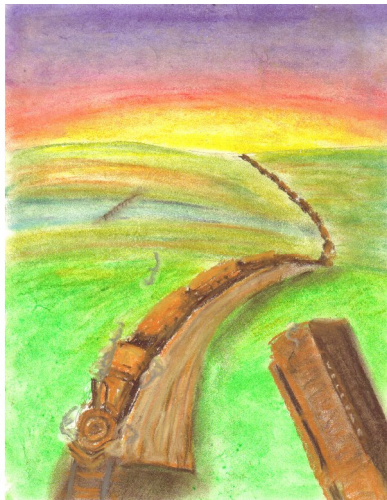


Novel Ideas Richard Peck's

A Year Down Yonder And A Long Way From Chicago



Brian Lynch



Authors: Brian Lynch
Cover Illustrator: Heather Tang

Novel Ideas

Richard Peck's A Year Down Yonder and A Long Way From Chicago

Copyright © 2009 New Learning Publishing

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act, no portion of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without prior written permission from the publisher other than is necessary for classroom use.

Printed in the United States of America

PRODUCT #: NLP9619

Using the novel study

The novel study can be used in four ways:

- Independent reading at student created paced
- Small group independent reading at student created paced
- Small group reading guided by the teacher
- Whole class reading guided by the teacher

Each chapter or set of chapters has a particular task:

Vocabulary:

Students need to be able to write the definition/meaning of the word in their own words as the word is used in the story. If they are unable to, they need to find the word in the dictionary and match the correct definition with the context that the word is used in the book.

Short response questions:

The questions come in two forms. The first is basic comprehension directly from the story. This is your “Who, What, Where, When, Why and How” question.

The second form is analysis of information and events in the story. The student is required to explain an answer, respond as if they were in the story, or state what they think the character(s) should do.

The remaining sections are key components in studying literature in a detailed and meaningful way. The directions for each part are given within each section.

THE NOVEL STUDY CAN BE PRINTED AND STAPLED AS A PACKET USING THE INTRODUCTION AS THE COVER PAGE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACTIVITY **PAGE NUMBER**

A YEAR DOWN YONDER

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Introduction Cover Page | 5 |
| Pre-Reading Activity | 6 |
| Prologue | 7 |
| Chapter One | 8 |
| Chapter Two | 10 |
| Chapter Three | 12 |
| Illustrating an Event Activity | 14 |
| Chapter Four | 15 |
| Idioms | 17 |
| Chapter 5 | 20 |
| Chapter 6 | 22 |
| Character Analysis Activity | 24 |
| Chapter Seven | 26 |
| Sequencing of Events Activity | 29 |
| Illustration Project | 30 |
| Book Summary | 32 |
| Rubric for A Year Down Yonder | 37 |
| Answer Key | 38 |

A YEAR DOWN YONDER

By

RICHARD PECK

In the 1920's and 1930's, the Great Depression had its grip on the United States and the rest of the world. Men and women could not find jobs, they had little to no money; families were forced out of their homes; and hunger was a constant problem. People across the nation had little to no idea where their next meal would come from.

On a hazy September morning in 1937, Mary Alice's mother put her on a train at the Dearborn Station in Chicago and sent her to live with her grandmother in the country. Between the culture shock of moving from the city to the country, and adjusting to her new life with her grandma, Mary Alice embarked on an entertaining new kind of education that only her grandmother could give. Will she survive it?

Name _____

Pre-Reading Activity

1. In this story, a young girl is sent to live with a relative because there is not enough money or food to keep her at home. What might happen in your family if there was not enough to keep you at home? Would you have to live with someone else? Tell what you think might happen.

2. In the 1920's and 1930's the Great Depression was ravaging America. What do you think "depression" means in this phrase? Explain your reasoning and how it applies to this period in history, and can you make any comparisons to another period in history?

Prologue

Vocabulary

| Word | Page # | Meaning/Definition |
|------------|--------|--------------------|
| The El | | |
| Stitch | | |
| Recession | | |
| Depression | | |
| Enroll | | |
| Privy | | |

1. Why is Mary Alice going to live with her grandma? Explain the situation.

2. “My ticket had pretty well cleaned us out.” Explain what the idiom ‘cleaned us out’ means and how it applies to the story.

3. Why do you think Mary Alice and her mother couldn’t look at each other?

4. Make a prediction as to why mother said, “Better you than me” about visiting Grandma. Explain your thoughts.

CHAPTER 1- RICH CHICAGO GIRL

Vocabulary

| Word | Page # | Meaning/Definition |
|--------------|--------|--------------------|
| Scrawny | | |
| Conniption | | |
| Cipher | | |
| Luxury | | |
| Bustled | | |
| Penitentiary | | |
| Cadavers | | |

1. Why do you think Mary Alice said, “Oh, didn’t I feel sorry for myself.” Explain your answer.

2. Explain why Mary Alice said her radio was her last touch with the real world.

3. Why were there so few boys in school? Explain with details.

4. When Grandma walked in the class room, three boys threw up their arms and yelled not to shoot. Explain why you think they did that. Were they serious?

5. Explain how Grandma handled Mildred Burdick.

CHAPTER 2 – VITTLES AND VENGEANCE

Vocabulary

| Word | Page # | Meaning/Definition |
|------------|--------|--------------------|
| Foraged | | |
| Mournful | | |
| Lunge | | |
| Coronary | | |
| Reservoir | | |
| Canopy | | |
| Transfixed | | |

1. Compared to Halloween in the city, what was Halloween like in Grandma's town? Give details.

2. Why do you think Halloween was Grandma's favorite holiday?

3. Why did Grandma tie wire across the walkway? Use details to explain what happened as a result.

4. Grandma seems to think that what she did with the tractor was within the "rules" for getting pecans. Do you think she was right or wrong? State your opinion and support it with a good reason.

5. How did Grandma explain away Mary Alice’s question about “steal-.” Give a specific detail.

6. Every time Grandma is seen by someone, there seems to be a reaction of alarm, surprise, throat swallowing, stepping back, etc. Why do you think she gets this kind of reaction? How do you think you would respond upon seeing her? Explain.

7. “To Grandma, Halloween wasn’t so much trick-or-treat as it was vittles and vengeance” (pg. 38). Explain what you think this means.
