

*One-Eyed Cat*  
by Paula Fox

A Teaching Unit  
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Children's Literature

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This is a teaching unit on the book *One-Eyed Cat* by Paula Fox. In this unit there are four sections to each chapter lesson that I have made to give helpful tips in order to use this book in the classroom. The four sections are *vocabulary*, *questions*, *extended questions*, and *activity*.

In using the *vocabulary* section I would advise you to encourage the students to look the words up as they read them in the story. This will get them into that good habit of looking words up that they don't know while they are reading. Then have them write the words down along with the meanings. I have enclosed crossword puzzles that use the vocabulary words for each chapter lesson to help the students learn the words better while having some fun. Another suggestion would be to make flash cards out of the vocabulary words so the students can go through them like that. To make that fun you could make the flash cards in the shape of a gun, a cat, or any other prominent item that is found in this book. You could also make a vocabulary game out of the flash cards similar to a spelling bee.

In using the *question* sections, you can either give those to the students and have them write out their questions, or you could give them orally to the students and have them talk about them together to verbalize their answers.

The *extended question* sections were made to take the questions written about the story and apply them to the student's daily life, and to put them in similar situations. This section is intended to help students carefully read things critically, and to compare them to the Bible to see if they are beneficial or not. These can be used as discussion questions to start the class off, or they can be used for discussion any time during the class. Please, make sure the student gets the correct Biblical idea from each extended question so the student does not go away with a misconception about what the Bible says.

The *activity* section is used to give the student an extra project to do that is connected with the book to pick up on some of the side points. It may help in understanding a character, the setting, a relationship, or a picture. Use these, or better yet come up with activities on your own that make this story come alive for the students.

This book unit is intended for upper grade students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Feel free to add, subtract, or change any material in this unit. Make the book alive and fun for the students, and give them a proper understanding of this book in light of what our Savior Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross.

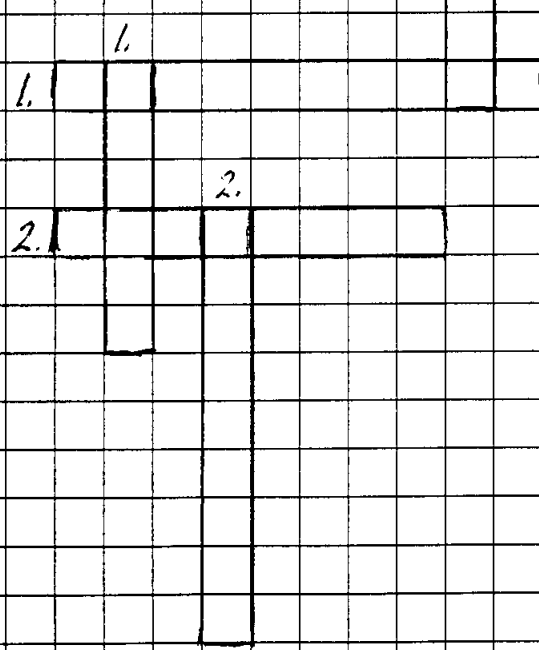
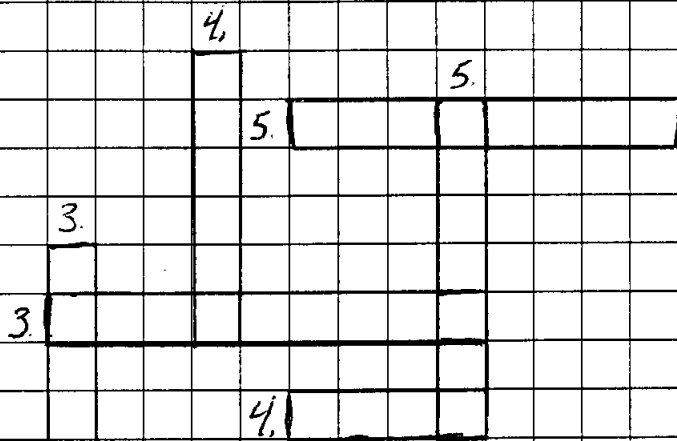
Chapter 1

Down

- 1. To feel sick
- 2. Trembling
- 3. Strange looking stone image
- 4. Nonsense
- 5. Photograph on metal plate

Across

- 1. Member of church
- 2. Giggled
- 3. Unfortunate event
- 4. Female horse
- 5. Walked unsteadily



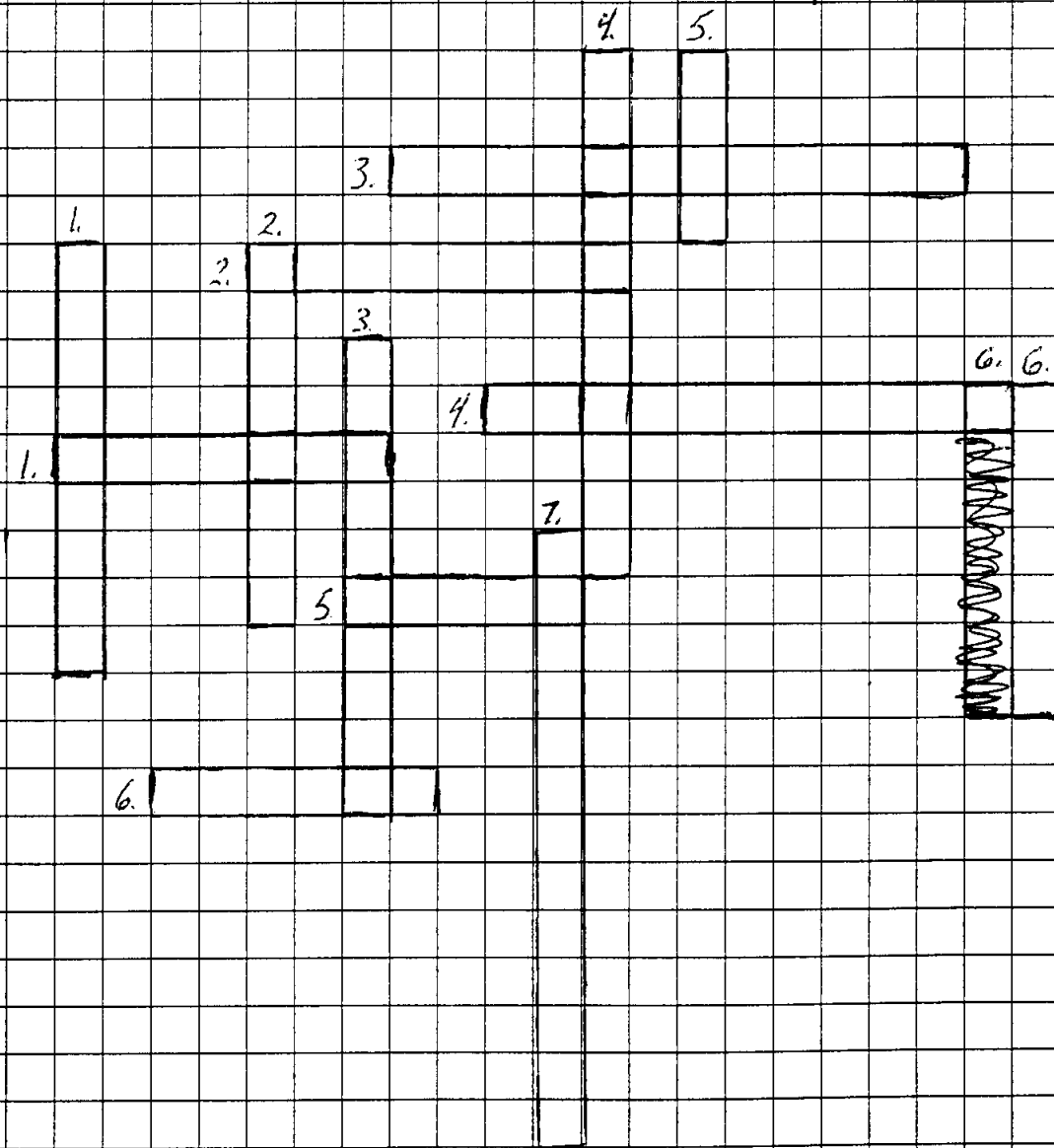
Chapter 2

Down

- 1. Thoughtfully
- 2. Floor covering of coated fabric
- 3. Think solemnly
- 4. Forcefully
- 5. To fend off or turn away
- 6. Castrated horse
- 7. Accusingly

Across

- 1. Sick or disabled person
- 2. Giving off light
- 3. Listen secretly
- 4. Pacifying
- 5. Command to horse
- 6. Maimed



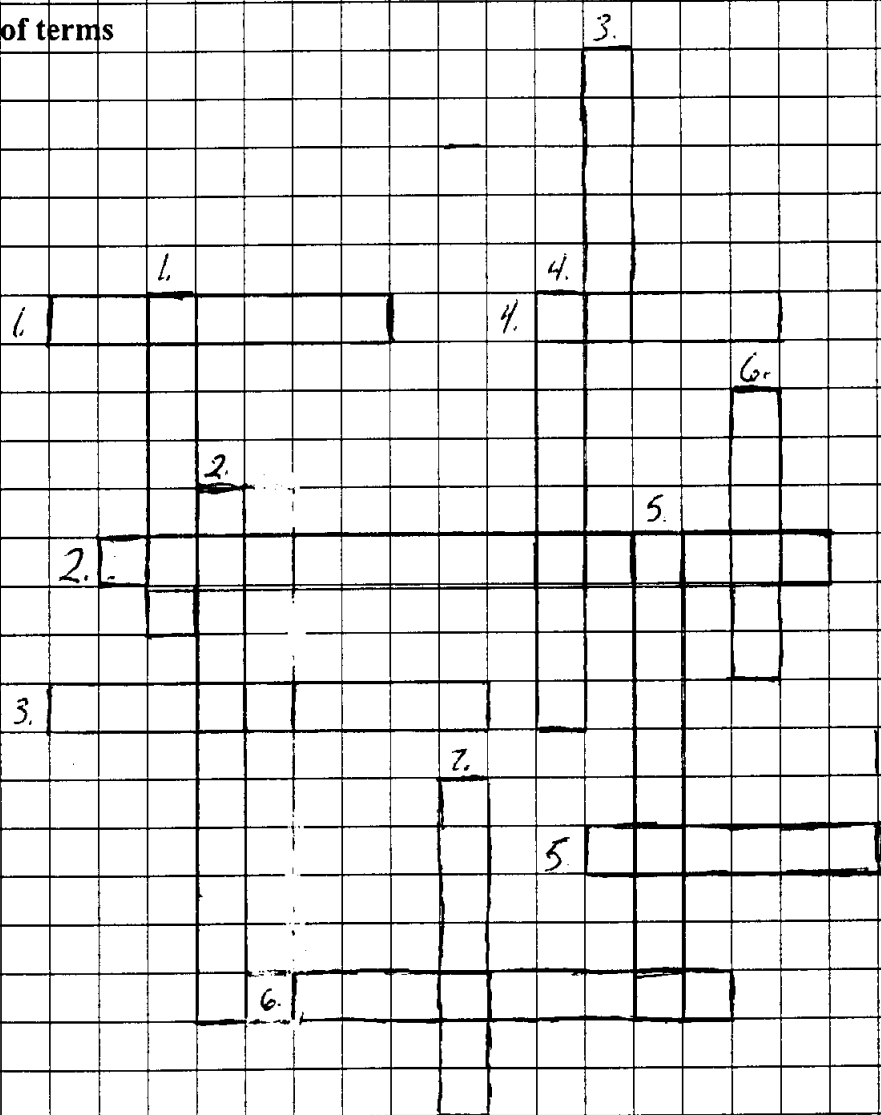
# Chapter 3

## Down

1. A souvenir
2. Not to be alarmed
3. A type of car
4. Thankfulness
5. Rickety
6. Paint with glossy surface
7. Contradiction of terms

## Across

1. Small hill
2. One who joins a conspiracy
3. Not to change
4. Thin
5. A tool with long blade
6. Oarsmen of a boat



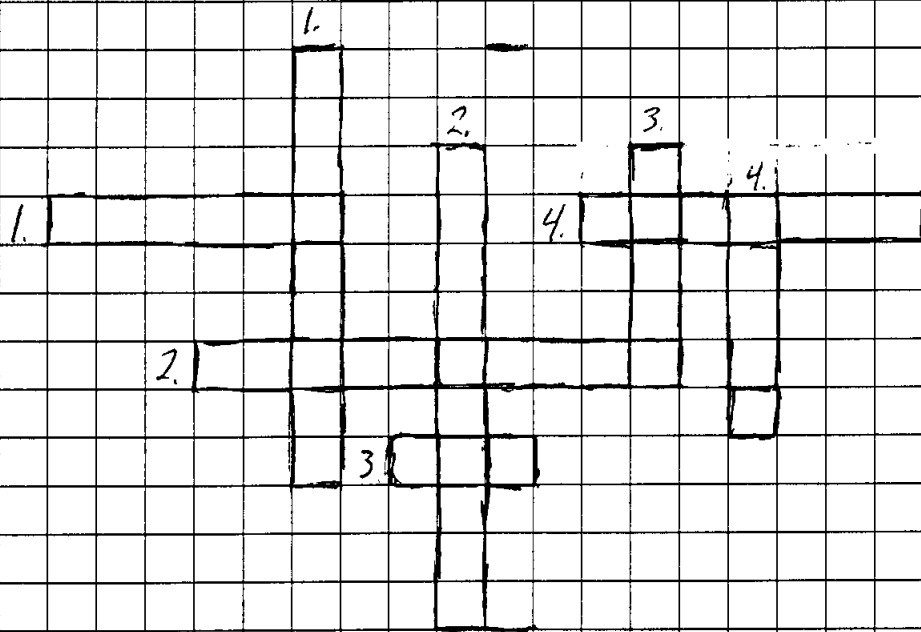
Chapter 4

Down

- 1. Commanding
- 2. Unusual; separate
- 3. Of yellowish brown color
- 4. Fine-grained rock

Across

- 1. Qualities of doing what is right
- 2. To think moodily
- 3. Demand for payment
- 4. Small animal from East Indies



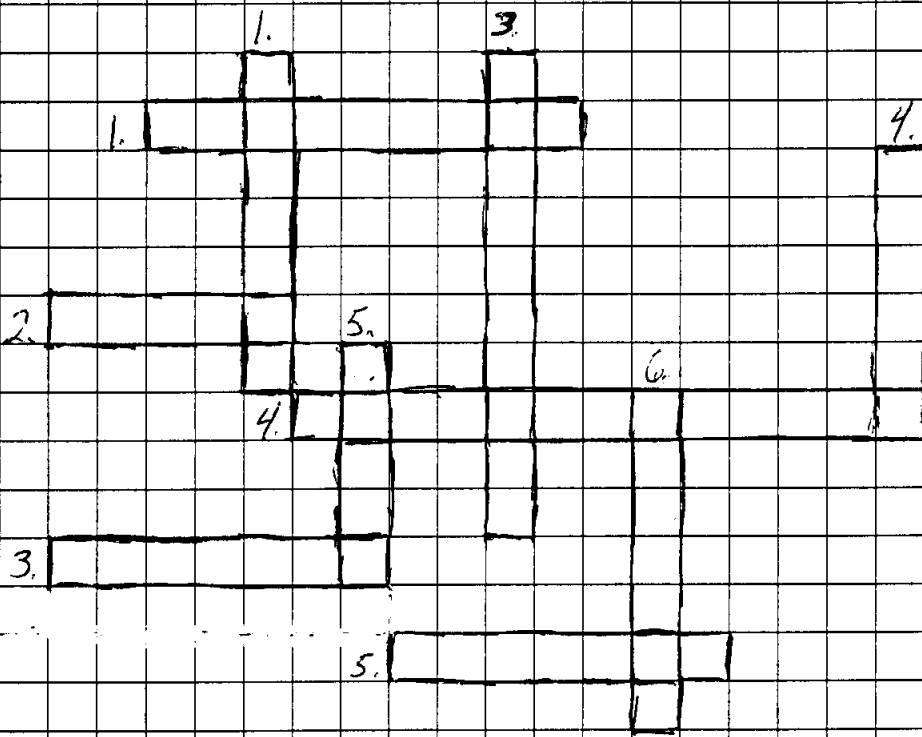
Chapter 5

Down

1. A pouch
2. Rubber overshoes
3. Salt used for bowls of pipes
4. Preoccupied
5. Skip school purposefully
6. Bind, compel, influence

Across

1. Climb up with difficulty
2. Beat down
3. Act in a hurry
4. Friendly
5. Marked with colored spots



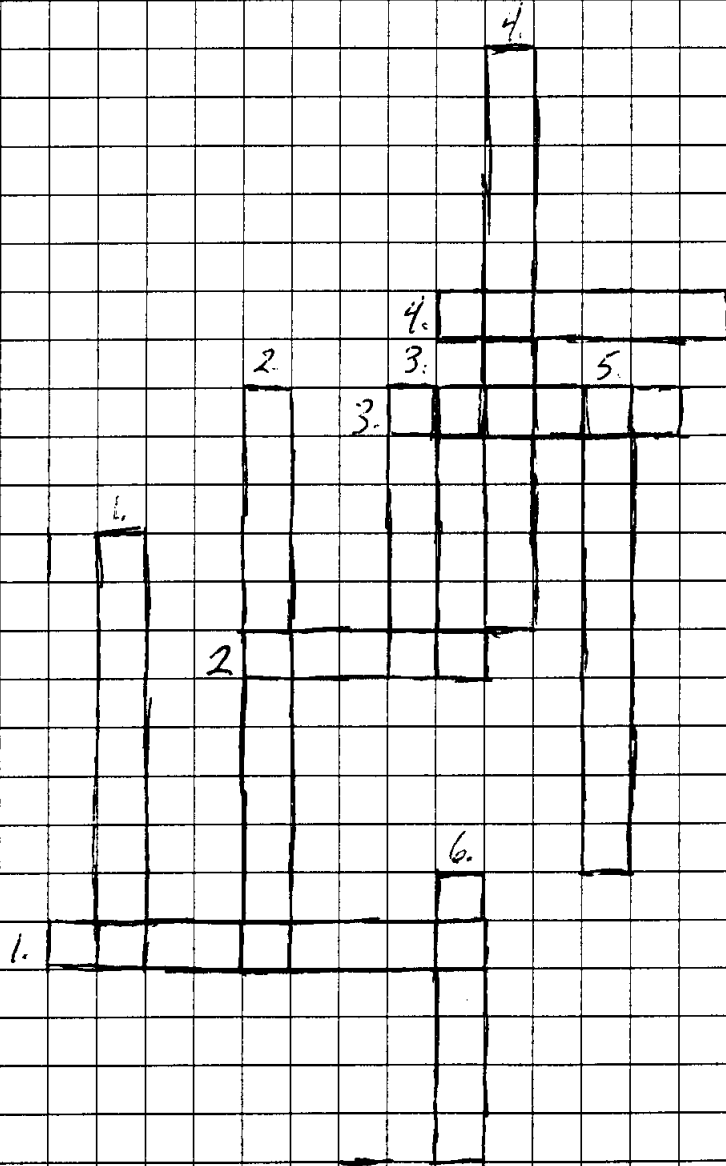
Chapter 6

Down

1. Act by gestures no talking
2. Uneasy feeling about events
3. An illness that impairs/slurs speech
4. Joyful
5. A trick
6. Made proud

Across

1. Angry
2. Small wretched house
3. Spread out
4. Responding shortly





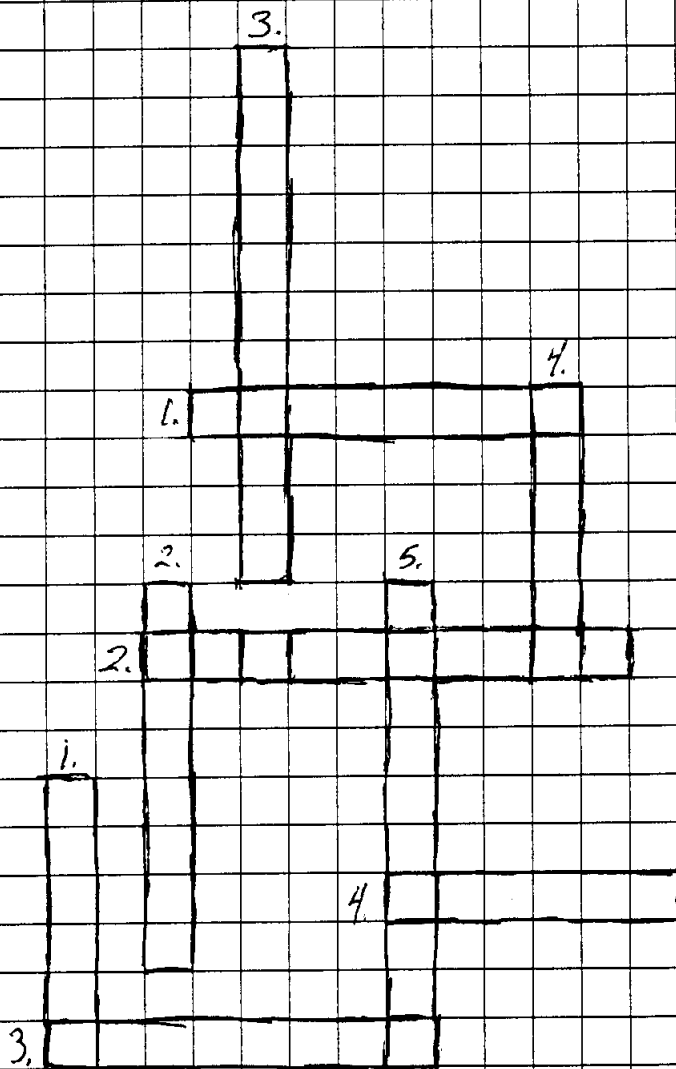
Chapter 7-8

Down

1. Bird with long legs and bill
2. Force into violent motion
3. Searchingly
4. Small sofa
5. Give life to

Across

1. Short pants
2. To shock
3. Healthful
4. A type of heron

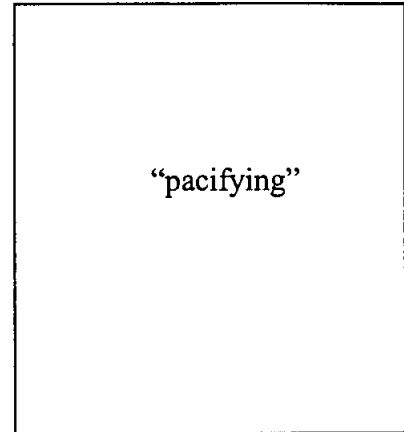


## Vocabulary Flashcards

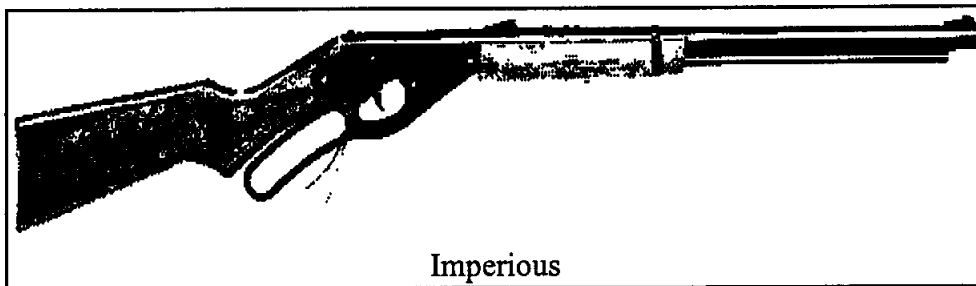
Front of flashcard



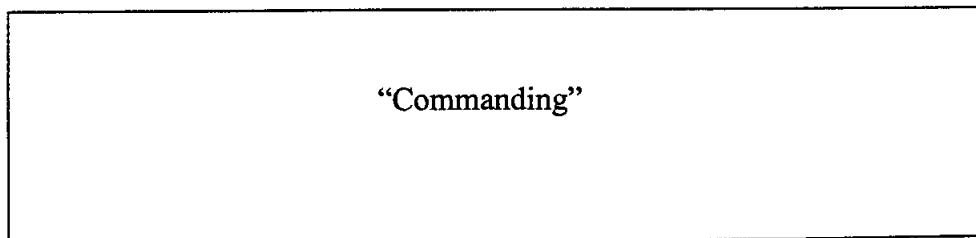
Back of flashcard



Front of flashcard



Back of flashcard



## Chapter 1: "Sunday"

### Vocabulary

mare  
tremulous  
tottered  
ailing  
piffle  
parishioner  
gargoyle  
tintype  
adversity  
tittered

### Questions

1. What do you learn about the characters and setting of this book from the very first page?
2. What is wrong with the house the Wallis's live in?
3. Who is Mrs. Scallop and what is she like?
4. What is wrong with Ned's mother?
5. Who do you think is the main character in the story?
6. What do you think this statement means, "It was the time he'd been happy and hadn't known it. When he was happy now, he would remind himself he was. He would say, At this moment I'm happy, and that was different from simply being a certain way and not having to give it a name."\*
7. Who comes to visit Ned and his family?
8. How does Ned feel when this visitor comes to visit and why does Ned feel this way?

### \*Extension Questions

- Ned had a hard time staying awake in church. Is it good to fall asleep in church? What should Ned have been doing? What should you do in church and why do you go to church?
  - Ned says that the worst thing you could do is not to tell someone why you are angry. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
6. Have there been times in your life when you have been happy and you hadn't noticed it. Tell about it? Have there been times in your life when you have been happy and you had to tell yourself you were happy? Tell about it.

### Activity

Draw what you think the church looked like based on the description in the book and by using your imagination.

## Chapter 2: "The Gun"

### Vocabulary

meditative  
eavesdropped  
luminous  
linoleum  
invalid  
reproachfully  
pensively  
conciliating  
insistently  
maimed  
aggie  
ward  
gelding

### Questions

1. Why does Ned sometimes walk around the house at night?
2. Describe Ned's relationship with his mother.\*
3. What does Ned's mother mean when she says, "Then the ax fell."?
4. Why does Ned think it was best for Uncle Hilary's visit to be brief?
5. Why doesn't Ned's father like the present Uncle Hilary gave to Ned? Do you think it has anything to do with Ned's father being a pastor?
6. Explain what Ned means when he said, "The painful thing was that, though Ned didn't always trust his father, his father trusted him, and that seemed to him unfair, although he couldn't explain why it was so."\*
7. Was it good for Ned to take the gun out at night and shoot it just once so he could stop thinking about it and do what his father said, "Take your mind away from it"?\*
8. Do you think Ned will get into trouble for shooting the gun?
9. Who was the face in the window? Do you think it was a real face or was Ned just seeing things?

### \*Extension Questions

2. Compare and contrast his relationship with her to your relationship with your own mother.
6. Give an example from your life if this is true that your parents trusted you, but you didn't necessarily trust your parents. Do you think this type of attitude is good?
7. Is there anything that you were told not to have or use by your parents, but you did anyway? After thinking about what happened to you do you think it was right?

### Activity

Pretend you are in Ned's shoes and you thought you saw someone looking at you through the window. What would you do to find out who was looking at you? What questions would you ask and who would you ask?

## Chapter 3: "The Old Man"

### Vocabulary

unvarying  
gratitude  
unperturbed  
hummock  
ramshackle  
enamel  
Model A  
scythe  
mementos  
paradox  
gaunt  
gondolier  
conspiratorial

### Questions

1. How did Ned feel the day after he shot the gun? Give examples from chapter 3 to support your answer.\*
2. Even if no one finds out Ned took the gun and shot it, who truly knows what Ned did?\*
3. Why did Ned lie to his mother about the poem he had to write for school?
4. Why did Paula Fox, the author, write the part about Janet knocking Billy to the ground? Does foreshadowing have anything to do with it? Explain.
5. What does Ned do for Mr. Scully?
6. How did Ned feel after seeing the cat for the first<sup>time?</sup>? What did he notice about the cat?
7. What does Mrs. Scallop mean when she says, "I wear my heart on my sleeve"?
8. Why is Ned constantly thinking about the cat and the gun?\*

### \*Extension Questions

1. Read Psalm 32. What does this say about not confessing your sins? Is this the way Ned felt? Is this the way you feel when you know you did something wrong, but you didn't tell anyone? Explain.
2. Who truly knows when you do something wrong even if no one on earth ever finds out about it? How does that make you feel?
8. Have you done something wrong that no one knew about and you couldn't stop thinking about it? Explain what happened and why you couldn't stop thinking about it.

### Activities

1. There are a lot of similes in this chapter. Find and write down five of them. Write five of your own similes describing things in your classroom.
2. Write an essay and learn more about the Great Depression and how it fits into this story.
3. Write a paragraph about the Antietam campaign, the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862 and how it fits into this story.

## Chapter 4: "The Cat"

### Vocabulary

tawny  
dun  
broodingly  
imperious  
tarsier  
particular  
slate  
virtue

### Questions

1. Why is Ned so worried about the cat?
2. Do you think Ned and his mom like Mrs. Scallop? Explain.
3. What do you think Uncle Hilary's letter means?
4. Do you think Ned wants to go with Uncle Hilary on the trip? Why do you think that way?
5. Would keeping the cat alive make Ned's actions of disobeying his father right? Explain.
6. Why do you think Ned lies so much?\*
7. What does Mr. Scully think will happen to himself?
8. Why do you think Ned doesn't tell his parents what is bothering him when he says he wants to tell them?
9. There is an expression that says, "One lie leads to another." Do you think Ned believes this expression? Explain.\*

### \*Extension Questions

6. Is Ned that much different from us and don't we lie at times? Make some comparisons to your life and Ned's life in the way you lie. What can we do to prevent ourselves from lying?
9. Have you noticed this expression to be true in your life? Explain.

### Activities

1. Ned helps Mr. Scully with some things around his house that he can't do on his own, and Ned gives him some company. Think of an elderly person you know and come up with some ways to help them out with their loneliness. Find some time to help that person out.
2. Ned wishes he had a brother or sister to confide in. Write about how you confide in your brothers or sisters about things that are troubling you, or if you don't have any siblings, write about how you can relate to Ned's feelings.

## Chapter 5: “The Strength of Life”

### Vocabulary

hastily  
broody  
galoshes  
hooky  
companionably  
clambered  
satchel  
abate  
mottled  
obliged  
meerschaum

### Questions

1. Where did Ned go before he went to school?
2. Why did Billy and Ned get into a fight? How did they act after they were done fighting?
3. Why do you think Mr. Scully is so nice to the cat?
4. What was wrong with Ned’s mother today?
5. Was it right for Ned to talk back to Mrs. Scallop?\*
6. What did Mr. Scully think happened to the cat? Was he right or wrong?
7. Explain how the title of this chapter relates to the cat, Mr. Scully, and Ned’s mother.
8. What do you think Ned means when he says, “Everything is happening?”

### \*Extension Questions

5. Is it right for you to talk back to your parents? Teachers? Explain your answer based on the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

### Activity

Pretend you are Ned and write a journal entry about how you felt during this chapter. Use examples from this chapter to help you describe how you felt.

## Chapter 6: "Christmas"

### Vocabulary

tartly  
apprehension  
stroke  
pantomime  
exhilaration  
resentful  
hovel  
elated  
subterfuge  
sparse

### Questions

1. What happened to Mr. Scully?
2. What do you think finally made Ned tell his mother about not wanting to go on the trip with his Uncle Hilary?
3. Is it okay if Ned's mother tells "fibs"?\*
4. What does Ned do for the cat?
5. Paula Fox writes about Ned saying, "All the lies he had told, the subterfuge, were piled up over the gun like a mountain of hard-packed snow. He felt his secret had frozen around him. He didn't know how to melt it." What should have Ned done?\*
6. Why do you think Ned whispered "Die cat, die!" at the end of this chapter?

### \*Extension Questions

3. Have you ever thought that you were only telling a "fib" and you thought that it wasn't so bad because it wasn't a big deal? Are "fibs" the same thing as lies? Explain.
5. Who should Ned have gone to even if he felt he couldn't tell anyone what he had done? Think of hymn #457.

### Activities

Pretend Ned does go on the trip with his Uncle Hilary. Write about the trip Ned takes. Tell where they were going, what they did, and how long they were gone. Make sure you make the trip fit the description of the trip that they were going to take.



## Chapter 7: "Disappearances"

### Vocabulary

galvanized  
agitated  
settee  
salutary  
animatedly

### Questions

1. What does Ned do after school?
2. Even though Mr. Scully couldn't talk, what did he "ask" Ned? How did he "ask" it when Ned and his father went to visit him?
3. Who was the first person Ned told about what he had done to the cat? Why do you think Ned told this person? How did this person respond?
4. What had happened to Ned's mother while they were gone? What do you think will happen to her?
5. What happened to Mr. Scully?\*
6. Why was this chapter called, "Disappearances"?

### \*Extension Questions

5. Ned told Mr. Scully about the cat and that was important for Ned to tell him that, but what was the most important thing that Ned should have told Mr. Scully? It is the same thing we should tell everyone.  
- How were the words that Mrs. Scallop said to Ned, "The Lord works in mysterious ways," applicable to Mr. Scully even though Ned didn't think that they were?

### Activities

No one truly comforted Ned when he found out that Mr. Scully had died. Pretend your friend's grandparent has died, and write or tell your friend what you would say to your friend to comfort him or her. Remember the true comfort we find in Christ.

## Chapter 8: “Cat’s Moon”

### Vocabulary

knickers  
inquiringly  
herons  
egrets

### Questions

1. Who did Ned meet at the Makepeace Mansion? Was he surprised?
2. What did Ned see at the Makepeace Mansion when he was leaving?
3. What did Ned finally tell his mother?
4. Who’s face was up in the window that night when Ned shot the cat?
5. What secret did Ned’s mother tell him?\*
6. Explain what Ned’s father meant when he said, “I’m so glad you’ve come home.”
7. Is there any significance in the name of the mansion Ned went to, Makepeace? Think of who Ned saw at the mansion.
8. Do you think this book ended well with closure or was it open-ended.

### \*Extension Question

5. Were you surprised about the secret? Explain how you felt after this secret from Ned’s mother? Was this a Scriptural thing that Ned’s mother did?

### Activities

Write about what Ned felt like at the end of the story after he found out about his mother’s new secret, and after he told his mother about what he had done?

## End of Book Questions

1. What do you think is the theme of this book?
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Ned, his father, and his mother?
3. Was Ned more like his father or more like his mother? Why do think this way?
4. What is one thing you will take from this book and remember it or use it in your life?
5. Write your opinion about the book and write down any additional comments you have about it.
6. Do you think there were any inappropriate parts in this book? Explain.
7. What viewpoint is this story written in? Is this an effective viewpoint? How would the story have changed if it was written from a different viewpoint?
8. Do you think Ned's mother was punished by God with her sickness for leaving Ned and Ned's father a long time ago? Read John chapter 9 to get insight into this question.
9. After reading the entire book did you notice any character, Ned, his father, his mother etc., living or showing their faith in the way they acted, talked with one another, or thought? This being a pastor's family, do you think this is a good example to follow?