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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



The Moves Make the Man

by Bruce Brooks

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



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Objectives

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

1. recall and discuss characters and events in the story.
2. draw loose connections between events in the book and the history of desegregation.
3. discuss and evaluate the book's racial overtones and how Jerome's storytelling enhances the reader's sense of realism.
4. define and cite examples from the book of the following literary terms:
 - point of view
 - protagonist
 - simile
 - stereotype
 - foreshadowing
 - allusion
 - irony
 - hyperbole
 - narrator
5. compare and contrast Jerome's stable, loving home life with Bix's rough, unstable one.
6. identify and discuss qualities that make a good friendship.
7. discuss and better understand the impact mental illness can have on a family and relationships.
8. discuss racism during the height of desegregation and how times have changed.
9. understand the authors style.
10. recognize the author's use of humor.
11. relate the title to events in the book.

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Why do you think the author chose Wilmington, N.C., for the setting of this book?
2. What single event changes the course of Jerome's life? Why?
3. Why does Jerome enjoy playing basketball alone on the court in the woods?
4. Identify two examples of the author's use of simile in this book.
5. Identify two examples of foreshadowing in this book.
6. Why does Jerome find Bix so fascinating?
7. What happened to Bix's mother?
8. Describe the scene when Bix, his stepfather and Jerome stop at Jeb's for hot dogs. How is this scene significant?
9. Bix pulls the greatest move of all at the hospital with his mother. What happens and why does he do this?
10. What are some qualities of a good friendship? Do you think Jerome and Bix had a good friendship? Why or why not?
11. Find an example of the author's style and describe it, explaining whether you liked it.
12. Take the two most extreme cases of prejudice in the book and decide what they have in common. Would you have dealt with them as well as Jerome did?

The Moves Make the Man

Chapter 1

VOCABULARY

ashamed—sheepish
composition—writing
deserted—left alone
eaves—edge of roof on house
guardian—protector
jive—nonsense
lanyards—cords worn like a necklace to carry something
sympathy—understanding
wailing—crying

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

2. Who is the story about?

Chapter 6

VOCABULARY

ambled—strolled
complain—fuss
decided—determined
deposit—money given as security for use of an item
mention—reference
pestering—bothering
scattered—spread out
sling—to throw
slogan—motto
sprawled—lie with arms and legs spread out

1. What happens after the baseball game is over?

2. How does everyone react when they realize it is a free cookout?

3. What does this tell you about the African-American community?

4. Jerome says he feels sorry for the white boys because they were ashamed of their pale chests. What does this tell you? What literary technique is the author using?

5. Jerome asks the owner of the Seven-Up plant why he organizes the cookouts. The man points to the company slogan, “You like it, it likes you.” What do you think that means?

Chapter 13

VOCABULARY

acute—smart
anxiety—stress
avenged—punished in return
corporeal—bodily
deceit—fraud
denotes—marks
flustered—bewildered
impress—dazzle
inadequate—short
initiated—inaugurated
jaunty—self-confident
obtuse—dull-witted
peevied—irritated
prospects—chances
reckless—rash
reckon—calculate
refine—purify
reflexive—mechanical
sarcastic—mocking
servitude—slavery
smug—snobbish
symbolic—representative
technically—according to principle
wincing—flinched

1. In his haste to make basketball tryouts, Jerome runs into Mr. Egglestobbs. What does Mr. Egglestobbs say about basketball?

2. What is humorous about Jerome's comments on Egglestobbs?
