

A Study Guide

For

# ***The Long Shadow***

By Phyllis Wheeler

Study by Phyllis Wheeler for Homeschool Use, Ages 12 and Up

*The Long Shadow*, a novel about racial reconciliation,

contains, on a scale of 1 to 10,

Romance: 0

Violence: 4

Language: 0

Christian Faith: 2

Faith questions in the study guide are presented in a special section at the end.

Copyright 2021 by Phyllis Wheeler, all rights reserved.

# Unit Study Guide for *The Long Shadow* by Phyllis Wheeler

Study Guide by Phyllis Wheeler; Illustrations by Esther Wallace

## Read Chapters 1-4

### Comprehension Questions, Ch 1-2

Read the chapters and answer the questions.

1. Describe the person Richie literally ran into in the small downtown of his suburb.

---

---

2. What was so strange about the encounter?

---

---

3. Richie and his friend Ethan went off to the woods near town to do what?

---

---

4. What was the creature Richie stopped to help?

---

---

5. Why does Richie want to leave his home?

---

6. How does he pay for his cell phone?

---

7. Name three things Richie puts in his backpack.

---

---

### **Comprehension Questions, Ch 3-4**

1. Out in the woods, what does Richie decide to do once his friends have gone home?

---

2. How does he get to another camping spot?

---

3. His ride has some unusual music playing. What is it?

---

4. There is something odd about the weather, and something odd about the cars on the road. What?

---

5. What does the trucker give Richie?

---

### **Dig Deeper**

List all the things Richie took with him to the woods. What would YOU take to the woods if you were going camping and wanted to forage? (Forage = live off the land). What do you think of Richie's choices?

Richie's choices:

---

---

---

---

Your choices:

---

---

---

**Vocabulary, Ch 1-4. From a dictionary:**

1. "Perseverance." What is it?

---

---

2. Define trespassing.

---

---

3. Define caliber, as in .22-caliber rifle.

---

---

4. Define toxic sludge

---

---

5. Define putter as a verb

---

---

### Literary Analysis

Writers love to use images expressed in words, to convey a feeling or describe a scene. Poems are especially full of images, which we often call metaphors and similes. In *The Long Shadow* Chapter 1, Richie compares himself to a bat at one point.

1. From the book, what is the full comparison about the bat?

---

---

---

2. Similes and metaphors are word images, but they differ from each other in one respect. From a dictionary, what is that?

---

---

3. What does this bat comparison tell you about how Richie is feeling right then?

---

---

4. Another way authors convey an emotion is using the setting, including the weather. At the end of the first scene, what is the weather doing?

---

5. How does that tell us what Richie might be feeling right then?

---

---

6. One way to convey a comparison is to use a verb that brings an image to mind. For example, “putter,” as we mentioned above. For the truck pattering on down the road, what is the imbedded metaphor?

---

---

### **Missouri Geography**

The protagonist Richie lives in a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. Find Missouri on a map of the United States.

1. Describe the shape of the state on the map.

---

2. Find St. Louis. Find Kansas City. About how far apart are they?

---

3. What is the name of the highway that links them?

---

4. What is the name of the river flowing past St. Louis?

---

5. Kansas City?

---

6. St. Louis is just south of the confluence of three major rivers. Look up *confluence*. What does it mean?

---

---

7. What are the three rivers? Name two things the names of these rivers have in common.

---

---

### **Orienteering**

Orienteering is an activity that is sort of like a scavenger hunt with maps. There are several ways to do it; some involve using compasses. Basically, a route is laid out on some terrain, and you have a matching map. The map will lead you from one “point” to the next, either using a compass or recognizing landmarks. At each point, you may find a self-inking stamp. You stamp your passport or sheet to show you found that point, and then you go on to the next.

8. There are plenty of homeschoolers who enjoy this activity. Find the contact information for your state or local orienteering club. (Try [OrienteeringUSA.org](http://OrienteeringUSA.org)) Record it here:

---

---

Ask your family about joining their activities.

### **Geology**

Interstate 70 runs east-west across Missouri like a belt. North of Interstate 70, Missouri is flat farming country like much of the Midwest. But south of Interstate 70, it’s hilly. We call these hills the Ozark Mountains, though they are much shorter than the Rocky Mountains. Generally,

they consist of fairly soft sedimentary rocks (sedimentary = laid down as sediments in layers) on top of hard igneous (igneous = volcanic origin) rocks. Granite is one very hard, durable igneous rock.

Where have you seen granite before? Sometimes it is used on tombstones. It might be what your kitchen counters are made of, if they are a dark multicolored stone that is very, very hard and polished. It is difficult for crafts people to work with, so you don't see much in the way of other uses.

In the Ozarks, the granite is buried. How did this happen? Hot magma, that's lava that hasn't reach the surface, pushed up from the earth's mantle. It pooled under the surface and sometimes explosively erupted. These eruptions produced calderas, bowl-shaped craters with igneous rock at the bottom.

The pools of magma that hardened without erupting became *plutons*, underground structures. And then later, when the whole area was covered by water, sediments covered everything with layers and layers of mud, which became limestone or sandstone. Over time that wore down in places.

In one area of the state, the upper sedimentary rock layer has worn very thin. This place is called the St. Francois Mountains, pronounced locally as St. Francis. Underlying slabs of granite poke to the surface in stream beds or mountain tops.

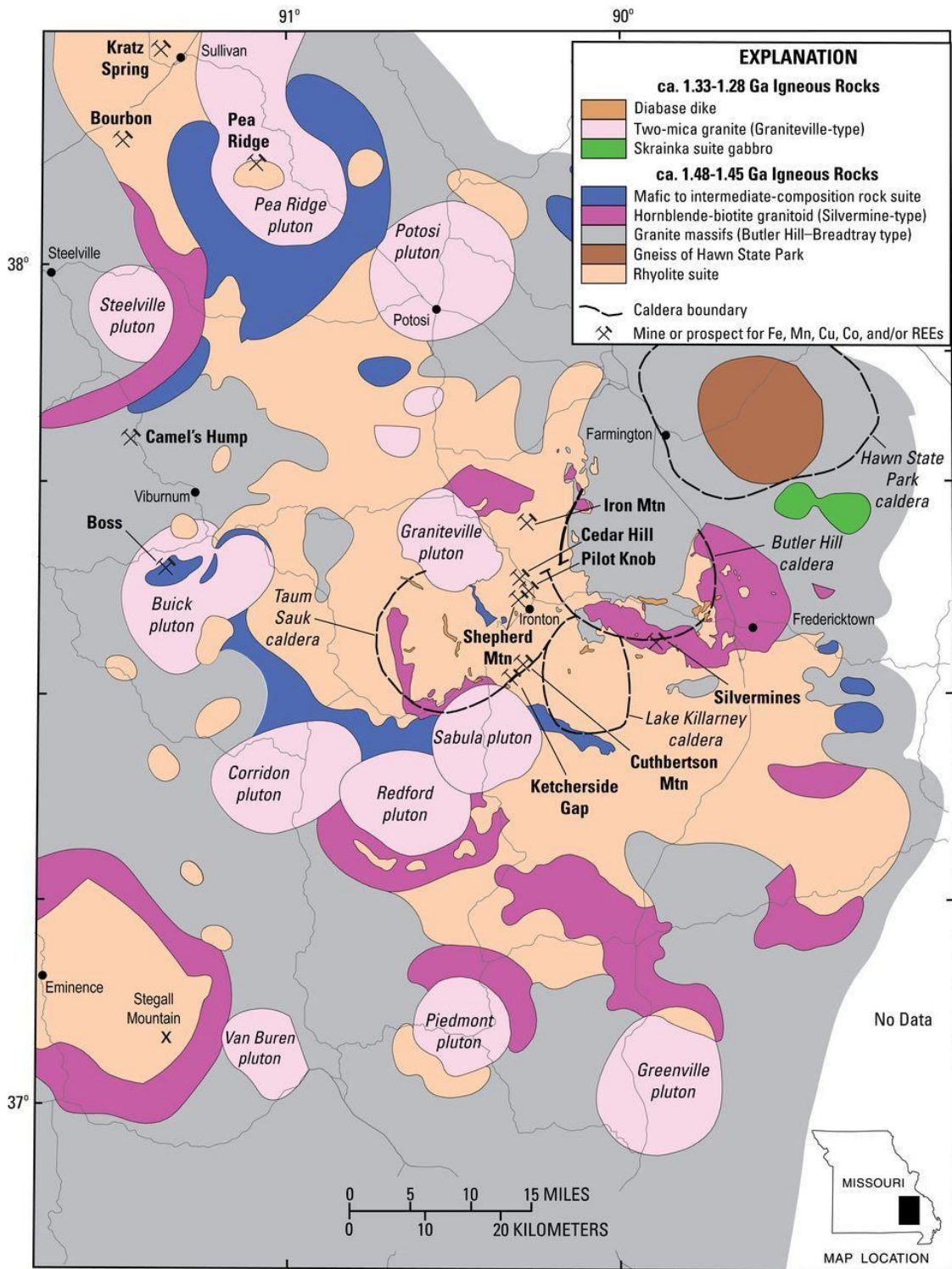
Richie is camping in the St. Francois Mountains in a cave. The cave is in a cliff made of sedimentary rock. But the book eventually mentions a nearby boulder field. That's a place where underlying granite is visible. Stream beds are also a place where granite bedrock is exposed.<sup>1</sup>

Next, let's take a look at a geology map of the St. Francois Mountains region of Missouri.<sup>2</sup> Let's get some practice reading maps!

---

<sup>1</sup> Reference: <https://dnr.mo.gov/geology/docs/gcsummer8.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/geologic-map-st-francois-mountains-terrane> public domain map



Find the four underground calderas represented by dotted black lines near the middle of the map.

9. What is a caldera?

10. How wide is the biggest one on the map? (see map scale)

---

11. Find Farmington, just below the map key. Richie's camp is five miles northwest of Farmington near a highway. The camp is on the edge of which underground caldera?

---

12. From the map, what is the underlying igneous rock at his camp? If your map is not in color, it's the sixth type of igneous rock listed on the map key.

---

13. What is a pluton?

---

---

## Haiku

A character in *The Long Shadow* loves to spout haiku. So, what is that? Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry, a three-line poem with seventeen syllables. The first line has five syllables, the second has seven, and the third has five. The poem usually focuses on images from nature and often closes with a sense of sudden revelation.

Let's write some haiku! It's easy to get warmed up: think of some nature images that go together, and describe them in three lines with five, then seven, then five syllables. Don't worry about a beautiful poem at this point.

Now, find other haikus to read. Note some qualities you like, some qualities you don't like.

Look at the one from *The Long Shadow*:

"Hear music playing  
Filling heart and soul with peace,  
Healing broken hearts."

Do you like it? How would you make it more surprising or emotional?

1. Write five haiku poems. Share the one you like best with your teacher.

## 1960s Chevys

Chevrolet is one of the makes of cars produced by General Motors in Detroit, Michigan. It appears in many images and songs over the years, especially with its affectionate nickname, "Chevy."



*1965 Chevy Chevelle*

Chevrolets were not a luxury brand, but a car for the common person. Over the years they came in many sizes and shapes, from the roadsters of 1911 when the company started, to the rounded shapes of the 1950s and the heavy, wide cars of the 1960s, powered by gas-guzzling V-8 engines that nowadays you only find in pickup trucks. And then there are the sporty Corvettes, of course.

2. Find a song title or a song that mentions the word "Chevy." For example, the Beach Boys' song "409" was about a Chevy with a large 409-cubic-inch engine.
- 

## Read Chapters 5-9

### Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 5-7

1. In the woods, when Richie realizes it's going to rain, what is the first thing he thinks of?
- 

2. To prepare for the storm, how does he care for his gun and other belongings?

---

3. Richie compares something to the sound of hornets on guard. What?

---

4. What does this image tell us about how Richie is feeling?

---

5. Acorns aren't edible. How was Morris able to eat them?

---

6. What activity does Morris offer to do with Richie?

---

**Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Chapter 8-9**

1. What happened to Richie's tent in the storm?

---

2. What surprises Richie about Morris's calendar?

---

3. What town is Morris from? Richie?

---

4. "A log shifted in the fire and sent sparks flying." What might this be a metaphor for?

---

5. Something is compared to “faded brown flags.” What?

---

### **Dig Deeper**

6. What do Morris and Richie use for bait, when fishing?

---

7. What are some other possibilities?

---

8. Have you fished successfully? If so, what bait did you use?

---

9. Why do you think people like to fish?

---

---

### **Hypothermia**

Richie could have lost his life from hypothermia, a word that means low heat. Warm-blooded creatures like humans need to keep their body temperature from dropping too low, or they will lose consciousness and, if left that way, can die. We often call this “freezing to death,” but actual freezing temperatures aren’t required.

Richie did what he could to keep warm in the storm by jumping in place. This will generate a bit of heat. But it would be hard to sustain all night, especially since he didn’t have food to eat that would fuel his jumping. His life was in danger.

10. What is the best way to prevent hypothermia?

---

## Oak Trees

The primary forest trees in Missouri are oak and hickory. These are both trees that lose their leaves in the winter—*deciduous* trees. It's the oak trees that predominate, meaning that's what you see as the dominant tree. Oak trees grow to sixty feet commonly, that's the height of a six-story building. They can go to one hundred feet—ten stories.



*Oak Leaves*

In the fall, many other trees have leaves that turn bright colors and soon fall off. But the oak behaves differently. Its leaves turn only muted colors, mostly brown, and cling to the branches for much of the winter. So, those looking for lovely fall colors should go somewhere else besides an oak-hickory forest. Personally I find the prettiest colors in Missouri are in town where people have planted maples.

Do you want to build a wooden ship? Historically, people used oaks to build transatlantic sailing ships. The strong, stiff wood is good for furniture, wood floors, and many other things. But a major use these days is for making whiskey barrels. There's something about the oak that flavors the whiskey!

Oak leaves contain tannin, a toxin that makes them taste bad to animals. And it's not just the leaves. It's the acorns, or oak nuts, too. Yet some people routinely eat acorns. How? By removing the tannins through soaking and/or boiling. You can pop them into the oven to roast and dry out. Properly prepared, acorns make a healthy, nutritious snack. Squirrels in Missouri are the primary consumers of acorns. Apparently they don't mind the tannin, because I've never seen a squirrel boil his acorns.

Here's a weird fact: once in a while, there are no acorns. Most years, there are plenty. This is something biologists call "masting." (Mast = edible tree products that support animals.) The

trees either flood the area with acorns, or produce no acorns. The trees somehow work together on the no-acorn planning.

Biologists wonder whether the purpose of masting is to keep the squirrel population down, to make it more likely that an acorn can grow into a tree.<sup>3</sup> I can testify that, in the no-acorn years, life is very tough for the squirrels.

1. What does *deciduous* mean?

---

2. Define *predominate*.

---

---

3. What's a common use of oak wood these days?

---

4. How would you prepare acorns for eating?

---

---

5. What happens with masting?

---

---

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://sites.wustl.edu/monh/oaks-of-missouri/> "Oaks of Missouri" by H. Gregory, published on the Washington University in St. Louis website, 2019.

## Special Activity

With your family, make toasted acorns and sample them. Find a recipe here:

<https://www.outdoorlife.com/blogs/survivalist/survival-skills-5-ways-eat-acorns/>

## Rabbit Hunting

Rabbit hunting is a lot harder than shooting at a still target. Rabbits zig and zag, and hitting one requires you to successfully guess where it's going to go next. Another challenge is that rabbits are crepuscular (cree PUS cu lar). This means they like to be active at dawn and dusk, when there's half light. Deer are like that too. (Also foxes, owls, nighthawks, skunks, bats, snowshoe hares, porcupine, badgers, milk snakes, and raccoons.) So if you want to shoot a rabbit, you have to get really good at shooting moving, erratic targets, and you have to hunt at the right time of day. Having a dog trained to chase the rabbit toward you would be helpful.

A .22-caliber rifle is a smallish gun. Caliber refers to the size of the diameter of the barrel.

Diameter is the measurement across the width of the barrel. Caliber also refers to the size of the bullet, which fits that barrel. So a .22-inch diameter gun, with .22-inch bullets, is just the right size for shooting rabbits. But it's no good for shooting a bigger animal like a deer. It might wound the deer but not kill it.

1. Define *crepuscular*. Name three crepuscular animals.

---

---

2. Define caliber.

---

## Read Chapters 10-15

### Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 10-11

1. What war had Morris served in?

---

2. The hunter who interrupts their conversation carries what kind of weapon?

---

3. Why could Richie count on the hunter leaving the clearing before mid-day?

---

---

4. Richie heard some music as he walked through the town and guessed at the band. What band?

---

### Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 12-15

1. In town, who was striding in Richie's direction, calling to him to stop? Why?

---

---

2. "The cave echoed with my footsteps like a hollow tomb." What do you think Richie is feeling when he thinks that?

---

---

3. "Feeling so lonely I could howl..." What is Richie comparing himself to?

---

---

4. When Richie hears the name Martin Luther King, what does he think of?

---

---

5. Richie finds himself hiding from a dog. His experience echoes that of others who were once hunted with dogs. Can you think of who?

---

---

### **Dig Deeper**

After leaving the cave, says Richie, "we set up camp in a clearing filled with huge boulders." This is an example of the typical geology of this St. Francois Mountains region, where granite is at or close to the surface, as shown on the map earlier in this study guide.

1. What kind of rock is granite: igneous or sedimentary?

---

---

Not too far away from Richie is a state park called Elephant Rocks State Park. It's a hilltop covered with huge granite boulders, some of which remind people of elephants.

2. The prevailing forest type here is the same in as in most of the area, which is:

---

### **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Morris clearly regards Martin Luther King Jr. as a hero, and is grieving for his death. Richie only knows about him because there's a school holiday named after him. In an encyclopedia, look up Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. Summarize in five sentences. Remember, it's harder to write a short summary than a long one!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Racial Crimes**

Morris mentions the murder of four little black girls attending Sunday School, killed when a bomb went off. This was the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. It took nearly forty years to convict three white men. A fourth had already died.

All four were members of the Ku Klux Klan, KKK. After slavery ended in the United States at the close of the Civil War in 1865, a white supremacist organization arose. The KKK used terrorism to "keep them (African-Americans) in their place." The KKK was famous for wearing white hoods to disguise themselves, and burning wood crosses, as they went about their ugly work. The KKK still exists today.

Their terrorism often took the form of lynching. Lynching was when a person was executed by a mob, without a chance for a trial to prove innocence or guilt.

In the 1960s, change was afoot. Led by President Lyndon Johnson, Congress enacted landmark civil rights legislation in 1964. Its passage was helped by the nonviolent protests organized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others. These protests pricked the consciences of viewers on

national television as they watched peaceful protesters set upon by police dogs and water cannon. The Civil Rights Act marked the end of separate accommodations for whites and blacks, and began a slow march down the road toward equality.

1. Define lynching.
- 
- 

2. Look up Civil Rights Act of 1964 in an encyclopedia. See if you can find the answer to this question: how many pens did the President use to sign the act into law? Why do you think he used so many?
- 
- 

## **Vietnam War**

Here's what Morris had to say about it: "I don't even know what the war is all about, and I just 'bout died for it." The war was deeply unpopular and eventually pulled a large proportion of America's young men into the service, using a draft. The draft is where the government requires someone to sign up for the armed forces. In 1959 there were 1,000 U.S. servicemen in Vietnam; by 1964 23,000. A huge build up in 1968 brought the total to 546,000. There were plenty of casualties, too. How does this compare to World War II? Well, World War II dwarfed this number. There were 12,209,000 U.S. service personnel in 1945 when World War II ended.

In Vietnam, the government was secretive about the fact it was bombing Vietnam's neighboring countries, and the news when it broke didn't make the war any more popular. There were reports of harsh chemicals burning the leaves off the trees, stripping entire forests, and injuring anybody who got in the way. Unarmed civilians in Vietnam got caught and killed in the crossfire. There was even a shocking massacre in 1968 where an American unit, supposedly the good guys, murdered 500 unarmed civilians, including women and children. This is called the My Lai Massacre. The news of it led to a lot of soul-searching, and fueled protests at home.

What was the Vietnam War all about? The prevailing Domino Theory held that if Communist North Vietnam conquered "free" South Vietnam, pretty soon all the neighboring countries would become Communist too, falling like dominoes. And, once the U.S. had entered the war,

it was hard to pull out. Who would want to waste all the effort and casualties that had already occurred? That was a powerful reason to stay in the war.

It became a proxy war, a war between the U.S. and China fought indirectly by representatives. Communist powers China and the Soviet Union supported North Vietnam, while the U.S. and its allies supported South Vietnam. It was a conflict of the Cold War, where the U.S. fought the Soviet Union indirectly in a variety of ways. Direct combat between the U.S. and Soviet Union would have taken the form of nuclear war, an outcome that everyone wanted to prevent.

Finally in 1975, after twenty years of fighting, the U.S. did abandon South Vietnam and took all its soldiers home. The Americans let the Communists take over everything. Locals who had helped the U.S. were herded into “re-education” camps. There was nothing for Americans to be proud of there.

Many see echoes of this in the end of the U.S. war in Afghanistan after 20 years, in 2021.

Was the Vietnam War worth it? No, everyone agrees. Did the dominoes fall? No. Fifty years later, the U.S. and Vietnam are trading partners. Vietnam is still Communist. One of the neighboring countries, Cambodia, in fact became Communist for a time. But now it isn't. (Mostly the governments in that region are of the dictator/strongman type.)

The Vietnam War was bewildering for the young men of that era. Did they want to lose their lives for this cause? Many said no and avoided the draft by moving to Canada or other means. Anti-war protesters ridiculed returning soldiers. The normal respect due a soldier was often or usually missing.

Many in that generation fought despair. There was a lot of joking about death using “black humor.” Protest songwriter Tom Lehrer wrote some memorable songs along this vein.  
*Circle the letter of the right answer.*

1. Who died in the My Lai Massacre? Circle one.
  - A) A company of U.S. soldiers.
  - B) A company of North Vietnamese soldiers.
  - C) 500 unarmed Vietnamese civilians
2. The Domino Theory argued that
  - D) All of Southeast Asia would “fall” to communism if South Vietnam fell
  - E) All of Cambodia would “fall” to communism if North Vietnam fell
  - F) China would take over Japan.

3. A key feature of the Cold War was
- G) Direct conflict between super powers
  - H) Indirect conflict between super powers, or proxy war
  - I) Fierce competition on the soccer field

### **A Flower Child?**

In *The Long Shadow*, the cop, talking to the bow hunter, is discussing the parent of a troubled teen he is looking for: “Mom ran off to be a flower child in San Francisco.” So, what is a flower child? Why San Francisco?

There was a drug-fueled culture in the U.S. in the 1960s that likely was a reaction to the Vietnam War and the feelings of anger and despair it generated. One of the slogans of the protesters was “Make love, not war.”



A Flower Child Peace Necklace

A number of young people took this idea seriously and started handing out flowers to others, generally trying to promote harmony. This culture centered itself in San Francisco and used a peace symbol for its emblem.

### **Sassafras Tea**

Sassafras is a small tree native to the woods of Missouri and nearby states. Its bark and leaves have been used in traditional medicine. In fact, root beer was originally made from sassafras. Sassafras tea used to be common. Lately, though, sassafras been discovered to contain a carcinogen, that’s a substance that tends to cause cancer.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/sassafras>



Sassafras has distinctive leaf shapes: right hand mitten, left hand mitten, and mitten with two thumbs. All types can be found on the same tree.

### **Hunted by Hounds**

Hounds are not just any dogs. They have a keen sense of smell (not all dogs do), and a distinctive bark—really it’s not a bark, but more of an oo-oo singsong. It’s called baying. Hounds can be trained to hunt and track. They have short hair and long, floppy ears. They come in various sizes.

Flowing water confuses the tracking dog. When Richie steps into a stream and walks some distance, the following hound will lose the scent track. But not, maybe, for long. The dog will eventually find where he leaves the stream. Dogs can, of course, run farther than humans, if not faster, and so odds of being caught are high.

During the slavery era, escaped enslaved persons were often tracked and caught using dogs. So Richie’s ordeal is ironic, in that he is a white person learning to empathize with black people.

1. What was the city the flower children adopted?

---

2. The bark of what plant was originally used in root beer?

---

3. A hound’s distinctive voice is called

---

## Read Chapters 16-20

### Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 16-18

1. How did Richie find Morris's family?

---

---

2. Why did Richie leave Deon's suddenly?

---

3. What information did Richie then have for Morris?

---

---

4. "My insides felt like a washing machine churning a full load." What does this image tell us about how Richie is feeling?

---

---

### Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 19-20

1. What is Richie's method of looking for Morris?

---

2. Why does he stop doing that?

---

3. Why does he decide to time-travel, if the opportunity comes up?

---

---

4. After he time-travels, he wonders when and where he is. He is in a room, and he sees a wooden box on the wall. What is it?

---

5. Richie had a bad headache and other injuries because

---

6. Name two foods Mrs. McLaren feeds Richie.

---

---

7. Richie quickly makes up a story about how he got to where he is. What is it?

---

---

8. "I started down the sidewalk and dodged a couple of chickens that seemed to be looking for something they lost." What were the chickens actually doing?

---

### **Afro**

"A tall, slender teen my age or so appeared, a comb stuck in his short Afro." An Afro is a natural African-American hairstyle that was popular in the late sixties and seventies. In some cases it was long and bushy, in other cases smoothly cropped to one inch or so. Radicals favored the look.

## **Hopping Freight Trains**

Richie has heard of hobos (homeless people) hopping freight trains and riding empty boxcars around America. This became common in the Great Depression of the 1930s, when jobs were so scarce and many were homeless. It was a way to travel for someone with no money and a high risk tolerance. It was a hazardous thing to do, of course, because it often involved climbing on or jumping off a moving boxcar (with no stairs), and people got injured. In 1923, where Richie has landed, it was less common than later.

## **The “Roaring Twenties,” and the Great Depression of the 1930s**

When the 1920s opened, America was recovering from its involvement in World War I, a war that ended not in victory, but in a truce in 1918. The world was also recovering from the “Spanish flu” pandemic which killed hundreds of thousands, 1918-1920. In the 1920s, gradually the U.S. economy took off, until the second part of the decade the economy generated a lot of wealth. During the “Roaring Twenties,” younger women dumped corsets and restrictive heavy clothing in favor of garments that gave them freedom to move. Many cut their hair short, a radical thing to do. Some women joined the work force—before that, women were only occupied with household work. Jazz music and the Charleston, a dance, were popular. The national mood was a good one.

But the banking system had some serious faults in it, along with the laws that regulated it. Investors borrowed too much. The stock market crashed in 1929, and along with it the fortunes of many, many Americans. Next came the thirties, a decade of privation (having not enough of what you need to survive). This is when many men, desperate to earn a buck somehow, took to riding the rails to find work, or even just to find a generous household who would give them a meal.

## **Comprehension Questions**

9. What is a modern word for a hobo?

---

10. Name two major bad events that held America, and the world, back in the nineteen-teens.

---

---

11. What put an end to the Roaring Twenties?

---

---

12. What does privation mean?

---

### **Read Chapters 21-24**

#### **Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 21-22**

1. Name two more foods Mrs. McLaren feeds Richie.

---

2. Mrs. McLaren calls a war The Great War. What do you think we call it? Why do we call it something else?

---

---

3. Who calls Richie a Communist?

---

4. Richie makes a circuit of much of the town of Columbia. He starts by walking straight east to the town line and finds a poor white neighborhood. Then he walks south along the edge of town, coming first to what complex of buildings on the south side? He then makes his way to the west side of town to a ravine containing a creek and what else?

---

5. What is wrong with the creek?

---

6. What does Richie do for the woman at the pump?

---

---

7. Who is following Richie?

---

8. How does Richie lose him?

---

**Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 23-24**

9. Why was it a bad idea to get drinking water from a well next to a polluted stream?

---

---

10. What was the name of the school he passes?

---

11. The newsboy Arthur leads Richie to a war veteran. Which war? Which side did the veteran fight on?

---

## Dig Deeper

12. Does Richie make a big effort to “fit in” to the expectations of the people he meets in Columbia? Name three things he does or doesn’t do in Chapters 21-24 to fit in.

---

---

---

13. If you were Richie, would you try to fit in? Why or why not?

---

---

## Douglass School

This school, like so many other schools for black children, was named for Frederick Douglass, an ex-slave who wrote books and gave speeches in the 1800s denouncing slavery. He was a national leader in the movement to abolish slavery. These people were called abolitionists.

## Life in 1923

Wages in 1923 seem weirdly small to us. An average factory worker earned \$23 a week in 1923.<sup>5</sup> But if you multiply that by 1,474 percent to account for inflation of our currency over all those years, you get \$362. That’s the value of that 1923 wage in 2021 dollars. So, in 2021, what are factory workers actually earning? More or less than that \$362? Turns out it’s more. In 2021, the average factory wage is \$496 a week.<sup>6</sup> So conditions for workers have improved.

How about prices? A loaf of bread cost 12 cents in 1923. The value of the 12 cents in current dollars is \$1.89.<sup>7</sup> You can buy a loaf of white bread for that now, sure.

What’s the reason for the apparently small amounts of money used back then? Over the years, the value of our dollars has gone down. The same item costs more to buy, year after year. That’s partly because of things the government does, a very complicated subject. In fact, the

---

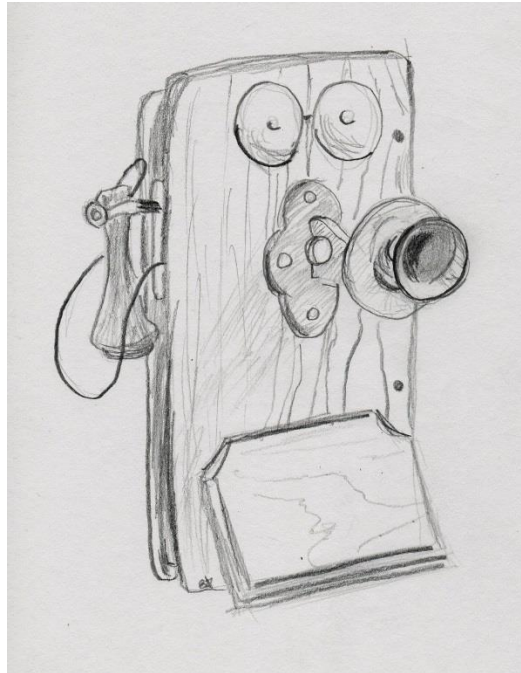
<sup>5</sup> <https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/war-postwar-wages-prices-hours-1914-23-1939-44-4318>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Factory-Worker-Salary>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>

dollar bills in 1923 were larger than the ones we have today. People took coins seriously; they were worth something.

What is your telephone like? It's a box on the wall. You hold the earpiece to one ear and talk into the mouthpiece that's mounted on the box. First you get the operator's attention, and then you ask her to connect you to the household you want to call. In a small town that might be a three-digit number. An incoming call rings the bell.



*Telephone*

Is there running water in your house? Yes, if you're in a nicer section of town. Otherwise you have to take a pail out to the pump on the well in the yard, and bring it in by the bucketful. If you have running water, most likely it's only cold water. Hot water heaters are for rich people. Heat up water on the wood or coal stove if you need it warm. That's a huge iron stove taking up a lot of space in your kitchen.

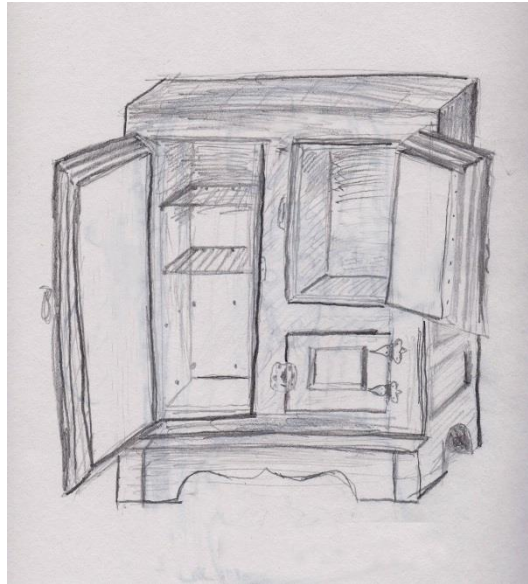
How do you wash clothes? In this era before electric appliances, you might start by heating some water in an iron pot over a fire out in the yard. You might pour the water into a pair of wash tubs on the porch. One tub is for hot soapy water, the other for warm rinse water. Rub dirty clothing in the soapy water against a washboard to get rid of spots. Stir with a stick, if the water's good and hot. Wring out the water by twisting the clothes tightly before putting the clothes in the rinse tub. You might add starch to your rinse water in the form of a bit of flour. After rinsing, wring them out again.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://ruthlace.blogspot.com/2009/02/washing-clothes-in-1920s-and-30s.html>

Washing the household's clothes takes a whole day. To dry them, you hang them on the clothes line, winter or summer. To make them look good, iron them. The starch will make them stiffer and neater. Ironing takes another whole day. There are no electric irons yet; you have to heat your iron on the kitchen woodstove, being careful not to get it too hot. You don't want to burn holes in the clothes!

How to keep the food cold? You have an icebox. That is, a cabinet where you keep a large block of ice that keeps the food in there reasonably cold. For a fee, somebody delivers the ice every day, from stores of ice kept deep underground to keep it from melting fast. (Caves are always cool. Have you been in a cave?)



*Icebox*

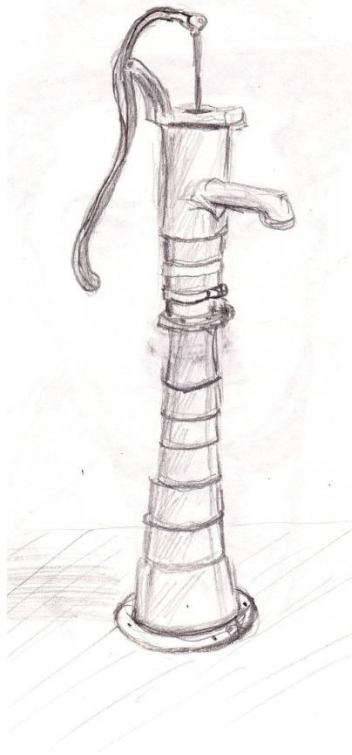
But of course an ice box can't hold very much food. You will be using a lot of canned foods, and you will get your milk delivered every day, just enough for that day. Everyone must eat everything on their plates. No room for leftovers! And no frozen food of course.

Bathing? Your bathtub, if you have one in your bathroom, may have only a cold water faucet. So you warm up water on the wood or coal stove and dump it into the tub. Or, your tub might be the older style, a big washtub that's brought to the kitchen every Saturday night and filled with warm water so everyone can get their bath. Needless to say, bathing every day was too much trouble. People were used to some amount of body odor. It had always been that way.

### **Disparities**

This section of the novel shows stark differences between the lives of middle class whites, which we've been describing, and lower-class blacks. The poor black people had to live in wood shacks on the banks of a stream that flooded once in a while. They had no underground sewers, but were using outhouses. As a result, the waterway got contaminated from sewage germs.

Drinking this water from the nearby wells can lead to sickness from bacteria found in feces, sometimes deadly sickness such as cholera.

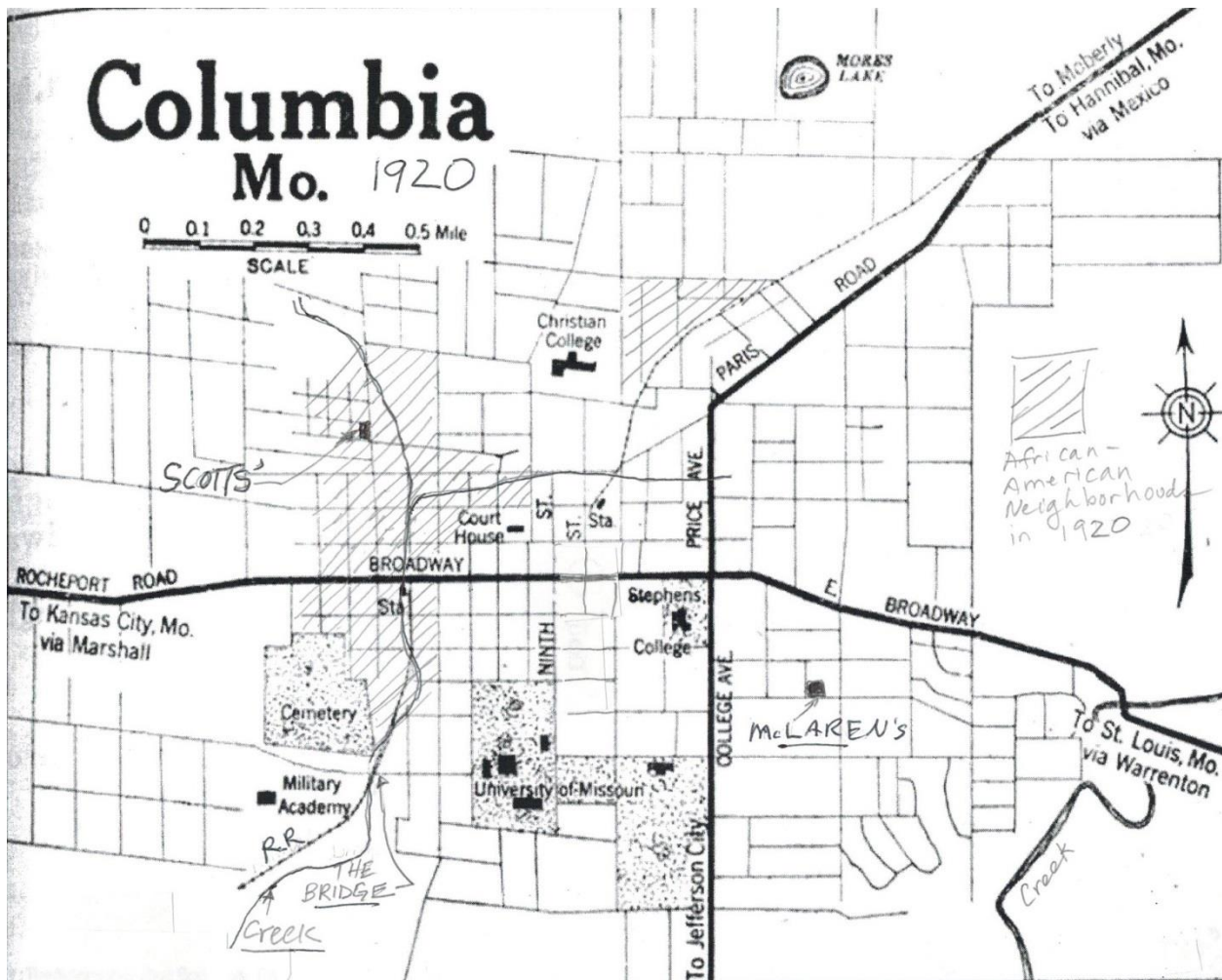


*A Hand Pump for a Well*

Such mistreatment was a legacy of a time when enslaved people were considered less than human and were treated that way.

Even the middle-class blacks, in an area nearby, lived with unpaved streets and no street lights, in contrast to the white neighborhoods. Note that all these African-American neighborhoods were on less desirable land. They were close to the creeks, stinking open sewers, or else close to the railroad on the northeast side. See the map.

On the map, use a pencil to draw Richie's first walking trip around Columbia. From McLaren's he went east to the edge of the city, then south along the city's edge, around the university, until he came to the ravine containing the creek and railroad. He continued north along the creek into the African-American neighborhoods and eventually made his way back to McLaren's via a church that was close to Broadway, the main east-west street. The church is not shown.



### Civil War Veteran

The American Civil War, which ended slavery and the Southern way of life built on slavery, finished in 1865. A soldier who was 25 in 1865 would be 63 in 1923, so this civil war veteran neighbor was likely not the only veteran in the area. Missouri was divided during the war. The cities were dominated by the Union army, while the countryside was the domain of Confederate sympathizers. Columbia is in a rural area of the state, so veterans there were likely Confederates. In rural Missouri, there were various bands of outlaws that continued to fight the Civil War even after it was over, such as Jesse James' famous gang.

### Comprehension Questions

1. What's the source of hot water for most people's baths in 1923 Columbia?

2. Where did the starch for clothes come from?

---

3. How do you use the clothes dryer?

---

---

4. Where do you get ice for the icebox?

---

5. Likely, how often do you take a bath?

---

## **Communism**

The Revolution of 1917 got rid of the Russian Czars, or emperors, and put the Marxists in charge. These were followers of German philosopher Karl Marx, also called Communists or Bolsheviks. In 1923 the Communist government in Russia was only six years old.

Communism is an economic philosophy that aims to put workers as a group in charge of their destiny, rather than letting business owners take charge. The workers as a group own the farms and own the factories. That sounds nice, but in practice what happens is that workers' individual representatives take power for themselves. A repressive, totalitarian state has always formed, with a strongman in charge who removes others' rights.

Typically he stays in power using terror, with a secret police and a prison system for people who disagree. This is what happened in Russia in 1917, in China in 1949, in countries in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, and currently in North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela.

Russia after World War II brought neighboring countries under its sway and formed the Soviet Union, which dominated Asia and global politics for a number of decades. This time between 1950 and 1991 was called the Cold War. Wars between the U.S. and the Soviet Union were fought by proxy—for example the Korean War and the Vietnam War. (By proxy = through third parties.)

Then the Soviet Union, rotten within, tottered and fell 1989-1991. Are those people now free? Well, after a period of upheaval, now it seems mostly not. Local strongmen are running the show in most of the former Soviet countries, though not all. Some are struggling to be democracies. Democracy is a great idea, but it doesn't work well for every country, it seems.

### **Communism Questions**

6. When was the Russian revolution that ended up with the Communists/Bolsheviks in power?

---

7. Marxism was named for whom?

---

8. Name three countries that currently have Communist governments.

---

---

9. Define "wars by proxy."

---

---

### **Read Chapters 25-28**

#### **Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Ch 25-26**

1. What brand of automobile did Mr. Scott drive?

---

2. How is the car described in the text?

---

3. Why was it apparently unusual for a black man to own such a car?

---

---

4. What two types of vehicles are seen in the book as transportation for people in the town of Columbia?

---

5. What social rule did Richie and Mr. Scott break?

---

---

6. How did the police describe Mr. Scott's moustache?

---

7. Why does Mr. McLaren ask Richie to stop his friendships with black people?

---

8. What does Silas accuse Richie of being?

---

9. What does Mrs. McLaren accuse Richie of?

---

## Comprehension and Analysis Questions Ch 27-28

10. Richie wants to help Mr. Scott develop his alibi. What's an alibi?

---

---

11. Who is Richie trying to talk to for this?

---

---

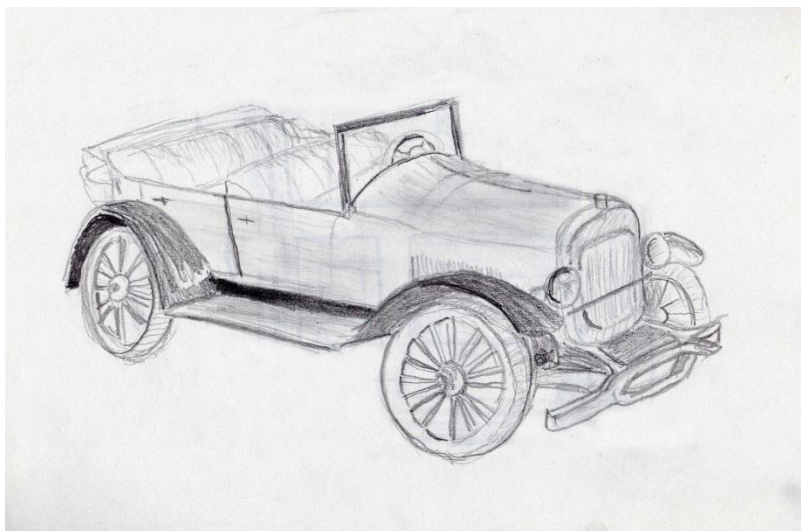
12. In these chapters, name three ways Richie gets food or drink while homeless.

---

---

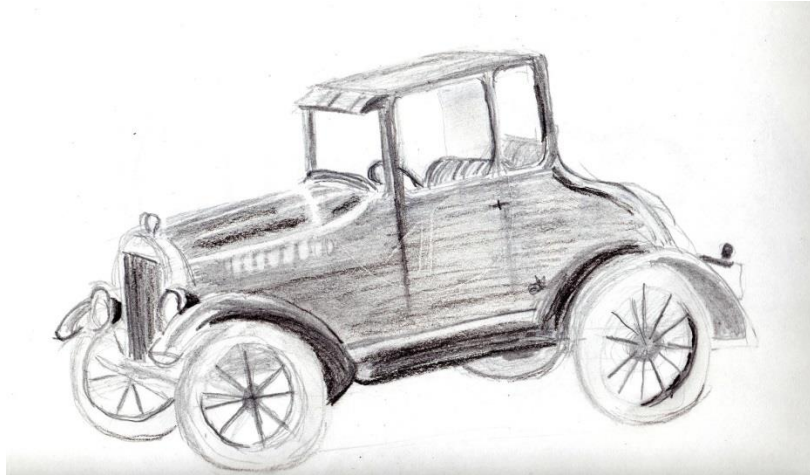
### Cars in 1923

In 1923, we see that James T. Scott, a real historical person, had a job as a janitor at the University of Missouri. It paid very well as far as he was concerned (considering that his parents or grandparents had surely been slaves). He saved up and bought himself a fancy car, a "Hupmobile."



*A Hupmobile*

This large, heavy car contrasted to the modest Ford Model T that Richie first sees in the shop, a simple car for the common man. To modern eyes they may look similar, but the Hupmobile and other luxury cars had a lot of room for a big engine under the hood, while the Model T had only a small engine. So if you wanted to go racing, you'd take your Hupmobile, not your Model T.



*Model T Ford*

But Model T's were nothing if not versatile. If you wanted to take the wheel off and use the spinning axle to run a wood saw, you'd want a Model T Ford. (Search on Youtube for "Bud's 1924 Model T powered Wood Saw.")

And one other distinction: the Model T was the first item ever put together on a factory assembly line, a method that revolutionized manufacturing. Originally, the item being manufactured would sit in one place, and different crews of workers would come and add to it. But what, reasoned Henry Ford, would happen if it was the item being manufactured that was moving on a conveyor belt, and the workers who stayed in their stations? The assembly line proved to be much faster and more efficient and was eventually widely adopted, for much more than just cars.

### **Household Electrification in America**

A typical house in 1923 small-town America had electricity, but only enough to power the lights. And those lights weren't bright by modern standards. (They replaced the wall-mounted gas fixtures that used to cast flickering light. Before that, it was hurricane lamps, which used oil and wicks.) Appliances were being developed, but in a town like Columbia, Missouri, they would have been somewhat rare except among the wealthy.

Outlying rural areas didn't get electricity until the late 1930s under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal.

## Charlie Chaplin: Who?

In 1923 everyone knew what a Charlie Chaplin moustache was. That's because a star in the silent movies of the time, Charlie Chaplin, generally portrayed a comic little tramp with a moustache right under his nose.



In 1923 the movie industry was new but popular. Movies had no sound and had to make do with lettered signs and exaggerated gestures and expressions to get the story across. They were in black and white. Charlie Chaplin's famous little tramp got himself into plenty of slapstick comic situations. The movies aren't long, and perhaps your family would like to watch one of them together. Just search for Charlie Chaplin on Youtube. These films and scenes are a study in how to create humor, that's for sure.

### Comprehension questions

1. If you were a farmer who needed to use a car axle to operate a pulley in 1923, would you use a Model T Ford or a Hupmobile?
- 

2. What was the first item ever built on an assembly line?
-

3. Name the electric appliances mentioned in the book for the McLaren household.

---

---

4. Name the Charlie Chaplin film you watched with your family, and tell the story.

---

---

---

---

### **Prejudice Against Immigrants Through the Years**

Most Americans are descended from immigrants. But still they have had difficulty accepting newer immigrants than themselves. Historically, the groups that had been in America longer weren't happy to see competition from newcomers. The newcomers were looked down on, trash-talked, and criticized.

In the 70 years leading up to our story in 1923, a group that often got a lot of flak was the Irish. Driven by famine, bad government, and poverty, they poured out of Ireland and into America through the 1800s and as late as 1930. The earliest white settlers of the United States had been Protestant—some even from Ireland—but these Irish were Catholic. That alone caused suspicion and fears beginning in the mid-1800s. Would these Catholics pledge allegiance to the Pope, or to their new country?

Also, the very large numbers of Irish distorted the job market, and some complained that they were taking all the jobs. Cities with large numbers of Irish were soaked in hostility.<sup>9</sup>

By the time of our story in 1923, most Irish in America were no longer recent immigrants, but descendants of immigrants. They were assimilating. But a person who was looking for someone to sneer at might still sneer at them, as did Silas.

Richie with his curly dark hair and pale skin could be mistaken for “black Irish,” supposed descendants of the wreck of the Spanish Armada who made it to Irish shores and cast their dark-haired genes into the population there.

---

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/when-america-despised-the-irish-the-19th-centurys-refugee-crisis>

## Newsboys

Newspapers relied on boys as well as adults to hawk newspapers and to deliver them to subscribers. The newsboy would buy a stack of 100 newspapers at a discount, and then sell them for full price. They could hawk them in the streets: have you heard the cry, “Extra, extra, read all about it!” in movies? In the mid-1800s, homeless orphan boys sold newspapers to buy food. Their plight was terrible, and eventually they went on strike and won more rights, money, and care.

The system broadened so that newsboys could sell not only to passersby, but also to subscribers on a paper route. That involved going to a neighborhood and delivering every day, collecting money once a week or so. These were middle-class young entrepreneurs,<sup>10</sup> and this is the system we see in our story *The Long Shadow*. In fact, according to Wikipedia, these famous men had all been newsboys: Joe DiMaggio, Thomas Edison, Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman and Mark Twain.<sup>11</sup>

1. What two things fueled distrust of Irish immigrants in the mid 1800s?

---

---

2. Name a famous author who had been a newsboy.

---

3. Name a U.S. president who had been a newsboy.

---

---

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3136](https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3136)

<sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper\\_hawker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper_hawker)

## Read Chapters 29-32

### Comprehension and Analysis Questions, Chapters 29-32

1. In this chapter, Richie doesn't even think twice about going to the African-American section of town in the evening, although he was mugged there the night before. He has a sense of purpose. What is his purpose?

---

2. What was special about Saturdays in Columbia in 1923?

---

---

3. Name three things that motivated the lynch mob.

---

---

---

---

---

4. What was the general atmosphere for bystanders at the mob scene?

---

---

5. How do you feel about that?

---

---

## **News**

Nowadays people get news in a variety of ways, mostly involving the Internet. But in 1923, they got it either by reading the newspaper, listening to the radio, or from newsreels shown in the cinema before feature films. In 1923, the movies and the newsreels were without sound, perhaps with music supplied by a local piano player. But they were good at conveying stories anyway.

Newspapers were common and everywhere. Small towns as well as cities had competing newspapers. Columbia had at least two, the Columbia Daily Tribune and the Columbia Evening Missourian.

## **Prohibition**

From 1920 to 1933, the consumption of alcoholic beverages was against the law in the United States. This is an era called Prohibition. Alcohol consumption isn't much mentioned in *The Long Shadow*, but the fact that alcoholic beverages were prohibited was a significant thing in the 1920s, a time of post-war prosperity called the Roaring Twenties.

The idea to prohibit alcohol grew from advocacy groups such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union that were concerned about alcoholism. The way to fix the situation, they reasoned, was to ban alcohol. The country agreed, and states passed the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 1920 to make it happen.

Then it became clear that when legal sale of alcohol was banned, illegal production and sales took over. Gangsters got rich. The original goal, to stop people drinking alcohol, wasn't being met. Finally, more than 10 years later, in 1933, the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was passed to allow legal production and sales again. Prohibition was a failure.

During Richie's time in Columbia in 1923, there would have been illegal hidden bars, often in basements, where people would go to drink. A common name for them was speakeasy, for the bartender's advice to patrons to "speak easy" and not make a lot of noise. Richie wasn't looking for bars, so didn't find any.

## **NAACP**

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a civil rights organization that was founded in 1910, advocating for black people in a variety of situations. It was very active during the 1960s Civil Rights era. Here it's mentioned that one of James Scott's lawyers was with the NAACP.

## **Terrorism**

Lynching was execution by mob with no trial, often brutal, often attended by thousands of white spectators in a horrifyingly cheerful mood. Alleged offenses were sometimes criminal, like supposed attacks on white people, or sometimes social, like allegedly bumping into a white woman. The threat of lynching terrorized the minority population (usually black but sometimes

Mexican), with the likely purpose of keeping the minority in a state of near-slavery. Their only way out was to migrate to northern cities, which more and more did.

Just how widespread lynching was has only recently become clear, as researchers have dug into newspaper archives. According to the Equal Justice Initiative<sup>12</sup>, nearly 4,000 southern blacks were lynched between 1877 and 1950.<sup>13</sup> Many southern counties logged 30, 40 or 50 lynchings over the course of 73 years, 1877-1950. One county in Arkansas counted 245 lynchings during that time. That's more than three per year, averaged over the 73 years.

Non-southern states were doing it too, including Oklahoma (76 in that same time period), Missouri (60), Illinois (56), West Virginia (35), Maryland (28) and others including Minnesota and Nebraska.

The modern Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Alabama, would like to see more monuments and memorials at lynching sites. They would like to see Americans speaking truthfully about this previously overlooked history, with an eye toward healing and reconciliation.<sup>14</sup>

To that end, the Equal Justice Initiative has set up what has come to be known as The Lynching Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. Its actual name is The National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

### Comprehension Questions

6. Name three ways people got their news in 1923.

---

---

---

7. Why were illegal bars during Prohibition called speakeasies?

---

---

<sup>12</sup>Equal Justice Initiative, *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Montgomery, AL 2017, 89 pages

<sup>13</sup>[https://www.democracynow.org/2015/2/11/as\\_study\\_finds\\_4\\_000\\_lynchings](https://www.democracynow.org/2015/2/11/as_study_finds_4_000_lynchings)

<sup>14</sup> *Lynching in America*, p. 76

8. What does NAACP stand for? What does the NAACP do?

---

---

9. Why do you think the history of lynchings in America has been, until now, often overlooked?

---

---

### Read Chapters 33-37

1. "I'd seen the face of evil, and it looked very human." Who said that and why? Do you think humans are good? Or not? What does your faith tradition tell you?

---

---

2. There is a scene from the beginning of the book that is replayed at the end, with a different outcome. Describe both scenes.

---

---

---

---

3. What has Richie learned?

---

---

4. When you learned that the lynching of James T. Scott really happened, party atmosphere and all, how did that change the way you see this story?

---

---

## About the Whole Book

### Faith Lessons

The theme of this story is racial reconciliation, showing us that we need to actively reach out in friendship to counteract our habits of fear and avoidance in race issues. It's helpful to realize that there is a somewhat similar situation going on in the Bible, as the apostle Paul and others are leading the new Church.

One issue that Paul addressed repeatedly in his letters was the rift between Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) in the infant church. It was not surprising—the Jews had been taught from childhood that the Gentiles were unclean. Jews who took their religion seriously couldn't visit Gentile houses, much less eat their food.

When the Church started out, the Holy Spirit made it clear to the apostle Peter that the Gentiles were to be part of the church, and that the rules about unclean food and other things had changed (Acts 10).

The two groups became uneasy allies in the Church. At one point in Jerusalem the Gentiles were being passed over in the distribution of food to widows. This is in Acts 6:1 ESV: "In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Grecian Jews among them began to grumble against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food." The apostles addressed this problem by declaring they would distribute the food, and then finding some substitute leaders to do it for them.

That problem was solved, but the Jew-Gentile friction continued. Outsider Jews, generally from Jerusalem, would arrive at one of the churches Paul had planted in Gentile provinces. These

new arrivals would insist that the Gentile members now had to follow Jewish ceremonial laws if they wanted to be saved. Paul wrote letter after letter rebuking and debunking this idea. (God saves by grace alone, through Christ alone.)

In Christ, divisions such as Jew/Gentile, white/black need to melt away. Jesus called for that as he prayed for his disciples and his church in John 17:20-21 ESV: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one..."

What's that got to do with us in present-day America? Racial segregation is common in many places, causing people to fear those they don't know. I contend that racism is rooted in fear, which comes from that basic instinct to be suspicious of strangers. To overcome that in ourselves, we need to be willing to reach outside our comfort zones and get to know people, no matter what race we are.

### **Faith Questions**

1. Where in *The Long Shadow* do you see Richie afraid of black people?

---

---

2. What changes him?

---

---

3. Read Isaiah 12:2. What can we do when we are afraid?

---

---

4. Read Psalm 56:3&4. Like King David, how do you need to pray when you are afraid?

---

---

5. Richie learns to step outside his comfort zone and do some things he never would have been comfortable doing, for the sake of his friendship with Morris. Can you name a time when you did this?

---

---

---

---

6. Describe a possible situation when you could do this in the future.

---

---

7. Read Galatians 5. What fruits of the Spirit was Richie lacking at the beginning of the story?

---

---

8. In what ways did he change?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

9. What fruits of the Spirit do you see in his life at the end of the story?

---

---

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. Name at least three things Richie could do at the end of the story that he couldn't do at the beginning.
2. Name one thing Morris could do at the end of the story that he couldn't do at the beginning.
3. How does Richie react to Morris when he first meets him?
4. How does Morris react to Richie when he first meets him?
5. What's your guess: has Richie had a friend before who is black?
6. We all tend to be wary of strangers. Name a racial or ethnic group in your life who are strangers to you. How can you reach out and get to know someone in that group?
7. What might making a friend do to change your feelings about the group? Can you talk about a case where this has happened in your life or a friend's?
8. There are many reasons why kids might struggle in school, including learning disabilities and issues at home. Some classmates might want to avoid these people, or even call them names and be mean to them. What is a better response you could have to someone in your class who different in some way? What's a good way to stop a bully?
9. In a scene in the book in 1923, ordinary people were acting in an evil manner. Why do you think they did that? Do you think people are basically good, or bad?
10. Why do you think it could be a good idea for Americans to publicly remember that incidents like lynchings happened, maybe even in your community? What are other instances in world history where brutality was accepted by a society as normal? Do you think Americans, Germans, and others in the present day should remember, discuss, and commemorate these tragedies?
11. Do you think bad effects continue down to the present time? What evidence do you see?
12. Aunt Trudy did some bad parenting. When she realized she was wrong, she could a) apologize, or b) act as if she was never wrong. At the end of the book, which did she do? Which do you do when you have hurt someone? Why is apologizing difficult?



# Answers

## Chapters 1-4

### Comprehension Questions Ch 1-2

1. An old, African-American man with a cane and a pocket watch.
2. The man knew Richie's name and spoke to him as if he knew him. But he was a stranger.
3. Orienteering, finding a marker using a map and compass.
4. A skunk.
5. He finds his guardian to be mean.
6. He mows lawns.
7. Choose from among these: camping gear, box of ammo, edible plants book, some changes of clothes, four Pop-Tarts, three cheese sandwiches, his phone, plus a picture of his mom and dad.

### Comprehension Questions Ch 3-4

1. Move camp.
2. He hitchhikes.
3. Trumpets
4. There are fall leaves, but it should be summer. There are only antique cars on the road.
5. A sandwich and a Twinkie.

### Dig Deeper

Richie took with him camping gear, box of ammo, edible plants book, some changes of clothes, four Pop-Tarts, three cheese sandwiches, his phone, plus a picture of his mom and dad. Further answers will vary.

1. Definition of perseverance from a dictionary
2. Definition of trespassing from a dictionary
3. Definition of caliber, as in .22 caliber rifle from a dictionary
4. Definition of toxic sludge from a dictionary
5. Definition of the verb to putter from a dictionary

### Literary Analysis

1. "I was drawn to the woods like a bat to the twilight sky."
2. Similies use the word "like" or "as" to compare two things. Metaphors don't.
3. He is drawn strongly to the woods.
4. Pelting Richie with rain.
5. It underlines his fear.

6. The truck is moving slowly like a golfer with a putter.

### Missouri Geography

1. A squarish rectangle. At the south east is a “boot heel.”
2. 250 miles
3. Interstate 70
4. St. Louis: Mississippi River
5. Kansas City: Missouri River
6. Flowing together
7. Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois. All names of states. All Native American words.
8. Your local orienteering club contact information
9. A bowl-shaped volcanic crater
10. More than 15 miles
11. Hawn State Park caldera
12. Granite massifs
13. Make a good guess! A pluton is round ... made of igneous rock ... then look at the following text in the guide.
14. A pluton is a round puddle of magma that hardened beneath the surface of the earth.

### Haiku

1. Here, the students should share with you their favorite of five haiku poems they have made.

### 1960s Chevys

2. Here the student needs to find a song title that contains the word “Chevy.” A Google search should do it.

### Chapters 5-9

#### Comprehension Questions Ch 5-7

1. Filling his empty water bottle.
2. He puts them into his tent and zips it up.
3. The sound of sharpening his axe.
4. Fearful, on edge.
5. Soaked them for days and days. (Then boiled them. You find this out later.)
6. Go fishing.

#### Comprehension Questions Ch 8-9

1. A thick limb fell on it and collapsed it.

2. It's 50 years in the past.
3. Shady Creek
4. The time of change in the sixties
5. Dead leaves on Jerusalem artichoke plants

#### Dig Deeper

6. Minnows, caught with a net.
7. Worms, crickets, lures
8. Answers vary
9. People like to fish because they like to hang out in nature, or because they want to eat some fish, or because they want to catch a bigger fish than someone else. Other ideas?

#### Hypothermia

10. Don't get chilled.

#### Oak Trees

1. Losing its leaves in the winter.
2. There are more of them than of other species.
3. Making whiskey barrels.
4. Soak for a while and then boil for a while to remove tannin.
5. Trees somehow working together either produce many many acorns or none in a given year.

Special activity: we suggest your family prepare acorns to eat, using instructions on the OutdoorLife website.

#### Rabbit Hunting

1. Crepuscular: active at dawn and dusk. Choose from rabbits, deer, foxes, owls, nighthawks, skunks, bats, snowshoe hares, porcupine, badgers, milk snakes, and raccoons
2. Caliber is the measurement of the width of a gun barrel. A .22 rifle is .22 inches across the barrel.

#### Chapters 10-15

##### Comprehension and Analysis Questions Ch 10-11

1. Vietnam War
2. A bow and arrow
3. Because deer are crepuscular, most active at dawn and dusk. See previous discussion in the study guide.

#### 4. The Beach Boys

#### Comprehension and Analysis Questions Ch 12-15

1. The cop. Because the bow hunter had accused Richie of being a thief.
2. Sad and lonely.
3. A sad dog or wolf
4. A school holiday
5. Enslaved people

#### Dig Deeper

1. Igneous
2. Oak-hickory

#### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Your student is instructed to look up MLK in an encyclopedia and write a five-sentence summary of his life.

#### Racial Crimes

1. Lynching is where a person was executed by a mob, without a chance for a trial to prove innocence or guilt.
2. At least 75 pens, to create souvenirs

#### Vietnam War

1. C
2. D
3. H

#### Miscellaneous

1. San Francisco
2. Sassafras
3. Baying

#### **Chapters 16-20**

#### Comprehension and Analysis ch 16-18

1. He went to Shady Creek, found the section where the black people lived, and asked for Deon, Morris's nephew.
2. A visitor accused him of stealing cars, thinking he was someone else.
3. No police were looking for Morris. It was safe for him to come home.

4. He feels upset and anxious.

#### Comprehension and Analysis Ch 19-20

1. Looking for a message in the cave, and then waiting in the cave a few days.
2. The weather is so good he thinks the policeman will come back.
3. He wants to remove Morris's fear of lynching by preventing the lynching of Morris's grandfather.
4. A box telephone.
5. He was hit by a car.
6. Chicken, apple cobbler
7. He was hopping freight trains with his uncle.
8. Hunting and pecking, looking for food.

#### Comprehension Questions

9. A homeless person
10. World War II, ending in 1918, and the Spanish Flu pandemic, 1918-19.
11. The stock market crash of 1929.
12. Not having enough of the things you need to survive.

#### **Chapters 21-24**

#### Comprehension and Analysis Ch 21-22

1. Turnips and ham.
2. World War I. Before World War II, people thought World War I had been "the war to end all wars." They were wrong.
3. Silas
4. The University; train track next to a creek.
5. The creek is full of sewage.
6. Pumps her water and carries the bucket to her porch.
7. Silas
8. He takes refuge in a church.

#### Comprehension and Analysis Ch 23-24

9. Contaminated water causes disease
10. Douglass School
11. Civil War, confederate side

## Dig Deeper

12. Fitting in: Asks for a haircut. Wears Frederick's cap. Not fitting in: continues to wear jeans. Sings a hip-hop song. Befriends black people.
13. Answers vary.

## Comprehension Questions

### Life in 1923

1. Heat it on the woodstove
2. Flour
3. Hang the clothes up on the clothesline.
4. Someone has stored it in a deep pit and will deliver it for a fee.
5. Once a week.

## Communism

6. 1917
7. Karl Marx, German economist
8. China, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, Vietnam, and others.
9. Through third parties: wars fought by small nations, backed up by big nations that oppose each other.

## Chapters 25-28

### Comprehension and Analysis Ch 25-26

1. A Hupmobile
2. Blue roadster, a fancy car
3. Typically they didn't have the money.
4. Mule-drawn wagons and assorted automobiles.
5. Making a friend of a person of another race.
6. As a Charlie Chaplin moustache
7. He is concerned he will lose business because of it.
8. A communist immigrant, Irish
9. Stealing her rings.

### Comprehension and Analysis Ch 27-28

10. Evidence that you were somewhere else at the time of a crime.
11. The people Mr. Scott works with and works for. These are people at "the college."
12. Police give him coffee. Mrs. Scott feeds him breakfast. The newsboys said they would bring him chicken livers or a ham hock.

## Cars in 1923

1. Model T Ford
2. Model T Ford

## Electrification

3. Telephone only. Icebox and stove did not use electricity.

## Charlie Chaplin

4. Describe a Charlie Chaplin silent movie plot. Answers will vary.

## Immigrants, Newsboys

1. The fact that these Irish were Catholic, and that there were large numbers of them taking jobs.
2. Mark Twain
3. Dwight Eisenhower or Harry Truman

## Chapters 29-32

### Comprehension and Analysis Ch 29-32

1. Richie desperately wants to prevent the lynching which may happen in just a few days.
2. Saturday was the day that the country people came to town to shop and visit.
3. Things that motivated the lynch mob: They were convinced Mr. Scott was guilty of a crime. They did not want the attack victim to have the painful experience of testifying in court about her experience. They were happy to take justice into their own hands—not trusting the legal system to do its job. And, I hate to say it, but the festive atmosphere leads me to think they were bloodthirsty, like the Romans who watched the “games” where gladiators fought to the death.
4. It was a party scene, full of people and festivity. They laughed and drank. Some people brought their children.
5. Answers will vary.

### News, Prohibition, NAACP, Terrorism

6. Newspapers, radio, newsreels
7. Because bar owners told people to “speak easy” or be quiet because police could be nearby
8. National Association for Advancement of Colored People. It advocates for minority people in a variety of situations.
9. Answers will vary.

## Chapters 33-37

### Comprehension and Analysis

1. Is there evil in the human heart? The answer will depend on the faith tradition. Christians believe we have evil in our hearts, that we are tainted by original sin from birth, and that only the blood of Jesus will cover our transgressions.
2. At the beginning, Richie bumps into elderly Morris and breaks his pocket watch. Three grandsons come running. Richie reacts with fear and runs away. At the end, elderly Morris shows Richie the broken watch pieces. Then he takes Richie next door to meet a grandson. Richie is eager to make friends.
3. He has learned to reach outside his comfort zone to make friends.
4. Answers will vary.

### Whole Book Questions

#### Faith Lessons

1. In the opening scene, he is afraid of the three teenagers. When he meets Morris, he is afraid because Morris is black.
2. He realizes Morris is not going to hurt him. Morris becomes his friend.
3. Trust the Lord, who is our strength and our defense.
4. "When I am afraid, I will trust in You." Pray this Word of God, and it can quiet your heart.
5. Answers vary.
6. Answers vary.
7. Gal. 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." At the beginning, Richie was missing out on love, joy, and peace, if not more.
8. He changed in that he decided not to run away any more, but to face his life with his aunt. He was able to tell her how she had hurt him. When she apologized, he was able to see a way forward toward forgiveness.
9. At the end of the story, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control were all evident.

### Group Discussion Questions

1. (Shoot rabbits, forage, get away from tracking dogs, rescue someone besides himself, not run away when tempted to at the hospital, tell Aunt Trudy how she had hurt him.)
2. (Relax and be at home.)
3. (He is afraid.)
4. (He is afraid.)
5. (No.)
6. (Befriend them.) (If the kids in the class stand up for the victim, the bully will likely back off.)

7. (Nazi Germany, enslavement of Africans, etc.)
8. (Apologize.)
9. (Say you're sorry and make changes to fix what you did wrong, planning to never do it again.) (Say you're sorry and do nothing.)
10. (Staying angry.) (Accepted it.)
11. (He'd been hurt by her words.)
12. (No right answer.)