

Shiloh

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Book Unit By: JD Sydow

Chapter 1

Working With Words: Find the definition of each word and use it in an original sentence.

groveling -- page 13

pneumonia -- page 16

Discussion questions:

1. How did Marty feel about the hurting of animals?
2. Why do you think the dog came when Marty whistled, but wouldn't come at any other time?
3. What did Marty's mom mean when she asked, "You want to follow your grandma Slater to the grave?"

Quiz Questions:

1. Name one thing that Marty liked to shoot at, and one thing that he didn't like to shoot at.
2. What kind of dog did Marty find while he was out shooting?
3. What is the name of the man who Marty's dad thinks the dog belongs to?
4. Why did Marty stop talking to the dog as it was following him home?
5. Where did Marty get the idea for naming the dog, "Shiloh?"

Activity:

Draw a picture based on page 13. Include the surroundings and where Shiloh was when Marty found him, and one of the animals mentioned on the page.

Chapter 2

Before each chapter, we will discuss the questions in the quiz from the previous lesson as a review.

Working With Words:

veterinary -- page 21

abandoned -- page 24

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the bad things we learn about Judd Travers? Why is what he does bad? Does Marty have a right to not like Judd for some of the things he doesn't like Judd about?
2. Why do you think Marty's parents didn't want him giving any food to Shiloh?
3. What do we learn about the relationship between Marty and his father in the Jeep to Judd's house?

Quiz Questions:

1. What did Marty finally feed Shiloh?
2. What does Marty find on Shiloh as he holds him in the truck?
3. How much would it cost Judd if he gets caught shooting the deer out of season?
4. What kind of house does Judd have?
5. What does Judd promise to do to the dog if he wanders off again?

Activity:

Write a paragraph about chewing tobacco and the dangers in practicing that activity.

Chapter 3

Page 35 includes the word “dammit.”

Working With Words:

recycling -- page 29

skillet -- page 31

sickle -- page 34

Discussion Questions:

1. Why didn't Marty get paid for watching his sisters? Are there times in our day when we do things at home that people might get paid to do if they did it at someone else's house?
2. Why would lightning bugs die if the cover was kept on the jar?
3. Why did Marty's family enjoy the Sears catalog so much?
4. Why couldn't Marty keep his mouth shut before he left Judd's place?

Quiz Questions:

1. What does Marty's dad suggest he do to earn money?
2. What does Marty think of when he sees the bugs in Becky's jar?
3. What kind of kiss does Becky give Marty?
4. What does Judd name his dogs?
5. What does Marty yell before he leaves Judd's place?

Activity:

Find a catalog and find one thing for each of Marty's family members and say why you think they would like what you picked out for them.

Chapter 4

Working With Words:

zucchini -- page 37

sycamore -- page 41

lean-to -- page 44

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the differences with the old warden and the new warden?
2. What does Marty's family do to conserve food, and what do they do with any extra money that they have?
3. Why do you think that Shiloh came back to Marty's house?
4. What is it called when Marty says, "Jesus help me...God strike me dead?" and what is wrong with saying this?
5. Is it right for Marty to keep the dog and not tell his family about it? Why or why not?

Quiz Questions:

1. What reason would a person have to shoot a deer out of season?
2. What does ma do to earn extra money at home?
3. Where does Marty take Shiloh, and why does he take him where he does?
4. Where did Marty get the planks of wood to build the lean-to for Shiloh?
5. At the end of the chapter, what does Marty do that he hasn't done in a long while.

Chapter 5

The word "heck" is used on page 49

"I swear to God" can be found on page 52

Working With Words:

saucer -- page 49

jowls -- page 50

Discussion Questions:

1. If Marty has the dog, he doesn't have to pay for it any more. Why does he still need money?
2. Is anything wrong with taking a gun out and shooting it with not much light outside?
3. What happens to Marty when Judd pulls up in the truck? Why does he feel like this?
4. Can you see how Marty's lies are like a snowball?
5. What is Judd's attitude towards the law? What does the Bible say about the governing authorities?

Quiz Questions:

1. Name one problem mentioned at the beginning of the chapter that Marty noticed?
2. Why aren't any of Marty's friends around?
3. What does Marty's dad do for his job?
4. What does ma warn Marty about his .22?
5. Did Marty tell Judd that he had seen a dog?

Activity:

Do you think that Marty should give back Shiloh? Write a short paragraph why or why not?

Chapter 6

The word "hell" is used on page 63.

Working With Words:

forgiveness -- page 56

devilment -- page 61

plunks -- page 61

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Marty do a few years ago that reminded him of what he was saying about the dog?
2. Is Jesus anything like the story cards from Sunday School?
3. What evidences are there to how that Marty still feels bad about what he is doing?
4. What does ma mean when she says, "Eleven's got about everything on its mind?"
5. How does Marty get to town if he doesn't walk? Is there anything wrong with this?

Quiz Questions:

1. What did ma by for Marty and Dara Lynn, and what holiday was it for?
2. Fill in the blank. "Every little bit of food wasted is _____ wasted."
3. What is the name of Marty's friend?
4. What does Marty tell Dara Lynn he is looking for as he goes up the hill, and why?
5. What does Judd tell Marty to do when he sees Shiloh to get him to come to him? What is the significance of this?

Activity:

What is ma trying to bring out in Marty when she says the paragraph on page 56? What does it mean to be separated from God's love? Be ready to answer these questions for next class. Write down any ideas you have.

Chapter 7

Working With Words:

envy -- 66

tapioca -- 70

Discussion Questions:

1. Is ma completely happy where she lives? Find proof to back your answer.
2. Was Marty right in thinking, "a lie doesn't seem like a lie anymore when it is meant to save a dog?"
3. What do you think about what Marty's grandma said that liars go to hell?

Quiz Questions:

Write a short paragraph telling why you would not want to run away from heaven.

Chapter 8

Working With Words:

quail -- page 74

remedy -- page 77

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some reasons why individual family members do not want Judd on their land to hunt?
2. Why is dad getting more and more food in mailboxes?
3. Do you think Marty is starting to love this dog more than other people, like David?

Quiz Questions:

1. Name one item of food that dad gets in the mailboxes that day.
2. Where did Marty take Shiloh where he hadn't been before?
3. What were the new things that Dara Lynn had?
4. What is Marty and Shiloh's favorite game?
5. Who loves you more than your dog, according to Marty?

Activity:

Go through the chapter and find all the similes and metaphors. Then from what you know about the book / story already, write five sentences that you made up that use simile or metaphor.

Chapter 9

Working With Words:

suspicious -- page 82

Discussion Questions:

1. Do your best to describe how Marty was feeling when ma found him, and tell me why he felt how he did.
2. What reasons does ma give for telling dad about Shiloh?
3. Why is Friendly a good name for the town?
4. Why is Marty sleeping on the sofa?
5. Was Marty right in thinking the things he did about what he was going to do with Shiloh? Why didn't it matter?
6. Is it ever good to run away from a problem?

Quiz Questions:

1. How long had Marty had the dog before ma found out about him?
2. Does Marty like squash?
3. What kind of song was ma humming to along with the radio?
4. How does dad find out about Shiloh?

Activity:

Is Marty still right in not wanting to give Shiloh back to Judd? Support your answer.

Chapter 10

Working With Words:

wince -- page 89

obliged -- page 91

stethoscope -- page 91

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does it still seem like dad doesn't like the idea of having a dog? Why is he so set on giving him back to Judd?
2. Why do we first learn dad's name in chapter 10 and not earlier in the book? Whose point of view is this story told in?
3. What does Marty notice about the doctor through the situation at hand? Why do you think the doctor is so willing to help at such an hour?
4. How did Marty know what ma meant before about lying to dad?

Quiz Questions:

1. What does dad tell Marty to carry over to the Jeep, other than Shiloh?
2. What is the name of the Doctor?
3. What kind of dog attacked Shiloh?
4. What did Marty find over by Judd Travers that made him think he was going to kill Shiloh?
5. How long does dad say he can keep Shiloh?

Activity:

Find ten describing words (adjectives) in the chapter and write ten sentences using synonyms of those words.

Chapter 11

There is an interesting situation mentioned on page 100 about Marty and David and Marty getting caught “with his pants down.”

Working With Words:

antibiotics -- page 103

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it wrong to say, “May Jesus strike you blind,” and what did Marty think about talking like that?
2. What did Marty mean when he said, “David Howard?”
3. How does ma try to make Marty feel better, and is she justified in doing so?
4. What are some things the family does to show that they missed the dog too?

Quiz Questions:

1. Why is Marty careful when he eats peaches?
2. Who came to visit Marty that day?
3. What did that visitor bring along to play with in the meadow?
4. Name another visitor that visited the house that day?
5. Where does Shiloh get to stay when he gets home?

Activity:

Make a list of reasons why you think David is so excited to come to Marty’s house.

Chapter 12

“Danged” is used on page 108 and 110.

Working With Words:

limping -- page 107

Discussion Questions:

1. Does Judd find out about his dog initially from the Doc?
2. What is one thing that happens that shows that even dad is showing compassion for Shiloh?
3. What is still the ever-present problem about Marty having a dog?
4. What happens when David’s mom comes to pick him up? What is he falling into the same way Marty did?
5. Were you surprised at any of the reactions Judd had while he was at the house that evening, good or bad?

Quiz Questions:

1. What job was Marty hoping to get on Friday afternoons?
2. What job was already taken when Marty went into look in the grocery store?
3. How does dad get the ticks out of Shiloh?
4. What does David say what Shiloh was?
5. What does Judd say about how long Marty could keep the dog?
6. Did Judd know who Shiloh was by his name Marty gave him?

Activity:

Dad shows Marty that he has to take responsibility for his actions. How does he do this? What other ways can you think of that Marty could take responsibility for what he has done, with all the lying he has done and the secrets he was keeping from his family and friends?

Chapter 13

Working With Words:

allergic -- page 115

quarrel -- page 117

Discussion Questions:

1. What is poaching?
2. Is the entire family sad when Shiloh has to leave?
3. Why can't Marty get the idea of lying out of his head?
4. Do you think that Marty is correct in being slightly worried that Judd might shoot him?

Quiz Questions:

1. What is one thing the girls say Shiloh would do if they would keep him. Hint: creek and snakes.
2. What does Marty say he will do if Judd doesn't sell him Shiloh?
3. What are you supposed to look for when a rabbit stops in the woods?
4. What does Marty see in the meadow, and what happens to it?
5. What is Judd carrying when he comes into Marty's view?

Activity:

Write on a sheet of paper what you think Marty was rehearsing to himself as he was walking to Judd's house. What was he going to say to him?

Chapter 14

“Jesus’ name” is said by Marty on page 124.

Working With Words:

blackmail -- page 122

bargained -- 124

Discussion Questions:

1. What is different about Marty when he confronts Judd alone than when he talked to him previously? Why is he like this?
2. Does it seem a little out of the ordinary that Marty has a very quick wit?
3. Is it right for Marty not to tell anyone about what Judd had done?
4. Is the compromise that they came up with the Christian thing to do?

Quiz Questions:

1. What did Judd say was the reason he shot the deer?
2. What is Judd willing to give Marty to keep his mouth shut, before Marty asks for Shiloh?
3. How much did Judd pay for Shiloh, and for how much will he sell Shiloh to Marty?
4. How is Marty going to pay for Shiloh?
5. Name one task that Marty has to perform for Judd.
6. Spell the name of the dog the way the Judd spelled it on the piece of paper.

Activity:

Name as many things that you can that Marty and Judd are doing wrong in the chapter, and tell how a Christian should go about dealing with the situation.

Chapter 15

Judd drinks a cold beer on page 135

Working With Words:

margarine -- page 132

witness -- page 138

whetstone -- page 140

kindling -- page 143

Discussion Questions:

1. What do we STILL notice about Marty in this last chapter of the book?
2. Why does Marty think that Judd will back out of his bargain? What finally pushes him over the edge?
3. Was it wrong for Marty to say that he hated Judd more than the devil?
4. Do you think this is a lot of work for an eleven year old to do? What would you do for a dog?
5. What are some of the other unchristian things Judd says to Marty as he is getting ready for work?
6. What do you think was the final reason Judd let Marty keep Shiloh?

Quiz Questions:

1. What did Marty's dad say that Marty thought was the nicest thing he had heard in that house in his life?
2. Why did mom think Judd was so willing to let Marty have the dog?
3. What does Marty decide to do anyway after Judd says the written agreement was worth absolutely nothing without a witness?
4. What did Judd name his dogs after?
5. What did Judd bring out of the trailer before Marty left for home the last time?

Activity:

Final review of the book: Look back at the various chapters in the book, and find where Marty could have done something more God-pleasing than what he did. Then write a short summary of the book and tell what lessons were learned.