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Teaching Unit™

Sample

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



Tex

by S.E. Hinton

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



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Tex

Objectives

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

1. define literary terms associated with novels and be able to cite examples of each.
2. define important vocabulary words used in the novel and be able to use them correctly in context.
3. identify and trace the development of the main theme of *Tex*.
4. identify the point of view of the storyteller and discuss the author's use of this particular method.
5. pick out significant events, scenes, or speeches and explain their significance to the novel as a whole.
6. identify the important conflicts which lead (rising action) to the climax.
7. explain how the author resolves or does not resolve the various conflicts brought up during the course of the plot.
8. discuss how the setting influences the way in which the action occurs.
9. trace the development of the major relationships in this novel.
10. recognize several important quotes and explain their importance to the general understanding of the novel.
11. discuss the importance of the supporting characters to the success of the plot.
12. trace the growth and development of the main character.

Tex

Activities and Discussion Questions

1. Make a quick sketch of Tex, Jamie, and Mason. Be sure to include any important physical characteristics mentioned in the book. Attach a list of personality traits for each, drawing these from both directly stated and implied information.
2. Draw a diagram of the layout of Tex's house and a map of the areas within which the action of the story takes place. Be sure to include and label the places where each of the important events occurs.
3. Create a timeline of the major events in the book.
4. List all the important supporting characters, and in a sentence or two, outline the importance each plays in the story.
5. Compare Tex's family situation with the family situation Johnny and Jamie are in.
6. There are three mothers present in this novel. Compare and contrast what you know of each one.
7. Briefly summarize Jamie's personality and physical characteristics. Choose a present-day actress who could play the part of Jamie and explain why you would make this casting decision.
8. List the two most important male characters. Choose a present-day actor to take the role of each. Explain why you would make these casting decisions based on the words and actions of each of the characters in the novel.
9. Write a script for one of the scenes in this novel. Make up your own dialogue for any words that you feel should be added to what is already in the book. You might want to include stage directions and a list of important props.

Tex

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Discuss the time period during which this story takes place. Do you find this timing realistic for the action to really happen?
2. Mason and Jamie are very important characters, both in Tex's life and to the book as a whole. Briefly describe each supporting character and discuss their influences on the main character personally and on the novel in general.
3. Relationships with fathers play an important role in this novel. Briefly describe Pop and Cole and show how each is influential in the development of his child/children's personalities and behavior.
4. Describe the interactions between Tex and Jamie. What does each character seem to want from the other? How does the end of the novel resolve their relationship?
5. Describe the interactions between Mason and Tex. What does each character seem to want from the other? How does the end of the novel resolve their relationship?
6. Lem is an interesting character. Pick out two or three significant scenes where Lem says or does something important to the course of the novel. Using these scenes, explain his importance to the plot.
7. Choose two or three scenes where Johnny says or does something that affects Tex and the course of the novel. Explain why Johnny's words and actions are important.
8. There are several references to drugs and alcohol in this novel. Identify two or three of these references, naming the characters involved and the result of their behavior.
9. Consider how this novel ends, not just for Tex, but for other characters, too. What one (or possibly two) thing(s) would you change if you could rewrite the story? Why would you make these specific changes? How would this change/changes influence other parts of the tale?
10. Identify the elements in *Tex* that make it a coming-of-age novel.

Tex

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter One

Vocabulary

paddock – enclosure, corral, ring

lean-to – shed, hut, shelter

whippoorwill – bird with a distinctive call

1. Where and when do we first meet the main character?
2. Where is Pop?
3. How does the author give you information about Tex?
4. Who is Tex talking to during his ride before school?
5. Who are Johnny and Mace?

