



Red Kayak

by Priscilla Cummings

Teacher's Guide

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CLASSROOM
FAVORITES

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Synopsis

Chapter One

Outside Annapolis at Bailey's Wharf, Maryland, 13-year-old Braden Duvall "Brady" Parks, an honor roll student, battles with himself whether he should have intervened in a kayak accident engineered by his friends Michael "Digger" Griswald and Jeremy "J.T." Tyler. Brady misses crabbing on the Corsica River. Dad and cousin Carl encourage Brady to give up guilt.

Chapter Two

On Tuesday the previous mid-April, Brady, J.T., and Digger await a ride to school in Carl's antique ambulance. When they spy Marcellus DiAngelo's new red kayak in the river, Digger jeers at the newcomer for being rich. A few days earlier, DiAngelo asked the boys to leave because Digger was smoking. The boys choose not to warn the kayaker of the currents and cold water.

Chapter Three

Carl and his girlfriend Mindy arrive and drive the boys to Alexander Holmes Middle School. Brady informs Carl of Mr. DiAngelo's danger. After an ambulance speeds by, Brady is called to the office from Spanish class. His father needs Brady to help search for Virginia DiAngelo and Ben, her three-year-old, who disappeared on the river.

Chapter Four

Dad, in the fishing trawler Miss Amanda, sends Brady in his outboard skiff to search small creeks while rescuers move downstream to the bay. Brady recalls how his mother left home for six months after the death of her infant Amanda to stay with his grandmother in Connecticut. He hangs out with Carl at the fire station and rides along on emergency calls. Brady's mother reports that Mrs. DiAngelo is safe, but Ben is still miss-

ing. On the way to the main channel, Tilly barks at a spot of yellow on an old dock.

Chapter Five

Brady finds Ben, who is unresponsive. The telephone slips out of Brady's hand and into the river. He performs CPS on the blue-lipped toddler; at the Rock Hall dock, Jimmy Landers encourages Brady's efforts. Carl reports a pulse. A medevac helicopter awaits the ambulance. Brady hurries home optimistic about Ben's recovery.

Chapter Six

Brady informs his father of Tilly's help in locating Ben. Carl calls to report that Ben has been airlifted to Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. Virginia "Gina" DiAngelo receives treatment in Easton. Carl and Captain Dressler compliment Brady on a successful rescue effort. A reporter interviews Brady by telephone. He retreats to his room to gather Lego's and toy aquanauts for Ben, who may have suffered brain damage.

Chapter Seven

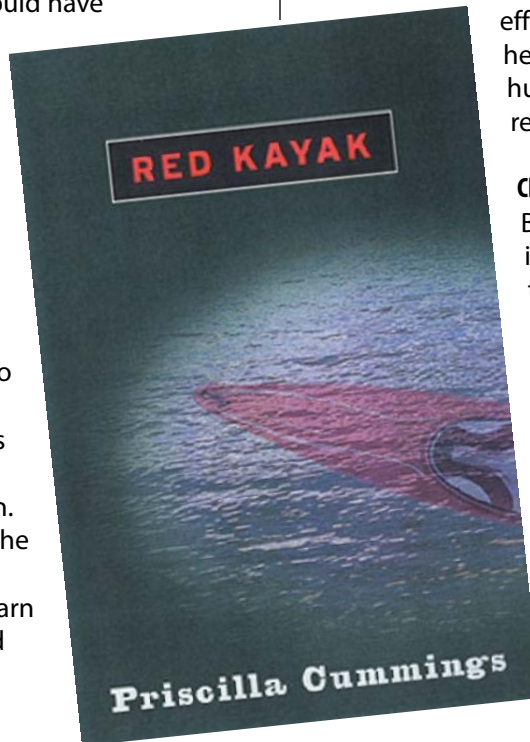
On Wednesday morning, the Baltimore paper features the rescue in the headline. The principal, Mrs. Owens, informs Brady that an interviewer is coming from Channel Thirteen-TV. J.T. and Digger snub Brady at the school assembly. Brady's mother comes for him.

Chapter Eight

Mrs. Parks reports that Ben died. Brady blames himself for being too slow and departs to search for the kayak. He screams his rage at the river shortly before spotting the kayak several feet under water.

Chapter Nine

Brady conceals his find. Dad tries to relieve the guilt. J.T. emails his regrets about Ben. Unable to sleep, Brady thinks about her parents' refusal to mourn Amanda's crib death. At 4 a.m. Thursday, he leaves with his father to haul in and grade crabs in bushel baskets. In a fit of



grief, Brady dumps all but two bushels of the crabs overboard.

Chapter Ten

Dad yells at Brady before returning home. His parents call Carl, who reassures Brady that losing a victim is always distressing. Carl explains how water in the lungs killed Ben. The next morning, J.T. cancels their Friday night sleepover. J.T. and Digger slip away from Brady. Kate and Ryan commiserate over Ben's death. Kate reveals that, to avoid the sleepover, J.T. lied about going to North Carolina.

Chapter Eleven

The funeral for Ben occurs in Leesburg, Virginia, on Saturday during spring break. Brady regrets not going to Amanda's funeral. After helping Carl move his grandfather to a Richmond nursing home, Brady decides to help the DiAngelos. No one calls while Brady is gone. Mom states that Gina DiAngelo is living alone. On Sunday, Brady helps his mother make lasagna and bread and carries the food and some daffodils to Gina. Dad sends Brady back to crabbing and asks about a missing cordless drill. At 4 a.m. Monday, Brady hesitates to go back on the water. That afternoon, he finds that his father recovered the crab traps.

Chapter Twelve

On Tuesday, Gina emails Brady a job offer for the summer. On Saturday, he takes Gina cranberry-orange muffins. He recalls his family's visit to her house after Christmas, when Ben showed off Tiny Tim, his hamster, in a light-up ball. Brady cuts the grass for Gina, who gives him Tiny Tim. For weeks before final exams, Brady works for the grieving mother and proposes a butterfly garden. He explains how their eyes look backward and forward. When Brady describes Gina's symptoms, his mom deduces that Gina is pregnant. Dee goes immediately to her aid. Brady works on the garden until Memorial Day weekend.

Chapter Thirteen

On Saturday, Gina assigns Brady a boathouse clean-up before she leaves for Washington to meet Marcellus. Brady rakes over the cordless drill and recalls sinking the family's canoe.

Chapter Fourteen

Brady pedals toward J.T.'s house and ponders the connections to Digger. Kate, J.T.'s sister, describes her father's hospitalization for kidney disease. J.T. culls dead chicks from the chicken houses and worries about

donating a kidney to his father. He admits that he and Digger drilled holes in the kayak. Brady refuses an invitation to dinner. J.T. tries to stop Brady from going to Digger's house.

Chapter Fifteen

Digger sends his little brother Hank indoors. In private with Brady, Digger pretends to know nothing about the stolen drill with flecks of red paint on it. On return to the boathouse, Brady finds the garbage bag spilled. Digger, lurking in the shadows, demands the drill and reminds Brady that drilling the hole was his idea.

Chapter Sixteen

Brady claims to have a stomachache. Alone, he tries to decide what to do. When Gina returns on Tuesday, the boathouse is neat. He quits his job and claims to be going to Rhode Island to visit cousins.

Chapter Seventeen

On the last day of school, Brady remembers Digger's threats. Carl reports a marital fight at the Griswald house. At 2 p.m., Brady graduates from eighth grade. J.T. thanks him for not reporting the crime and asks to be friends again.

Chapter Eighteen

Brady takes Amtrak north to New York City and on to Providence, Rhode Island. Dee notices that he doesn't see his friends any more. He listens to his CD player on the eight-hour ride and wonders how much Ben suffered before he died.

Chapter Nineteen

In Jamestown, Aunt Janet, Kevin, and Emily greet Brady. A photograph of Amanda makes Brady cry. At Janet's offer, he trims the picture to fit his wallet. He enjoys his visit, but knows he must return to a hard choice. He ponders running away from the train station. Outside Baltimore, he makes his decision.

Chapter Twenty

Brady enjoys a crab dinner at home. That night at 8 o'clock, he takes the drill aboard the dinghy and tosses the evidence into the bay.

Chapter Twenty-One

Brady hangs around the house the next day before doing back to work for Gina. He thinks Marcellus watches him mowing the grass. On the Fourth of July, Tink Bosley's telephone call summons Tom to a meeting of watermen. The drowning eats at Brady. Dee weeps at

seeing Brady gazing at Amanda’s photo and gives him the key to the trunk in the attic.

Chapter Twenty-Two

When Carl invites Brady for a movie, they encounter J.T. in the video store. After the movie, Carl encourages Brady to go the craft fest in Crisfield for the watermen’s protest. Brady realizes that his father has his own troubles. Carl proposes a camping trip to the Catoctins. Dad decides not to protest the federal crabbing regulation. He believes that the answer lies in front of him and requires action. Brady asks his father to dredge up the kayak.

Chapter Twenty-Three

The next morning, Brady and Tom take the Miss Amanda and look for the kayak. On their second hoist into a 20-foot swimming hole, they retrieve the sunken craft. When Dad spies three holes drilled in the hull, Brady tells him the whole story about Digger’s anger.

Chapter Twenty-Four

Carl advises Dad to get a lawyer before going to the police. Attorney L. Mitchell Anderson in Chestertown believes Brady is in no danger if he negotiates immunity. Digger and J.T. could be charged with manslaughter or second degree murder for causing Ben’s death. Brady signs a statement at the police station. Anderson explains the trial procedure. Dad supports his son for going the right thing.

Chapter Twenty-Five

Juvenile proceedings begin two days later. J.T. nods to Brady. Master Williams, the judge, charges the two boys with second degree murder. Mr. Griswald declares he can’t afford a lawyer. The court adjourns for thirty days. Stories appear in newspapers all the way to Washington. Tom and Dee support Brady, who wishes for forgiveness. Dad explains how he forgave Dee for leaving after Amanda’s death. Brady offers his savings of \$1,200 to pay legal fees. His parents arrange a visit from his cousins, a tour of the Smithsonian, and a beach trip to Ocean City. Brady gives Emily Tiny Tim.

Chapter Twenty-Six

Three days before he enters ninth grade, Brady arrives in court. Digger admits to being the guilty party. The state’s attorney, Charles Fine, presents the DiAngelos’ statement about losing their three-year-old. J.T.’s attorney describes him as being an unwilling participant in what he hoped would be a practical joke.

Chapter Twenty-Seven

The public defender describes Digger’s life with a wife-abusing father. The loss of Digger’s grandfather to a nursing home gives the boy no outlet for anger and resentment. Mrs. Griswald intends to move to her sister’s house in Denton. J.T. apologizes for harming Ben. Digger continues taking all the blame and exonerates Brady. Master Williams commits Digger and J.T. for nine months to a forestry camp. Officers refuse prisoner contact with parents and remove the two boys in handcuffs.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

The DiAngelos sell their home and move to Virginia. Gina takes her butterfly garden with her. Kate reports that J.T. is okay. Brady’s Dad builds a family sailboat to be named the Miss Dee.

Timeline of the Action

six years before	When Amanda Parks dies of crib death at age five months; Dee Parks leaves home for six months.
five years before	Digger rescues Brady, who almost drowns in the pond while playing ice hockey.
four years before	Brady, Digger, and J.T. go on a train ride to Cumberland and Frostburg.
two years before	After changing from home schooling to public school, J.T. is the target of Curtis’s bullying. Brady has surgery for a torn knee cartilage.
previous April	A government regulation cuts crabbing season.
previous summer	The DiAngelos destroy the farmhouse of Digger’s grandfather and build a mansion.
previous Christmas	Ben gets a hamster named Tiny Tim.
previous December	The DiAngelos invite the Parks to dinner.
mid-April	Marcellus asks Digger, J.T., and Brady to leave his property for smoking.
later	Digger forces J.T. to help him steal a drill, sabotage the DiAngelos’ kayak, and fill the holes with glue.

Tuesday morning At an old dock, Tilly locates Ben, whom Brady rescues with CPR.

Wednesday morning After Ben dies of pneumonia, Brady locates the kayak in shallow water.

Thursday morning Brady dumps crabs overboard.

Friday morning J.T. cancels their Friday night sleepover.

Saturday Brady does not attend Ben's funeral and regrets not going to Amanda's funeral.

Sunday Tom asks about his missing cordless drill.

Tuesday Gina emails a job offer for the summer.

Memorial Day weekend While cleaning the boathouse, Brady rakes over the cordless drill. J.T. admits that he and Digger drilled holes in the kayak. Digger demands the drill and reminds Brady that drilling the hole was his idea.

last day of school J.T. thanks Brady for not reporting the crime

summer vacation Brady takes Amtrak to Jamestown, Rhode Island, where he weeps over a photograph of Amanda.

two weeks later He tosses the drill into the bay.

Fourth of July Dee sees Brady looking at Amanda's photo and gives him the key to the trunk in the attic.

later Brady asks his father to dredge up the kayak.

next morning After retrieving the kayak in 20 feet of water, Brady tells Tom the whole story about Digger's anger.

later On the advice of his lawyer, Brady signs a statement at the police station.

two days later At a hearing, Master Williams charges Digger and J.T. with second degree murder.

three days before school starts At the trial, Digger admits to being the guilty party. Master Williams commits Digger and J.T. for nine months to a

forestry camp.
during the winter Brady and Tom build a sailboat to be named the *Miss Dee*.

Author Sketch

A native of Ludlow, Massachusetts, journalist and children's book author Priscilla Cummings was born in 1951 to descendants of the Mayflower passengers John and Priscilla Alden. She and her older brother David and little sister Janet grew up among Holsteins at Shady Elm Farm in Granby in west central Massachusetts and rode her palomino, Goldenboy. In childhood, she climbed peaks in the White Mountains with her father, a teacher, and traveled to Rhode Island to camp out on the shore. In addition to fervid reading from the Granby Public Library, she corresponded with global pen pals and grandparents, kept a diary, wrote about animals, and crafted her juvenilia into illustrated chapter books. In high school, she wrote for the school paper.

In 1973, Cummings completed a degree in English literature from the University of New Hampshire. After two years reporting for the *Holyoke Transcript-Telegram* and a year on the staff of the *Hartford Courant*, she spent six years writing for the *Richmond (Va.) News Leader*. At age 31, she began editing and writing for magazines. After settling in Annapolis, Maryland, on the Chesapeake Bay, she married John W. Free, a Statehouse bureau chief for the *Baltimore Sun* and communications director for the state governor. He is the father of their grown children, William and Hannah.

Cummings loved listening to the storytelling of her mother-in-law, Prudence Shannon "Prudie" Frece of Heathsville, Virginia, the former White House secretary to President Franklin Roosevelt. The oral tradition encouraged Cummings to write her own narrations and to turn the story of Prudie's friend Betty Stone into the Depression Era novel *Saving Grace*. Cummings introduced the *Chadwick the Crab* series, including picture books and coloring books. In 1987, she began a novel, *Autumn Journey*, which took a decade to complete. For *Red Kayak*, she conducted extensive research, including her own forays in a green canoe, and newspaper accounts about drowning and hypothermia.

Critic's Corner

While pursuing her career in journalism, Priscilla Cummings began garnering awards from United Press International News Editors of New England, the National

Federation of Press Women, and the Virginia Press Association; she also won a 1982 Arthur J. Blaney Award and a 1981 Virginia Journalist of the Year award for her series on women in prison. Her fiction citations include a 1997 American Booksellers Association Pick of the List, the 1999 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book List, a 2001 International Literacy Award from the Metro-Washington Association for Childhood Education, and a 2002 ALA Notable Children's Book selection. For *Red Kayak*, Cummings earned an International Reading Association Children's Choice citation, a New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age Award, an Oklahoma Sequoyah Award, a second Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award, a *Washington Post* summer reading selection listing, a VOYA editor's choice award, a Wisconsin Battle of the Books selection, reading list designations for thirteen states and two Canadian provinces, and an ALA Best Books for Young Adults award.

Selected Other Works by Priscilla Cummings

Chadwick the Crab, 1986
Chadwick and the Garplegrungen, 1987
The Chadwick Coloring Book, 1988
Chadwick's Wedding, 1989
Oswald and the Timberdoodles, 1990
Sid and Sal's Famous Channel Marker Diner, 1991
Chadwick Forever, 1993
Toulouse: The Story of a Canada Goose, 1995
Autumn Journey, 1997
Meet Chadwick and His Friends, 1999
Chesapeake ABC, 2000
Chesapeake 1 2 3, 2002
A Face First, 2003
Saving Grace, 2003
Red Kayak, 2004
Chesapeake Rainbow, 2004
What Mr. Mattero Did, 2005
Santa Claws: The Christmas Crab, 2006
Beetle Boddiker, 2008

Bibliography

"Annapolis Author Wins Book Award," *Washington Post* (25 October 2007): AA2.
 Henderson, Nia-Malika. "Making a Splash among Schools, Libraries, Teens: Priscilla Cummings Is Receiving Wide Recognition for Her Novel *Red Kayak*, Which Is Set on the Eastern Shore,"

Baltimore Sun (8 March 2006).

O'Malley, Anne. "Review: *Red Kayak*," *Booklist* (1 September 2004): 106.
 Reutter, Vicki. "Review: *Red Kayak*," *School Library Journal* (September 2004): 202.
 "Review: *Red Kayak*," *Kirkus Reviews* (1 September 2004): 862.
 "Review: *Red Kayak*," *Washington Post* (27 July 2006): C13.
 Rosser, Claire. "Review: *Red Kayak*," *Kliatt* (September 2004): 6.
 Smith, Holly. "Maturing with Her Audience," *Washington Post* (5 July 2001).
 Stevenson, Deborah. "Review: *Red Kayak*," *Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books* (October 2004): 66.

General Objectives

1. To discuss the formation of a coastal community and family
2. To characterize socio-economic change in a neighborhood
3. To discuss hidden evidence and festering guilt
4. To outline the relationship between guilty and guiltless friends
5. To contrast types of grief and sorrow
6. To note the value of shared work
7. To read aloud examples of advice
8. To study the literary convention of suspense
9. To enumerate examples of exclusion, vandalism, and bullying
10. To explain the universality of death in literature

Specific Objectives

1. To describe the use of a photo and trunk key to relieve sorrow and loss
2. To recount how Brady locates Ben
3. To discuss the objectivity of the juvenile court
4. To explain why Digger changes
5. To account for parental separation in three households
6. To characterize Carl's intuitive understanding of his cousin's moods
7. To list incidents illustrating Brady's logic, regret, and relief
8. To evaluate changes in the Chesapeake Bay
9. To account for the watermen's protest
10. To assess the roles of L. Mitchell Anderson and Master Williams
11. To analyze the symbolism of Tiny Tim in the cage

12. To contrast Brady as son, student, friend, brother, crabber, witness, and mourner

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Priscilla Cummings's style, present the following terms and applications to *Red Kayak*:

Foreshadowing: a series of hints at themes and events yet to develop in the story. The narrative leads up to several peaks, beginning with Ben's death at Children's Hospital in Washington, D. C., from aspirant pneumonia, the location at the boathouse of the cordless drill with red paint flecks on it, and Brady's decision to toss the evidence into the bay. Continued gnawings of conscience give him no rest until he decides to come clean with his father and the authorities and to let the courts determine punishment for second degree murder.

Symbol: a concrete object that represents a complex or abstract idea or relationship and implies more than the literal meaning of the word or words. Tiny Tim in his cage and on his wheel suggests the frenetic actions of Brady during his bouts with self-castigation and concern for his friends Digger and J.T. In the resolution, Brady realizes how much Tiny Tim reminds him of Ben in happier times. The gift to Emily relieves Brady of bad memories while delighting his cousin with a cheerful pet.

Universality: a quality or theme that applies to all people at all times. The loss of a child is a prevalent strand in family stories. Because the burden of a shortened life and the weight of grief fall on each family member, the situation provides authors with contrasts in behaviors of fathers, mothers, relatives like Aunt Janet and Ellen, and siblings like Brady and Gina's unborn daughter.

Community members like Gina derive strength from Dee, who has faced both pregnancy and the death of an infant. The sharing of suffering relieves both Dee and Gina from undeserved torment.

The Importance of Setting

The placement of *Red Kayak* on the Chesapeake Bay introduces a strong community ethic. The motivation for the crime derives from threatened income for watermen and farmers and from the move of wealthy people onto former farmland overrun by condominiums and strip malls. To Digger, the property overlooking the Corsica River is a retreat from Mr. Griswald's anger and spousal abuse. When the DiAngelos tear down the farm and build a mansion, Digger stokes anger and resentment against outsiders, especially the wealthy who own

four vehicles, one of them a Porsche. Parallel to Digger's anguish are Brady's worries about declining crab hauls and his father's role in protests of government regulation of crabbing.

By presenting Brady at school, in his skiff, at home, at the fire station, and working for Gina, the text develops variant sides of his maturing persona. To his father, Brady is a competent waterman in the making; among EMTs, the boy is a quick study of fire department methods. To Dee, Brady is a sensitive boy who loves the butterfly garden as an outlet for sorrow for his little sister, Amanda. At Alexander Holmes Middle School, Brady develops friendships with other bay dwellers, particularly Digger Griswald, who defends J.T. from the bullying of Curtis. At the DiAngelo mansion, Brady takes responsibility for lawn care, gardening, trash collection, and cleaning the boathouse, the source of his coming to knowledge about Digger and J.T.'s crime.

The falling action places Brady in the halls of justice. Before Master Williams, he must allow authorities and the law to settle issues too distressing for a teenager to manage. By telling the truth to Tom and Dee, at the office of attorney L. Mitchell Anderson, and to the police, Brady readies himself for a confrontation with his wayward friends in juvenile court. The last-minute confessions of Digger and J.T. reveal in a public setting the workings of conscience on both boys and their sorrow and atonement for causing Ben's death. The conclusion of the trial with handcuffing and removal of the defendants to the forestry camp impresses on the reader the consequences of sabotage and vengeance. By returning the setting to the Parks home, Priscilla Cummings illustrates how strong family roots and the father-son work of building a sailboat honoring Dee alleviate guilt and anguish and prepare Brady for better times.

Cross-Curricular Sources

For related reading and more information about *Red Kayak*, CPR, death of a child, hypothermia, family struggles, the Chesapeake Bay, crabbing, ecology, shifts in economy and social status, juvenile court, and Washington, D. C., landmarks consult these sources:

Articles

"Clawing for Life," *Washington Post* (17 April 2008): A22.
"Crab Traps and Terrapins," *Science News* 152, no. 18 (1 November 1997): 287.
Johnson, Rich. "The Survival Zone," *Outdoor Life* 215, no.

3 (March 2008): 49-54. "Soft-Shell Shortage," *Time* 170, no. 24 (10 December 2007): 23.

Audiocassette

Monster
Montana 1948
Ordinary People

Flashcards

EMT Paramedic Exam

Multimedia

We're a Family, Sunburst

Novellas

The Pearl

Novels

A Day No Pigs Would Die
Ellen Foster
Harris and Me
The Hero
Homecoming
J.T.
A Long Way from Chicago
Walkabout

Reference

Adventure Guide to the Chesapeake Bay
Kayaking
Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving
The Unofficial Guide to Washington, D.C.

Short Stories

"The Scarlet Ibis"

DVDs/Videos

Babe
Because of Winn-Dixie
Charlotte's Web
Cross Creek
The Education of Little Tree
Ellen Foster
Life on the Mississippi
Little Women
Ordinary People
Whale Rider

Media Versions

AUDIO DOWNLOADS/EBOOKS
Red Kayak, Audible.com, 2004

Related Reading

Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*
Kate DiCamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie*
Anne Fine, *Alias Madame Doubtfire*
Jean Craighead George, *Julie of the Wolves*
Kaye Gibbons, *Ellen Foster*
Lois Lowry, *Messenger*
Walter Dean Myers, *Monster and Shooter*
Katherine Paterson, *Jacob Have I Loved*
Gary Paulsen, *Harris and Me* and *The Winter Room*
Richard Peck, *A Long Way from Chicago*
Robert Newton Peck, *A Day No Pigs Would Die*
Cynthia Rylant, *Missing May*
Cynthia Voigt, *Dacey's Song* and *Homecoming*
Jane Wagner, *J.T.*
Ruth White, *Belle Prater's Boy*
Ron Woods, *The Hero*

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Priscilla Cummings's *Red Kayak* should include these aspects:

Themes

- family
- economic downturn
- change
- resentment
- sabotage
- outsiders
- grief
- memories
- social status
- conscience
- regret
- siblings
- confession
- justice

Motifs

- coastal family values
- a dead friend and sibling
- family reintegration
- testifying to the authorities
- gaining parental support
- maturing in the face of a moral dilemma

Meaning Study

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from *Red Kayak*. Explain each in context. Chapter and page

numbers pinpoint each entry so you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. "Hey," he said. "It's loaded with antioxidants." Chapter Two, p. 7.
(J.T. makes a jokes about his bottle of green tea, a trendy drink that contains beneficial substances that reduce free radicals, the dangerous molecules known to trigger cancer and heart disease.)
2. Hey, Brady, remember those oxymorons we talked about in lit the other day? Chapter Two, p. 9.
(An oxymoron is a phrase of mutually exclusive or negating terms, such as "voluntary tax," "working vacation," "dull shine," "social outcast," "outer core," "long shorts," and "minor miracle.")
3. Exposure, you know? If he fell in, he could die in, like, twenty minutes. Chapter Two, p. 11)
(Hypothermia from exposure to cold drops the body temperature, causes shivering, numbs the extremities, suppresses breathing and organ function, generates confusion and amnesia, and stops body functions.)
4. Mrs. DiAngelo didn't want us cruising the cable. Chapter Three, p. 18.
(Gina protects Ben from violent, inappropriate television programs by choosing the evening's entertainment, a video of The Lion King.)
5. I tilted Ben's head back a little, pinched his nose again, and started by giving him one breath. Then I sat up, put the heel of my right hand on his chest, covered it with my left, and pressed down. Chapter Five, p. 31.
(Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation is an emergency restorative action that revives life after cardiac and/or respiratory arrest. By blowing air into the lungs and forcing the heart to pump, the rescuer becomes the intermediary to professional lifesaving techniques.)
6. I couldn't stand the thought that Ben might end up with some kind of brain damage. Chapter Six, p. 42.
(Although CPR may revive the body in time to save a life, it may begin too late to halt the death of delicate brain cells. In such cases, the patient may function physically, but be mentally impaired for life.)
7. "But he had a lot of water in his lungs, and it gave him pneumonia, what they call aspiration pneumonia," Carl explained. Chapter 10, p. 66.
(The water and foreign matter that Ben swallows, when added to the effects of hypothermia, overwhelms his body with inflammation.)
8. They would never have gotten fingerprints off the drill, not after that length of time and with it being exposed to the elements. Chapter Twenty-

Four, p. 176.

(Fingerprints are impressions transferred from the inner side or pad on the last joint of fingers and thumbs, which transfer sweat, sebum, and lipids from the system to solid objects like tools, weapons, steering wheels, walls, doors, drinking glasses, light switches, and money.)

9. It could be considered conspiracy, I guess, but even conspiracy has to include a first step, and that has to include some action, not just talking about a crime. Chapter Twenty-Four, p. 177.
(According to Brady's attorney, conspiracy is an agreement between two or more persons to commit a future crime. All are liable for their actions; each receives a separate judgment.)
10. I think we should proffer this information in exchange for the state's attorney's agreement for immunity from prosecution. Chapter Twenty-Four, p. 177.
(Brady's attorney makes a deal with the state's attorney to exonerate Brady of the crime if he reveals what he knows about the sabotage to the kayak that caused Ben's death.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important. Be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the novel.

Structure

1. Why does the action end with the building of Miss Dee?
(The parallel conflicts that trouble Brady and Tom come to a conclusion at the beginning of Brady's entry into high school. Before the July the Fourth gathering at Crisfield, Tom resolves not to join Tink Bosley and other watermen in protesting government regulations that will threaten the extermination of crabs in the Chesapeake Bay. His example helps Brady decide to rid himself of the terrible secret about Ben's death by reporting the sabotaged kayak to the police. Spending the winter together building the sailboat Miss Dee, father and son bond while rewarding Dee for her loyalty and love. The naming of the sailboat also moves the family beyond the Miss Amanda, the commercial trawler that reminds them of a deceased child.)

Exposition

2. How does the anti-newcomer resentment begin?

(Michael “Digger” Griswald lives in a violent home dominated by his father. To escape episodes of abuse, Digger retreats to his grandfather’s farm, which overlooks the Corsica River. Digger, Brady, and J.T. swim, bike, and wander the property, which includes a house, barn, and boathouse. After the grandfather enters a nursing home and the DiAngelos raze the old house and build a mansion, Digger resents them for their wealth, for being outsiders, and for limiting his access to beloved territory. When Marcellus ousts the boys for smoking on his property, Digger begins plotting revenge by boring holes in the red kayak’s hull and filling them with sawdust and water-soluble glue.)

Humor

3. What bits of humor lighten the mood?
 (Happy moments in the narrative relieve the gravity of the concealment of murder of a three-year-old boy. After Christmas, Ben DiAngelo turns out the bedroom light to demonstrate to “Bwady” Tiny Tim’s mobility in a glowing ball. On the morning of the rescue, Tilly disobeys Brady and leaps into the skiff. The sharing of videos—*The Lion King* and *Blade Runner*—along with subs for dinner allow Brady some relaxation with Ben, a delightful toddler, and with cousin Carl, a professional EMT with whom Brady feels comfortable.)

Characterization

4. How does Tom protect his family?
 (Tom Parks keeps a light hold on the family reins. He allows Dee a six-month visit to her mother in Connecticut to get over the loss of Amanda from crib death. When Brady rescues Ben, Tom congratulates his son for skill at CPR. After Brady dumps much of the day’s crab catch overboard, Tom looks into his son’s anguish. By arranging an Amtrak trip to Jamestown, Rhode Island, and by sending Brady to Ocean City and to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., Tom and Dee attempt to depressurize an emotional storm that presses Brady toward confession. When Brady asks forgiveness, Tom assures his son that he has committed no wrong. The building of the Miss Dee is a nonverbal statement of fatherly pride and love.)

Action

5. How does the novel build drama?
 (Priscilla Cummings creates drama in action scenes that are both physical and emotional. Brady’s discovery of the cordless drill sends him home on his

bike to conceal evidence of murder. After mulling over the situation, he chooses to take the boat into the channel and toss the drill into the water. Retrieval of the kayak, a difficult pull from deep water, requires coordination with his father, who operates the Miss Amanda’s winch. Tom’s examination of three holes bored in the hull pushes the action toward confession and resolution.)

Interpretation

6. Why does the novel interject the theme of ecology?
 (By picturing Chesapeake Bay watermen at a crux in their livelihood, the novel suggests that moral and ethical decisions impact all people’s lives. As Tom Parks ponders a public protest of government regulation, he must acknowledge that control of crabbing is necessary in a rich coastal environment that begins to show the strain of constant removal of animal life. Tom’s explanation of the “right thing to do” releases Brady from a dilemma of more human proportions—confession of his part in the plotting of sabotage to the red kayak.)

Vernacular

7. How does language establish economic and educational barriers between the locals and the DiAngelos?
 (Cummings salts the text with slang and vernacular speech to attest to the level of learning and attainment among watermen. The examples—“We ‘preciate you’re takin’ us so quickly,” “Bay be right smart of crabs if it weren’t for all the damned condo-minions going up,” “I’m gonna hit the tick,” “Some morning, wasn’t it,” “Gettin’ fancy,” “You be lookin’ backward all the time,” “I brung a lot of shame on him,” “Ain’t nothin to forgive,” “Let’s do somethin’ to get back at the creep,” “Keep crabbin’ these waters till they ain’t nothin’ left,” and “Smack in front of you”—suggest a social gap between the DiAngelos and condo dwellers and locals like the Griswalds, Parks, and Tylers. Differences in communication underscore constant awareness that newcomers are wealthier and more privileged than people who make their living on the water.)

Theme

8. How does a child’s death disrupt a family?
 (Amanda’s death shatters the Parks family, sending Dee to her mother’s house in Connecticut for six months and leaving Brady and Tom to mourn alone. The unstated hurt hovers in the household because of the family’s inability to discuss their sorrow. When

Brady visits Aunt Janet in Rhode Island, his weeping over Amanda's picture in the photo album expresses to Janet the insidious suffering that still disunifies the parents. Brady's delight in having a photo of Amanda surprises Dee, who eases her own ache by allowing him access to the trunk holding Amanda's belongings. Upon learning that Gina is in the early months of pregnancy after Ben's death and after Marcellus's desertion, Dee offers solace. The visit to the DiAngelo house suggests that Dee has made peace with Amanda's death and that she wants to share motherly wisdom with Gina.)

Tone

9. Why does the tone shift after Brady throws crabs overboard?
(From outrage to compassion, the tone alters to accommodate the needs of a boy who has encountered a rapid plunge from instant hero to grieving and guilty accessory to second-degree murder. At first, Tom is angry that Brady wastes the day's income. On arrival home, Brady is unable to express his anguish or explain his actions. Tom and Dee realize that past events have burdened their son with more emotional confusion and guilt than he can bear. They withdraw to allow him to talk in private with Carl, who is more experienced at rescue and loss.)

Conflict

10. Why is the issue of friendship left unsettled?
(Brady's willingness to bear guilt for the sake of his friends J.T. and Digger leaves him vulnerable to blame that is not his burden. At the hearing and trial, Brady takes a passive role, but writhes at the formal reunion with friends who have shunned and threatened him. The cessation of a close relationship leaves him saddened, yet wiser about the kinds of friends who use others, then drop them.)

How Language Work

Priscilla Cummings expresses her attitude toward characters and themes through astute remarks:

1. Tom Parks expresses his compassion in a simple father-son statement: "In the end, you done the right thing, like I tole you."
2. Brady feels a need to atone to Ben's mother: "How could I keep anything from Mrs. DiAngelo, after what had been taken from her?"
3. The public defender explains, "Michael has harbored a lot of resentment and anger toward his father, and

has never had a healthy escape valve."

4. Of his unruly temper, Digger admits, "I was just lashin' out ... the way my dad lashes out at me, I guess."
5. Master Williams looks realistically at juvenile crime and refuses to be sidetracked by sad stories: "You're not a puppet. You could have said no."

Across the Curriculum

Law

1. Compose a chronological chart of legal terms that impact the court case. Include state's attorney, subpoenaed, immunity, petitioning, restraining order, conspiracy, sabotage, adjudication, feloniously, Miranda rights, bailiff, protocol, disposition, manslaughter, second-degree murder, and proffer. Suggest reasons for removing prisoners from the courtroom in handcuffs and denying them contact with relatives before their departure to the forestry camp.
2. Using Ben DiAngelo's death as a model, define second degree murder. How does Digger show intent to harm the DiAngelos? coercion of J.T.? resentment toward his grandfather's loss of the farm? anger at Marcellus? avoidance of Brady?
3. Read details of forestry camp for juvenile delinquents at <<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/19djj/html/19agen.html>> Determine why the study of conservation is more beneficial to young felons than jailing among adult criminals.

Geography

1. Locate on a map significant places in the story, including the Corsica River, Easton, Amtrak to New York City, Baltimore, Children's Hospital in Washington, D. C., Connecticut, Cumberland, Frostburg, Catoctins, Crisfield, Kent County, National Aquarium, Ocean City, Queenstown, Smithsonian, Stone Harbor, New Jersey, Tighlman Island, Gransonville, Spaniard's Neck, Rock Hall, Richmond, Denton, Chestertown, Susquehanna River, Chesapeake Bay, and Jamestown and Providence, Rhode Island.

Vocabulary

1. Explain how abbreviations and acronyms replace whole words in official documents, advertising, and news reports. Use as models CD burner, SEALs, MRE, GPS, CPR, Amtrak, and DVD driver.
2. Make a chart of oxymorons from the novel. Create your own models or make a list of examples

drawn from websites, language books, advertising, and journalism.

Ecology

1. Explain the impact of the following terms on the bay area and its survival: crabbing season, GPS, crab-pot buoys, prolonged, exposure, marina, littoral drift, rock fishing, phragmite, nor'easter, trotline, aground, gale, sandbar, and doldrums.
2. List items from the boathouse that might have unusual value, such as antique wicker furniture. Propose ways of determining the worth of rescued items and of trading or selling them for cash, such as at a garage sale or a flea market booth.

Health

1. Discuss how CPR resuscitates a drowning victim with a rhythm of one strong breath and five compressions of the chest at the sternum. Why does the rescuer pinch the victim's nostrils? With an anatomy chart, explain why Ben suffers hypothermia and brain damage and dies from aspiration pneumonia.
2. Define paranoid. Explain how lying and deception cause people to lose their ability to trust others.
3. Explain the use of a backboard by ambulance and EMT crews. Why are jarring and motion dangerous to a victim of broken bones and internal or cranial injuries?

Horticulture

1. Diagram a butterfly garden that includes birdbaths, flat rocks, spicebush, wisteria, coneflower, geranium, miniature rose, marigold, impatiens, and clustering and yellow-, blue-, and purple-flowered plants that lure butterflies.

Science

1. Explain the importance to the Chesapeake Bay economy of the razor clam, osprey, heron, tern, mallard, sponge crab, periwinkle, jimmies, riprap, eddies, cattails, and dredging.

Technology

1. With a group, illustrate on a mural the following technical terms from the novel: fluke, stern, ketch, skiff, grapnel hook, transom, port, keel, run aground, cordless, rezinc, dinghy, doghouse, cleat, hard drive, Porsche, eddy, pulley, aquanaut, bleed the engine, panoramic, channel marker, outboard, crab pot buoys, backhoe, wake, drift, salt marsh, shoreline, culling, winching, workboat, commer-

cial crab license, antioxidants, Rolex, piling, band saw, gunnel, choke, throttle, radar, radio receiver, fire department platoon, torpedo, starboard, Saab, slip, wake, hull, radius, and backboard.

Journalism

1. Propose news coverage of the search for Gina DiAngelo, the rescue of Ben and his transport to Children's Hospital in Washington, D. C., cause of brain damage and hypothermia, and his subsequent death from aspiration pneumonia. Include radio spots with breaking news throughout the late afternoon and next morning, newspaper interviews with parents and rescue team members, television coverage of the scene, investigation at the old dock, and Internet maps of the dangerous Corsica River currents and tides during a rainstorm.
2. Compose a feature interview on heroes. List questions about why Tom Parks asks Brady to look for Gina and Ben DiAngelo, how Brady prepares for the search, and what he remembers about CPR breathing and chest compressions from time spent at the fire station. How does Tilly make the search successful? How do Jimmy Landers and Carl, both professional rescuers, take over at the Rock Hall landing and transport Ben from Leter Krebb's field by medevac helicopter to Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C.?

Religion

1. Plan prayers and scripture to read at the funeral and burial services of Amanda and Ben. Choose verses as well as hymns that stress childhood innocence, goodness, acceptance, and appreciation of nature, such as "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "For the Beauty of the Earth." Compose additional verses and phrases to adorn grave markers and commemorative plaques for the parents to take home.

Research

1. Create a bulletin board listing and defining abstract terms from the novel, particularly agape, surreal, averted, replicant, harried, railing, corrode, stupor, pivoted, bona fide, instinct, profile, envisioned, slithering, paranoid, and callous.

Gender Studies

1. Summarize gender relationships in the novel, particularly that of husband/wife, younger sister/older brother, mother/son, male and female cousins, woman judge/boy defendants, woman

attorney/boy client, female employer/boy worker, and boyfriend/girlfriend. Determine why the novel contrasts Brady's relationships with Tom and Dee, Aunt Janet, and cousins Emily and Carl. How would the novel change if the two murderers had been girls? over age eighteen?

Reading

1. Read aloud other literary descriptions of workers, neighbors, coastal life, court scenes, or outsiders. Include Cynthia Voigt's *Dacey's Song* and *Homecoming*, Kate DiCamillo's *Because of Winn-Dixie*, Jane Wagner's *J.T.*, Ron Woods's *The Hero*, Cynthia Rylant's *Missing May*, Ruth White's *Belle Prater's Boy*, Walter Dean Myers's *Hoops and Monster*, Natalie Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting*, Gary Paulsen's *Harris and Me* and *The Winter Room*, Lois Lowry's *Messenger*, Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*, and Jean Craighead George's *Julie of the Wolves*. Discuss examples of bullying in *J.T.*, coastal life in *Jacob Have I Loved* and *Homecoming*, guilt in *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Hero*, judgment in *Monster*, exclusion in *Dacey's Song*, friendship in *Hoops and Messenger*, unsettling family problems in *A Day No Pigs Would Die* and *Belle Prater's Boy*, authority figures in *The Winter Room* and *A Long Way from Chicago*, and surviving loss in *Tuck Everlasting* and *Missing May*.

Literature

1. With a group, list and explain significant details. Explain the value of these terms to the story: Tilly, watermen's protest, baseball cap, *The Lion King*, flecks of red paint, Tiny Tim, Digger's grandfather, medevac helicopter, hypothermia, forestry camp, fire station, *Blade Runner*, kidney disease, crib death, and government regulations.
2. Explain to a small group why the family situation after a death causes younger people to be nervous and ill at ease among older, more mature mourners. Suggest ways that the Parks help Brady recover, especially delivering food to Gina, spending time with Carl and Aunt Janet, forgiving the waste of crabs overboard the Miss Amanda, and vacationing at Ocean City and the Smithsonian.
3. Contrast minor characters in terms of action, commentary, and significance. Include the realtor, Curtis, Captain Dressler, Emily, Kevin, public defender, Jimmy Landers, Digger's grandfather, Spanish teacher, L. Mitchell Anderson, Master Williams, Mr. Griswald, Mindy, Mrs. Tyler, Charles

Fine, Kate, Amanda, Marcellus, Tink Bosley, police, firefighters, Uncle Henry, Ben, Craig, Sue Lorraine Griswald, Mrs. Owens, Ellen, and the bailiff. Which characters lack believable personalities? Which seem real? Which have the most influence on the story? on the crime? on exposing the truth? on relieving Brady's guilt?

4. Explain in a paragraph the purpose of a minor incident in the story. Choose from these: Tilly disobeys and leaps on board the skiff, J.T. lies about going to North Carolina, Gina's garden disappears, Dee gives Brady an emergency ten-dollar bill, Brady gives Tiny Tim to his cousin, Carl rents *Blade Runner* and buys subs, Tom works late in his carpentry shop, turtles drown in Brady's crab pots, Marcellus moves to Washington, Captain Dressler congratulates Brady, Tom hooks a Weber grill, and Brady looks at the photo in his wallet.
5. Compile and discuss a list of images from the story that appeal to the five senses, for instance, the sound of the boat hoist and of the rake, the sight of Ben's race car bed and cubby, the taste of biscotti, the smell of the bay at low tide, the touch of Tilly's nose, the sight of three holes in the kayak hull and of stacks of junk from the boathouse, the voice of the newspaper interviewer and of the deliverer of judgment on Digger and J.T., the smell of lasagna and spicy Italian bread, and the sight of daffodils and of overturned garbage bags.
6. Suggest ways this novel could be acted on stage. Flesh out action scenes for a play, for example, Marcellus's observation of the lawn mowing, Carl's praise of a good job of CPR, Curtis's threats to J.T., Dee's gift of a trunk key, an Amtrak ride to Providence, visiting the National Aquarium during Amanda's funeral, threats from Digger, and Brady's waste of a morning's catch of crabs. Create more realism in the text by displaying Digger rescuing Brady from the ice, Brady's savings of \$1,200, Dee's job at the nursing home, fears for J.T.'s father's failing kidneys, the decline of crab catches of jimmies, and emergency trips with Carl in the fire station ambulance.

Math and Computer Art

1. Draw an animated storyboard for *Red Kayak*. Include Marcellus's scolding for smoking on his property, J.T.'s enrollment at the Alexander Holmes Middle School after years of homeschooling, dining with the DiAngelos after Christmas, steering a commercial trawler, and the handcuffing of Digger and J.T.
2. Use internal data to make a time line of events in the

novel, including signing testimony at the police station, raising the kayak from the swimming hole, spotting the yellow life preserver on the old dock, and diagnosing Gina's fatigue and vomiting as symptoms of pregnancy. Emphasize the thirty days between the first juvenile hearing and the sentencing of Digger and J.T. to forestry camp.

3. Explain how watermen chart storms, seasonal tides, currents, littoral drift, deep water holes, water temperature, and eddies when they search for a drowning victim or a downed vessel.

Social Studies

1. Compose a short speech in which you contrast five families—the DiAngelos, Brady and his parents, the Tylers, the Griswalds, and Aunt Janet and her children. What negative elements afflict children, such as culling dead chicks, widowhood, facing an abusive father, working together at 4:00 A. M., losing a child to crib death or a father to lung cancer, considering kidney donation by a family member, separation of parents, and selecting a right action to overcome a wrong.
2. Draw a web representing how the author portrays community concerns. Why does the watermen's protest worry Carl and Tom Parks? How do J.T., Digger, and Brady supplement family income? Why do news reporters seek interviews with Brady?
3. Chart the parallel lifestyles and activities of Ben, Brady, Digger, and J.T. Note the aspects they share, for example, residence on the Corsica River along the Chesapeake Bay, love of the water, and concerned parents. List their differences, particularly maturity, family incomes and professions, styles of discipline, size of families, husband/wife relationships, and younger siblings.

Psychology

1. Lead a debate about the marital troubles caused by the deaths of Amanda and Ben. Why do the DiAngelos and the Parks separate temporarily? Why do both separations trouble Brady?
2. Analyze character interaction by simplifying the events and meaning of a single upbeat scene. For example, give a detailed sketch of preparations for a Fourth of July holiday, praise to Brady for the water rescue, a romp with Tilly in the butterfly garden, keeping a locker at the fire station, building the Miss Dee, graduating from Alexander Holmes Middle School, receiving Tiny Tim and cash to pay for his upkeep, riding Amtrak through

New York City to Rhode Island, and a viewing of *Blade Runner* and a sub with Carl.

3. Describe in a short speech the effects of guilt, alienation, loss, threatened income, grief, deception, theft, sabotage, murder, and family differences on characters in the novel. How do other characters comfort people who suffer, for example Dee with Brady, Carl with Brady, and Brady with Gina? What comforts does L. Mitchell Anderson offer Brady and his parents about immunity?
4. Discuss with a group the theme of family love. Why do the characters omit mention of love, yet show affection, such as lemon cake, a gift of \$1,200 in savings, the trunk key from Dee, advice from Carl, fun with Emily and Kevin at Ocean City, a photo from Aunt Janet, a phone call from Uncle Henry, Dee's six-month visit in Connecticut with her mother, a letter about Ben's significance to his grieving parents, and the building of a sailboat in Dad's workshop?

Cinema

1. Sketch posters advertising a film, puppet show, TV miniseries, or outdoor drama of *Red Kayak*. Diagram the placement of actors, music, costumes, props, sound effects, and lighting. Include classroom discussions of how to stage scenes in the ambulance, on Chesapeake Bay, in the Smithsonian or the National Aquarium, at the juvenile hearing or trial, in the skiff or the Miss Amanda, along the creek, at a school assembly, on Amtrak, at the boathouse, outside the chicken house, at the Rock Hall landing, and in the police station.
2. Describe aspects of the novel that are more suited to radio, filmstrip, tableau, illustration, cartoon, and pageant than to a movie, for example, arriving at Lester Krebb's field with Ben, Craig's interview with Brady, reading the Washington newspaper, rescuing Brady from the ice, tracing a lie through Kate, moving Tiny Tim's cage and noisy wheel to the basement, and celebrating Memorial Day.
3. View videos featuring home and community life; e.g., *Whale Rider*, *Homecoming*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Shiloh*, *E. T.*, *Cross Creek*, *Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman—the Movie*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Counterstrike*, *Little Women*, *Ellen Foster*, *Walkabout*, *And Now Miguel*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Babe*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Stuart Little*, and *Snow Dogs*. Discuss why filmmakers focus on the meaning of conflict, injustice, guilt, loss, and death on ordinary people like J.T., Digger, the DiAngelos, and

Brady and his parents.

Language

1. Form a team of readers to tape expanded, imaginative episodes of *Red Kayak* that capture coastal manners, family life, and vernacular, such as "We 'preciate you're takin' us so quickly," "Bay be right smart of crabs if it weren't for all the damned condo-minions going up," "I'm gonna hit the tick," "Some morning, wasn't it," "Gettin' fancy," "You be lookin' backward all the time," "I brung a lot of shame on him," "Ain't nothin to forgive," "Let's do somethin' to get back at the creep," "Keep crabbin' these waters till they ain't nothin' left," and "Smack in front of you."
2. Create scenes in which Gina or Marcellus writes a thank-you note to Brady for revealing the truth, Craig composes a feature article on Brady's tough decision about raising the red kayak, Dee or Tomcarves a tribute to Amanda for the butterfly garden, or Tink Bosley carries banners to the courthouse complaining of government crabbing regulations.

Art, Costume Design, and Music

1. Using desktop publishing or other media, design an epitaph for Amanda or Ben, a mural of bay area crabbing or a rescue team involving both ambulance and medevac helicopter, a list of items needed for a water rescue or a search for a sunken vessel, a layout of a juvenile courtroom or a boat-house, a banner announcing a Memorial Day celebration or a watermen's protest, a business card for a state's attorney or for Captain Dressler, a lesson in CPR on infants and children or on avoiding running aground in a creek, first aid for hypothermia or for drowning, a chart of landmarks in the Chesapeake Bay and Washington, D.C., an extended definition of spousal abuse or sabotage, an advertisement for radar equipment or used crab pots, and a chart of a butterfly garden or a forestry camp.
2. Create a bulletin board illustrating visual scenes from the story. Include Brady's concealment of the drill in a box of curtains, warming up in the back seat of a police car with Tilly, bullying or graduation at the middle school, finding Amanda dead in her crib, boarding Amtrak for Rhode Island, facing Digger in the boathouse, and explaining the three holes in the kayak hull to Tom.
3. Use desktop publishing, paper mache, masks, puppets, collage, fabric banners, mural, a model town,

or sculptor's clay to create a gallery dramatizing the significance of the Chesapeake Bay to families and teenage boys who canoe, swim, dive, fish, sail, crab, kayak, sightsee, and boat on the inland waterway.

Drama and Speech

1. Pantomime or act out dialogue expressing Marcellus's anger at Gina, Carl's respect for his heroic cousin Brady, Tom's decision not to protest government regulation of crabbing, Dee's grief for Amanda, Ben's joy in owning Tiny Tim, Uncle Henry's pride in Brady, and Aunt Janet's concern for her nephew.
2. Choose a role to play in the community, for example, a relative, EMT, waterman, neighbor, family friend, physician, mail carrier, teacher, bus driver, fire-fighter, bailiff, public defender, fire department chief, or police officer? Would you choose bay life over town life? keeping a skiff for commercial crabbing? being a male or female character? being a respected individual or an outsider like the DiAngelos or Mr. Griswald? Which characters would you choose for friendship? What advice would you give Brady on the extremes of loyalty to criminals? on confessing to a felony that might involve incarceration?

Composition

1. Make an oral report on the theme of justice. Determine how you would manage the cordless drill, damaged red kayak, glue, and police and court testimony to second degree murder. What plea would you make to Master Williams on behalf of J.T.? of Digger?
2. Compose a first person account of Brady's confession to his father. Make a list of questions for the family to ask, such as the location of sunken kayak, source of a prank against the DiAngelos, need for an attorney, concealment of fingerprints, and intent to protect Digger and J.T. from prosecution for murder.
3. Compose an extended definition of conflict in which you compare Brady to the focal character in Jane Wagner's *J.T.*, Kaye Gibbons's *Ellen Foster*, Dicey Tillerman in Cynthia Voigt's *Homecoming*, Jesse in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*, or Jamie West in Ron Woods's *The Hero*.
4. Compose an informal essay on writing drama. List situations you would like to describe in a teleplay, scenario, tableau, stage musical, blog, or outdoor drama. Explain to a small group how your cast of

characters would defend friends, earn money on the shore, confess to crime, respond to handcuffing and a sentence of nine months at a forestry camp, grieve for a dead sibling, answer the questions of reporters and the police, represent their actions in juvenile court, and face down bullies.

Education

1. Compose an introduction to Red Kayak for new readers. Explain how the story develops sympathy for Amanda, J.T., Brady, Ben, Gina, Digger, and Dee. Why is there no sympathy for Mr. Griswald? for Marcellus? for Tink Bosley?

Alternate Assessment

1. List in chronological order and describe significant events from the story. Mention locating something yellow onshore, graduating from Alexander Holmes Middle School, playing with Amanda, building Miss Dee, putting a rabbit picture in a locker, raking up a cordless drill, congratulating Tilly, lying to Digger, telling Gina about butterfly eyes, explaining three holes to Tom, visiting Ocean City, renting Blade Runner, saving \$1,200, dropping the telephone, regretting not yelling toward the kayak, smoking, compressing Ben's chest, receiving Gina's thanks, discovering the kayak in shallow water, learning about aspirant pneumonia, receiving a photo, learning about the watermen's protest, getting a lawyer, cancelling a sleepover, avoiding Brady at school, being interviewed, working with Tom at 4:00 A. M., and removing garbage from the boathouse.
2. List events from the novel that express the uniqueness of Amanda, Dee, J.T., Digger's grandfather, Ben, Carl, Tiny Tim, and the Chesapeake Bay.
3. Compose brief definitions of suspense, character, and symbol as they apply to Red Kayak. What changes in the plot would ease Brady's guilt? his involvement in second-degree murder? Why does Tom state, "Ain't nothin' to forgive."
4. Summarize scenes that depict conflict, particularly school bullying, marital breakup, a watermen's protest, Digger's denials, tossing the drill into the river, throwing the crabs overboard, grieving over emergency victims, sending Brady to the National Aquarium, weeping over a photo album, and refusing to put out crab pots.

Vocabulary Test

Choose words from the list below that complete each list of synonyms below.

adjudication	agape	aspiration	avert	bona fide	callous
corrode	disposition	felonious	fluke	gunnel	harried
instinct	keel	ketch	littoral	manslaughter	nor'easter
phragmite	pivot	disposition	profile	protocol	radius
rail	replicant	sabotage	stupor	subpoenaed	surreal
throttle	transom				

- _____ 1. unsecured, ajar, yawning, cavernous, spread
- _____ 2. disturbance, tempest, uproar, rage, gale
- _____ 3. grogginess, shock, daze, trance, torpor
- _____ 4. contour, silhouette, outline, vignette, delineation
- _____ 5. illegal, illicit, reprehensible, condemnable, guilty
- _____ 6. implausible, dreamlike, phantasmagoric, eerie, spooky
- _____ 7. bedeviled, frustrated, beset, harassed, provoked
- _____ 8. volution, swivel, rotate, pirouette, revolve
- _____ 9. inured, indurate, unresponsive, harsh, unsusceptible
- _____ 10. pattern, prescription, regulation, propriety, decorum
- _____ 11. preclude, forestall, deflect, debar, frustrate
- _____ 12. inveigh, declaim, aver, assert, demur
- _____ 13. veritable, legitimate, valid, substantial, proper
- _____ 14. sap, undermine, subvert, incapacitate, obstruct
- _____ 15. finding, verdict, discovery, identification, predetermination
- _____ 16. landfall, shore, tideland, coast, inland
- _____ 17. dilapidate, crumble, deteriorate, oxidize, degenerate
- _____ 18. talent, tendency, faculty, intuition, feeling
- _____ 19. accelerate, activate, gun, trigger, power
- _____ 20. extend, tender, provide, render, furnish

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Identify the following characters.

- _____ 1. Gina deliberately
- A. ignores Tink's phone call.
 - B. avoids Marcellus in Washington.
 - C. hooks Ben to a piling.
 - D. neglects the butterfly garden.
- _____ 2. Digger frees
- A. Brady from charges.
 - B. Sue Griswald to testify.
 - C. the kayak from the boathouse.
 - D. the drill from the swimming hole.
- _____ 3. Carl explains that
- A. brain damage killed Ben.
 - B. the waterman's protest will endanger Tom.
 - C. the Amtrak to Providence must stop in New York City.
 - D. some victims die after rescue.
- _____ 4. Miss Amanda quickly passes
- A. the yellow life jacket.
 - B. Brady's skiff.
 - C. the boys' old swimming hole.
 - D. the littoral drift.
- _____ 5. Craig learns from Brady that he
- A. breaks laws about keeping sponge crabs.
 - B. was not afraid of getting lost.
 - C. knows where the kayak lies in shallow water.
 - D. misses grandfather's old barn.
- _____ 6. Master Williams settles on
- A. handcuffs.
 - B. a public defender for Digger and J.T.
 - C. a forestry camp.
 - D. immunity for underage murderers.
- _____ 7. Brady pays for
- A. the legal fee.
 - B. the Miss Dee.
 - C. a trunk for Amanda's belongings.
 - D. the missing drill.
- _____ 8. The idea of drilling holes comes from
- A. Jimmy Landers.
 - B. Jeremy.
 - C. Michael.
 - D. Brady.
- _____ 9. Aunt Janet understands
- A. grief for Amanda.
 - B. Ellen's remarks about Tom.
 - C. Dee's need to keep the trunk locked.
 - D. the purpose of camping on the Catoctins.
- _____ 10. While sitting in the back seat,
- A. Jeremy reads comic books.
 - B. Carl sees Curtis bullying J.T.

- C. Captain Dressler coaches the CPR on Ben.
- D. Brady observes emergencies.
- _____ 11. Gina can't bear to
 - A. plant miniature roses.
 - B. enter Ben's room.
 - C. talk about pregnancy.
 - D. lose Tiny Tim.
- _____ 12. Brady fears that
 - A. J.T. is hiding in the boathouse.
 - B. rich people will take over Corsica River.
 - C. Marcellus watches him.
 - D. Tom hates him for talking to the police.
- _____ 13. J.T. tries to dissuade
 - A. Brady from going to the Griswald house.
 - B. Jimmy from sending Ben by medevac helicopter.
 - C. Craig from airing a television interview in Baltimore.
 - D. Mrs. Owens from congratulating Brady at the assembly.
- _____ 14. Tom informs his son that
 - A. Marcellus has returned.
 - B. the holiday protest involves politicians.
 - C. he could go to reform school for concealing evidence.
 - D. the right thing to do is the only choice.
- _____ 15. Tom forgives
 - A. Aunt Janet for siding with Ellen.
 - B. Brady for stealing glue.
 - C. Dee for going to Connecticut.
 - D. Carl for hiring an attorney.

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Which character:

- _____ 1. goes to community college?
- _____ 2. expects a daughter?
- _____ 3. sends smokers away?
- _____ 4. culls baby chicks?
- _____ 5. performs CPR?
- _____ 6. gives a child a ten-dollar bill?
- _____ 7. prepares to give up aquanauts?
- _____ 8. warns that rescuers shake off sorrow and loss?
- _____ 9. dies in bed?
- _____ 10. ruins Tom's catch?

Part III: Significance (10 points)

Explain the significance of each term below:

1. old ambulance

2. rake

3. Curtis

4. pots

5. Miss Dee

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Account for the arrival of neighbors.
2. Defend Brady's need for adult advice.
3. Compare Digger's crime with that of J.T.
4. Express the author's attitude toward bullying.
5. Describe the circumstances that follow Amanda's death.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: True/False (30 points)

Mark each statement either T for true or F if any part is false:

- _____ 1. Dee encourages Brady to examine the trunk.
- _____ 2. The kayak sinks about 20 feet.
- _____ 3. Digger is a computer whiz at fixing hard drives.
- _____ 4. Kate breaks her ankle while playing in the soybean field.
- _____ 5. Brady knows that his parents want him to relax at Ocean City.
- _____ 6. The National Aquarium brings back bad memories.
- _____ 7. Brady recalls how to press five times on the chest.
- _____ 8. Digger makes Brady share a cigarette.
- _____ 9. Dee recognizes Gina's symptoms as depression.
- _____ 10. Tom sells Brady's pots.
- _____ 11. The razor clams are crab bait.
- _____ 12. The police force all three suspects to sign Brady's testimony.
- _____ 13. Digger and J.T. must wait 30 days for adjudication.
- _____ 14. J.T. easily intimidates Digger.
- _____ 15. Brady keeps a locker at the fire station.

Part II: Identification (30 points)

Identify the characters indicated below.

- _____ 1. takes Tiny Tim to Rhode Island
- _____ 2. cuts a sliver off a photo
- _____ 3. proposes camping in the Catoctins
- _____ 4. takes food to Gina
- _____ 5. drives Brady to the dock to hunt for Ben and Gina
- _____ 6. considers "alone together" an oxymoron
- _____ 7. homeschooled a son
- _____ 8. considers Scar mean
- _____ 9. negotiates immunity
- _____ 10. wears electronic ankle bracelets
- _____ 11. reads state law aloud
- _____ 12. needs a kidney
- _____ 13. Finds the drill
- _____ 14. expects a daughter
- _____ 15. lets turtles drown

Part III: Essay Questions (40 points)

- 1. Explain why the Parks send Brady to the aquarium.
- 2. Compare Marcellus, Craig, and Tink as minor characters.
- 3. Give reasons for J.T.'s friendship with Digger and Brady.
- 4. Explain why Brady decides to confess.
- 5. Predict how Digger will behave when he returns from forestry camp.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. agape | 6. surreal | 11. avert | 16. littoral |
| 2. nor'easter | 7. harried | 12. rail | 17. corrode |
| 3. stupor | 8. pivot | 13. bona fide | 18. instinct |
| 4. profile | 9. callous | 14. sabotage | 19. throttle |
| 5. felonious | 10. protocol | 15. disposition | 20. proffer |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

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

Part II: Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Mindy | 6. Dee |
| 2. Gina | 7. Brady |
| 3. Marcellus | 8. Carl |
| 4. J.T. | 9. Amanda |
| 5. Brady | 10. Brady |

Part III: Significance (10 points)

1. Brady's ride to school
2. tool that Brady's uses to locate the drill
3. bully whom Digger warns away from J.T.
4. Brady's traps for capturing crabs
5. Tom's name for the new sailboat

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: True/False (30 points)

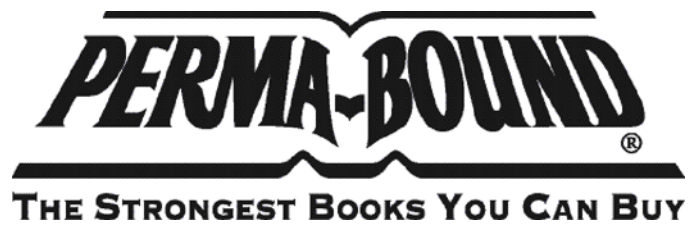
- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T | 11. T |
| 2. T | 7. T | 12. F |
| 3. F | 8. F | 13. T |
| 4. F | 9. F | 14. F |
| 5. T | 10. F | 15. T |

Part II: Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Amelia | 6. Brady | 11. Master Williams |
| 2. Brady | 7. Sue Griswald | 12. Mr. Tyler |
| 3. Carl | 8. Ben | 13. Brady |
| 4. Brady, Dee | 9. Mitchell Anderson | 14. Gina |
| 5. Tom | 10. Digger, J.T. | 15. Brady |

Part III: Essay Questions (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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