



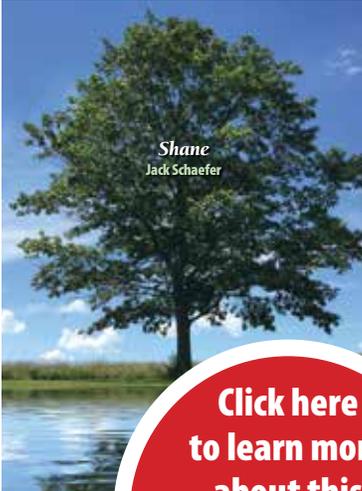
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 **Prestwick House**
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Reflections: A Student Response Journal



Shane
Jack Schaefer



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Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Chapter 1

1. As the novel opens, the young narrator, Bob, notices a horseman coming down the road, and he comments that “there seemed nothing remarkable about him.” In your life, you might remember an event that appeared to be unimportant, but turned out to be very important to you or your family. Recount that event by giving the first unremarkable impression; then relate the importance the event ended up having for you.
2. The expression “first impressions are lasting” is supported in the novel, especially when Bob describes details of the cowboy’s appearance. Choose someone who impressed you on a first meeting and describe the person’s appearance, personality, and actions. Explain how that impression did or did not last. You might begin with these words:

The first time I met _____ , I could not believe my eyes. He (or she)...

3. A “sudden chill” passes through Bob when he sees Shane’s eyes “endlessly searching from side to side and forward, checking off every item in view.” You have probably experienced a time when you were in a situation where there was tension, and you felt a “sudden chill,” as Bob did. Perhaps this event occurred at a family gathering or at a sports event. Describe how you felt and what happened after you felt the chill or tension in the air.
4. Bob’s mother and father have moved into the territory to make a permanent home, meaning that they have no plans to leave. As a result, Bob’s home is unlike other homes in the territory. In the first column, list characteristics from the description in the novel that make Bob’s farm and home unique. In column two, list characteristics about your own home that sets it apart from your friends’ homes.

Column 1:
(Bob’s home)

Column 2:
(Your home)

Shane

10. Bob obviously enjoys his home and his parents. After breakfast, when father and mother were teasing each other, Bob explains "...that was how it was often in our house, kind of jolly and warm..." Write a diary entry describing a time when you had this feeling. Include the event or conversation that created this feeling for you.

Dear Diary,

Today at _____ I had the best time. Let me tell you about...

11. Mr. Starrett chooses Shane's word over Ledyard when he is considering buying the cultivator. Just as Bob's father did, there are times when you must decide between one person's word over another. How would you choose between two opposite viewpoints? A person's character should be an important factor. List three more ways you would make this judgment. The list is begun for you below:

I would think about how long I had known both people.

I would think about how truthful each had been in different situations.

12. A large stump stood in the yard, one that proved impossible for Bob's family to dig out. After two meals and a night's lodging, Shane decides to help the family by cutting out the stubborn stump. Write a journal entry about a time when you did something out of the ordinary for someone else-an effort that took extra energy, time, or money. What motivated you to perform that kind act for someone else?

Chapter 3

13. Cutting the huge stump out of the ground was long, difficult physical work. Shane and Mr. Starrett focused on the job through supper and worked until the stump was out. In your community, there are many workers who spend long hours working to help the people who live there. Which two do you admire the most for their efforts? Why?

Shane

44. When Lew Johnson saw the stranger get off the stage, he notes his size and his swagger. Johnson comments on the man's "cold" eyes, his clothes, and his guns. Later, Johnson discovers the newcomer is a gunfighter with a reputation. Obviously, the gunfighter made a lasting impression on Lew. Predict what is going to happen to Shane, Mr. Starrett, the gunfighter, and Fletcher.
45. Knowing Ernie would fight, Stack Wilson baited Ernie by calling him a liar. This name-calling led to a gunfight where Ernie died. Words have power. Think about the importance of words to wound or heal. Add at least six more words to the six given below under the lists labeled positive, negative, and neutral.

Positive:

Sanitary engineer

Single blessing

Negative:

Trash man

Old maid

Neutral:

Garbage collector

Unmarried

46. Frank Torrey was frightened when he rode to the farm to tell of Ernie's death. Bob confesses that "the fear was beeded deep in him and he was ashamed of himself for it." Fear is a common emotion, one that motivates people to action or cripples them with indecision. What advice would you give to someone who is extremely fearful? Perhaps the person is afraid of taking a driver's test or going to college. Select a scenario, and write a dialogue giving your friend good advice.

Chapter 12

47. The author created a strong bond of friendship between the family and Shane. They are willing to die for each other. Students make lifelong friendships in school-friendships that have often begun as far back as elementary school. What elements in your life will forever bond you together with your friends? Use this beginning to explain them:

We will be friends forever because we...

53. Shane knocks father unconscious so that he will not be able to go to town, where Wilson planned to kill Mr. Starrett. Shane views this as a good deed because he acted in order to save Joe Starrett, and keep the family together. What action could you do that you would view as a “noble” deed? Describe something you would be proud of doing for someone else.

Chapter 14

54. Bob describes Shane, “He was the symbol of all the dim, formless imaginings of danger and terror in the untested realm of human potentialities beyond my understanding.” People like Martin Luther King Jr. or events like the Civil War grab our imagination like Shane’s person grabbed Bob. Briefly explain a topic that has caught your imagination because of its mystery; list 5 sources (books, web sites, etc.) where you could research your topic.
55. Explain to a classmate what Shane means when he tells Bob that the farm is a “good place to be a boy and grow straight inside as a man should.”
56. By the end of the chapter, the shootout has occurred. Compose the first paragraph of a frontier newspaper article, telling the who, what, when, where, and why of the shootout in Grafton’s saloon.
57. Fletcher underhandedly shot Shane from the balcony of the saloon. Finish the list started below of six adjectives that describe Fletcher from what you’ve seen of him in the novel.
1. Sneaky, underhanded
 2. Selfish
58. From Shane’s conversation with Bob, do you think that Shane viewed his life as a success? What does Shane think makes a successful man? What do you view as the measure of a successful adult?