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Teaching Unit™

Sample

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



Hoot

by Carl Hiaasen

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



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Hoot

Objectives

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

1. identify the protagonist in the novel.
2. understand Hiaasen's use of suspense in the novel.
3. paraphrase sections of the novel to demonstrate understanding.
4. explain a character's motivation.
5. predict future events in the novel.
6. identify the difference between static and dynamic characters.
7. define verbal irony and identify examples in the novel.
8. define dramatic irony and identify examples in the novel.
9. define structural irony and identify examples in the novel.
10. make an inference based on events in the novel.
11. identify examples of similes and metaphors in the novel.
12. identify foreshadowing in the novel.
13. identify examples of personification and hyperbole in the novel.
14. define internal conflict and provide examples from the novel.
15. describe major characters.
16. explain how the protagonist and other major characters have changed over the course of the novel.

Hoot

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. In the novel *Hoot*, Roy Eberhardt proves that one person can stand up to a powerful corporation for the sake of a species. In real life, do you believe it is possible for one person to make a difference in the world? Explain why or why not.
2. Among the novel's characters are a vice-principal, a police officer, a construction foreman, a bully, a corporate executive, an actress, and a teacher. Explain how Hiaasen uses pre-existing stereotypes to develop these characters. Also, which characters are not stereotypical?
3. Throughout the novel, Roy is uneasy about breaking the law to help the owls. Do you feel that Roy and Mullet Fingers are justified in breaking the law to accomplish their goal, or do you believe that breaking the law, for any reason, is wrong? Explain.
4. When Roy frames Dana as the construction lot vandal, Roy feels he is doing the citizens a favor by ridding them of a menacing bully. Do you agree? Do you feel it was right for Roy to set up Dana just because Dana was known as a troublemaker? Explain.
5. While *Hoot* would not be classified as a humor novel, it does have humorous sections. Paraphrase at least three instances of humor in the novel and explain the effect humor has on a story about habitat protection.
6. Contrast the roles flat characters, such as Miss Hennepin, with the roles of round characters, such as Roy.
7. Roy, Beatrice, and Mullet Fingers face many dangers, close calls, and frightening moments during their crusade to save the owls. Is there a cause for which you would do the same? Explain.
8. Trace Middle School is the tenth school that Roy has attended; he misses Montana and does not accept Florida as his home. Discuss how Roy tries to fit in at school. What finally makes him feel that he belongs in Florida? What other characters in the book feel alienated? What do you think schools could do to help new students like Roy feel welcome?
9. After Roy's fight with Dana, people at school treat him differently. Why does this upset Roy? Dana is clearly a bully in the novel, but does anyone bully him? Discuss the role of bullies in the novel.
10. In Chapter Thirteen, Roy's mother says, "Honey, sometimes you're going to be faced with situations where the line isn't clear between what's right and what's wrong. Your heart will tell you to do one thing, and your brain will tell you to do something different." Discuss instances in the novel where Roy's heart and his brain are in conflict. Is the conflict ever resolved? Explain.

Hoot

One

Vocabulary

airboat – a boat with an airplane propeller and a rudder
ambushed – attacked
cackled – laughed harshly
defaced – damaged
determined – firmly devoted
glimpse – a quick look
grief – criticism
gruffly – roughly or harshly
hoisted – lifted or raised
intent – a purpose or goal
malicious mischief – purposeful damage to property
monetary – having to do with money or cost
ordinarily – normally; usually
promoted – raised to a higher rank
scraggly – messy-looking; not neat
vacant – empty
vandalism – destruction or damage to property
vaulted – jumped
wiry – lean; muscular

1. Describe Roy, Dana Matherson, and the running boy.

2. Which character is the protagonist? How can you tell?

3. Why does Roy lose track of the running boy on the golf course?

4. Of all the places Roy has lived, which is his favorite, and why?

5. What did Roy's parents say to him to try to convince him that he would love Florida?

6. Why does Roy's principal, Mrs. Hennepin, feel Roy has been punished enough for his fight with Dana?

7. Mrs. Hennepin decides not to suspend Roy from school, but to suspend him from the bus instead. Why does this please Roy?

8. Mrs. Hennepin knows he is telling the truth about the incident with Dana. How?

Five

Vocabulary

brittle – easily broken
charred – burned
clobbered – hit someone or something hard
debris – trash
defiant – bold
errant – stray
gingerly – carefully
glade – an open space surrounded by woods
hassle – to insult or put down
impenetrable – too thick to get through
lumbered – stomped or tramped
meek – timid; not brave
ominously – alarmingly; frighteningly
provoke – to cause a strong feeling; aggravate
puny – small
sluggishly – slowly or sleepily
teetered – swung unsteadily; swayed
thicket – thick patch of shrubs
trudged – walked steadily and with difficulty
tussle – a fight

1. Why does the middle school decide not to discipline Dana Matherson for the fight?

2. Roy returns to the golf course to try to figure out where the running boy disappeared to the other day. He enters the tangled woods and slides down a hill. What does he find at the bottom, and why is this important?

3. What does Roy find as he continues to search along the ditch?

Ten

Vocabulary

alliance – a bond
ballistic – wild
bloated – swollen
bluntly – directly
bustled – moved quickly
chronicles – historical accounts of events
concealed – hid
decay – rot or death
dense – stupid
destination – the place to which someone is traveling
enticed – attracted; lured
exasperated – enraged
fibbing – lying
forged – formed
furrowed – wrinkled
gimpy – crippled; lame
grimacing – frowning
leery – suspicious
manic – fast; furious
potent – powerful
quirky – strange
seldom – rarely
somber – serious or gloomy
stealthily – in a sneaky manner
suppressed – hid
trussed – secured tightly
wayward – uncontrollable
yarn – a tall tale

1. Who saves Roy from Dana in the janitorial closet?
