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Sample

Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story

by Ben Carson with
Cecil Murphy

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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Gifted Hands

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. define and use vocabulary words from the book.
2. make inferences.
3. draw conclusions.
4. use evidence from the text to support his or her own responses and interpretations.
5. establish a purpose for reading.
6. draw on prior knowledge/experience to establish a connection with texts.
7. understand the role of faith in a person's life.
8. discuss the external influences that determine a person's success or failure including environment and opportunity.
9. understand the importance of family.
10. see how the effects of poverty can be overcome.
11. recognize the importance of education.
12. analyze the nature of talent as presented in the book.
13. understand intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and the importance of each.
14. discuss the following principles as a means to achieving success:
 - talent
 - time
 - hope
 - honesty
 - insight
 - nice
 - knowledge
 - books
 - in-depth learning
 - God.
15. analyze media's role in society.

Gifted Hands

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Why does Carson decide to become a doctor?
2. Discuss the degree to which the following factors influence a person's success or failure:
 - fate
 - chance/luck
 - free-will
3. How crucial do you think family is in determining a person's fate?
4. Why does Ben share the case histories that are found in the novel?
5. Which of the case histories presented in the novel affected Carson the most? Why does it affect him the most?
6. Who has the greatest influence on Carson? What is that influence?
7. How does his father's absence affect Ben?
8. How does experiencing poverty at an early age influence Carson?
9. What is the difference between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation? Which is more important?
10. Discuss the various meanings of the word "faith." What role does faith play in Carson's life?
11. Discuss the relationship between Carson and Candy.
12. Discuss Carson's concept of talent and its role in achieving success.
13. What is Carson's purpose in writing this book? What does he hope to accomplish?

Gifted Hands

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

affectionate – loving
assurance – guarantee
contentment – happiness
legitimate – true; real
offhandedly – casually
profound – deep
recollection – memory
reluctantly – hesitantly
resentment – hatred
vaguely – unclearly

1. From what point of view is the story told?

2. How old is Carson when his father leaves?

3. Why is it difficult for Carson to understand why his father has to leave?

5. Why does Ben's internal motivation to succeed improve?

6. How does Carson's relationship with his peers change?

7. Why does Ben not tell his mother about the three incidents of racial prejudice?

8. What does Carson find ironic about his relationship with his mother?

Chapter 13

Vocabulary

apartheid – a form of racial segregation
auspices – sponsorship
bigotry – prejudice
evasive – elusive
integration – inclusion
prerogative – choice; option
stamina – strength
tedious – tiresome
trepidation – fear

1. Why does Carson not want to go to Australia?

2. What information leads Carson to change his mind?

3. How are the Carsons able to meet so many people in Australia so quickly?

4. Why is Ben's time in Australia so valuable to his career?

5. What job does Carson accept soon after his return to the United States?
