Secret," a second winner of the O. Henry award. A posthumous juvenile novel, *The Secret River*, was a runner-up for the Newbery award.

Rawlings's works have adapted well to the screen. In 1946, MGM issued *The Yearling*, a Technicolor film starring Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman, Chill Wills, and Forrest Tucker. It earned Academy Awards for photography, art direction, and the contribution of child star Claude Jarman, Jr. It was also nominated for Oscars for best picture, editing, direction, and male and female leads. Two years later, *The Sun Comes Up*, featuring Jeanette MacDonald, Claude Jarmon, and Lloyd Nolan, combined elements of Rawlings's stories. A rural romance, *Gal Young 'Un* (1980), won the 1981 Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. Universal Studios filmed her autobiography, *Cross Creek*, in 1983. Other adaptations include a musical play of *The Yearling* (1973), written by Michael Leonard, Herbert E. Martin, and Lorne Noto. Harper Caedmon produced an audiocassette of *The Yearling*, performed by Eileen Heckart, David Wayne, and Luke Yankee. A periodical begun in 1988, the *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Journal of Florida Literature*, extends her influence on Deep South American literature.

OTHER WORKS BY MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS

Cross Creek (1942)
Cross Creek Cookery (1942)
Golden Apples (1935)
Jacob's Ladder (1950)
The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Reader (1956)
Mountain Prelude (1947)

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The Secret River (1955)
Selected Letters of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1983)
Short Stories by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1994)
The Sojourner (1953)
South Moon Under (1933)
When the Whippoorwill (1930)

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Snodgrass, Mary Ellen. *Encyclopedia of Southern Literature*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 1997.

Sokin, William, "A Tom Sawyer of the Florida Scrub Lands," *New York Herald Tribune Books Review*, April 3, 1938, pp. 1-2.

Tarr, Roger L. *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: A Descriptive Bibliography*. Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1996.

Twentieth-Century Young Adult Writers. New York: St. James Press, 1994.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the meaning of survivalism
2. To list and contrast the responsibilities of parents
3. To define the best environment for rearing children
4. To examine farm responsibilities
5. To discuss the implications of bearing a grudge
6. To list self-defensive and survival techniques
7. To chart natural events that victimize animals
8. To discuss the strengths of rural people
9. To contrast settings
10. To account for trickery and vengeance

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To describe how and why Jody leaves home
2. To note the lessons that Penny imparts about living in the wild
3. To evaluate the decision to kill Flag
4. To account for Lem's accusations and bitterness
5. To analyze scenes in which Jody protects Flag

6. To summarize how the family survives near-starvation
7. To analyze the motives of Doc Wilson, Twink, Eulalie, Mr. Boyles, and Nellie Ginright
8. To discuss the negative traits of the Forresters
9. To evaluate Jody's role in farming and harvesting
10. To project how Jody will help Ora until Penny is well

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's style, present the following terms and applications to her novel:

dialect a nonstandard or informal speech pattern of a minority group or section of a country, as found in the everyday speech of rural Floridians. Among changes in standard English are these:

- loss of consonants and vowels—"he wa'n't mad nor quarrelin"
- altered pronouns and demonstrative adjectives—"raised hisself up," "them dogs sleep right here"
- use of "a" as an article introducing a noun beginning with a vowel—"quick as a otter."
- use of irregular verbs as regular verbs—"I never heered tell."
- use of obsolete words—"I toted water yestiddy."
- use of participles as verbs—"Old Slewfoot done it."

historic milieu the setting of fictional events in a real period of history. The novel takes place in the early 1870s, the years following the Civil War. Although Jody was only two years old when Penny left for service in the army, the boy realizes that his father changed during the conflict. When Penny reacts to hard feelings and violence, he models peacemaking and fairness as a philosophy of life worth preserving in dealings with neighbors. The interdependence of the Forresters and Baxters suggests that post-war hardships force people to work and live harmoniously by avoiding confrontations and by laying aside grudges and suspicion.

symbol a concrete object that stands for a complex or abstract idea or relationship. In *The Yearling*, the sink-hole is more than a source of water. It displays the caprice of nature and the shifts in water level that affect the swampland animals after a hurricane brings a week-long rain. For Ora, the sink-hole is the source of laundry water. For Jody, it is the site of hard work carrying buckets back to the kitchen. For Penny, it is a reminder that he is a poor man who has promised his family a well when he earns enough money to pay for brick and labor.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of *The Yearling* is crucial to the story, because the Baxters live in an isolated central Florida swampland and earn their living by raising crops, killing wild animals and fishing for food, and trading their bounty for clothing, tools, and farm supplies. In an unforgiving environment, discipline is important to Jody. He must learn to obey his father and walk wisely and cautiously in the wild to spare himself dangers like rattlesnakes and alligators. Also important to Penny is education in the interdependence of nature and survivalism so that Jody can appreciate the needs of creatures, such as bears emerging from hibernation, deer reaching the end of their life span, and wolves starving for meat.

Important to Jody's manhood is his participation in hunting. As Penny and the Forresters search for bear and deer, the boy learns to emulate his elders, keep quiet, and study

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the ground and sky for signs. Most difficult for Jody is the differentiation between helping his family survive a hard season on the farm and keeping a fawn as playmate. The novel stresses the boy's loneliness after Fodder-wing's death and implies that Flag takes his friend's place. However, Flag's growth into a yearling ends his service as an amusement and turns him into a pest. After Jody and Penny offer second chances, Flag demonstrates that he can't be domesticated like a dog. The fawn's death is the end of Jody's innocence.

In the final chapters, Jody's flight from home puts him in direct conflict with the worst of swampland travel. Without adequate provisions, the boy must battle thirst, hunger, fatigue, and natural predators as he makes his way toward Boston. There is little likelihood that he will complete even a small segment of so long a journey up the Atlantic seaboard. In the end, he returns to take his place as the Baxter family's man of the household until Penny can recover. Jody's attempt to enjoy a flutter-mill indicates that he has outgrown toys. The outlook for his future is less playful as he determines to perform farming chores necessary to keeping the family alive.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about the Florida swamp, Civil War, parenting, values, wild deer, herbal healing, Spanish explorers, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Fiction

William Armstrong, *Sounder*
Toni Cade Bambara, "Blues Ain't No Mockin' Bird"
Hal Borland, *When the Legends Die*
Forrest Carter, *The Education of Little Tree*
William Faulkner, "Two Soldiers" and "The Bear"
Fred Gipson, *Old Yeller*
Virginia Hamilton, *The House of Dies Drear*
Robert Heinlein, *Farmer in the Sky* and *The Star Beast*
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*
Conrad Richter, *The Light in the Forest*
Jack Schaefer, *Shane*
John Steinbeck, *The Red Pony*
Jessamyn West, *Except for Me and Thee*
Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House in the Big Woods*

Nonfiction

Joseph Bruchac, *Bowman's Store: A Journey to Myself*
Charles Fast, ed., *Sarah Morgan: The Civil War Diary of a Southern Woman*
Paul Fleischman, *Bull Run*
Rod Gragg, *The Illustrated Confederate Reader*
Philip Katcher, *The Civil War Sourcebook*
Theodora Kroeber, *Ishi*
Sterling North, *Rascal*
Yoko Kamashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*

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"Street Kids and Runaway Youth," <www.child.net>.
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<www.florida-everglades.com>.

Videos/films

Cross Creek (1993)
Shane (Paramount, 1953)
The Yearling (MGM, 1946)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's *The Yearling* should include these aspects:

Themes

- loss
- survival
- responsibility
- family
- friendship
- nature
- vengeance
- flight
- reunion
- maturity

Motifs

- coping with the aftermath of a hurricane
- learning the hunter's lifestyle
- studying the past
- accepting death of loved ones

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in this novel. Explain each. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint the context in which the item appears.

1. Jody's Mother had accepted her youngest with something of detachment, as though she had given all she had of love and care and interest to those others. But Penny's bowels yearned over his son. (Chap. 2, p. 20)
(Central to the novel is the difference between Ora and Penny as parents. Ora has lost her ability to love a child with the abandon she might have felt twenty years earlier, before the others died. Penny, a middle-aged war veteran, had almost given up hope of children. After burying so many dead babies, he confides to Mr. Boyles, "We lost so many young uns, I think sometimes I set too much store by him." Penny tries to spare Jody adult cares and responsibilities. He shields him from his mother's demands and tries to prolong boyhood.)
2. "Jody has got to mix with men and learn the ways o' men," Penny said. (Chap. 5, p. 46)
(Penny realizes the isolation imposed by their swamp farm and exposes his son to other people to help him learn how to function in the world. Penny decides to trade with the Forresters and takes Jody along to introduce him to skillful deal-making. Ora objects to the trip as she does when Penny takes the boy hunting, fishing,

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or traveling to Volusia. Penny replies, "How's Jody to learn to hunt and be a man if his daddy don't carry him along and learn him?" Ora snorts that their trips are an excuse for leisure.)

3. Jody looked at his father, pleading mutely that this piece of heresy be not taken home to Baxter's Island.

(Chap. 7, p. 58)

(The Baxters live on a raised plateau of land surrounded by Florida scrub. Rawlings describes it as "high good land in the center of a pine island. The island was called by such a name, in an arid forest, because it was literally an island of long-leaf pines, lifted high, a landmark, in the rolling sea that was the scrub.")

4. For twenty years, I been sparin'." (Chap. 9, p. 77)

(Ma Baxter reminds the family that she has never had a source of free-flowing water or a well. To supply the kitchen and bath, Jody and Penny haul water from the sink-hole, where Ora goes to wash clothes. The sparseness of her life affects other elements. In the novelist's words, "Clothes were worn and patched and mended until they dropped into ribbons. Flour sacks went into aprons and dish-towels and chair-backs that she embroidered on winter evenings; and into backs for her patch-work quilts.")

5. I had no idee, you-all was runnin' so tight. (Chap. 15, p. 168)

(When Mill-wheel returns to the farm after Penny is snakebitten, he realizes how poor the Baxters are. The picture of their simple home life causes him to reevaluate their dependence on crops and hunting. Jody, who has never known the plenty the Forresters are accustomed to, refuses to acknowledge that his family situation is as desperate as Mill-wheel believes. Jody retorts, "We ain't runnin' tight. We're all right." Mill-wheel replies, "You Baxters has got guts, I'll say that.")

6. Anything that was remotely an occasion stirred Ma Baxter to extra cooking, as though her imagination could speak only by the use of flour and shortening. (Chap. 19, p. 228)

(Ora goes to Volusia perhaps twice a year. Visitors at the farm are rare and usually male. Any happening is an excuse for her to supplement or vary their daily dull fare. However, daily embroidery and quilting along with fruit preserves give evidence of her imagination. Similarly, Penny turns to storytelling as a break from the humdrum existence of farming.)

7. Penny said, "Well, Job takened worse punishment than this. Leastways, none of us ain't got risins'." (Chap. 19, p. 236)

(After a week-long storm, Penny compares the state of the Baxter family to that of the biblical Job, who lost his property, children, and health. Penny points out that, unlike Job, the Baxters are not afflicted with boils. After the rains ruin crops and animals, Ora is not so optimistic as Penny. She counters that he always seems to "find good in it." Penny replies, "Lest it is to remind a man to be humble, for there's nary thing on earth he kin call his own.")

8. The cat-meat was dressed out and slung over the horses. (Chap. 20, p. 246)

(Penny carefully saves meat unsuited to the table to feed his hunting dogs. To preserve it, he removes the lean

from the skin and wraps it for transportation back to the farm. Dressed meat could be salted, smoked, or hung up to dry to preserve it from vermin or rot.)

9. Again Jody marveled at the metamorphosis of live creatures in whom he had felt interest and sympathy, into cold flesh that made acceptable food. He was glad when the killing was over. (Chap. 22, p. 273)

(Because Penny and Jody are sensitive to animals, killing is difficult for them. Penny explains to his son, "A creetur's only doin' the same as me when I go huntin' us meat . . . Huntin' him where he lives and beds and raises his young uns. Hit's a hard law, but it's the law. Kill or go hongry." Jody accepts the explanation, but he remains ambivalent toward watching creatures die.)

10. Penny said to his wife, "You want to stay there tonight?" "No, I don't. Her and me don't never swop much honey." (Chap. 25, p. 317)

(Although Grandma Hutto took in Ora Baxter and two-year-old Jody at the time of the Civil War, the two women do not like each other and disagree on style and philosophy. To Jody's discomfort, they make no attempt to conceal ill feelings. Jody notices the difference in the two women. Grandma is tight-lipped; Ora criticizes her frilly white apron. Grandma retorts, "I wouldn't be caught dead without a frill on me. Men-folks like a woman dressed pretty." To Ora, such behavior is indecent. She believes that plain folks have to remain simple on earth and expect frills in heaven.)

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 Baxters react to a brief storm and a nor'easter?

(Jody looks forward to a storm, for work must stop while Ora good-naturedly makes him candy and Penny tells tales. A relaxed air and a holiday mood permeates their sparse cabin. Ora cooks more generously and adds her stories to Penny's as amusement for Jody. When a lull halts the storm, the family completes chores quickly, eat an ordinary supper, and retire early to bed.

This storm takes on new meaning when, after a brief pause, the wind changes and rain resumes. Penny now worriedly paces the kitchen as Ora cries or sits silently in the rocking chair with folded hands. Desperately, Penny and Jody pull up cow peas, strip the corn stalks, and dig yams in an effort to salvage food from rotting. Penny declares on the seventh day of the storm that unless there is a change by morning, "we jest as good quit fightin' and lay down and die.")

2. What makes storytelling important to Jody?

(To Jody, storytelling is an adult activity. He enjoys storytelling and recognizes it as an amusement as well as an enjoyable reciting of memories, experiences, and happenings. Jody thinks often that, when he hears Penny tell of a hunt, the retelling is like reliving the adventure and, in many cases, is even better. Jody wants to learn to tell tales, but he has nothing to describe. He values his time with grown men. Lying flat on the floor or near

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the campfire, he listens to them talk and marvels at all they have seen and done.)

3. Why does Penny live in the scrub?

(The scrub is a lonesome, unpromising place to raise a family, but it suits Penny after his experience in the Civil War. He explains to Jody that he picked central Florida because he craved peace. Neighbors are puzzled why the Baxters remain isolated, but Penny knows that towns and villages intrude on individuality. In addition to friendship and mutual help in time of trouble, neighbors also could bicker and spy.)

Penny feels sheltered in the wild. He had retreated from suspicion and bitterness to a place "peculiarly his own. The wild animals seemed less predatory to him than people he had known. The forays of bear and wolf and wild-cat and panther on stock were understandable, which was more than he could say of human cruelties.")

4. Why are the Forresters different from the Baxters?

(The Forresters are a strapping family of two parents, six grown sons, and one handicapped boy. They support themselves by horse trading, hunting and selling game, and making moonshine. They farm only a little and are not dependent on nature in the same way Penny is. In their leisure time, the Forresters take life less seriously. They drink, fight, hunt for fun, and carouse in public.)

In contrast, Penny and Ora lead a settled life and hunt and kill only what is necessary. Their behavior is dignified and respected. Because of Penny's introspective style, the Forresters ask him to conduct a funeral service for Fodder-wing. Ora insists on cleanliness at the table, and on washing feet before going to bed. The Forresters, who care less about grooming, allow loose, undisciplined behavior from their grown sons. Because of their unspeakable public shenanigans, Ora declares, "Do [Jody] learn from them, he'll learn to have a heart as black as midnight.")

5. What does the title name?

(The title refers to Flag at the end of his life, a period when he is mischievous and unpredictable. Penny observes his growing and describes him as "[staying] off the woods longer. He'll grow a good bit bigger. He'll be betwixt and between. He'll be like a person standin' on the state line. He'll be leavin' one and turnin' into t'other. Behind him's the fawn. Before him's the buck.")

The description of the year-old deer also describes Jody, who is thirteen years old. He has begun to shoulder some farm responsibilities and stalks and bags game for the family food supply. He is just beginning to understand commitment to life in the scrub. Like the yearling, he is not entirely child nor man, but rather in a state of transition needing time to complete his maturity.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretive Level)

6. Why is Flag important to Jody?

(Jody, an only child, longs for something or someone to depend on him. He wants an animal to lick his hand and follow him as the hunting dog named Julia follows Penny. The boy declares, "Pa, I wisht I had me some-thin' to pet and play with, like Fodder-wing. I wisht I had me a 'coon, or a bear cub, or sich as that.' Later he adds, 'I jest want something—' he puckered his face so that his freckles ran together . . . I jest want something all my own. Something to foller me and be mine.' He

struggled for words. 'I want something with dependance to it.'")

Fodder-wing Forrester, the nearest neighbor child, lives four miles away, has a hunchback, and is a "bit peculiar." He has a wide variety of pets and understands Jody's need for company, because his own brothers are too boisterous to include him in their horseplay. When he hears about Jody's fawn, he remarks, "Jody's got him a brother." The description proves true, for Jody looks on Flag as playmate, companion, confidant, and comfort. He believes that "Flag had eased a loneliness that had harassed him in the very heart of his family." In Ora's opinion, "I never knowed a young un so crazy for a live thing to mess with. He'll go hongry to feed it, he sleeps with it, he talks to it like it was a person.")

7. How does Fodder-wing's death affect Jody?

(When Buck tells Jody that Fodder-wing is dead, Jody "felt no sorrow, only a coldness and a faintness. Fodder-wing was neither dead nor alive. He was, simply, nowhere at all." Upon seeing his friend's corpse laid out on the bed, Jody is frightened enough to run away. He speaks only when prompted. To him, "Fodder-wing's silence was intolerable. Now he understood. This was Death. Death was a silence that gave back no answer.")

Jody wanders outside to tend his friend's animals that he had coveted for so long. When Racket, the raccoon, appears, "Jody longed so painfully for Fodder-wing that he had to lie on his belly and beat his feet in the sand." Later, after a quiet meal with the Forresters, Ma Forrester tells him of Fodder-wing's name for his fawn. Jody is uneasy about the proprieties of a funeral. Pa Forrester explains that they expect Jody to sit with the body. He is less uneasy after Penny arrives to build the pine box and deliver graveside rites.

One day at the sink-hole, Jody enjoys serenity. He suddenly feels that his friend "had only gone away with the raccoons. Something of him had been always where the wild creatures fed and played. Something of him would be always near them. Fodder-wing was like the trees. He was of the earth, as they were earthy, with his gnarled, frail roots deep in the sand. He was like the changing clouds and the setting sun and the rising moon. A part of him had been always outside his twisted body. It had come and gone like the wind. It came to Jody that he need not be lonely for his friend again. He could endure his going.")

8. How do the Baxters become involved in a courtship rivalry?

(Even before the wrangle over Twink Weatherby, Penny does not like Lem Forrester. He feels that he owes Lem for giving him his pejorative nickname. He is superstitious that Lem "put a mouth on me" when the babies died. Penny remembers when "Lem had bellowed, 'How many ha' pennies is in a penny? You'll do good, be you daddy to a fox-cub.'")

During the visit to Grandma Hutto, Penny and Jody learn about Oliver's fight with the Forresters. Penny joins the fray to even the odds against Oliver. Jody is unsure why his father takes sides against their neighbors. As a result of the fight, Penny alienates the Forresters. When Jody goes to them to ask help for Penny after the rattlesnake strikes him, Buck declares, "We'll do what we

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kin. We don't hold nothin' agin folks in trouble." Lem mutters, "Die and good riddance. Biggety bantam."

Buck, Penny, and Jody discuss the fight and its implications and come to an understanding. Lem nurses his grudge and determines to kill Oliver and Twink. After hearing that Oliver and a young lady got off the boat in Volusia, the Forresters leave the Christmas party and apparently set fire to Grandma's house. Public opinion turns against the Forresters, who are known rowdies. After Grandma leaves for Boston, the Forresters' "avoidance of Penny made their guilt incontrovertible. It saddened him. His hard-won peace lay shattered about him. A stone thrown at some distance, and meant for some one else, had struck him. He was bruised and troubled.")

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What makes Jody understand that Flag must be destroyed?

(When Penny tells Jody that Flag will change in maturity, he hints at some of the difficulties that lie ahead. Penny tries to keep the fawn from the crops with fencing and tethers, but the fawn continues to destroy the family's vital food and trade crops. Penny reminds Jody that all possible solutions have failed. They must shoot Flag to keep the family from going hungry next year. Jody desperately decides to ask the Forresters to take the fawn to a city zoo, but the boys have gone and the elder Forresters are no help.

Jody returns to sleep and discovers at sunrise that Flag has feasted in the cornfield and cowpea patch. With Penny's shotgun, Ora wounds the deer, which runs on three legs to the sink-hole and falls over. Jody follows and shoots his yearling. Bitter and sick, the boy determines to run away. He takes a dugout across Lake George. Weak and delirious, he realizes he will starve on his own.

On return to the clearing, Jody repents of his waywardness. While his mother takes chickens to trade for food, Penny welcomes and accepts him. Although the boy has reason to resent the killing of Flag, Penny reminds him that the family lives too close to the edge to allow a pet to jeopardize the family.)

10. How does Penny change?

(Penny and Jody share a kinship with the scrub and an awe at the natural world. Jody idolizes his father and believes he can do no wrong. The snake bite alters their relationship. Jody is terrified to ask the Forresters for help and he approaches the scrub with fear of additional menace. Fearful for Penny, he wonders if "his father was already dead, or dying. The burden of the thought was intolerable. He ran faster, to shake it off. Penny could not die. Dogs could die, and bears and deer and other people. That was acceptable, because it was remote. His father could not die. The earth might cave in under him in one vast sink-hole and he could accept it. But without Penny, there was no earth. Without him there was nothing."

When Jody realizes that Doc has saved Penny and that his father will survive and recover, he works harder at farm chores. As Penny lingers in bed, Buck stays on to help and exposes the boy to opinions and methods foreign to his experience. Later, when Penny admits that he needs help with the wolves, Jody develops another

crack in his secure world. His father becomes more real after he goes on a vengeance hunt against Slewfoot for killing livestock. The strain of pulling a stump further destroys the image of strength in his father.

The last confrontation is Ora's decision to shoot Flag. Jody spits out to Penny, "You went back on me. You told her to do it . . . I hate you. I hope you die. I hope I never see you again." His halt in the flight from home establishes a new beginning with Penny. The return of the prodigal has biblical overtones: "Boy — I near about give you out . . . You all right? . . . You all right — You ain't dead nor gone. You all right . . . Glory be." Penny takes the quiet moment alone with his son to explain a greater truth than human betrayal: "You figgered I went back on you . . . Boy, life goes back on you.")

Questions 11-13 (Creative Level)

11. Contrast various examples of everyday lessons in Jody's childhood. Include his experience with wolves, planting seedlings, studying spelling, washing his feet before bed, observing his father at work and on hunts, and tricking his mother.
12. Create a scene in which Jody accepts that Penny will never be strong enough to farm.
13. Read aloud from Wilson Rawls's *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Parallel the author's intent and style with that of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Summarize the difficulties that farm boys face in times when money is scarce.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

1. Draw contrasting murals or posters to demonstrate these pairs: life in Volusia and at the cabin, quilting and rubbing panther oil on rheumatic knees, sacks of grain and fresh-picked herbs, a baited bear trap and poison, locals celebrating Christmas, Nellie Ginright's canoe and the mail boat, a flutter-mill and Flag's shed, treating colic and snake bite, Mr. Boyles's store and Doc Wilson's house, and stump removal and skinning Slewfoot.
2. With a group, design an illustrated hunter's map showing the best places to search for deer, wolves, panthers, and bear.
3. Create a bulletin board illustrating the types of food available on the farm. Name types of berries, nuts, roots, leafy plants, fish, grain, and wild and domesticated animals.

Geography

1. Draw a map of the route Twink and Oliver take from Volusia to Jacksonville and Boston. Estimate how long it would take Jody to walk the distance.
2. Locate Florida swampland on a map. Compose a travel brochure of its beauties and dangers, particularly fever, snakes, and alligators.

History and Social Studies

1. Suggest ways that the government can help people recover from devastating rains, lost crops and trade income, civil war, and dislocated families.
2. Conduct an interview with Oliver. Determine why he prefers a career at sea rather than the more common central Florida life as hunter, trader, and farmer.
3. Research the nation's revenue from wild animals, including hides, meat, teeth, and wild cubs. Organize data by state.

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4. Lead a discussion of Civil War and seasonal hurricane as influences on growing and harvesting crops, trading, getting along with neighbors, and surviving in the wild.
5. Make an oral report on the penalties for assault and arson. Determine why Penny risks his life to save Oliver from uneven odds in a fist fight.

Journalism

Work with a partner to act out an interview with local people after the flood. Determine the extent of damage to wild animals and plants, drinking water, farms, and rural families.

Language Arts

1. Summarize the characteristics of Florida frontier dialect. Contrast characters in terms of their speech patterns, particularly Doc Wilson, Ora, Mr. Boyles, Ma Forrester, the mail man, and Nellie Ginright.
2. Compose an extended definition of parent. Explain how Ora and Penny differ in terms of discipline, control, and punishments for Jody. Suggest reasons why Jody runs away to Grandma Hutto.
3. Select models of folk wisdom to explain. For example, discuss Penny's belief that "Sorrer strikes the same all over," "A boy ain't a boy too long," and "You kin tame ary-thing . . . excusin' the human tongue."
4. Contrast Jody's experiences with those of Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer, the main character in John Steinbeck's *The Red Pony* and in William Faulkner's "The Bear," or Little Tree, title character in *The Education of Little Tree*.
5. Compose a pronouncing gazetteer to accompany this novel. Include words such as Osnaburg, bantam, mischievousness, trough, palmetto, ti-ti, indigo, Ocklawaha River, Guinea-gold, torrential, scuppermong, cumulus, and sorties.
6. Suggest what Jody or Ora might have added to Penny's simple graveside eulogy for Fodder-wing.
7. Account for Buck's decision to terrorize people in the church on Christmas Eve.
2. Draw stage settings or a story board for a crucial scene, such as Ora shooting Flag, Jody discovering the empty corn rows, or Slewfoot attacking the heifer.
3. Contrast maps of Florida swampland during frontier times and currently. Note the areas of the state first settled by Spaniards and locations of forts.
4. List important concepts that Jody learns from Penny about people who cheat and lie, hunters who kill animals for food and poison predators, grudge fights, immoral women, good manners, animals killing as part of their normal existence, and women who like to dress up and welcome guests.
5. Dramatize in a short skit a conversation: Grandma meeting Twink, Ora questioning Jody about his flight toward Boston, Buck inquiring from Ma Forrester about Fodder-wing's death, Doc Wilson's interest in symptoms of poisoning, Penny's stories about the Battle of Bull Run, and Jody's questions about Fodder-wing's pet birds.
6. Explain in a theme the significance to the novel of this quotation: "It was good to become old and see the sights and hear the sounds that men saw and heard, like Buck and his father. That was why he liked to lie flat on his belly on the floor, or on the earth before the camp-fire, while men talked. They had seen marvels, and the older they were, the more marvels they had seen. He felt himself moving into a mystic company."
7. Write a scene in which Grandma Hutto returns to Volusia after years of living alone in Boston. Determine how she will greet Ora, Penny, Jody, and the Forresters.
8. Discuss the effects of loneliness and loss on rural children. Contrast how Jody accepts the deaths of Fodder-wing and Flag. Explain why Penny's illness troubles Jody.
9. Draw a cause-and-effect diagram illustrating how the Civil War affects Penny's attitude toward suffering, quarrels, and violence. Show how he expresses the past to Jody without making him bitter or resentful.

Science and Mental Health

1. Describe aloud Penny's method of purifying water from the sink-hole. Explain how an epidemic of black tongue threatens the Baxters and their livestock.
2. Discuss suitable discipline for an unruly fawn or difficult child. Explain why Jody dislikes Eulalie Boyles and fears that the ferryman's son will make a poor substitute for Fodder-wing.
3. Define the state of mind that haunts Penny in the years following service in the Civil War.
4. Summarize chapters in psychology books that describe fear, insecurity, longing, trauma, stress, or grief in children. Explain how social workers return runaways to their families. Suggests ways of keeping Jody from fleeing the farm to live with Grandma Hutto.
5. Explain Buck's method of robbing a bee tree.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Join a discussion group to determine why the Forresters have earned so dark a reputation among local people. Explain how their lifestyle differs from townspeople and farmers.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of cooperation, fun, appreciation of nature, nurturing, compassion, loneliness, training, study, death, bad health, and pride in Jody's life.
2. List scenes that reflect Penny's wisdom and caution in dealing with wild animals.
3. Compose a scene in which the Forresters dig a well for Ora.
4. Make a character list and explain the relationship of each to Jody.

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VOCABULARY TEST

Using the terms that follow, define underlined words in the sentences below. You will have answers left over.

commingled	enormous	mouth organ	ridges	stuck
concern	faithful	natural	riskily	tan
coolly	gallop	overwrought	sacks	trembled
curdle	gave birth	phantom	secretly	uncontrollable
dispassionately	hunting dog	prejudice	silent	waving
disrespectful	jolly	reddish	soothed	wrongful

1. His flesh quivered _____, his heart pounded.
2. Rip the bull dog and Perk the new feice _____ saw the form and ran.
3. The down grade tempted Jody into a lope _____.
4. Ma was mollified _____ at the compliment.
5. The solicitude _____ of his mother and father was definitely pleasant.
6. Was the spots all in a line, or helter-skelter _____?
7. There was a tacit _____ understanding among the three of them that Penny was to be spared.
8. The gray pendulous _____ Spanish moss made a luminous curtain.
9. Thin white lines were the implacable _____ choppy waves that had turned him back to the unfriendly shore.
10. Ma Baxter received the news stolidly _____.
11. The old canoe was embedded _____ in ice.
12. Jody was addled _____ with April.
13. The Forresters sat precariously _____ at the edge of their seats.
14. Pack brought out his jew's harp _____.
15. Buck saddled his big roan _____ stallion.
16. Jody felt surreptitiously _____ across the back of his head.
17. The milk turned rankly sour in the heat but would not clabber _____.
18. The cow freshened _____ the week before Christmas.
19. Pa had the deer meat in two pokes _____.
20. The effort needed to move the dead weight was prodigious _____.
21. Nellie Ginright's tone was joyial _____.
22. The field rolled gently, well-tilled, and tawny _____.
23. He forced himself to walk slowly to the spot in which the apparition _____ had been.
24. The far hammocks _____ were black.
25. Penny accepted the situation philosophically _____.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with characters. Choose your answers from the list of characters below. You may use some of the answers more than once and some not at all.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| _____ 1. makes a face at Jody | A. Fodder-wing |
| _____ 2. calls Penny a liar | B. Jody |
| _____ 3. tells good tales | C. Ezra |
| _____ 4. suffers from excess weight | D. Grandma Hutto |
| _____ 5. seems to rally before dying | E. Lem |
| _____ 6. speaks of the China Sea | F. Buck |
| _____ 7. is Ora's idea of a "chipperdale" | G. Mill-wheel |
| _____ 8. sleeps in Grandma's shed | H. Oliver |
| _____ 9. can't enjoy a flutter-mill | I. Twink |
| _____ 10. is a dull companion | J. Easy |
| _____ 11. appears to Fodder-wing | K. Eulalie |
| _____ 12. searches for her son in the fire | L. Ora |
| _____ 13. asks for rags to burn | M. Ma Forrester |
| _____ 14. realizes that the Baxters are poor | N. ferryman's son |
| _____ 15. mourns a "poor crookedy boy" | O. Spaniard |

Part II: Short Answer (10 points)

Explain the significance of the following details:

1. double-barreled shotgun
2. note to Oliver
3. panther oil
4. tobacco seedlings
5. Nellie

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Part III: Cause and Effect (30 points)

Finish each of these statements.

1. Twink leaves for Jacksonville because
2. The Forresters burn the house because
3. Penny needs liver from the doe because
4. Flag must die because
5. Jody returns home on the mail boat because
6. Penny refuses to call Doc Wilson again because
7. Penny insists that Buck remove the bearskin because
8. The sink-hole is filled with dead snakes and animals because
9. Penny is peace loving because
10. Ora insists on dosing Jody for measles because
11. Penny and Jody dig a four-foot bed for Ora because
12. Slewfoot is difficult to catch because
13. Penny refuses to poison wolves because
14. Ora sends Jody to check on Caesar because
15. Penny snares the bear cubs because

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Account for the disagreement between Penny and Lem.
2. Discuss arguments for and against poisoning predators.
3. Describe Grandma's role in welcoming Jody to Volusia.
4. Summarize significant scenes of family life.
5. Account for Penny's collapse.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (30 points)

Briefly describe each of the following settings.

1. Forrester's house
2. sink-hole
3. Jacksonville
4. Bull Run
5. Volusia
6. Boyles's store
7. Doc Wilson's house
8. Nellie's house
9. church
10. Boston
11. mail boat
12. Sanford
13. Grandma Hutto's house
14. Silver Glen
15. Lake George

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

Fill in the paired blanks with answers that complete each statement.

1. Jody promises to keep Flag from eating _____ seedlings, but discovers she has eaten them and the _____.
2. Ora shoots Flag in the _____; Jody must finish the job with the _____.
3. Penny admits that he needs help from the _____, but he refuses to _____ the wolves.
4. _____, Penny's old girl friend, declares that _____ has eaten her pigs.
5. _____ offers Jody a _____ for a dime.

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Part III: Identification (30 points)

Place an X by statements that refer to Jody.

- 1. receives a hunting knife.
- 2. is embarrassed by Ora's behavior at Grandma Hutto's house.
- 3. takes a turn dropping dirt on the pine box.
- 4. asks the mail man to take him to a deserted cabin.
- 5. lays a pistol on the wagon seat.
- 6. conceals his discomfort from brierberries.
- 7. leads Mill-wheel to Doc Wilson's house.
- 8. is too young to see a difference between women.
- 9. writes a note to Oliver.
- 10. is honored to hunt with men.
- 11. studies spelling during the winter.
- 12. speaks the eulogy over Fodder-wing.
- 13. runs naked through Grandma's house.
- 14. shoots Slewfoot.
- 15. is proud of killing and skinning a seven-foot rattlesnake.

Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Contrast the gifts and friendship of Mr. Boyles, Grandma Hutto, Ora, and Oliver.
2. Explain the significance of the title.
3. Contrast Jody before and after a hurricane floods surrounding swampland.
4. Characterize the value of keeping peace with neighbors.
5. Contrast Ora and Penny as disciplinarians.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. trembled | 10. dispassionately | 18. gave birth |
| 2. hunting dog | 11. stuck | 19. sacks |
| 3. gallop | 12. overwrought | 20. enormous |
| 4. soothed | 13. riskily | 21. jolly |
| 5. concern | 14. mouth organ | 22. tan |
| 6. commingled | 15. reddish | 23. phantom |
| 7. silent | 16. secretly | 24. ridges |
| 8. waving | 17. curdle | 25. coolly |
| 9. uncontrollable | | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. K | 6. H | 11. O |
| 2. E | 7. I | 12. D |
| 3. C | 8. J | 13. F |
| 4. L | 9. B | 14. G |
| 5. A | 10. N | 15. M |

Part II: Short Answer (10 points)

1. Penny trades for a better gun because his muzzle-loader misfires.
2. Jody must reply to Oliver that he couldn't deliver the message to Twink because she left Volusia for Sanford.
3. Ora rubs panther oil on Penny to soothe rheumatism in his knees.
4. Flag eats the tobacco seedlings, causing Penny to warn Jody to keep the fawn from destroying the garden.
5. Nellie Ginright offers Penny and Jody hospitality and the use of her canoe.

Part III: Cause and Effect (30 points)

Answers will vary.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (30 points)

Answers will vary.

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

1. corn, cow-peas
2. leg, shotgun
3. Forresters, poison
4. Nellie, Slewfoot
5. Mr. Boyles, mouth organ

Part III: Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. X | 6. X | 11. X |
| 2. X | 7. | 12. |
| 3. X | 8. | 13. X |
| 4. | 9. X | 14. |
| 5. | 10. X | 15. |

Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Answers will vary.



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