

A Teaching Unit For on My Honor

By Marion Dane Bauer

sample



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Sample Teaching Unit

for

on My Honor

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On My Honor
Chapter 4 & 5

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write your response to chapters four and five. What do you think has happened to Tony? Do you think he will be ok or not?

Tone

There is a very serious and anxious tone created in chapters four and five to match the action that is taking place in the novel. The author creates this tone by using figurative language, symbolism, and specific words and imagery.

Let's take a look at how the author crafts the tone and allows the reader to somewhat experience what the character Joel is feeling.

**Find the paragraph that begins with *Tony was dead...dead! He couldn't breathe.* (page 33)
Find the simile in this passage and write it on the line below.**

***...and he began to move woodenly toward the spot where he had left his clothes.* (page 35)**

What does it mean to move "woodenly"? _____

Why is this an appropriate word to describe Joel's movements?

**Joel stopped in his tracks, trembling, his teeth chattering in erratic bursts...
His hands shook so violently that he could barely hold the jeans up...**

Underline the verbs in these two passages.

These verbs show Joel's _____.

- a. anxiety and fear
- b. anger and distrust
- c. sadness and hopelessness
- d. eagerness and delight

Find the example of personification on the last page of chapter five that begins, *The road climbed*.

Of course the road is not actually climbing. What does this personification mean?

Why would the road seem to be “climbing” to Joel?

The only movement anywhere was a black crow wheeling high in the sky.

When you think of black crows, do you usually think of something good or bad?

What might the black crow symbolize?

Find the metaphor at the end of the chapter.

In this metaphor, the river is compared to a

What might this metaphor predict or foreshadow?

On My Honor
Chapter 9

Name: _____ Date: _____

Discussion

1. What is Joel's relationship like with his brother Bobby? Support your answer by using the text in your answer.

Joel shook his head, trying to dispel the red fog that had taken possession of his brain.

2. Explain this passage. What does it mean by a "red fog" taking "possession of his brain"?

3. Joel experiences a great deal of anger over what has happened. He also struggles with whom to blame. Who do you think is to blame for Tony's disappearance? Explain why you think this.

One thing that can add to dialogue is the tag that comes with it. A dialogue tag is the word like "said" that tells the reader who is talking. When writing, try to add variety to your dialogue by using different tags.

A Few Tags:

screamed called stuttered whispered whined yelled proclaimed questioned

Look in chapter nine at the dialogue. What are some of the different tags that the author uses? List three different ones from chapter nine.

Now, on a separate sheet of paper, write your own dialogue between Joel and Tony if Tony were to jump out of the bushes at this point and tell Joel that he was just playing a trick on him. Make sure you use tags other than *said*, and don't forget your quotation marks!

10. When thinking about the writer's style, the author, Marion Dane Bauer, used all of the following except _____.
- a. imagery
 - b. figurative language
 - c. foreshadowing
 - d. monologues
11. What can we conclude has happened to Tony?
- a. He was eaten by an alligator.
 - b. He drowned in the river.
 - c. He played a cruel trick on Joel.
 - d. He ran away to another town.
12. Why does Joel make up a story to tell his parents and others about Tony's disappearance?
- a. because he doesn't think what really happened will make sense
 - b. because he is afraid that he will be blamed
 - c. because he knows he will go to jail
 - d. because he is afraid of the two people who stopped to help him
13. The musky river smell that Joel continues to smell can't be smelled by others because it
- a. is only on his clothes.
 - b. is not really there.
 - c. is a part of his guilt in his imagination.
 - d. both b and c
14. Who is Bobby?
- a. Joel's dad
 - b. Joel's brother
 - c. Tony's brother
 - d. Tony's friend
15. Which of the following feelings are the strongest in Joel's conflict?
- a. pride and understanding
 - b. guilt and blame
 - c. anger and sadness
 - d. shame and regret
16. Explain the meaning of the title of this novel and how it relates to the main character.

17. What are two life lessons that you believe the author of this book wanted her readers to take away from it? Explain how the author uses the characters and plot to teach these lessons.

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