

**A Teaching Unit  
for  
*The Cay***



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# Teaching Unit

## *The Cay*

# Theodore Taylor

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ELA Core Plans

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Note: This teaching unit was produced to accompany the wonderful novel *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor. The author nor publisher of *The Cay* was involved in the production of these lessons, and neither endorse this teaching unit.

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*The Cay*  
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\* Many Common Core State Standard (CCSS)

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## Chapter 1

**The setting of a story includes the time, place, and historical context.**

Sometimes, we may not understand everything that is described about a setting. Go back and reread chapter one as needed to complete the following chart. Each word listed in the chart is part of the setting. It is important that you understand some background information before continuing to read. This chart will help you to have this information. The first three have been completed for you.

<b>Setting</b>	<b>Explain how this relates to main character</b>	<b>Does this tell time, place, or historical information?</b>
Willemstad	This is where Phillip lives in a green house.	place
Island of Curacao	Willemstad is on this island. It is the largest of the Dutch islands.	place
Venezuela	The Island of Curacao where Phillip lives is just off the coast of Venezuela	place
1942		
Aruba		
Nazis		
Virginia		

Answer the following two questions.

*Who is Henrik van Boven?*

*What kind of job does Phillip's dad have?*

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## Chapter 2

### Point of View

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used. If the narrator focuses on only one character, the limited third person point of view is used. If the narrator allows the reader to know thoughts and feelings of one character, then another's, then another's, the third person omniscient point of view is used.

**Answer only one easy question to decide if this story is told in the first person point of view. If the answer is yes, it is first person!**

- Is one of the characters telling this story? \_\_\_\_\_

**If your answer is yes, the point of view is first person. In the space below, write the name of the character who is telling the story.**

**If the story is not told from the first point of view, answer these questions to decide if the point of view is third person limited:**

- Is there an unseen narrator telling the story?
- Is the focus on one particular character all of the time?
- When the focal character leaves the room in a story do you know what is going on with the other characters while that character is gone?

**Answer these questions to decide if the point of view is third person omniscient:**

- Is there an unseen narrator telling the story?
- Does the reader have access to the thoughts (not actions) of more than one character?
- Does the focus go from one character to another character, and then another?

**What point of view is used in this novel?**

- a. first person
- b. third person limited
- c. third person omniscient

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## Chapter 3

In this chapter, we meet Timothy. Answer the following questions as you think about this new relationship between Phillip and Timothy.

1. How would you describe Phillip's attitude toward Timothy?
2. Who or what has caused Phillip to have this attitude toward Timothy?
3. Find one quote from this chapter that supports that Timothy has this attitude.

**Dialect** is a form of language that is spoken by people in a certain place or by a certain group of people. Writers use dialect to make their characters more realistic. **Dialogue** is used when characters are talking to one another.

Scan pages 31-37 looking for dialogue. Write Timothy's dialect in the left-hand boxes on the chart, and translate Timothy's dialect to Standard English on the right side. The first one has been found for you. 😊

Timothy's dialect	Translation
<i>"You 'ad a mos' terrible crack on d'ead, bahss. A strong-back glanc' offen your 'ead, an' I harl you board dis raff."</i> (page 31)	

After reading this chapter, you should be able to make inferences about Timothy and Phillip. What can you tell about Timothy? \_\_\_\_\_

Phillip? \_\_\_\_\_

The author most likely made the differences in the dialogue between Phillip and Timothy to \_\_\_\_\_

- a) show how Phillip should be talking.
- b) allow the reader to understand some of the backgrounds of both Phillip and Timothy.
- c) allow Timothy to teach the readers how to speak his dialect.
- d) show that Phillip is an honor student.

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Chapter 4  
Teacher Instructed Activity

**Silent Conversation**

Divide the students into pairs, and give each pair a sheet of paper. Give students ten minutes to conduct a silent, written conversation. They can only “talk” on paper. No whispering either! In this conversation, students can “talk” about Phillip going blind and Timothy’s reaction to it. They may make predictions about what will happen next, ask questions to one another like, “What would you do if...” or simply discuss the tragedy. Enforce the silence. During the last two minutes, have the partners individually scan the chapter looking for the most memorable sentence or passage and record it. For example, a student may choose the passage from page forty-six that begins: *I’ll never forget that first hour...* When the ten minutes are up, you may want to have a class discussion about the students’ chosen passages.

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## Chapters 4 & 5

### Imagery

**Imagery** is language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind. **Imagery** consists of words and phrases that appeal to readers' senses. Writers use sensory details to help readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste. In chapters four and five, Taylor uses a great deal of **imagery**. **In chapter five, Phillip needs Timothy to "see for him". To do this, Timothy must use visual imagery as he describes what he sees to Phillip.** On a separate sheet of paper, draw what Timothy sees in the sea and in the sky that he describes to Phillip at the end of chapter five. Be sure that you focus on the **imagery** in the novel to create your picture. You will need colored pencils or crayons to add color.

Go back to chapter four to examine the imagery that the author uses. Complete the chart below. Find passages (one or two sentences) that contain imagery and write the passage on the left. Then, tell which senses the imagery pertains to on the right. The first one has been done for you.

Passage (underline imagery)	To which of the five senses does this imagery appeal? (There may be more than one sense.)
Total <u>darkness blotted out the sea</u> , and it became <u>cold and damp</u> .	sight and feeling/touch

### Write

Write your own description for Phillip. Describe what your room looks like for Phillip. Make sure you use sensory language to capture the details of your room.

### Discussion

Is Timothy an optimistic or pessimistic person? Defend your answer by finding a passage that supports your answer.



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## Chapter 6

**Strong Verbs** are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are said to be stronger than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like fall and another verb with a similar meaning like plunge. Now, compare these two sentences: (1) I watched the rock fall into the water. (2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn *how* the rock fell. The word plunge means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, when I say plunge, I get all the meaning of the verb fall, plus the additional meaning that explains *how* the rock fell as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

Read the following passages. Underline each strong verb, and then complete the chart. **There may be more than one strong verb per sentence.**

A. *Something slapped up against my leg, and I thought it was Timothy.*

B. *... "Sharks," and he was thrashing about near me.*

C. *He grabbed my hair with one hand and used his other arm to drag me back toward the raft.*

D. *"Shark all 'round us, all d'time," he roared.*

Strong Verb Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
A	
B	
C	
D	

### **Analyze different Points of View**

Timothy is ready to be on the island, but Phillip thinks they would be better off on the raft. Go back to find the different points of view that these characters have toward where they should stay. On a separate sheet of paper, use the text as evidence to explain why Phillip wants to stay on the raft and why Timothy wants to stay on the island. Then, argue which one you think will be better – the raft or the island? Support your answer.

# The Cay

## Test Chapters 1-6

1. From what point of view is this story told?
  - a. first person – from Phillip’s point of view
  - b. first person – from Timothy’s point of view
  - c. second person
  - d. third person limited to Phillip
2. Which of the following best describes the way Phillip felt about leaving his home in Willemstad on the island of Curacao?
  - a. He couldn’t wait to leave.
  - b. He was afraid to leave.
  - c. He was upset and angry about leaving.
  - d. He was nervous about leaving.
3. Why is it significant and ironic (strange) that before leaving, Phillip’s father says to him, *“Well, you can rest easy, Phillip. The Germans would never waste a torpedo on this old tub.”*
  - a. because the Germans were not their enemy
  - b. because the ship was actually hit by a torpedo later
  - c. because Phillip’s father knew that his son would not really be on that ship
  - d. because Henrik had said the exact same thing to Phillip
4. How does Phillip first meet Timothy?
  - a. Timothy helps Phillip safely into a life boat.
  - b. Phillip awakes after four hours to Timothy who is on a raft near him.
  - c. Phillip swims to a small island where he meets Timothy, who has lived there for years.
  - d. Timothy rescues Phillip from the sea in his huge ship.
5. How did Phillip first describe Timothy?
  - a. He thought he was ugly.
  - b. He thought he was wealthy.
  - c. He thought he was very strong
  - d. He thought he looked young for his age.
6. Which of the following is an example of dialect?
  - a. “Young bahss, how are you feelin’?”
  - b. “Where are we? Where is my mother?”
  - c. “What is your name?”
  - d. none of these
7. Who else is with Phillip and Timothy on the raft?
  - a. a small dog named Tito
  - b. a cat named Stew
  - c. Timothy’s young child
  - d. Phillip’s mother
8. Which of the following issues is Phillip dealing with at this point in the book?
  - a. fear
  - b. racism
  - c. distrust
  - d. all of these

***Total darkness blotted out the sea, and it became cold and damp. Timothy took the shelter down, and we both pulled our shirts and pants back on. They were stiff from salt and felt clammy.***

9. The imagery in this passage appeals to our sense of \_\_\_\_\_.
- sight
  - touch
  - smell
  - taste
10. In this passage, the underlined word clammy means \_\_\_\_\_.
- moist
  - shaky
  - smooth
  - dry
11. Who does Phillip blame for being stuck on the raft with Timothy?
- himself
  - his father
  - his mother
  - his best friend
12. What tragedy happens to Phillip?
- He loses his ability to use his right hand.
  - He forgets everything from his past.
  - He is unable to steer the raft.
  - He goes blind.
13. What does Timothy do in order to try to get attention from the air craft?
- He stands and waves his arms in the air.
  - He blows a very loud horn that he made by hand.
  - He makes a torch to send up a signal of smoke.
  - He lets up a red flag on the raft.
14. What does Timothy believe is causing bad luck?
- the raft
  - the cat
  - the parrot
  - the sharks

***His eyes were becoming mine.***

15. What does Phillip mean by this sentence?
- Timothy is seeing for Phillip because he is explaining the things around them.
  - Timothy is allowing Phillip to have his eyes when he is dead.
  - Timothy sees things in the exact same way that Phillip sees them.
  - Phillip wishes his eyes were as strong as Timothy's.

# The Cay

## Chapter 7

Find a sentence from this chapter that explains what a cay is.

There are two types of conflict: internal and external.

**An internal conflict** takes place within a character's mind. It is a conflict that a character has within him/herself.

- man vs. himself (character vs. him/herself)

**An external conflict** is a conflict that a character has with someone or something else.

- man vs. man (character vs. character)
- man vs. nature (character vs. nature)
- man vs. society (character vs. society)

Timothy and Phillip have had several conflicts so far throughout the novel. Use the chart below to analyze the type of conflicts.

Page #	Summary of Conflict	Type of Conflict
	Phillip struggles with fear when... _____	
	Timothy and Phillip are worried that their island may be _____	

### Discussion

1. What do these conflicts add to the plot of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. *Again he did not answer directly. I was beginning to learn that he had a way of being honest while still being dishonest.* What does Phillip mean by this statement?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write a title for this chapter, and explain why this would make a good title.

Be thoughtful in your choice. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 8

***My mother was right, I thought. They had their place and we had ours. He did not really like me, or he would have taken me along. He was different.***

**Answer the following questions based on this passage from chapter eight.**

What makes Phillip think this?

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What does Phillip mean by *they had their place and we had ours*?

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What is Phillip referring to when he says *he was different*?

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Phillip has a lot to be afraid of on this island. In the following chart, list some of the things that Phillip fears. Then, see if you can write down the unspoken fear that Phillip has referring to Timothy. Find a passage from this chapter to support this unspoken fear:

Fears	Unspoken fear and Passage

What makes Phillip feel superior to Timothy? Support your answer with textual evidence.

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# The Cay

## Chapter 9

### Figurative Language

Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader.

**Simile** – a comparison of two things using the words *like* or *as*

**Metaphor** – calls one thing another

**Personification**- gives a nonhuman object human traits

**Hyperbole** – an extreme exaggeration

**Idiom** – a commonly used expression that means something totally different than what it says

Complete the following chart to examine the figurative language in these chapters.

Passage	Type of figurative language	What is being compared?
<i>On the north end of the island, tough vines, almost as large as a pencil, were laced over the sand.</i> (page 69)		
<i>He really was a black mule.</i> (page 71)		

**Figurative language is used to help the reader visualize.**

In the first example of figurative language, the reader is able to visualize the size of the vines by thinking about a pencil.

**Figurative language is also used to help the reader understand something or make an interesting comparison.**

What is the purpose of the second example of figurative language in the chart? What is

Phillip trying to say about Timothy? \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion

In this chapter, Phillip begins to change.

*Something happened to me that day on the cay. I'm not quite sure what it was even now, but I had begun to change.* (page 72)

What do you think caused this change in Phillip? Explain your answer.

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# The Cay

## Chapter 10

**A theme is a story's central message; it is a lesson that you learn about life.**

Some things to remember about theme are:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

**In this chapter, one of the themes of the novel is stated. One of the characters speaks it. Find this theme, and then explain how this theme is true for the characters in this novel and how it is true in life in general.**

Stated Theme Page # \_\_\_\_\_

Write the stated theme below.

How is this theme true for the main characters in this novel?

How is this theme true for life in general?

### **Draw conclusions**

Why do you think that Timothy always changes the subject when they begin to talk about Phillip's eyes?

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*The Cay*  
Chapter 11

Based on what you have read in this chapter, which of the following is the best definition for jumbi?

- a. bad luck or an evil spirit
- b. a fortune teller
- c. a dangerous forecast for weather
- d. a serious prediction

Phillip realizes he has stepped on a skate. The skate is kin to \_\_\_\_\_.

What does Phillip think that Timothy has done with Stew Cat? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Timothy try to get rid of the jumbi? \_\_\_\_\_

Where had Stew Cat been? \_\_\_\_\_

*But it didn't change. It got worse.*

Predict how things will get worse for Phillip and Timothy. What do you think will happen?

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*The Cay*  
Chapter 12

What caused Timothy to run into the water?

List some of the symptoms that Timothy had with Malaria.

List some words to describe the way Phillip must have felt while Timothy was sick.

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Think of a time when you were afraid. Write a paragraph telling about this time. Include details that show how you felt.

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# The Cay

## Test 2 Chapters 7-12

1. Which word best describes the way that Timothy felt when they first arrived at the island?
  - a. afraid of what may be hiding on the island
  - b. excited and relieved to be on the island
  - c. eager to leave the island the next day
  - d. confused because he did not know where the island was in the Caribbean
2. What were the Langosta?
  - a. the tribe of people that live on the island
  - b. the native lobster
  - c. sea otters that live on the island
  - d. the name of the trees on the island
3. Timothy fears that the island they are on may be surrounded by banks of coral that would make navigation dangerous. What type of conflict do the characters face when dealing with the dangers around the island?
  - a. man vs. man – external conflict
  - b. man vs. nature – external conflict
  - c. man vs. himself – internal conflict
  - d. man vs. society – external conflict

*During the afternoon, Timothy was busy and we did not talk much. He was making a hut of dried palm fronds.*

4. Using context clues, what are fronds?
  - a. frog skins
  - b. leaves
  - c. fish
  - d. mud

*My mother was right, I thought. They had their place and we had ours. He did not really like me, or he would have taken me along. He was different.*

5. What causes Phillip to think of Timothy in this way?
    - a. his prejudices
    - b. what he has been told by his mother
    - c. what he has learned in school
    - d. both a and b
  6. What does Phillip have to help Timothy do with the rocks?
    - a. make a shelter for the food
    - b. write the word *help* in the sand
    - c. create a trail from the water to their shelter
    - d. make a place to build a fire
  7. Because Timothy needed this help with the rocks, Phillip feels\_\_\_\_\_.
- a. angry toward Timothy
  - b. confident in Timothy
  - c. equal with Timothy
  - d. superior to Timothy

***On the north end of the island, tough vines, almost as large as a pencil, were laced over the sand.***

8. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
  - a. idiom
  - b. metaphor
  - c. hyperbole
  - d. simile
9. What did Timothy make to help Phillip safely get to the beach by himself?
  - a. a rope
  - b. a sled
  - c. a wagon
  - d. a trail of rocks
10. Which of the following passages is a stated theme from this novel?
  - a. *He'd never gone to school and was working on a fishing boat by the time he was ten.*
  - b. *I true don' know, Phill-eep, but I true tink beneath d'skin is all d'same.*
  - c. *"Phill-eep, I do believ you b'getting' outrageous strong 'ere on d'islan."*
  - d. *I noticed more and more that Timothy always changed the subject when we began to talk about my eyes.*
11. Which of the following is true?
  - a. Timothy wants to make sure that Phillip can be independent.
  - b. Timothy does everything for Phillip and requires that Phillip do nothing.
  - c. Phillip can see the stars at night if he squints hard enough.
  - d. Phillip has met an old man who lives in a cave on the island.
12. What does Timothy believe is causing them to have bad luck?
  - a. the raft
  - b. the rain
  - c. Stew Cat
  - d. the cay
13. What sickness does Timothy get in chapter twelve?
  - a. The flu
  - b. Malaria
  - c. Chicken pox
  - d. Polio
14. Which of the following is not true of Timothy?
  - a. He thinks of Phillip as a friend.
  - b. He is selfish when it comes to the food supply.
  - c. He knows how to live off of the land and survive on the island.
  - d. He is superstitious.
15. How has Phillip changed?
  - a. He has grown at least two inches since they arrived on the island.
  - b. He is becoming more and more like his mother.
  - c. He is beginning to see Timothy as a friend.
  - d. He is more and more stubborn as the days go by.

# The Cay

## Chapter 13

*The bark was rough against my hands and feet, but what I felt most was Timothy's disappointment. (page 99)*

What does this passage tell the reader about how Phillip feels about Timothy?

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*"You see, Phill-eep, you do not need d'eye now. You 'ave done widout d'eye what I couldn't do wid my whole body."*

Explain what Timothy means.

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*I asked, "Timothy, are you still black?"*

*His laughter filled the hut.*

Why do you think Phillip asks Timothy if he is still black?

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# The Cay

## Chapter 14

**Foreshadowing** occurs when the author gives the reader a hint of something that is going to happen before it actually happens.

Foreshadowing can have two purposes.

- It builds suspense by raising questions within the reader's mind and causes him/her to wonder what is going to happen.
- Foreshadowing can also make a story more believable by preparing the reader for events to come.

In chapter fourteen, Timothy is aware that a storm is coming and is making preparations for that storm. There is some foreshadowing early in the chapter that lets us know something is happening before even Timothy knows. Complete the following chart to analyze this literary technique.

Page #	Foreshadowing	Why this is a hint of what is to come?	Does the foreshadowing build suspense or prepare the reader for what is to come? Just write the word <i>prepare</i> or <i>build</i> below.
101	<i>And for once, the trade wind was not blowing. Nothing on the cay seemed to be moving.</i>		
101-102	<i>...Everything about it felt different, but that didn't really make sense since it was only about a mile from south beach.</i>		
103	<i>During the afternoon, he told me this was a freak storm, because most did not come until September or October. August, sometimes. Seldom in July. "But dis year, d'sea be angry wid all d'death upon it. D'wahr."</i>		

**Tone** is the attitude that a writer takes toward the audience, a subject, or a character. Tone is conveyed through the writer's choice of words and details.

Let's take a look at tone in this chapter, and analyze how the author creates the different tones.

What is the overall tone of this chapter?

- anxious, fearful
- placid, reflective
- angry, upset
- serious, formal

Look back through this chapter and list words and phrases in the following box that verify this tone.

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# The Cay

## Chapter 15

In this chapter, as the storm rages, the author includes a lot of imagery. One way to create imagery is through figurative language.

**Define the following types of figurative language.**

**Simile** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personification** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following chart. The first one has been completed for you.**

<b>Passage(Use page numbers to find the sentences. They have been started for you.</b>	<b>Simile or Personification?</b>	<b>What does this mean?</b>
<i>When it gusted...</i> <i>(page 107)</i>	simile	
<i>The rain was hitting ...</i> <i>(page 108)</i>		
<i>We stayed flat on ...</i> <i>(page 108)</i>		
<i>The sea was beginning...</i> <i>. (page 108)</i>		
<i>...I could feel the rain, which...</i> <i>(page 109)</i>		
<i>The rain had stopped and...</i> <i>(page 112)</i>		

### **Predict**

What do you think will happen to Timothy now? With what will he most likely struggle with in the coming days?

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# The Cay

## Chapter 15 (continued)

Choose one of the following. Write the passage at the top of your notebook paper. If a passage is not provided, find one from chapter fifteen that pertains to the question. Then, begin your analysis of it. Write what you think this passage means, what it means in the characters' lives, and/or what it means in your own life. Use the questions below each passage to guide you. You may take notes on this page.

What do you think about what Timothy did for Phillip in the storm? Would you ever protect someone in this way? Who and why?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you have felt you were in the eye of a storm? Explain.

- ***In my world of darkness, I had learned that holding a hand could be like medicine.***  
Explain what this means for the characters. How could this be true for anyone who is facing a struggle?
- ***There are times when you are beyond tears...***  
Explain what this means for the characters. Have you ever been beyond tears yourself? Explain.

Put yourself in Phillip's shoes at the end of this chapter. How would you feel? What do you think will be his biggest struggle? What can he do to survive?

*The Cay*  
**Chapter 16**  
**Legacy and Eulogy**

Use a dictionary to look up the definition of the word legacy. Write the definition in the box below.

When Phillip finds the fishing poles that Timothy left him he narrates, “They were one more part of the legacy Timothy had left me”. In the following box, name some of the other parts of the legacy that Timothy left for Phillip.

**A eulogy** is a short speech written to be delivered at a funeral. Its purpose is to pay tribute to the deceased. It is acceptable to introduce humor at some point in the eulogy if it fits with the departed person’s personality.

Phillip didn’t have much to say when Timothy died. He simply said, “Thank you, Timothy.” Pretend that you are Phillip. Write a eulogy for your friend, Timothy. At the end of the eulogy, add Phillip’s line: “Thank you, Timothy.”

For your eulogy, you must include the following:

- Name of the deceased
- Hobbies, interests, or strengths that Timothy had
- A short memory that you have of Timothy
- Overall attitude of Timothy
- What Timothy believed in
- Something Timothy lived by – a quote
- You may also add a short poem about Timothy.

Write your eulogy on a separate sheet of paper. Check over it for mistakes in spelling and grammar.



# The Cay

## Chapter 17

### Suspense, Foreshadowing, and Excitement!

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. What if the action in this chapter were written like the following?

*I went down to the reef and found my way to the fishing hole. I dove down to the bottom, and something grabbed my hand. It wouldn't let go. It let loose as I came up, but my hand was bleeding.*

Now, if this part of the book were written like the sentences above, it would be lacking suspense – that element that creates a drive and a hunger for the reader to keep reading to see what will happen. In order to create suspense, the action has to be put in slow motion.

Complete the following chart to figure out what the author, Theodore Taylor, did to create suspense. The first one has been done for you.

Actions before Phillip realizes what grabs his hand	How this adds suspense
Read the very first sentence of this chapter. It begins with <i>Ten Pebbles had...</i>	This very first sentence in this chapter uses foreshadowing to create suspense. Since the reader knows that it is something Timothy wouldn't want Phillip to do, we wonder what will go wrong.

# The Cay

## Chapter 18

**Onomatopoeia is the use of words whose sound suggests their meaning (bam, boom, pop, crash).**

Onomatopoeia can make writing come to life and add imagery. There are several examples of onomatopoeia in this chapter.

First, in the box below, list as many onomatopoeia words as you can think of.

Phillip's sense of hearing has become keener. Onomatopoeia is appropriate in this chapter as the author helps us to hear some of the sounds that Phillip hears. Complete the following chart to take a look at the onomatopoeia used in chapter eighteen of *The Cay*. The page numbers have been provided. Go back to each page listed and see if you can find the onomatopoeia word.

Page #	Onomatopoeia Word
124	
125 (3 on this page)	
126 (3 on this page)	
127	
128 (2 on this page)	

### Respond to this chapter

1. What is the tone at the end of this chapter? How does Philip feel?

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*The Cay*  
*Final Test*

1. Which of the following best describes Phillip's attitude toward Timothy at the end of the novel?
  - a. critical and angry
  - b. obedient and submissive
  - c. admiring and loving
  - d. disrespectful yet understanding
2. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
  - a. factual and formal
  - b. profound and serious
  - c. lighthearted and humorous
  - d. adventurous and touching
3. Which of the following would not be a theme for this novel?
  - a. To be a survivor, you can never give up.
  - b. It's not how a person looks, but what's on the inside that counts.
  - c. The early bird always gets the worm.
  - d. We can overcome hardships and struggles if we try.

*The sea, he told me, was smooth as green jelly.*

4. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
  - a. simile
  - b. metaphor
  - c. personification
  - d. idiom

*Everyday, I learned of something new that Timothy had done so we could survive.*

5. In this passage, which of the following best describes the way Philip most likely feels toward Timothy?
  - a. jealousy
  - b. appreciation
  - c. joy
  - d. confusion
6. The point of view used in this novel allows the reader to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. really see the thoughts and feelings of Phillip because he is telling the story
  - b. really see the thoughts and feelings of Timothy because he is telling the story
  - c. know the thoughts and feelings of all the characters because an omniscient point of view is used
  - d. understand the parts of plot completely

7. An oxymoron is a type of figurative language in which two opposite words are put together for effect. An example is jumbo shrimp. Which of the following sentences from the novel contains another example of an oxymoron?
- Suddenly, a deafening roar swept overhead.*
  - The plane made another tight circle.*
  - A familiar silence settled over the cay.*
  - All the strength went out of my body.*
8. At the end of the story, we find that one day Phillip hopes to \_\_\_\_\_.
- find another cat just like Stew Cat
  - learn how to fly a plane so he can look for others who are stranded
  - find and visit the little island where Timothy is buried
  - write a book about how to survive on an island
9. Which of the following is NOT a conflict that Phillip faces while on the island?
- He must fight off wild dogs.
  - He must survive a hurricane.
  - He must learn to overcome his own fear.
  - He must learn to find and catch his own food.
10. Phillip's mother believes that black people \_\_\_\_\_.
- are different and live differently
  - are not as good as white people
  - have their place and white people have their place
  - all of the above

*After I'd been officially reported lost at sea, she'd gone back to Curacao to be with my father. She had changed in many ways.*

11. In this passage, we see that Phillip's mother has changed, just as Phillip has changed. When a character changes throughout a book, this character is a \_\_\_\_\_ character.
- round
  - flat
  - static
  - dynamic
12. Which of the following sentences from the book does NOT contain figurative language?
- Its engine was screaming.*
  - The rain was hitting my back like thousands of hard berries blown from air guns.*
  - The sea was beginning to reach for our hilltop, climbing the forty feet with raging whitecaps.*
  - He'd never gone to school and was working on a fishing boat by the time he was ten.*

*In my world of darkness, I had learned that holding a hand could be like medicine.*

13. What does this passage mean?
- Phillip is sick and by holding Timothy's hand, he will be healed.
  - Though Phillip is blind, having Timothy as a friend comforts him and helps him.
  - Holding hands unites people.
  - The palm of the hand gives off heat that can heal.

*Forgetting for a moment, I yelled, "Timothy, they've come."*

14. This passage shows Phillip's initial response when he sees the plane. It supports the fact that Phillip still \_\_\_\_\_.
- believes that Timothy can see and hear him
  - cannot tell the difference between fantasy and reality
  - know how to survive on an island
  - thinks of Timothy and all they did together to survive

15. What did Phillip do after he realized that the people in the plane most likely did not see the smoke?
- He burned sea grapes to produce a black smoke.
  - He burned grass to produce a bigger cloud of smoke.
  - He gave up trying to use a signal fire and made a whistle instead.
  - He caught himself on fire so that he could be seen.

16. Which of the following is true?
- Stew Cat dies in the hurricane.
  - Stew Cat is killed by Timothy.
  - Stew Cat loses one of his legs in the hurricane.
  - None of the above

17. Which of the following is the biggest problem that the characters face in this novel?
- lack of water
  - fear of sharks
  - bad weather
  - overall survival on the cay

18. Which of the following events is most likely the climax of this novel?
- Phillip loses his eyesight.
  - Stew Cat is blamed for the bad luck.
  - The hurricane hits the island.
  - Phillip is rescued from the island.

19. This story is told in the first person point of view because \_\_\_\_\_.
- one of the characters is telling the story
  - an unseen narrator is telling the story

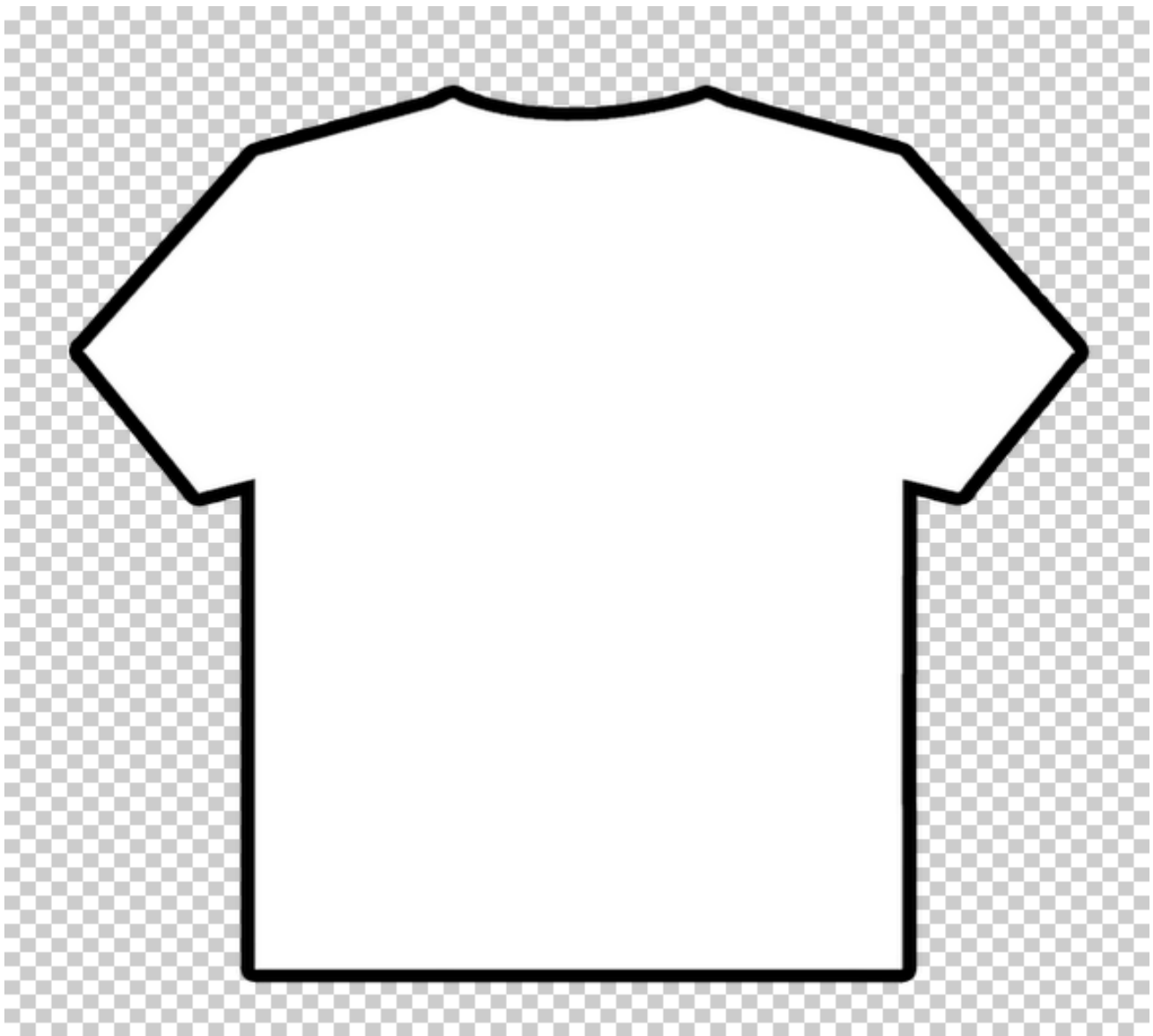
20. This novel is \_\_\_\_\_.
- fiction
  - nonfiction

## *The Cay* **Mottos**

A motto is a word or saying that describes a principle or moral that someone lives by. Some examples are:

- The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
- Never judge someone until you have walked a mile in his/her flip flops!

Create a T-shirt for a character from the novel. In the center of the shirt, write a motto that this character would live by.



## *The Cay*

### Who's Who When it comes to Characters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Four common types of characters in a work of fiction are as follows:**

- **The Protagonist** – This person is the principal driver of the effort to achieve the story's goal.
- **The Antagonist** – Usually, this is the “bad guy” or the villain who is opposed to the Protagonist's end goal. This person represents the drive to undermine success.
- **The Hero** – This is who the reader cheers for to see if they will win in the end. Sometimes, the hero and the protagonist is the same person, but sometimes they are two different people.
- **The Obstacle Character** – This character blocks or stands in the way of the protagonist, but is not necessarily the antagonist.

**After reading about the different kinds of characters, think about the characters in *The Cay*. Can you match one of the characters from the novel with each of the types listed above? Explain your answers.**

**Who is the protagonist? Why?**

**Who is the antagonist?(The antagonist may be a force – like something in nature)**

**Who is the hero? Why?**

**Who is the obstacle character? Why?**

### **Static or Dynamic? Round or Flat?**

**Which characters are dynamic in this novel?**

**Which characters are static?**

**List two round characters. List two flat characters**

*The Cay*  
Book Review

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**My overall opinion of the book was:**

- This was an excellent book.
- This book was pretty interesting.
- This was just an OK book.
- This book was not great.

**Explain your opinion. Why do you feel this way about the book? Make sure you use specific details to support your opinion.**

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**I think \_\_\_\_\_ would enjoy this book because**

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# The Cay

## Chapter 1

**The setting of a story includes the time, place, and historical context.**

Sometimes, we may not understand everything that is described about a setting. Go back and reread chapter one as needed to complete the following chart. Each word listed in the chart is part of the setting. It is important that you understand some background information before continuing to read. This chart will help you to have this information. The first three have been completed for you.

Setting	Explain how this relates to main character	Does this tell time, place, or historical information?
Willemstad	This is where Phillip lives in a green house.	place
Island of Curacao	Willemstad is on this island. It is the largest of the Dutch islands.	place
Venezuela	The Island of Curacao where Phillip lives is just off the coast of Venezuela	place
1942	This is the year when the story takes place. World War II ~ in February of this month, the oil refinery on Aruba was attacked.	time
Aruba	This island is the sister island west of where Phillip lives.	place
Nazis	Nazis were the ones attacking – trying to attack the land.	historical context
Virginia	This is where Phillip and his family lived before moving to Curacao in late 1939.	place

Answer the following two questions.

Who is Henrik van Boven? *This is Phillip's Dutch friend who is also eleven.*

What kind of job does Phillip's dad have? *He works at a refinery where he works on the program to increase production of aviation gas.*

# The Cay

## Chapter 2

### Point of View

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used. If the narrator focuses on only one character, the limited third person point of view is used. If the narrator allows the reader to know thoughts and feelings of one character, then another's, then another's, the third person omniscient point of view is used.

**Answer only one easy question to decide if this story is told in the first person point of view. If the answer is yes, it is first person!**

- Is one of the characters telling this story? yes

**If your answer is yes, the point of view is first person. In the space below, write the name of the character who is telling the story.**

**Phillip**

**Answer these questions to decide if the point of view is third person limited:**

- Is there an unseen narrator telling the story? no
- Is the focus on one particular character all of the time?
- When the focal character leaves the room in a story do you know what is going on with the other characters while that character is gone?

**Answer these questions to decide if the point of view is third person omniscient:**

- Is there an unseen narrator telling the story? no
- Does the reader have access to the thoughts (not actions) of more than one character? no
- Does the focus go from one character to another character, and then another? no

What point of view is used in this novel?

- a. first person
- b. third person limited
- c. third person omniscient

# The Cay

## Chapter 3

In this chapter, we meet Timothy. Answer the following questions as you think about this new relationship between Phillip and Timothy.

1. How would you describe Phillip's attitude toward Timothy? **He doesn't like him. He has a negative attitude toward him. He looks down on him because he is black.**
2. Who or what has caused Phillip to have this attitude toward Timothy? **His mom**
3. Find one quote from this chapter that supports that Timothy has this attitude.  
*My father had always taught me to address anyone I took to be an adult as "mister," but Timothy didn't seem to be a mister. Besides, he was black. (page 34)*

**Dialect** is a form of language that is spoken by people in a certain place or by a certain group of people. Writers use dialect to make their characters more realistic. **Dialogue** is used when characters are talking to one another.

Read the dialogue in the following chart. Translate Timothy's dialect to standard English. 😊

Timothy's dialect	Translation
"You 'ad a mos' terrible crack on d'ead, bahss. A strong-back glanc' offen your 'ead, an' I harl you board dis raff." (page 31)	"You had a most terrible crack on the head young man. A strong-back glance off of your head, and I hauled you aboard this raft."
"I true believe your mut-thur is safe an' soun' on a raff like dis. Or mebbe dey harl'er into d'boat. I true believe dat." (page 31)	"I truly believe that your mother is safe and sound on a raft like this. Or maybe they hauled her into a boat. I truly believe that."
"Dis is Stew, d'cook's cat. He climb on d'raff, an' I 'ad no heart to trow 'im off." ... "E got oi-ll all ovah hissself from d'wattah." (page 32)	"This is Stew, the cook's cat. He climbed on the raft and I had no heart to throw him off. He got oil all over himself from the water."
"We 'ave rare good luck, young bahss. D'wattah kag did not bus' when d'raff was launch an' we 'ave a few biscuit, some choclade, an' d'matches in d'tin is dry. So we 'ave rare good luck." (page 33)	"We have rare good luck, young man. The water keg did not bust when the raft was launched and we have a few biscuits, some chocolate, and the matches in the tin are dry. So we have rare good luck."
"We can save a few biscuit by eatin' d'feesh. Too, wattah is in d'feesh." (page 37)	"We can save a few biscuits by eating the fish. Also, whatever is in the fish."

After reading this chapter, you should be able to make inferences about Timothy and Phillip. What can you tell about Timothy? **Accept reasonable answers.**

Phillip? **Accept reasonable answers.**

The author most likely made the differences in the dialogue between Phillip and Timothy to \_\_\_\_\_

- a. show how Phillip should be talking.
- b. **allow the reader to understand some of the backgrounds of both Phillip and Timothy.**
- c. allow Timothy to teach the readers how to speak his dialect.
- d. show that Phillip is an honor student.

# The Cay

## Chapters 4 & 5

### Imagery

**Imagery** is language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind. **Imagery** consists of words and phrases that appeal to readers' senses. Writers use sensory details to help readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste. In chapters four and five, Taylor uses a great deal of **imagery**. In chapter five, **Phillip needs Timothy to "see for him"**. **To do this, Timothy must use visual imagery as he describes what he sees to Phillip**. On a separate sheet of paper, draw what Timothy sees in the sea and in the sky that he describes to Phillip at the end of chapter five. Be sure that you focus on the **imagery** in the novel to create your picture. You will need colored pencils or crayons to add color.

Go back to chapter four to examine the imagery that the author uses. Complete the chart below. The first one has been done for you.

Passage ( underline imagery)	To which of the five senses does this imagery appeal? (There may be more than one sense.)
Total <u>darkness blotted out the sea</u> , and it became <u>cold and damp</u> .	sight and feeling/touch
Stew Cat rubbed his back against the bottoms of my feet and then curled up down there. I was glad because he was warm.	feeling/touch
My head was aching violently again. During the day, the pain had been dull, but now it was shooting along both sides of my head.	feeling/touch
He didn't smell like my father or my mother. Father always smelled of bay rum, the shaving lotion he used, and Mother smelled of some kind of perfume or cologne. Timothy smelled different and strong, like the black men who worked on the decks of the tankers when they were loading.	smell
We ate in silence as the light crept steadily over the smooth, oily sea.	sight
I screamed to Timothy, "I'm blind, I'm blind." "What?" His voice was a frightened roar. Then I knew he was bending over me. I felt his breath in my face.	feeling/touch

### Discussion

Is Timothy an optimistic or pessimistic person? Defend your answer by finding a passage that supports your answer.

Optimistic ~ *"Do not be dishearten, young bahss. Today, we will be foun', to be true."* (page 49)

# The Cay

## Chapter 6

**Strong Verbs** are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are said to be stronger than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like fall and another verb with a similar meaning like plunge. Now, compare these two sentences: (1) I watched the rock fall into the water. (2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn *how* the rock fell. The word plunge means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, when I say plunge, I get all the meaning of the verb fall, plus the additional meaning that explains *how* the rock fell as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

**Read the following passages. Underline each strong verb, and then complete the chart. There may be more than one strong verb per sentence.**

A. *Something slapped up against my leg, and I thought it was Timothy.*

B. *... "Sharks," and he was thrashing about near me.*

C. *He grabbed my hair with one hand and used his other arm to drag me back toward the raft.*

D. *"Shark all 'round us, all d'time," he roared.*

Strong Verb Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
A      slapped	The verb slapped implies that it was not a pleasant feeling and that it was something forceful.
B      thrashing	The verb thrashing shows that he was panicking. It adds to the anxious tone.
C      grabbed	This verb shows force. He was not worried about anything but getting Phillip out of harm's way.
D      roared	This verb also contributes to the serious and anxious tone. If you roar something, you are either frightened and panicked or really mean business.

**Timothy is ready to be on the island, but Phillip thinks they would be better off on the raft. Which do you think will be better – the raft or the island? Explain your answer.**

**Accept reasonable answers.**

# The Cay

## Test Chapters 1-6

1. From what point of view is this story told?
  - a. **first person – from Phillip’s point of view**
  - b. first person – from Timothy’s point of view
  - c. second person
  - d. third person limited to Phillip
2. Which of the following best describes the way Phillip felt about leaving his home in Willemstad on the island of Curacao?
  - a. He couldn’t wait to leave.
  - b. He was afraid to leave.
  - c. **He was upset and angry about leaving.**
  - d. He was nervous about leaving.
3. Why is it significant and ironic (strange) that before leaving, Phillip’s father says to him, “Well, you can rest easy, Phillip. The Germans would never waste a torpedo on this old tub.”
  - a. because the Germans were not their enemy
  - b. **because the ship was actually hit by a torpedo later**
  - c. because Phillip’s father knew that his son would not really be on that ship
  - d. because Henrik had said the exact same thing to Phillip
4. How does Phillip first meet Timothy?
  - a. Timothy helps Phillip safely into a life boat.
  - b. **Phillip awakes after four hours to Timothy who is on a raft near him.**
  - c. Phillip swims to a small island where he meets Timothy, who has lived there for years.
  - d. Timothy rescues Phillip from the sea in his huge ship.
5. How did Phillip first describe Timothy?
  - a. **He thought he was ugly.**
  - b. He thought he was wealthy.
  - c. He thought he was very strong
  - d. He thought he looked young for his age.
6. Which of the following is an example of dialect?
  - a. **“Young bahss, how are you feelin’?”**
  - b. “Where are we? Where is my mother?”
  - c. “What is your name?”
  - d. None of these
7. Who else is with Phillip and Timothy on the raft?
  - a. a small dog named Tito
  - b. **a cat named Stew**
  - c. Timothy’s young child
  - d. Phillip’s mother
8. Which of the following issues is Phillip dealing with at this point in the book?
  - a. fear
  - b. racism
  - c. distrust
  - d. **all of these**

*Total darkness blotted out the sea, and it became cold and damp. Timothy took the shelter down, and we both pulled our shirts and pants back on. They were stiff from salt and felt clammy.*

9. The imagery in this passage appeals to our sense of \_\_\_\_\_.
- sight
  - touch**
  - smell
  - taste
10. In this passage, the underlined word clammy means \_\_\_\_\_.
- moist**
  - shaky
  - smooth
  - dry
11. Who does Phillip blame for being stuck on the raft with Timothy?
- himself
  - his father
  - his mother**
  - his best friend
12. What tragedy happens to Phillip?
- He loses his ability to use his right hand.
  - He forgets everything from his past.
  - He is unable to steer the raft.
  - He goes blind.**
13. What does Timothy do in order to try to get attention from the air craft?
- He stands and waves his arms in the air.
  - He blows a very loud horn that he made by hand.
  - He makes a torch to send up a signal of smoke.**
  - He lets up a red flag on the raft.
14. What does Timothy believe is causing bad luck?
- the raft
  - the cat**
  - the parrot
  - the sharks
- His eyes were becoming mine.*
15. What does Phillip mean by this sentence?
- Timothy is seeing for Phillip because he is explaining the things around them.**
  - Timothy is allowing Phillip to have his eyes when he is dead.
  - Timothy sees things in the exact same way that Phillip sees them.
  - Phillip wishes his eyes were as strong as Timothy's.

# The Cay

## Chapter 7

Find a sentence from this chapter that explains what a cay is.

*Timothy said, "Lissen, I know dat many banks an' cays are roun' fifteen north an eighty long.*

There are two types of conflict: internal and external.

**An internal conflict** takes place within a character's mind. It is a conflict that a character has within him/herself.

- man vs. himself (character vs. him/herself)

**An external conflict** is a conflict that a character has with someone or something else.

- man vs. man (character vs. character)
- man vs. nature (character vs. nature)
- man vs. society (character vs. society)

Timothy and Phillip have had several conflicts so far throughout the novel. Use the chart below to analyze the type of conflicts.

Page #	Summary of Conflict	Type of Conflict
60	Phillip struggles with fear when... <i>Timothy leaves him alone.</i>	Internal Man vs. himself
61	Timothy and Phillip are worried that their island may be  <i>Surrounded by great banks of coral that will make navigation dangerous</i>	Internal (worry) External (man vs. nature)

### Discussion

1. What do these conflicts add to the plot of the story? *These conflicts add suspense because the reader is not sure what is going to happen. Readers most likely debate the best scenario too.*

2. *Again he did not answer directly. I was beginning to learn that he had a way of being honest while still being dishonest. What does Phillip mean by this statement?*  
*Phillip is realizing that Timothy does not come out and tell him the whole truth because he doesn't want Phillip to worry or be upset. He knows that there are things that Timothy is keeping from him.*

3. Write a title for this chapter below, and explain why this would make a good title. Be thoughtful in your choice. *Accept reasonable answers.*



# The Cay

## Chapter 8

***My mother was right, I thought. They had their place and we had ours. He did not really like me, or he would have taken me along. He was different.***

Answer the following questions based on this passage from chapter eight.

What makes Phillip think this?

He is angry at Timothy for leaving him alone.

What does Phillip mean by *they had their place and we had ours*?

This was sometimes said of the whites and blacks – whites had their place in the world and blacks had theirs – not equal.

What is Phillip referring to when he says *he was different*?

His race

Phillip has a lot to be afraid of on this island. In the following chart, list some of the things that Phillip fears. Then, see if you can write down the unspoken fear that Phillip has referring to Timothy. Find a passage to support this unspoken fear.

Fears	Unspoken fear
snakes scorpions not being rescued	Timothy is old and may die. <i>He sighed deeply, "More dan seventy. Eben more dan seventy..."</i> <i>He was very old. Old enough to die there.( page 66)</i>

What makes Phillip feel superior to Timothy?

Phillip feels superior because he knows how to spell, and Timothy does not know how to spell.

# The Cay

## Chapter 9

### Figurative Language

Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader.

**Simile** – a comparison of two things using the words *like* or *as*

**Metaphor** – calls one thing another

**Personification**- gives a nonhuman object human traits

**Hyperbole** – an extreme exaggeration

**Idiom** – a commonly used expression that means something totally different than what it says

Complete the following chart to examine the figurative language in these chapters.

Passage	Type of figurative language	What is being compared
<i>On the north end of the island, tough vines, almost as large as a pencil, were laced over the sand.</i> (page 69)	simile	Vines – size of a pencil
<i>He really was a black mule.</i> (page 71)	metaphor	Timothy and a mule

**Figurative language is used to help the reader visualize.**

In the first example of figurative language, the reader is able to visualize the size of the vines by thinking about a pencil.

**Figurative language is also used to help the reader understand something or make an interesting comparison.**

What is the purpose of the second example of figurative language in the chart? What is Phillip trying to say about Timothy? He is stubborn.

### Discussion

In this chapter, Phillip begins to change.

*Something happened to me that day on the cay. I'm not quite sure what it was even now, but I had begun to change.* (page 72)

What do you think caused this change in Phillip? Explain your answer.

Accept reasonable answers. Students may mention Timothy hitting Phillip.

# The Cay

## Chapter 10

**A theme is a story's central message; it is a lesson that you learn about life.**

Some things to remember about theme are:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

**In this chapter, one of the themes of the novel is stated. One of the characters speaks it. Find this theme, and then explain how this theme is true for the characters in this novel and how it is true in life in general.**

Stated Theme Page # \_\_\_\_\_ 75

Write the stated theme below.

*...I true don' know, Phill-eep, but I true tink beneath d'skin is all d'same.*

How is this theme true for the main characters in this novel?

*Beneath the color of their skin, Phillip and Timothy are the same in that they both have feelings, they both have struggles, they both are human beings who love and hope and feel. And in this case, they are both stranded on this island and are in need of being rescued.*

How is this theme true for life in general?

*Race is only color. We all bleed red. Inside, we are all the same. It shouldn't matter what color you are.*

### **Draw conclusions**

Why do you think that Timothy always changes the subject when they begin to talk about Phillip's eyes?

He doesn't want to upset Phillip. By avoiding the topic, he may keep hope alive that Phillip may regain his site.

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## Chapter 11

Based on what you have read in this chapter, which of the following is the best definition for jumbi?

- a. **bad luck or an evil spirit**
- b. a fortune teller
- c. a dangerous forecast for weather
- d. a serious prediction

Phillip realizes he has stepped on a skate. The skate is kin to the deadly sea ray.

What does Phillip think that Timothy has done with Stew Cat? **killed it**

How does Timothy try to get rid of the jumbi? **He carves a wooden cat and puts it on the roof.**

Where had Stew Cat been? **On the raft**

*But it didn't change. It got worse.*

Predict how things will get worse for Phillip and Timothy. What do you think will happen?

**Accept reasonable predictions.**

# The Cay

## Chapter 12

What caused Timothy to run into the water? **The malaria – the high fever**

List some of the symptoms that Timothy had with Malaria.

**shivering, teeth clattering, mumbling, laughing, wheezing, trouble sleeping**

List some words to describe the way Phillip must have felt while Timothy was sick.

**scared, lonely, terrified, nervous, anxious, helpless, desperate**

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## Test 2 Chapters 7-12

1. Which word best describes the way that Timothy felt when they first arrived at the island?
  - a. afraid of what may be hiding on the island
  - b. excited and relieved to be on the island
  - c. **eager to leave the island the next day**
  - d. confused because he did not know where the island was in the Caribbean
2. What were the Langosta?
  - a. the tribe of people that live on the island
  - b. **the native lobster**
  - c. sea otters that live on the island
  - d. the name of the trees on the island
3. Timothy fears that the island they are on may be surrounded by banks of coral that would make navigation dangerous. What type of conflict do the characters face when dealing with the dangers around the island?
  - a. man vs. man – external conflict
  - b. **man vs. nature – external conflict**
  - c. man vs. himself – internal conflict
  - d. man vs. society – external conflict

*During the afternoon, Timothy was busy and we did not talk much. He was making a hut of dried palm fronds.*

4. Using context clues, what are fronds?
  - a. frog skins
  - b. **leaves**
  - c. fish
  - d. mud

*My mother was right, I thought. They had their place and we had ours. He did not really like me, or he would have taken me along. He was different.*

5. What causes Phillip to think of Timothy in this way?
  - a. his prejudices
  - b. what he has been told by his mother
  - c. what he has learned in school
  - d. **both a and b**
6. What does Phillip have to help Timothy do with the rocks?
  - a. make a shelter for the food
  - b. **write the word *help* in the sand**
  - c. create a trail from the water to their shelter
  - d. make a place to build a fire
7. Because Timothy needed this help with the rocks, Phillip feels \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. angry toward Timothy
  - b. confident in Timothy
  - c. equal with Timothy
  - d. **superior to Timothy**

*On the north end of the island, tough vines, almost as large as a pencil, were laced over the sand.*

8. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
  - a. idiom
  - b. metaphor
  - c. hyperbole
  - d. simile
9. What did Timothy make to help Phillip safely get to the beach by himself?
  - a. a rope
  - b. a sled
  - c. a wagon
  - d. a trail of rocks
10. Which of the following passages is a stated theme from this novel?
  - a. *He'd never gone to school and was working on a fishing boat by the time he was ten.*
  - b. *I true don' know, Phill-eep, but I true tink beneath d'skin is all d'same.*
  - c. *"Phill-eep, I do believ you b'getting' outrageous strong 'ere on d'islan."*
  - d. *I noticed more and more that Timothy always changed the subject when we began to talk about my eyes.*
11. Which of the following is true?
  - a. Timothy wants to make sure that Phillip can be independent.
  - b. Timothy does everything for Phillip and requires that Phillip do nothing.
  - c. Phillip can see the stars at night if he squints hard enough.
  - d. Phillip has met an old man who lives in a cave on the island.
12. What does Timothy believe is causing them to have bad luck?
  - a. the raft
  - b. the rain
  - c. Stew Cat
  - d. the cay
13. What sickness does Timothy get in chapter twelve?
  - a. The flu
  - b. Malaria
  - c. Chicken pox
  - d. Polio
14. Which of the following is not true of Timothy?
  - a. He thinks of Phillip as a friend.
  - b. He is selfish when it comes to the food supply.
  - c. He knows how to live off of the land and survive on the island.
  - d. He is superstitious.
15. How has Phillip changed?
  - a. He has grown at least two inches since they arrived on the island.
  - b. He is becoming more and more like his mother.
  - c. He is beginning to see Timothy as a friend.
  - d. He is more and more stubborn as the days go by.

# The Cay

## Chapter 13

*The bark was rough against my hands and feet, but what I felt most was Timothy's disappointment. (page 99)*

What does this passage tell the reader about how Phillip feels about Timothy? Phillip wants to please Timothy and cares about what he thinks of him. He doesn't want to disappoint him.

*"You see, Phill-eep, you do not need d'eye now. You 'ave done widout d'eye what I couldn't do wid my whole body."*

Explain what Timothy means.

He means that it's ok that Phillip cannot see because he could climb that tree without sight. Timothy could not climb it with his sight and all other senses and his whole body.

*I asked, "Timothy, are you still black?"*

*His laughter filled the hut.*

Why do you think Phillip asks Timothy if he is still black?

Phillip "sees" Timothy as a different person now. He sees him for the kind of person he is on the inside. He is most likely being humorous when he asks Timothy this question. He probably wants Timothy to know that he now thinks of him as a friend.



# The Cay

## Chapter 14

**Foreshadowing** occurs when the author gives the reader a hint of something that is going to happen before it actually happens.

Foreshadowing can have two purposes.

- It builds suspense by raising questions within the reader’s mind and causes him/her to wonder what is going to happen.
- Foreshadowing can also make a story more believable by preparing the reader for events to come.

In chapter fourteen, Timothy is aware that a storm is coming and is making preparations for that storm. There is some foreshadowing early in the chapter that lets us know something is happening before even Timothy knows. Complete the following chart to analyze this literary technique.

Page #	Foreshadowing	Why this is a hint of what is to come?	Does the foreshadowing build suspense or prepare the reader for what is to come? Just write the word <i>prepare</i> or <i>build</i> below.
101	<i>And for once, the trade wind was not blowing. Nothing on the cay seemed to be moving.</i>	<b>Things seem different. Something is going to happen.</b>	<b>prepare</b>
101-102	<i>...Everything about it felt different, but that didn’t really make sense since it was only about a mile from south beach.</i>	<b>Something is not right.</b>	<b>prepare</b>
103	<i>During the afternoon, he told me this was a freak storm, because most did not come until September or October. August, sometimes. Seldom in July. “But dis year, d’sea be angry wid all d’ddeath upon it. D’wahr.”</i>	<b>This storm is going to be bad – it’s an unusual one.</b>	<b>build</b>

**Tone** is the attitude that a writer takes toward the audience, a subject, or a character. Tone is conveyed through the writer’s choice of words and details.

Let’s take a look at tone in this chapter, and analyze how the author creates the different tones. What is the overall tone of this chapter?

- a. **anxious, fearful**
- b. placid, reflective
- c. angry, upset
- d. serious, formal

Look back through this chapter and list words and phrases in the following box that verify this tone.

**Sample answers:** “Dat b’trouble.” ...worry in his voice He said anxiously, “D’waves do it.”

# The Cay

## Chapter 15

In this chapter, as the storm rages, the author includes a lot of imagery. One way to create imagery is through figurative language.

Define the following types of figurative language.

**Simile** Compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

**Personification** Giving non-humans human traits

Complete the following chart. The first one has been completed for you.

Passage	Simile or Personification?	What does this mean?
<i>When it gusted, the rain hit the hut like handfulls of gravel. (page 107)</i>	simile	The rain was hitting hard and sounded loud.
<i>The rain was hitting my back like thousands of hard berries blown from air guns. (page 108)</i>	simile	The rain was hitting him with force.
<i>We stayed flat on the ground for almost two hours, taking the storm's punishment... (page 108)</i>	personification	The storm seemed angry like it was punishing them.
<i>The sea was beginning to reach for our hilltop, climbing the forty feet with raging whitecaps. (page 108)</i>	personification	The water was taking over the land – even the high land.
<i>...I could feel the rain, which was now jabbing into me like the punches of a nail. (page 109)</i>	simile	The rain was hurting him.
<i>The rain had stopped and the wind had died down to its usual whisper. (page 112)</i>	personification	The rain was calming down – not raining as hard.

### Predict

What do you think will happen to Timothy now? With what will he most likely struggle with in the coming days? Accept reasonable predictions.

*The Cay*  
**Chapter 16**  
**Legacy and Eulogy**

Use a dictionary to look up the definition of the word legacy. Write the definition in the box below.

Something handed down from one generation to another.

When Phillip finds the fishing poles that Timothy left him he narrates, “They were one more part of the legacy Timothy had left me. In the following box, name some of the other parts of the legacy that Timothy left for Phillip.

Sample answers  
how to survive  
how to catch food how to make shelter  
how to believe in himself  
how to be optimistic

**A eulogy** is a short speech written to be delivered at a funeral. Its purpose is to pay tribute to the deceased. It is acceptable to introduce humor at some point in the eulogy if it fits with the departed person’s personality.

Phillip didn’t have much to say when Timothy died. He simply said, “Thank you, Timothy.” Pretend that you are Phillip. Write a eulogy for your friend, Timothy. At the end of the eulogy, add Phillip’s line: “Thank you, Timothy.”

For your eulogy, you must include the following:

- Name of the deceased
- Hobbies, interests, or strengths that Timothy had
- A short memory that you have of Timothy
- Overall attitude of Timothy
- What Timothy believed in
- Something Timothy lived by – a quote
- You may also add a short poem about Timothy.

Write your eulogy on a separate sheet of paper. Check over it for mistakes in spelling and grammar.

# The Cay

## Chapter 17

### Suspense, Foreshadowing, and Excitement!

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. What if the action in this chapter were written like the following?

*I went down to the reef and found my way to the fishing hole. I dove down to the bottom, and something grabbed my hand. It wouldn't let go. It let loose as I came up, but my hand was bleeding.*

Now, if this part of the book were written like the sentences above, it would be lacking suspense – that element that creates a drive and a hunger for the reader to keep reading to see what will happen. In order to create suspense, the action has to be put in slow motion.

Complete the following chart to figure out what the author, Theodore Taylor, did to create suspense. The first one has been done for you.

Actions before...	How this adds suspense
<i>Ten Pebbles had gone into my "time" can when I decided to do something Timothy had told me never to do.</i>	This very first sentence in this chapter uses foreshadowing to create suspense. Since the reader knows that it is something Timothy wouldn't want Phillip to do, we wonder what will go wrong.
...I told Stew cat, "If I'm not out in twenty minutes, you better jump in and get me."	This humorous statement to the cat adds suspense because it makes us wonder if something is going to happen where he doesn't come out of the hole.
I was happy with the lobster that was now on the reef, but it was quite small, barely a meal for Stew Cat and myself.	From prior knowledge, the reader knows that usually, if a character is putting himself in danger after he has gotten what he came for, something is likely going to happen.
I dived again, and this time found what seemed to be an opening into a deep hole...There has to be a big lobster in there, I thought.	Deep hole seems dangerous which heightens the suspense
The pain was severe. Whatever had my wrist had the strength of Timothy's arms....(the rest of this paragraph too)	The struggle described here is the highest point of suspense. The reader is desperate to find out if Phillip will be okay.

# The Cay

## Chapter 18

**Onomatopoeia is the use of words whose sound suggests their meaning (bam, boom, pop, crash).**

Onomatopoeia can make writing come to life and add imagery. There are several examples of onomatopoeia in this chapter.

First, in the box below, list as many onomatopoeia words as you can think of.

Some samples: bam pop crash crackle boom

Phillip's sense of hearing has become keener. Onomatopoeia is appropriate in this chapter as the author helps us to hear some of the sounds that Phillip hears. Complete the following chart to take a look at the onomatopoeia used in chapter eighteen of *The Cay*. The page numbers have been provided. Go back to each page listed and see if you can find the onomatopoeia word.

Page #	Onomatopoeia Word
124	bleat
125 (3 on this page)	crackle, drone, sizzle
126 (3 on this page)	crackling, roar, sloshing
127	purring
128 (2 on this page)	popping, growl

### Respond to this chapter

What is the tone at the end of this chapter? How does Philip feel?

There is a hopeless tone. Phillip feels defeated and helpless. He feels like giving up.

*The Cay*  
*Final Test*

1. Which of the following best describes Phillip's attitude toward Timothy at the end of the novel?
  - a. critical and angry
  - b. obedient and submissive
  - c. admiring and loving
  - d. disrespectful yet understanding
2. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
  - a. factual and formal
  - b. profound and serious
  - c. lighthearted and humorous
  - d. adventurous and touching
3. Which of the following would not be a theme for this novel?
  - a. To be a survivor, you can never give up.
  - b. It's not how a person looks, but what's on the inside that counts.
  - c. The early bird always gets the worm.
  - d. We can overcome hardships and struggles if we try.

*The sea, he told me, was smooth as green jelly.*

4. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
  - a. simile
  - b. metaphor
  - c. personification
  - d. idiom

*Everyday, I learned of something new that Timothy had done so we could survive.*

5. In this passage, which of the following best describes the way Philip most likely feels toward Timothy?
  - a. jealousy
  - b. appreciation
  - c. joy
  - d. confusion
6. The point of view used in this novel allows the reader to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. really see the thoughts and feelings of Phillip because he is telling the story
  - b. really see the thoughts and feelings of Timothy because he is telling the story
  - c. know the thoughts and feelings of all the characters because an omniscient point of view is used
  - d. understand the parts of plot completely

7. An oxymoron is a type of figurative language in which two opposite words are put together for effect. An example is jumbo shrimp. Which of the following sentences from the novel contains another example of an oxymoron?
- Suddenly, a deafening roar swept overhead.*
  - The plane made another tight circle.*
  - A familiar silence settled over the cay.*
  - All the strength went out of my body.*
8. At the end of the story, we find that one day Phillip hopes to \_\_\_\_\_.
- find another cat just like Stew Cat
  - learn how to fly a plane so he can look for others who are stranded
  - find and visit the little island where Timothy is buried*
  - write a book about how to survive on an island
9. Which of the following is NOT a conflict that Phillip faces while on the island?
- He must fight off wild dogs.*
  - He must survive a hurricane.
  - He must learn to overcome his own fear.
  - He must learn to find and catch his own food.
10. Philip's mother believes that black people \_\_\_\_\_.
- are different and live differently
  - are not as good as white people
  - have their place and white people have their place
  - all of the above*

*After I'd been officially reported lost at sea, she'd gone back to Curacao to be with my father. She had changed in many ways.*

11. In this passage, we see that Phillip's mother has changed, just as Phillip has changed. When a character changes throughout a book, this character is a \_\_\_\_\_ character.
- round
  - flat
  - static
  - dynamic*
12. Which of the following sentences from the book does NOT contain figurative language?
- Its engine was screaming.*
  - The rain was hitting my back like thousands of hard berries blown from air guns.*
  - The sea was beginning to reach for our hilltop, climbing the forty feet with raging whitecaps.*
  - He'd never gone to school and was working on a fishing boat by the time he was ten.*

*In my world of darkness, I had learned that holding a hand could be like medicine.*

13. What does this passage mean?
- a. Phillip is sick and by holding Timothy's hand, he will be healed.
  - b. Though Phillip is blind, having Timothy as a friend comforts him and helps him.**
  - c. Holding hands unites people.
  - d. The palm of the hand gives off heat that can heal.

*Forgetting for a moment, I yelled, "Timothy, they've come."*

14. This passage shows Phillip's initial response when he sees the plane. It supports the fact that Phillip still \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. believes that Timothy can see and hear him
  - b. cannot tell the difference between fantasy and reality
  - c. know how to survive on an island
  - d. thinks of Timothy and all they did together to survive**
15. What did Phillip do after he realized that the people in the plane most likely did not see the smoke?
- a. He burned sea grapes to produce a black smoke.**
  - b. He burned grass to produce a bigger cloud of smoke.
  - c. He gave up trying to use a signal fire and made a whistle instead.
  - d. He caught himself on fire so that he could be seen.
16. Which of the following is true?
- a. Stew Cat dies in the hurricane.
  - b. Stew Cat is killed by Timothy.
  - c. Stew Cat loses one of his legs in the hurricane.
  - d. None of the above**
17. Which of the following is the biggest problem that the characters face in this novel?
- a. lack of water
  - b. fear of sharks
  - c. bad weather
  - d. overall survival on the cay**
18. Which of the following events is most likely the climax of this novel?
- a. Phillip loses his eyesight.
  - b. Stew Cat is blamed for the bad luck.
  - c. The hurricane hits the island.**
  - d. Phillip is rescued from the island.
19. This story is told in the first person point of view because \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. one of the characters is telling the story**
  - b. an unseen narrator is telling the story
20. This novel is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. fiction**
  - b. nonfiction



## Who's Who When it comes to Characters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Four common types of characters in a work of fiction are as follows:

- **The Protagonist** – This person is the principal driver of the effort to achieve the story's goal.
- **The Antagonist** – Usually, this is the “bad guy” or the villain who is opposed to the Protagonist's end goal. This person represents the drive to undermine success.
- **The Hero** – This is who the reader cheers for to see if they will win in the end. Sometimes, the hero and the protagonist is the same person, but sometimes they are two different people.
- **The Obstacle Character** – This character blocks or stands in the way of the protagonist, but is not necessarily the antagonist.

After reading about the different kinds of characters, think about the characters in *The Cay*. Can you match one of the characters from the novel with each of the types listed above? Explain your answers.

Who is the protagonist? Why? **Phillip. He is the main character because he is the narrator and the story is his own.**

Who is the antagonist?(The antagonist may be a force – like something in nature) **the hurricane, nature - survival**

Who is the hero? Why? **Timothy may be considered the hero because without him, Phillip would not have survived.**

Who is the obstacle character? Why? **There is no obstacle character, but nature may be considered the obstacle in this book.**

## Static or Dynamic? Round or Flat?

Which characters are dynamic in this novel? **Phillip**

Which characters are static? **Timothy**

List two round characters. List two flat characters. **Round – Phillip, Timothy  
Flat – Phillip's mother, Phillip's father**

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