

# **Teaching Unit for The Man Who Loved Clowns**

**June Rae Wood**



**ELA Core Plans**  
Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

June Rae Wood

## Teaching Unit

By Tammy D. Lewis and Shannon B. Temple  
ELA Core Plans

[www.elacoreplans.com](http://www.elacoreplans.com)



**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY**  
(Except for your own classroom)



**DO NOT POST ONLINE.**

Copyright © 2006 S&T Publications

Limited reproduction permission: For each textbook purchased, S&T Publications grants permission for only one teacher to make as many copies as needed for his or her classes. Reproduction by/for other teachers, classes, or for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Order number LS0706

# Table of Contents

**Chapters 1-2: Author's craft (lead, imagery, symbolism)**

**Chapters 3-4: Understanding Idioms & Making Inferences/Drawing Conclusions**

**Chapter 5: Reader's Theater**

**Comprehension Quiz Chapters 1-5**

**Chapter 7 Active Reading Guide**

**Chapters 6-7: Word Choice, Dialect, and Tone**

**Writing Opportunity: Extended Metaphor Poem**

**Chapter 8: Conflict**

**Study Guide Chapters 1-8**

**Test Chapters 1-8**

**Chapters 9-10: Foreshadowing & Point of View**

**Chapters 11-12: Mood and Metaphors**

**Writing Opportunity: Extended Metaphor Poem**

**Chapter 13: Figurative Language & Conflict**

**Chapter 14: Compare/Contrast, Symbolism & Turning Point**

**Chapter 15: Taking a Closer Look**

**Study Guide for Test 2**

**Test Chapters 9-16**

**Chapter 17: Indirect Characterization**

**Chapter 18: Readers' Theater**

**Chapters 18-19: Change**

**Chapters 21-21: Motivation, Figurative Language, Discussion**

**After Chapter 24: Theme**

**Character Analysis**

**Writing an Epitaph**

**Final Project**

**Unit Test**

**Answer Keys**

***The Man Who Loved Clowns***  
Chapters 1-2  
**Author's Craft (lead, imagery, symbolism)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

An author's craft - the specific techniques that an author chooses to relay an intended message. These techniques can include (but are not limited to) tone, flashback, imagery, irony, word choice, and dialogue.

**In chapters one and two, we will examine the author's craft of using a lead or "grabber", symbolism, flashback, and vivid descriptions.**

**Lead/Grabber**

Reread the first paragraph of the novel.

*"Delrita! Delrita Jensen! Wait up!"*

*I clutched my books to my chest and plowed on through the sea of sweaty bodies in the junior high hallway. Without looking back, I knew it was that new girl yelling at me. Because she and I had to share a math book, she was the only person in this whole school who didn't consider me invisible. All I wanted was for her to leave me alone.*

1. What type of grabber/lead does the author choose to use? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is this grabber effective? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what questions arise in your mind after reading it?

---

---

---

---

## Descriptions and Imagery:

**Imagery – Language that creates a sensory impression within the reader’s mind.**

The author weaves in a description of Delrita in this first chapter. What phrases are used to describe her? \_\_\_\_\_

---

- Throughout this chapter, the author uses imagery to help the readers feel like they are there. Read the following two passages and underline the smells that the author refers to.  
*Without answering, I walked through the doorway onto the sidewalk, away from the noise and the smell of books and chalk dust. Across the street, a man was mowing a ditch, and I caught a faint whiff of dust and dried weeds.*
- Underline the imagery that is included when there is a description of the busses.  
*Almost in unison, the bus drivers started grinding gears and revving up their engines. The exhaust fumes burned my eyes and throat.*

### Discuss:

Why should authors use imagery?

## Chapter 2

**Symbolism – The author’s use of an object, person, place, or event that has both a meaning in itself and stands for something larger than itself.**

Read the following passage from chapter two.

*To chase away my fears, I’d think about the tree I’d once seen growing from a rock. Maybe I’d be like that tree, which stood proud and willowy after fighting its way to the sun, while the rock was cracked with a deep, jagged scar all the way to the ground.*

What does the tree symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the rock symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_

The author chooses to use this symbolism to help the reader learn about Delrita. Which is she more like at this point in the book, the rock or the tree? \_\_\_\_\_

**Flashback – The technique of disrupting the flow of a narrative by having a character remember past events.**

Where is the flashback in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

### Discuss

Why do authors use flashbacks?

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

Chapters 3-4

## Understanding Idioms & Making Inferences/Drawing Conclusions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Idiom**- Words used in a special way that may be different from their literal meaning (e.g., *It's raining cats and dogs.*)

Underline the idioms in the following sentences from chapters three and four. Then, tell what each idiom means.

1. *If she passed the word during fourth hour Monday, Avanelle would be out of my hair.*

Meaning \_\_\_\_\_

2. *With a clean red T-shirt and a freshly scrubbed face, Punky made a beeline for Aunt Queenie.*

Meaning \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Wouldn't she hit the ceiling if she knew that as soon as Punky cleaned the meat off a horn, he'd fling the bone behind the TV?*

Meaning \_\_\_\_\_

4. *She probably thought I was like the other kids, who hadn't exactly beaten a path to her locker when she enrolled in school this morning.*

Meaning \_\_\_\_\_

**Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions** Whenever we read something, we are constantly making inferences and drawing conclusions. We do this based on what we already know from our prior knowledge or what we learn from the text.

Read the following passages from chapters three and four. Then, answer the questions.

*"Hi, hon. How was school today?" she asked...*

*"Nothing to shout about. I got a B on my book report, and Mr. Casey thinks I have artistic promise."*

*"Promise? That's an understatement if I ever heard one."*

- What does Delrita's mom mean when she says, *"That's an understatement if I ever heard one."*?  
What can you conclude about Delrita's artistic ability?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Punky loved commercials, and he was always flipping the channels back and forth, watching for his favorites. Our cupboards overflowed with boxes of detergents that danced, toilet paper that unrolled itself, and several kinds of cat food, even though we'd never owned a cat.*

- Why are their cupboards full of all of these products?
- 
- 

*“But he’s never even been to school,” argued Aunt Queenie...*

*Uncle Bert looked uncomfortable. He wiped his face with his napkin and said uneasily, “Queenie, we’ve been through all this before...”*

*“Before Mama died, I gave her my word that I’d keep him with me always, and that’s what I’m doing. I know you’ve helped some with the handicapped, but you haven’t lived it. Mama and I have, and Bert. Ask him what it’s like to see people poking fun and making mean comments about someone you love.”*

*Uncle Bert, who’d been taking a drink of iced tea, started choking. I wondered if it was on purpose.*

- What can the reader conclude about Bert from these two passages?
  - a. He loves his wife and will always defend her point of view on things.
  - b. He is intimidated by his wife and a little afraid to express his own opinions.
  - c. He thinks his wife is right all of the time.
  - d. He enjoys arguing with his wife and likes to pick fights with her.

*Punky looked startled at the magnified sound. He grabbed the mike from Dad, crammed it back into the box, and shoved it at Uncle Bert. “You have it,” he said.*

- Why does Punky give back the microphone?
- 

*When I leaned over and saw a kid’s program featuring Jellybean the Clown, I knew Punky wouldn’t touch the dial again until the show was over.*

*Around midnight, when I heard the first TV station signing off the air, I brushed the wood shavings off my lap and got up.*

- These two passages help the reader to infer about the setting. We are given hints in these passages about when (around what year it is) the action in this book takes place. Underline the hints. Can you find them? When do you think this book takes place?
-

# For Teachers

## Readers' Theater

### Chapter 5

Students build fluency through reading out loud, and at the middle school level, what better way to allow this than with readers' theater! On the following pages, you will find two excerpts from chapter five of *The Man Who Loved Clowns*. These scripts can be used with a whole class or in small groups.

The first script covers action from pages 38-40. You may want to read this part of the chapter orally to your students. If you want to get their attention, read it with a monotone voice until they stop you. Tell them that when reading aloud, you should always read with expression. Next, read the section with expression, changing your voice to match each character. Pass out the first script (pages 38-40). It is a good idea to have them read this first script by simply going around the room. This way, particular parts are not assigned. Whoever is in desk one reads the first line, the student in desk two reads the second line, and so on until all parts are read.

Before starting, allow the students to find the part that they will read and read it to themselves silently. Tell them that there are a few hard words and that they should raise their hands if they need help pronouncing one before you begin. That way, you can discreetly go to a child's desk to help him/her with the word. Also, this makes all students feel comfortable with reading out loud.

After reading this short script, either have the students read pages 40-42 silently or read it to them. Then, the next section of reader's theater begins on page 42. For this section, you could divide your class into groups. There are five speaking parts, so groups of four or five would be ideal. If you have to put four in a group, just have one person read both narrator one and two.

After assigning parts in each group, allow some quiet time before beginning so that students can read over their parts and ask for help with words they may not know how to pronounce. Encourage them to read with expression! Have the groups read through the script. If a group finishes early, have them read it again. Once each group has read through the script once, stop the class. If you want, you could randomly pick one group to perform for the class.

You will need to finish reading the chapter either with the students or have **them read it silently**.

Most students greatly enjoy readers' theater. The key is making sure they feel comfortable with the part that they will be reading. If you have struggling readers, you may want to give them the script the day before the reading and let them practice reading it at home. Have fun!



**Chapter 5 Reader's Theater**  
**Pages 38-40 *The Man Who Loved Clowns***

**Mom:** Delrita, I need to talk to you.

**Delrita:** Mmmmmmmngghh

**Mom:** Come on, get up sleepyhead.

**Narrator:** Delrita rolled out from under the covers and sat like a zombie on the edge of her bed.

**Delrita:** Will you carry my eyes downstairs? I can't see the steps in the morning.

**Mom:** (laughing) That is the same silly question you asked me when you were four years old and we lived in Grandma's old farmhouse. Come on, and I'll fix you a cup of hot chocolate.

**Narrator:** In the kitchen, Dad was seated at the table. He was dressed for an auction, in khaki pants and a pullover shirt with a notepad sticking out of the pocket.

**Dad:** Good morning, squirt

**Delrita:** Hi, What's up?

**Dad:** Your mother wants to go to an estate auction with me today, if you think you and Punky will be okay here by yourselves.

**Delrita:** Sure

**Mom:** They've advertised a roll-top desk that I'd like to look at.

**Dad:** Are you sure you and Punky will be alright? The sale is way down at Versailles, and we wouldn't be within hollering distance if you had any trouble.

**Narrator:** By "trouble," Dad meant the possibility that Punky would have another spell with his heart. None of us liked to talk about it, but it was always there – the worry that Punky might die.

**Dad:** There won't be any trouble. Punky hasn't been sick for almost a year. Besides, Delrita knows how to use the nitroglycerin pills, and the numbers of the doctor, the hospital, and the ambulance are right there by the phone.

**Delrita:** Yeah, Mom, I know I'm supposed to put the pills under Punky's tongue. And I can call for help if I need it.

**Mom:** All right. I really would like to get out of the house for a while...Sam, should we tell her about next weekend or save it as a surprise?

**Delrita:** Tell me! Don't save it.

**Dad:** There's a big estate auction, and there'll be buyers from all over Missouri.

**Delrita:** But what's the surprise?

**Dad:** It's at Branson.

**Delrita:** (excited) Branson? Does that mean we're going to Silver Dollar City?

**Dad:** If you and Punky can stand to look at old furniture with Shirley and me, I reckon we can put up with a pioneer town full of hillbillies and old fashioned rides.

**Chapter 5 Reader's Theater**  
**Pages 42 -45 *The Man Who Loved Clowns***

**Narrator 1:** An hour or so later, Punky came into the living room, wearing his “Surf Bum” T-shirt and clean red jogging pants. His eyes were still puffy from sleep and he needed a shave.

**Punky:** Mornin’, pretty girl.

**Narrator 2:** Delrita grinned. She thought Punky was the only person in the world who would think she was pretty.

**Delrita:** Hi, hungry for breakfast?

**Punky:** I’m starved

**Delrita:** Is cereal okay?

**Punky:** Nope. Bacon, two eggs, and toast. Shirley said.

**Delrita:** Well, then, clean off your table while I get it ready.

**Punky:** Wait a minute.

**Narrator 1:** Delrita fried bacon and eggs and made toast, and then carried the food into the living room. Punky was watching TV with the sound off and listening to his new radio. His crayon pieces were in the basket, but now the six clowns were lined up like sentries at the far edge of the table.

**Narrator 2:** Punky ate slowly, taking a bite now and then as he switched channels from cartoons to commercials and back again. When at last he finished eating, Delrita decided it was time to clean up the mess. She began to vacuum around Punky.

**Delrita:** Sorry Punky. This room is a mess!

**Punky:** Okay, D.J.

**Narrator 1:** Punky packed up his clowns and headed for the back door with his lunch box and radio.

**Narrator 2:** Delrita collected the horns from behind the TV, all ten of them, and laughed. Later, she went out to check on Punky. He was singing, holding his pretend microphone to his mouth and had his radio to one ear. The sunshine made his whiskers glisten.

**Narrator 1:** Delrita sat in the other swing, wondering how it would feel to be like Punky, without a worry in the world. Now that he had a live audience, he began swinging higher and singing louder making up a song about Jellybean and Santa Claus and Uncle Bert all rolled into one.

**Marcus:** Did you get a new radio?

**Delrita:** Hey, boy, what are you doing here?

**Marcus:** I just wanted to see where the music was coming from. Is that against the law?

**Punky:** My radio, my present.

**Delrita:** It's against the law to trespass on private property.

**Narrator 2:** The boy just wouldn't stop staring at Punky.

**Delrita:** I *said* it's against the law –

**Marcus:** (interrupting) I heard what you said. I just –

**Delrita:** (interrupting) Just what?

**Marcus:** I just wondered – I mean – I - I didn't know he had whiskers.

**Delrita:** (mad) Of course he's got whiskers! He's thirty-five years old!

**Marcus:** But he swings and plays.

**Delrita:** So he's not like other people. That doesn't give you the right to come snooping around all the time. This isn't a sideshow.

**Marcus:** I don't snoop.

**Delrita:** Oh, yes you do. You even bring your friends.

**Marcus:** I'm sorry about that. When they hear Punky singing, they want to see what he looks like.

**Narrator 1:** Punky didn't appreciate being left out of the conversation. He opened his lunch box and showed off his clowns.

**Marcus:** Hey, those are neat. We could play circus.

**Punky:** Circus. Yeah!

**Delrita:** I don't think so.

**Narrator 2:** Things were getting complicated, and Delrita didn't know what to do. She couldn't remember anybody besides herself ever wanting to play with Punky. Most little kids were afraid of him or just wanted somebody to laugh at.

**Marcus:** Couldn't I play for a few minutes?

**Narrator 1:** Delrita studied the boy's face and decided maybe he did just want to play. He was only a second-grader, and if he started acting like a brat, well, she was bigger than he was, and she could take care of him.

**Delrita:** All right, boy. But, I'll be watching you from the house.

**Marcus:** Marcus.

**Delrita:** What?

**Marcus:** My name isn't boy. It's Marcus.

## *The Man Who Loved Clowns Quiz Chapters 1-5*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is Marcus?
  - a. Punky's brother
  - b. Georgina's bratty little brother
  - c. Delrita's teacher
  - d. the neighbor's pet
2. Punky received all of the following for his birthday except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. red socks
  - b. a radio
  - c. a swing
  - d. a microphone
3. Whose favorite color is green?
  - a. Punky
  - b. Bert
  - c. Avanelle
  - d. Delrita
4. What is Delrita's hobby?
  - a. painting
  - b. drawing
  - c. carving
  - d. swimming
5. If you were Punky, what is a "horn"?
  - a. a pencil
  - b. a chicken bone
  - c. something that makes noise
  - d. something that makes music
6. Who says, "I declare."
  - a. Uncle Bert
  - b. Aunt Queenie
  - c. Shirley
  - d. Delrita
7. What does Punky like to watch on television?
  - a. Soap Operas
  - b. Commercials
  - c. The news
  - d. Game shows
8. Where can Punky use the gift certificate he received for his birthday from Bert?
  - a. McDonald's
  - b. the ice cream parlor
  - c. the theater
  - d. the candy store
9. Delrita wants to be able to carve a \_\_\_\_\_ the most.
  - a. swan
  - b. clown
  - c. turtle
  - d. duck
10. Punky often rolls \_\_\_\_\_ on his sawed off table.
  - a. horns
  - b. crayons
  - c. sticks
  - d. socks

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

## Reading Guide

### Chapter 7

Read chapter seven to yourself. You can either answer these questions as you go, or answer them after you finish reading.

1. Write the title of this chapter \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is the title referring to? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What two things make Punky cry? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

4. How old was Punky when his mother died and he had to move in with Shirley? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who is Miss Myrtle Chambers? \_\_\_\_\_

6. True or false? Uncle Bert and Queenie go to the same church as Delrita. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What was one funny thing that Punky said to someone at church? Write the page number and what he said.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who is Tree? \_\_\_\_\_ What's his real (whole) name \_\_\_\_\_

9. Every time someone says "Amen" in church, Punky says, \_\_\_\_\_!

10. What did Punky do to embarrass Delrita so much?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 6-7

## Word Choice, Dialect, and Tone

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Choice** – The effective use of words to enhance style, tone, or clarity in writing.

June Rae Wood uses many strong verbs to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Read the following sentences from chapters six and seven, and underline the strong verbs.

1. *Punky grabbed the tea and chugged it down while I said, “Wash your hands and face. The hamburgers’ll be done in a jiffy.”*
2. *I shot into the bathroom, but he was already replacing the cap on the empty bottle.*
3. *“Wait a minute,” he replied, puttering off to his bedroom, his lunch box under his arm.*
4. *When he had donned his cowboy hat and admired himself in the mirror, he said, “Ready.”*

### **Strong versus Weak**

Read the following sentences. The one with a strong verb is a sentence found in the novel. The one with a weaker verb is not in the novel. Place a check mark beside the one with the stronger verb. Visualize yourself acting out each scene. Be prepared to explain why the sentence with the strong verb is more effective.

1. He pried open the egg, which held a green plastic whistle on a string.  
He opened the egg, which held a green plastic whistle on a string.
2. After snatching up a bottle of shampoo, I hustled Punky to the checkout lane.  
After picking up a bottle of shampoo, I walked Punky to the checkout lane
3. I was embarrassed as customers and cashiers turned to see the commotion.  
My cheeks burned with embarrassment as customers and cashiers turned to see the commotion.

**Dialect**:-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.

- June Rae Wood uses dialect in this novel. It is most evident with Birdie and Punky.
- For example, when Punky says, “Don’t want no rain,” the author is using dialect. This sentence is not written in Standard English. It contains two negative words, which is incorrect. However, it is characteristic of people with Down Syndrome, because most of them do not speak in Standard English all of the time.
- The author of this book also uses dialect with the character Birdie. Find an example from chapter six that exemplifies Birdie’s dialect.

**Example 1** Page # \_\_\_\_\_ When Birdie says, \_\_\_\_\_

**Tone** – The writer’s or speaker’s attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details.

*“Looks like there’s a pretty good crowd today,” Mom said as Dad drove into the parking area of Countryside Church.*

*“Yeah,” Dad replied, shutting off the motor. “Maybe twenty-five, thirty people, counting us and the preacher. I hope there’s room for us to sit inside.”*

- Which word best describes Sam’s tone in this passage when he responds to Shirley’s comment about the crowd at church?

a. sentimental   b. desperate   c. sarcastic   d. humorous

*“She’s my girl, you old goat,” said Punky, placing his hands on his hips.*

*“My girl,” Uncle Bert said over his shoulder as Aunt Queenie pulled him toward a pew.*

- Which word best describes this conversation between Punky and Uncle Bert?

a. angry   b. playful   c. guilty   d. objective

**How would you describe the tone at the end of chapter seven when Delrita runs out of the church?**

**Read the following passage. Pay attention to the underlined words from the passage to help you come to a conclusion about the tone. Do these words have a favorable or unfavorable connotation?**

*The words felt like a slap across my face. I raced down the aisle, out of the church, and lunged for the car. It was suffocating because the sun had come out, and I cranked down the window furiously. How stupid I had been to let my guard down, even for a minute, since I already knew my life could never be normal...I slid to the floor and prayed that he wouldn’t find me. Scrunching down with the floorboards gouging into my knees...*

*The Man Who Loved Clowns*  
**Writing Opportunity -Extended Metaphor Poem**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*After I'd cleaned off the table, I took Punky's medicine down from the cupboard and stuffed it in my pocket. It was nitroglycerin, the same ingredient used in dynamite. Punky and dynamite. What a combination.*

You are going to create an **extended metaphor poem** based on the underlined portion of this passage. You will begin by writing the metaphor *Punky is dynamite*. You will then extend that metaphor throughout your poem.

- For example, if I were going to compare Delrita to a swan, I would first think of words that are associated with swans.

Swan

Wings

fly

Ugly at first

Long necks

Graceful

- Then, I would begin with the metaphor, *Delrita is a swan*, and weave in those words that I listed, thus extending the metaphor. Here is an example of a poem using this metaphor:

**Delrita was a swan.**

While she was sometimes **ugly**,  
her **gracefulness** was strong in the end.

It took some time,  
but she finally  
spread her **wings** to **fly**.

**Notice, I did not use all of the words from my list, but that is okay.**

**Step 1:** List several words that are associated with the underlined word in the metaphor, *Punky was dynamite*.

**Step 2:** Now, begin your poem with the metaphor *Punky was dynamite*, and weave those words that you listed in step one into your poem. Do not try to include rhyme.



## Sample Extended Metaphor Poem

**Bang!**

Punky was dynamite!

His love was always powerful,

And his personality could always destroy my sadness

Sometimes his loud behavior

Would cause me to explode with embarrassment,

But in the end, Punky was a gift

Wrapped in a small package,

With a big bang!

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

## Chapter 8

### Conflict

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Conflict – A struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces (external conflict) or the character’s emotions (internal conflict).**

Complete the following chart to analyze the conflicts that are present in the novel.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Conflict</b>	<b>Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict</b>	<b>Type of conflict (internal or external)</b>
<b>Delrita</b>			
<b>Avanelle</b>			

❖ **In chapter eight, there is a notable description of the weather.**

*When the last bell rang and everyone swarmed out of the building, storm clouds boiled in the sky and thunder rumbled from west to east like low-flying jets. The air, which had hung hot and heavy in the classrooms all afternoon, suddenly turned cold, as if someone had opened a giant refrigerator.*

❖ Authors often use descriptions of weather to emphasize the dramatic events that occur as well as the dramatic inner changes in the main character. At this point in the book, are there any dramatic changes in Delrita? How can the weather be linked to those changes?

**The Man Who Loved Clowns**  
**Study Guide**  
**Chapters 1-8**

The following terms will be on the first test. Define each term or give an example of each. Also, answer any questions below.

**Imagery**

**Simile**

**Metaphor**

**Flashback**

**Dialect**

**Foreshadowing**

**Idiom**

**Symbolism**

Who does the swan symbolize in the book?

Is Delrita more like the rock or the tree that bursts through the rock at this point?

**Personification**

**Internal conflict**

What is Delrita's internal conflict?

**Tone** – the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience

## *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

### Test Chapters 1-8

1. **Punky received all of the following items for his birthday except \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. red socks
  - b. a radio
  - c. a swing
  - d. a microphone
  
2. **Punky is Shirley's \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. brother
  - b. uncle
  - c. friend
  - d. son

*“There won’t be any trouble,” said Dad. “Punky hasn’t been sick in almost a year. Besides, Delrita knows how to use the nitroglycerin pills, and the numbers of the doctor, the hospital, and the ambulance are right there by the phone.”*

3. **What part of this passage contains a hidden clue that the events in this book are not set in present day times?**
  - a. There won’t be any trouble.
  - b. Punky hasn’t been sick for almost a year.
  - c. Delrita knows how to use the nitroglycerin pills.
  - d. The numbers of the doctor, the hospital, and the ambulance are right there by the phone.
  
4. **What is Delrita’s hobby?**
  - a. wood carving
  - b. painting
  - c. playing with dolls
  - d. decorating

*In the living room, the morning breeze was blowing through the window, scattering leftover wood shavings like dandruff on the couch and carpet.*

5. **In this passage, the author uses \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. imagery and a simile
  - b. imagery and a metaphor
  - c. symbolism and a flashback
  - d. dialect and foreshadowing
  
6. **What is Punky referring to when he says, “Horn”?**
  - a. commercials
  - b. his ears
  - c. chicken wings
  - d. crayons

*“Sorry, Punky,” I said as I dragged the vacuum cleaner from the closet, “this room is a pigpen.” “Okay, D.J.,” he replied, placing the clowns in his lunch box and heading for the back door with the lunch box and the radio.*

7. **Based on what you have learned about Punky, what can you conclude about why he goes outside when Delrita is about to vacuum?**
  - a. Punky leaves because he is afraid she will run over him.
  - b. Punky leaves because he does not like things that make loud noises.
  - c. Punky leaves because Marcus wants him to come outside and play.
  - d. Punky leaves because his microphone is outside.

**8. Who says, “I declare,” repeatedly?**

- a. Shirly
- b. Delrita
- c. Avanelle
- d. Aunt Queenie

*I thought about the last time our family went to see a Walt Disney movie. Punky had gnawed at his fingers until they were all slobbery, and he twisted his hair into wet spikes. Every few minutes, he'd clap his hands and say, “Look, D.J.!”*

*My face turned hot at the memory of everybody in the theater staring at us and mocking us.*

**9. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. an idiom
- b. a flashback
- c. symbolism
- d. personification

**10. Why does Tree end up riding in Delrita's car?**

- a. He is tired from football practice and asks for a ride.
- b. Tree's mom arranged for him to ride home with Delrita.
- c. It is raining hard, and Delrita's mom offers him a ride.
- d. Punky wants him to ride because he thinks Tree looks like a clown.

*There wasn't much furniture at all- just a dingy old chair, a couch hidden under a raggedy quilt, and a coffee table marred with burns and scratches.*

**11. What does this description of the Shackelford home reveal about Avanelle and her family?**

- a. They just moved to Tangle Nook.
- b. They do not have a lot of money.
- c. They have lots of pets.
- d. They do not like furniture.

**12. Why does Delrita hide in the back of her family car?**

- a. She is embarrassed of Punky singing in church.
- b. She is embarrassed of Punky saying something to Mrs. Shackelford.
- c. She is embarrassed of Punky coloring during the sermon.
- d. She is hiding from Tree because she's too embarrassed to talk to him.

*After I'd cleaned off the table, I took Punky's medicine down from the cupboard and stuffed it in my pocket. It was nitroglycerin, the same ingredient found in dynamite.*

**13. After reading this passage, the reader concludes that Punky's medicine...**

- a. will make him explode.
- b. is very powerful.
- c. is made of gun powder.
- d. will make him hyper.

**14. Who calls Punky “Punk Man”?**

- a. Aunt Queenie
- b. Uncle Bert
- c. Sam
- d. Shirley

*By the dresser was a big punching-bag clown, leering at me. I slugged him hard, wanting him to fall down and stay down, but he bounced back up on his balloon bottom and continued to leer.*

**15. Which of the following characters could this punching-bag clown symbolize?**

- a. Delrita because she is always ready to fight
- b. Aunt Queenie because she is so hyper active
- c. Punky because no matter who makes fun of him, it doesn't bother him
- d. Avanelle because she is so ashamed of her house

*I moved my carving things to the kitchen so I could keep an eye on the backyard. With the slightest twinge of jealousy, I listened to Marcus and Punky giggling and playing together in the dirt under the swing.*

**16. Why does Delrita feel jealous?**

- a. She wants to play with Punky, but Punky wants to play with Marcus.
- b. She doesn't have any friends, and Punky is making one.
- c. She wishes she could play with Punky's clowns.
- d. She wants to be friends with Marcus' sister, Georgina.

**17. Which of the following sentences from the novel contains the least amount of imagery?**

- a. Mom handed me a cup of hot chocolate that was mushy with marshmallows.
- b. I collected the horn bones from behind the T.V. There were ten of them, all dry and hard and covered with fuzzies.
- c. "Did you get a new radio?" someone asked, and I spun around to see the bratty Gregory kid spying on us.
- d. The light in the cubicle started flashing, and the chicken flapped its wings and let out a series of terrible squawks. Every egg in the case shifted as one purple egg clattered down a chute.

**18. "You have it," Punky said, thrusting the whistle at me. Why does Punky give Delrita the whistle?**

- a. He couldn't get it to fit back inside the egg.
- b. He doesn't like things that make loud noises.
- c. He knows he has embarrassed Delrita.
- d. He wants her to save it for him.

**19. Which of the following does not contain dialect?**

- a. "She don't have any friends here," said Tough Guy.
- b. "Cause my daddy stoled?"
- c. "...cause the police comed and took him to jail."
- d. As soon as he said, "Amen," Punky said, "Bang!"

**20. Which of the following describes Delrita's main internal conflict at this point in the book?**

- a. She is upset about not being invited to Cindi Martin's slumber party.
- b. She does not agree with Aunt Queenie's opinion that Punky should go to a workshop.
- c. She struggles with guilt because she is ashamed of Punky.
- d. She wants to be accepted by everyone at school.

**21. Delrita's family moved from running a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to running a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. antique shop , farm
- b. farm, real estate office
- c. farm, antique shop
- d. real estate office, antique shop

*I went to the shelf, swept all the animals into the bottom of my T-shirt, and carried them outside.....  
...."I know, " I replied as I knelt down to dump my burden. "I just thought of something. You can't  
have a really great circus without the animals."*

**22. What does Delrita mean when she says she "dumps her burden"?**

- a. The wooden animals were heavy.
- b. She has the house to herself since her parents are out of town.
- c. She lets go of her shame and worry over Punky.
- d. She lets go of her frustration of not being able to carve a swan.

**23. Avanelle lives \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. behind the school
- b. on a farm
- c. behind McDonalds
- d. in a foster home

**24. Avanelle and Delrita share the feeling of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. hate
- b. shame
- c. rage
- d. remorse

*Even with all these kids, there wasn't a toy or a dirty dish in sight, but there was a fresh bouquet of  
brown-eyed susans in a quart jar on the coffee table.*

**25. You can infer that brown-eyed susans are \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. pens
- b. cookies
- c. rocks
- d. flowers

**26. At this point in the novel, Queenie is best described as \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. worried and aggressive
- b. carefree and patient
- c. self-involved and arrogant
- d. curious and talkative

*Right after graduating high school, Mom married Dad, who was five years older than she was. Shortly  
afterward, Grandma died and my folks moved into the farmhouse to take care of Punky, then sixteen, and  
the two younger children. Bert and Donna finished school and went their own ways, but Mom was left in  
charge of Punky.*

**27. What is the tone of the passage?**

- a. mocking and jovial
- b. serious and sympathetic
- c. witty and humorous
- d. irate and straightforward

**28. Which of the following is the author's use of an object, person, place, or event that has both  
a meaning in itself and stands for something else?**

- a. imagery   b. symbolism   c. flashback   d. tone

**29. Which of the following is the technique of disrupting the chronological flow of a narrative  
by telling events that happened in the past?**

- a. Tone                      b. flashback
- c. symbolism              d. imagery

- 30. Which of the following is the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details?**
- a. symbolism
  - b. tone
  - c. imagery
  - d. dialect
- 31. \_\_\_\_\_ is the use of words and phrases by an author to "paint a picture" in the reader's mind. These words and phrases often relate to the readers sense of sight, hearing, taste, touch and/or smelling.**
- a. flashback
  - b. imagery
  - c. dialect
  - d. figurative language
- 32. The way that a person or groups of people speak is \_\_\_\_\_.**
- a. dialogue
  - b. imagery
  - c. dialect
  - d. conflict



## Answer Key for test 1

Question Number	Answer
1	C
2	A
3	D
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	D
9	B
10	C
11	B
12	B
13	B
14	B
15	C
16	B
17	C
18	B
19	D
20	C
21	C
22	C
23	C
24	B
25	D
26	C
27	B
28	B
29	B
30	B
31	B
32	C

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

After Chapters 9 - 10

## Foreshadowing & Point of View

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Foreshadowing is when the author gives the reader a hint of something that is going to happen before it actually happens. Foreshadowing is used to build suspense or create anxiety.**

We just found out that Delrita's parents were killed in a car accident. June Rae Wood provided us with foreshadowing for this tragedy. Go back and look in chapters nine and ten to find it. Complete the following chart once you have found the clues.

Passage	Page #	What this foreshadows

### **Discuss:**

How does this foreshadowing create suspense?

**Point of view: The position or vantage point from which the events of a story seem to be observed and presented to us. The chief distinction usually made between points of views is that between third person narratives and first person narratives.**

This book is told from Delrita's point of view, which makes it a first person narrative. The first-person point of view sacrifices omniscience and omnipresence for a greater intimacy with one character. It allows the reader to see what the focus character is thinking and feeling.

Answer the following questions to analyze the point of view used in this novel.

1. What is the advantage of reading this story from Delrita's point of view?
2. How would the story be different if it were told from Aunt Queenie's point of view?
3. How would the story be different if it were told from the third person omniscient point of view?

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 11-12

## **Mood & Metaphors**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mood** – The overall emotion created by a work of literature. It is the emotional atmosphere that often has a lingering effect on its readers.

1. **What mood does the author create in chapter eleven?** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **What words and phrases help to create that mood? Complete the following chart with words or phrases from this chapter that create this mood.**


**Metaphor** - An imaginative comparison between two unlike things in which one thing is said to be another.

**Chapter 12 includes some awesome metaphors. Complete the following chart by finding the metaphor, writing it, and telling what it means.**

<b>Page #</b>	<b>Metaphor</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>107</b>		
<b>107</b>		
<b>108</b>		
<b>110</b>		
<b>111</b>		
<b>112</b>		

**Choose one sentence and rewrite it without the metaphor. Which one is better?**

**Why?**

\_\_\_\_\_

*The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapter 12

Writing Opportunity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Punky was the glue that held me together.*

Write a poem from the point of view of Delrita in which you extend the following metaphor.

*Punky was the glue that held me together.*

First, make a list of words and phrases that have to do with glue. Then, write your poem pulling these words and phrases into it to extend the metaphor.

**Glue**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**My Poem**

**Punky was the glue that held me together.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Sample Extended Metaphor Poem

### *Strong*

Punky was the glue that held me together.

While he was sometimes messy,

he was always transparent.

Without him,

I would fall apart.

Even though he caught me in some sticky situations,

in the end, he made me strong.

**-from Delrita's point of view**

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

## Chapter 13

### Figurative Language & Conflict

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **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. Figurative language, however, is not always obvious, as we see with the simile, *Dreams are like a river* or with the metaphor, *Life is a game*. There are several ways that we can interpret these two examples of figurative language. We must use our imagination, reason, and trial and error in order to do so.

Chapter thirteen of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Look at the following simile from chapter 13. "*Life is like an untouched block of wood. We can carve out a beautiful niche for ourselves, or we can leave it unused and unproductive on a shelf.*"

Paraphrase these lines. What does this mean?

---

---

---

Do you agree with Walt's simile? \_\_\_\_\_

Create your own simile comparing life to something other than a block of wood. Try to create one that could help Delrita with her struggles.

---

---

#### **Conflict**

How has Delrita's internal conflict changed or deepened? List some of the things that she is struggling with in her mind.

---

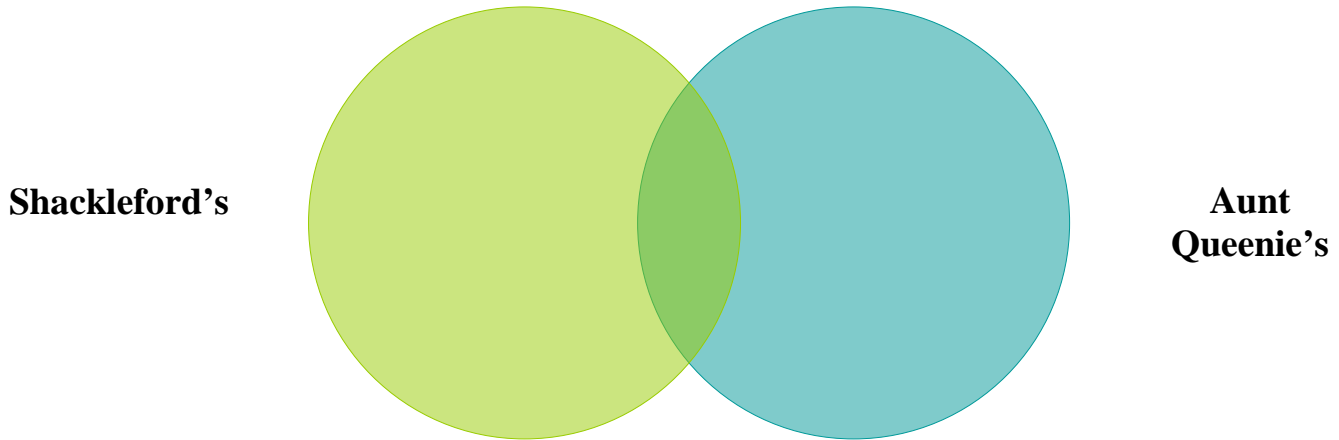
---

*The Man Who Loved Clowns*  
Chapter 14  
**Compare/Contrast, Symbolism & Turning Point**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use the Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the Shackelford's house and way of life with Aunt Queenie's and Uncle Bert's.



There is a turning point in this chapter for Delrita. What happens that causes a change in her? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What symbolism is included in this chapter? Analyze each example of symbolism by telling what it means.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

## Chapter 15

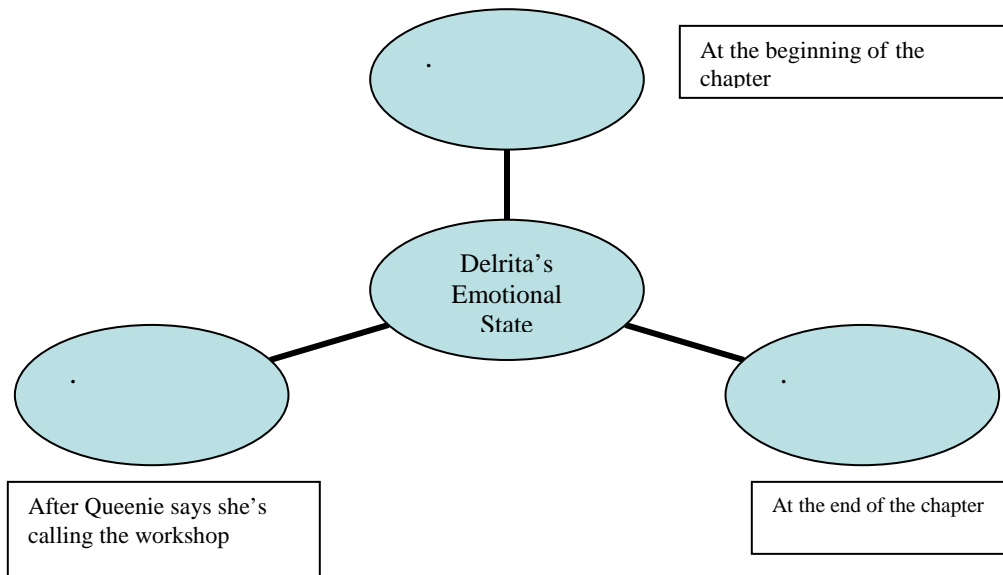
### “Taking a Closer Look”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Delrita’s changes

Delrita has struggled internally throughout the entire book so far. In chapter fifteen, we notice that she is continuing to change. She seems to be opening up to Avanelle more and has truly accepted her as a friend. However, her emotions in this chapter are like a pendulum, swinging up and down. Complete the following map to illustrate her state of mind at this point in the novel. What does this tell you about her internal conflicts?



#### **Punky’s World**

*“This was Punky’s world – a cowboy hat, a radio, a flag, seven clowns, and a lunch box full of broken crayons.”*

This line of the novel is a memorable one because it highlights the simplicity and the childlike innocence of Punky. Try creating a line similar to this one for the following characters.

Aunt Queenie: This was Queenie’s world –

---

Delrita: This was Delrita’s world –

---

Birdie: This was Birdie’s world-

---



**Test on Chapters 9-16**  
**Review / Study Guide**

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

What foreshadowed Sam and Shirley’s wreck? \_\_\_\_\_

**Point of View**

This book is told from Delrita’s point of view – first person because a character is telling the story. If it were 3<sup>rd</sup> person limited to Punky, would we know Delrita’s thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_

If it were 3<sup>rd</sup> person limited to Punky, would we know what Delrita said and did? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mood** – the overall emotion created; the emotional atmosphere

What is the mood of the chapter when Delrita’s parents are killed in the accident?

**Metaphor** – Calls one thing another

List two metaphors from the book:

---

**Simile** – Compares two things using like or as.

Write two similes. You can either make them up or write two that are used in the novel.

---

**Personification** – giving human traits to non-humans

Write two examples of personification from the book. Look on page 116.

---

**Conflict** – the problem or struggle that a character is facing

Internal – inside one’s mind

External – outside struggle with another character or force

List some conflicts in the novel:

**Compare-** tell how things are alike

**Contrast** – tell how things are different

Compare and contrast Aunt Queenie’s house and way of life to the Shackelford’s house and way of life.

**Turning Point** – How has Delrita changed as a character?

**Symbolism:** Is Delrita becoming more like the tree or the rock?

Who or what does the swan that Delrita is trying to carve symbolize?

## *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

### Test Chapters 9-16

*Dad kept glancing in the rearview mirror. "Bringing that trailer into these hills wasn't such a good idea. It's top-heavy without a load, and I can feel it bucking against us every time I touch the brakes."*

1. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a flashback
  - b. symbolism
  - c. foreshadowing
  - d. imagery
  
2. What did Punky swap his red socks for at the woodcarving shop?
  - a. a wooden Indian
  - b. a rodeo clown
  - c. a pocket knife
  - d. a swan

*A ghostly figure ran out to meet us. It was Aunt Queenie in her nightclothes – no makeup, hair flying loose-clucking like a sympathetic hen.*

3. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a simile
  - b. a metaphor
  - c. personification
  - d. an idiom

*I was a robot, doing what he asked while he got Punky up and dressed.*

4. This line from the book contains \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a simile
  - b. a metaphor
  - c. personification
  - d. an idiom

*The night before the funeral, everyone went to the mortuary for visitation. When I walked into the crowded room and heard all the commotion, my blank wall almost crumbled. I was furious. How dare these people be laughing and talking so close to my parents, who would never laugh and talk again!*

5. Which of the following best describes how Delrita feels at this moment in the book?
  - a. mortified and jealous
  - b. nervous and shocked
  - c. angry and devastated
  - d. happy and hungry

6. If this story were told in the third person limited point of view, and it focused on Punky, which of the following passages would not be in the book?
- Birdie was sitting alone on the steps, her moptop tangled and her freckled cheeks rosy from the chill.*
  - “Your, uh, new home is right on my way.” “It’s not my home. It’s just a stopping-off place until I’m old enough to move out.”*
  - The hallway was crawling with kids laughing and talking.*
  - Birdie’s eager upturned face made me ashamed of myself. How could I have wished her or anybody’s father dead?*
7. What does Delrita decide to name the swan that she is carving?
- Herkimer
  - Hercules
  - Walt
  - Tree
8. When contrasting Aunt Queenie’s home with the Shakleford’s home, which of the following is true?
- Aunt Queenie’s home is filled with plants and grief while the Shakleford’s home is filled with love and compassion.
  - Aunt Queenie’s home is in a bad part of town and so is the Shakleford home.
  - Aunt Queenie’s home is organized and the Shakleford home is extravagant.
  - Aunt Queenie’s home has children living in it and so does the Shakleford home.

*Once, when Uncle Bert jokingly suggested putting wheels on both tables to make the moving easier, Aunt Queenie practically went through the roof.*

9. What type of figurative language does this passage contain?
- simile
  - metaphor
  - personification
  - idiom

*I walked to school hunched over, clutching grief to my chest as if it were a notebook.*

10. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
- idiom
  - simile
  - metaphor
  - hyperbole
11. Which of the following two characters are having an external conflict at this point in the novel?
- Delrita and Tree
  - Punky and Aunt Queenie
  - Aunt Queenie and Delrita
  - Avanelle and her father

12. Which of the following is a turning point for Delrita?
- She finally goes back to school.
  - She finally opens up to Avanelle.
  - She finally stops fearing the workshop.
  - She finally opens up to Queenie.
13. How would this story be different if it were told from Aunt Queenie's point of view?
- The reader would see the workshop in a different way- more positive than negative.
  - The reader would better understand Bert's hesitation in responding to certain questions in front of Queenie.
  - The reader would better understand the death of Delrita's parents.
  - The reader would better understand why Avanelle's dad is in jail.

*My aunt and uncle stared at me openmouthed. I expected one of them to say something, but they remained silent. Aunt Queenie's face crumpled, and tears glistened on her cheeks. Uncle Bert, glancing from me to Aunt Queenie, ran his hands through his toupee.*

14. How does Aunt Queenie feel in this passage?
- joyous, lighthearted
  - hostile, mean-spirited
  - shocked, broken hearted
  - fearful, disgruntled
15. What new information does this passage reveal to the reader?
- Uncle Bert has a toupee.
  - Uncle Bert often has a hard time expressing his emotions and speaking up in front of Queenie.
  - Aunt Queenie does have a heart and does not always have a response to every comment made by others.
  - Delrita is a hostile bully.
16. What was in the package that Whittlin' Walt gave to Delrita?
- a carved rodeo clown
  - a carved tree
  - a carved swan
  - a carved jack-o-lantern

*The digital clock on the nightstand winked away the seconds.*

17. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.
- a simile
  - a metaphor
  - personification
  - an idiom

*In the corner was Grandma's rocking chair, its seat and arms worn slick with use. I closed my eyes and felt Mom's arms around my small feverish body as she rocked me to and fro.*

18. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. a flashback
  - b. symbolism
  - c. foreshadowing
  - d. imagery

*Doors banged open, then closed, as children left their homes for school. I heard mothers calling out last minute instructions, their voices mingled with snatches of music from the cartoons on TV.*

19. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. a flashback
  - b. symbolism
  - c. foreshadowing
  - d. imagery

*My vision blurred as Avanelle switched her books to her right arm and linked her other one with mine.*

20. You can infer from this passage that Delrita is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. about to run
  - b. about to laugh
  - c. about to cry
  - d. about to speak

21. When Birdie says "the lady with the bird nest on her head," she is referring to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Avanelle's curly hair
- b. the Gregory girl's bad attitude
- c. Aunt Queenie's bun
- d. Delrita's ponytail

22. Delrita is shocked that Tree is not at the Shackelford home Saturday morning. Where is he?

- a. football practice
- b. school detention
- c. helping with the basketball team
- d. helping with the Special Olympics

23. With whom does Delrita first admit her shame of Punky?

- a. Queenie
- b. Tree
- c. Avanelle
- d. Bert

24. The title for chapter fourteen is *The Tree Breaks Through the Rock*. To whom does this refer?

- a. Tree becoming a starter on the football team
- b. Queenie crying over Delrita's rudeness
- c. Delrita making a friend in Avanelle
- d. Punky making a friend in Marcus Gregory

## Answer Key for Test Chapters 9-16

<b>Question number</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>C</b>

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

## Chapter 17

### *Indirect Characterization*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In chapter 17, we meet several new characters. The author indirectly reveals these characters' personalities through what they say, how they look, their behavior, and what other characters say about them. Complete the following chart to examine each character.

<b>Mr. Reese / "Boss"</b>	
His words tell you that he is	
His looks tell you that he is	
Other characters tell you that he is	
His behavior tells you that he is	
<b>Susie</b>	
Her words tell you that she is	
Her looks tell you that she is	
Other characters tell you that she is	
Her behavior tells you that she is	
<b>Barney</b>	
His words tell you that he is	
His looks tell you that he is	
Other characters tell you that he is	
His behavior tells you that he is	

**Chapter 18 Readers' Theater** *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

**Parts**

<b>Character(s)</b>	<b>Read by</b>
Uncle Bert, Punky, Barney, Tree (8 lines)	
Narrator 1 (19 lines)	
Narrator 2 (7 lines)	
Delrita (10 short lines)	
Georgina Gregory and Narrator 3 (9 lines)	
Sarah Ward, Lori, and Avanelle (12 lines)	

**Narrator 1:** Delrita slunk to the car like a stray cat. She wasn't completely sorry about the things she had said to Aunt Queenie, but she wished she had been nicer about saying them.

**Uncle Bert:** Well, what do you think?

**Delrita:** (acting like she doesn't know what he's talking about ) About what?

**Uncle Bert:** the workshop.

**Delrita:** It's all right, I guess.

**Narrator 1:** Uncle Bert gave Delrita a sly grin and started whistling off-key. Delrita watched the mileage computer on the dashboard, its numbers flashing red and changing crazily, as if it couldn't make up its mind. She heaved a deep sigh. Delrita had been riding a roller coaster of emotions for so long, she was crazier than the numbers.

**Uncle Bert:** It was Queenie's idea for you to visit the workshop. I know you two don't see eye to eye, but she's a good-hearted person and a good wife. What you said the other night about her being so organized – it's something I've learned to accept in ten years of marriage. You'll be a lot happier when you can accept it too.

**Delrita:** I guess I was a real brat.

**Uncle Bert:** Understandable, in view of what you've been through. Let me tell you a secret about Queenie. Keeping everything in tip-top shape is her way of dealing with not being able to have children. The time and energy and love she would have given a child have been directed toward her home, her flowers, and a dozen worthy causes.

**Narrator 1:** Delrita closed her eyes. She knew that explained why Aunt Queenie was such a fussbudget, but it didn't help Delrita feel any better. Delrita arrived at school in the middle of fourth hour. After getting a pass from the office, she went down the hall to Avanelle's locker and took out the math book before going to the gym. If Miss Cooper was in a halfway decent mood, maybe she'd excuse Delrita from dressing out and she could do her homework before lunch.

**Narrator 2:** As soon as Delrita entered the gym, she saw Avanelle at the far end. Avanelle was playing volleyball, but she must have had one eye on the door, because she started waving at Delrita. Delrita waved back as the ball sailed over the net and hit the floor at her feet.

**Georgina Gregory:** (angrily to Avanelle) Way to go, turkey!



**Narrator 1:** Georgina may have been talking to Avanelle but she was glaring at Delrita. Miss Cooper blew her whistle, told Georgina to watch her mouth and Avanelle to keep her eye on the ball. She asked Delrita to bring her a pass to class. Then she told Delrita to go sit down somewhere. Delrita climbed halfway up and sat in the bleachers, and when she opened the math book, an envelope dropped out into her lap. She picked it up and read the address:

Trezane Shackelford  
165320 Hu 3-A-499  
Missouri Training Center for Men  
P.O. Box 78  
Cumberland, MO 65277

It was a letter to Avanelle's father in prison! Guiltily, Delrita stuffed it back into the book. She went to work, but it was impossible to convert decimals to fractions with the girls yelling and Miss Cooper blowing her whistle. Delrita gathered up her books and papers and went to the locker room. She was on the last problem when the bell rang. A few seconds later, the door banged open and several girls hustled in, their voices bouncing off the walls. Among them was Georgina, dribbling the volleyball.

**Sarah Ward:** We've got Michael Jordan in the girls' locker room.

**Narrator 1:** She waved her arms like a basketball player and tried to steal the ball. Georgina, showing off, started dribbling harder. Sarah couldn't get the ball with her hands, so she kicked it hard and it came hurtling across to Delrita's bench and slammed onto the math book. The book, her papers, and Avanelle's letter went scooting across the floor. Delrita jumped up and made a grab for the letter, but Lori Nicholson beat her to it.

**Lori:** Hey, you guys, look at this. A love letter. To Avanelle's brother!

**Delrita:** Give me that!

**Narrator 1:** Lori clutched it to her chest and looked Delrita up and down.

**Lori:** so you've got a crush on Trezane Shackelford.

**Delrita:** Please. Give it back.

**Lori:** (turning away and reading the address) Hey, this isn't for tree. Not unless he's in prison.

**Georgina and Sarah:** What?!

**Narrator 1:** When Lori held the letter up for them to see, Delrita grabbed for it again and missed. Lori tossed it to Georgina.

**Lori:** (tossing letter to Georgina) Air mail!

**Georgina:** (looks at letter) Must be Tree's dad. (with an evil grin) Maybe he's an ax murderer!

**Sarah:** Oooh, that's creepy.

**Narrator 1:** The door opened and in walked Avanelle. Georgina glanced from Avanelle to Delrita with a smirk. Then she shoved the letter at Delrita.

**Georgina:** (to Avanelle) So, your dad's a convict. Your weirdo friend here just spilled the beans.

**Narrator 2:** Laughing, Georgina and the other girls returned to the showers. The letter was a hot coal in Delrita's shaking hands. She stared at Avanelle, who stood still as a

statue in a sunbeam from the skylight. Her emerald eyes were shooting sparks, and her orange hair was a ball of fire. Avanelle streaked over to Delrita and seized the letter.

**Avanelle:** (very angry voice) You....had....no...right!

**Delrita:** I didn't –

**Avanelle:** (interrupting Delrita) How *could* you, Delrita? How could you show them my letter?

**Delrita:** I – I – You're making a mistake.

**Avanelle:** The only mistake I made was choosing you to be my friend! That's why my dad went to prison, you know. Because he was a friend to the wrong person.

**Narrator 1:** Delrita blinked back tears at the look of rage on the face of her one and only friend.

**Avanelle:** Dad didn't rob a bank or kill somebody. He drove his truck to help a buddy move furniture. Only the furniture didn't belong to that fellow. He was just using my dad to steal it.

**Delrita:** Avanelle, listen to me! I *didn't* show those girls the letter.

**Avanelle:** So how come they got to see it? Why should I believe *you* when the judge didn't believe my dad?

**Narrator 1:** Avanelle pushed past Delrita. Helplessly, Delrita watched her snatch up her school clothes and head for a stall. A cloud blotted out the sun and the locker room grew dark as another swarm of girls came in to get dressed.

**Narrator 2:** Georgina had succeeded in scaring off Avanelle. Not in the way Delrita had expected, but the results were the same. Avanelle ignored Delrita, and Delrita was afraid that if she forced herself on her there'd be another ugly scene. At lunch the two sat at opposite ends of the cafeteria, neither of them with a tray. In math fifth hour, Avanelle sailed past Delrita as if she were invisible. When the bell rang after seventh hour, Delrita went out the back door. She was embarrassed by all the lovesick couples on the low brick wall, but she drew a deep breath and plunged on past. It was either go that way or go her regular route, and it would hurt Delrita too much to see Avanelle's house and not be welcome there. Crunching along through the leaves, Delrita felt an overwhelming sadness. Her mom had loved raking leaves, so she hadn't minded when Punky and she rolled in her leaf stacks, scattering them to the wind.

As Delrita reached Uncle Bert's, a van pulled in the drive and Punky got out. The sun pinpointed the thin layer of sawdust on his whiskers. Voices from the van could be heard telling Punky goodbye.

**Punky:** Yeah, See you in the morning.

**Narrator 1:** All at once, an arm shot out the window, waving furiously, and Barney's round face was beaming at Delrita.

**Barney:** My wife!

**Punky:** Barney! She's my girl, you old goat!

**Barney:** My wife.

**Narrator 1:** Punky jutted out his bottom lip, and Delrita put her arm around him.

**Delrita:** Did Barney give you a hard time today?

**Punky:** Nope. He's my friend.

**Narrator 3:** Delrita stood still and watched him go. Punky had a vanload of new friends after one day in the outside world, and what did she have?

**Narrator 2:** That night, Delrita hid in the bathroom to carve, hoping the act would soothe her as it had so many times before. She held the ugly blob of a snowman in one hand and Walt's perfect swan in the other. They symbolized the difference between what she was and what she wanted to be, and she had no idea how to get from one to the other. She started working on Herkimer's wings with the V-tool, but it might as well have been a chain saw. Her mind kept going back to Georgina's cruelly exposing Avanelle's secret. The situation looked hopeless. She couldn't blame Avanelle for thinking she'd stabbed her in the back. She squeezed her eyes shut, and a tear rolled down her cheek. Avanelle was her first real friend, and losing her felt a little bit like losing her mom and dad.

**Narrator 3:** Delrita thought of Brownie, the big shepherd dog they'd had at the farm. Brownie was a good pet, playful and gentle, but he'd killed a chicken and Delrita's dad gave him away. Her dad said he had tasted blood and he would always want more. Well, Delrita had tasted Avanelle's friendship and she wanted more. She knew the longer she waited to talk to Avanelle, the harder it would be to make things right. But was it even possible to make things right? Would she ever talk to Delrita again? No, Delrita thought sadly, remembering those blazing green eyes. Her humiliation in the locker room had been complete. Her fingers slipped and she stabbed herself with the V-tool. She wiped at the blood with toilet tissue, then put Herkimer away so she wouldn't make a mess of him too.

**Narrator 2:** Delrita had been a loner before, and she should have been able to pick up where she'd left off, but it wasn't that easy. School was torture now. Avanelle wasn't friends with anyone else, but she avoided Delrita. Once when they came face to face in the restroom, Avanelle turned away quickly. It made Delrita think that she made Avanelle sick.

**Narrator 3:** Every time Delrita had to use the math book, she half expected Avanelle to sneak up behind her and accuse her of snooping in her locker. Delrita started lurking in classrooms so she wouldn't have to face Avanelle in the hall. At the last minute, when Delrita had to venture out, she scurried along hunched over, as if hiding a brick in her shirt.

**Narrator 2:** Sunday at church it was the same story. Avanelle wouldn't look in Delrita's direction, but she took a special interest in Miss Myrtle Chambers, helping the fragile old lady up the steps and finding the pages in her hymnal. The rest of her family was friendly, though. Birdie sat with Punky and Delrita before going to her class, and when the service ended, Mrs. Shackelford asked Delrita how he liked working. Delrita told her he liked it "okay", but that was a lie. Punky was in seventh heaven at the workshop, and Delrita had decided he no longer needed her at all.

**Tree:** He had a great time at the athletic field yesterday. I showed him how to shoot baskets, and his aim is terrific. You ought to come with him next time. We'd let you be water girl or sweep off the track.

**Delrita:** (irritated even though she knows he was teasing her) No, thanks. I'm busy on Saturdays.

**Narrator 3:** As soon as she could, Delrita went to the car. A wave of homesickness washed over her when the smell of the upholstered seats reminded her of her dad's antique shop.

**Narrator 2:** She watched Avanelle help Miss Myrtle to Elsie Golden's car, climb in the backseat, and ride away with them.

**Narrator 3:** Soon the rest of the Shackelfords came out. Tree carried Birdie in one arm and hung on to Eddie's hand. His mother, holding Gordy, laughed when the wind caught Randolph's papers and he started chasing them. Delrita's mind played back in slow motion the last glimpse she'd had of her parents at Silver Dollar city – her dad backing up the trailer and her mom hanging out the window blowing kisses. More than anything, she wished they'd come walking out of the church with Punky. She ached to have a whole family again, to be like they were before the accident.

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 18 - 19

“Change”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In these two chapters, we notice a change in Delrita’s attitude toward Aunt Queenie, and we see a change in Punky. Answer the following questions about these changes.

1. What does Delrita find out about Aunt Queenie that allows Delrita to see her aunt in a new light? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who reveals this information about Aunt Queenie to Delrita? \_\_\_\_\_
3. We, the readers, are just now beginning to see Aunt Queenie in a different light as well. Why are we only just starting to see why Aunt Queenie is the way she is? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How is Punky changing? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does Delrita think about the changes in Punky? \_\_\_\_\_

*I held the ugly blob of a snowman in one hand and Walt’s perfect swan in the other. They symbolized the difference between what I was and what I wanted to be, and I had no idea how to get from one to the other.*

6. What do you think Delrita needs to do in order to become the swan instead of the snowman?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. At this point in the novel, does Punky symbolize the swan or the snowman? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which one does Avanelle symbolize at this point in the novel, the swan or snowman?  
Explain. \_\_\_\_\_
9. In chapter eighteen, Avanelle and Delrita are in an external conflict. The fact that Avanelle did not believe Delrita when she told her that she did not show those girls the letter shows that Avanelle struggles with \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. making friends    b. telling the truth    c. trusting people    d. pride
10. If you could give Avanelle some advice right now, what would you say to her?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***The Man Who Loved Clowns***  
Chapters 20 - 21  
***Motivation, figurative language, Discussion***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Motivation is whatever pushes a character toward one action instead of another. Answer the following questions about motivation.**

1. What is Delrita's motive for giving the swan to Avanelle?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is Punky's motive for giving the swan to Suzie?

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following chart on figurative language found in these two chapters.

Figurative Language	Page #	Meaning
Simile:	179	
Idiom:	183	
I was the rock, cracked and crumbling, not the tree after all Type:	193	
Idiom:	194	
Idiom:	195	

Discussion:

1. Why doesn't Avanelle accept Delrita's apology? What would be the risk in becoming friends again?
2. Why do you think Tree did not show up to pick up Delrita for the dance?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why does Queenie cast a withering glance at a man pumping gas?
2. Who is Pete?
3. Why is it amazing that Rudy says he can “see” Ronald McDonald?
4. What conclusion does Delrita jump to when she sees Cindy talking to Tree?
5. What does Brother Hicks tell Delrita about Gardenia Shackelford?
6. What decision does Delrita make at the end of the chapter?
7. Explain how Delrita’s treatment of Tree is like Avanelle’s treatment to Delrita.

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

After chapter 24

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

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

**Theme:** the stories central message; a life lesson

## **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.
- 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.

## **Plan for understanding theme in The Man Who Loved Clowns:**

**Step 1:** List words from the novel that express the big ideas or topics from the novel.

**Step 2:** Think about what the characters in the novel do and say that relate to the topics you listed above.

**Step 3:** Come up with a statement of the author's point or message based on one or more of your big ideas. *Remember, you should be able to support your statement with things the characters do and say.*

**Step 4:** List evidence from the novel to support your theme statement. (This should be things the characters did and said.)



***The Man Who Loved Clowns***  
**Character Analysis**

<b>Character</b>	<b>Traits</b>	<b>Round/flat</b>	<b>Static/dynamic</b>
Delrita			
Punky			
Avanelle			
Queenie			
Bert			
Susie			
Barney			
Boss			
Tree			
Birdie			

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

After chapter 24

## *Writing an Epitaph*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This part of the book is extremely sad. Not only has Delrita lost her beloved Punky, we have too. We, the readers, have come to love everything about him, and we will miss his presence in our classroom. So, as part of our grieving process, let's write epitaphs to post so that we can remember Punky.

**An epitaph is a short, rhymed poem that would be written on a tombstone.**

### Choices

- Write the epitaph in Punky's point of view and in essence speak from the great beyond. If you do this, think about his outlook on life or his advice to those still living.

#### Example

I see that you are teary-eyed  
But Shirley and Sam are by my side.  
So don't cry, buddy. I'm alright.  
These horn bones in heaven are out of sight!

- Write the epitaph as a loved one who misses Punky. Think about what he meant to surviving friends and family, and put those thoughts into a poem.

#### Examples

They tell me for Punky this is the end  
What will I do without my boyfiend?  
He loved my hair bows. He's cute. I love him.  
The workshop was fun, but now it's just dim.

Here lies Punky, my uncle and friend  
Whenever I was down, his heart he would lend.  
He taught me how to love and how to live  
To have him back, the world I would give.

- Write the epitaph from your (the reader's) point of view. Think about what he has meant to you, and put your thoughts about him into the poem.

#### Examples

Here lies Punky, we got to know him in a book.  
The funny things he said immediately had us hooked.  
We laughed, cried, and loved him, but now he is gone  
But at least we know that he is finally home.

Here lies Punky, with his famous quote,  
I'm going to miss you, you old goat.  
Now wait a minute, don't you cry.  
Punky just spread his wings to fly.

- Use an *aabb* rhyme scheme. It should not be longer than four lines because it has to be short enough to fit on a tombstone. It can be as short as two lines. The length is not as important as what is written.



# **Richard “Punky” Holloway**

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

By June Ray Wood

## Final Project

**Create a cool collage that tells all about this novel. Use magazines or pictures you find on the computer to cut captions, words, photos, and illustrations that relate to the plot, characters, and settings, plus your own feelings about the story. Arrange them neatly on a sheet of paper or a small poster board. Number each picture. On the back, explain the significance of each picture.**

**This is how you will be graded:**

**At least ten pictures are used. (20 points)**

**At least three captions or words are used. (20 points)**

**The collage is neatly arranged on a piece of paper or small poster board. (20 points)**

**The pictures are numbered. (20 points)**

**The significance of each picture and caption/word is written on the back of the project. (20 points)**

**This project is due\_\_\_\_\_.**

The Man Who Loved Clowns  
Study Guide for Final Test

The following words/terms will be on the test.

1. refrain – the repeated part of a poem
2. aloof – unfriendly
3. conniving – sneaky
4. hostile – angry, mean
5. timid – shy
6. resentful – angry and regretful
7. sarcastic – smart- alecky
8. artistic – good at art
9. harshly – in a bad or angry way
10. livid – very angry
11. melancholy – sad
12. dejected – sad
13. mandatory – have to
14. round character– fully developed character; lots of traits
15. flat character – We don't really get to know these characters well; 1 or 2 traits
16. static character – stays the same
17. dynamic character- changes
18. internal conflict– problem in the mind
19. external conflict – problem outside with another character or something in nature.

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

## Unit Test

1. June Rae Wood uses all of the following literary devices in *The Man Who Loved Clowns* except one. Which one does she not employ?
  - a. flashbacks
  - b. refrains
  - c. foreshadowing
  - d. symbolism
2. Which words best describe Delrita at the beginning of the book before her parents die?
  - a. serious and understanding
  - b. aloof and protective
  - c. jealous and conniving
  - d. sad and lonely
3. Which words best describe Delrita right after her parents die?
  - a. helpful and energetic
  - b. jealous and angry
  - c. broken and lonely
  - d. timid and aloof
4. Which words best describe Delrita at the end of the novel?
  - a. confident and thankful
  - b. angry and bitter
  - c. sad and lonely
  - d. jealous and resentful
5. Which of the following characters is static?
  - a. Punky
  - b. Delrita
  - c. Bert
  - d. Aunt Queenie
6. Which of the following is not one of Punky's "famous sayings"?
  - a. "You old goat"
  - b. "I'm starved."
  - c. "Wait a minute."
  - d. "My dollar."
7. Delrita is a \_\_\_\_\_ character.
  - a. round and dynamic
  - b. round and static
  - c. flat and dynamic
  - d. flat and static
8. What does Delrita do to get a sense of control when things are out of control for her?
  - a. shop
  - b. sing
  - c. talk to someone
  - d. carve

*“You’ve grown up in Punky’s shadow. We want you to stop hiding behind him and lead a normal life.”*

9. What does Aunt Queenie mean in this passage?
- She means that Delrita has always been smaller, and it’s time that she grows taller than Punky.
  - She means that Delrita has always followed Punky around, and it’s time for him to be by himself.
  - She means that Delrita has grown up with Punky as her brother, and it’s time for him to be her uncle.
  - She means that Delrita has always looked after Punky, and it’s time that she does some things for herself.
10. How does Delrita see Aunt Queenie at the end of the novel?
- as Mrs. Perfect
  - as a nuisance
  - as a mother
  - as a controlling aunt
11. From what point of view is this novel told?
- first person
  - second person
  - third person limited
  - third person omniscient

*I pictured the unlucky person learning the ropes, only to become a sideshow for every little kid who ordered a happy meal.*

12. What two types of figurative language does this passage contain?
- a simile and an idiom
  - an idiom and a metaphor
  - a simile and a metaphor
  - personification and a metaphor

*I watched the mileage computer on the dashboard, its numbers flashing red and changing crazily, as if it couldn’t make up its mind.*

13. Why does the mileage computer symbolize Delrita?
- She is as smart as a computer.
  - She is changing crazily and has a hard time understanding how she should feel about Aunt Queenie.
  - She is always changing the radio station because she can’t make up her mind about what she wants to listen to.
  - She is always angry and upset, just as the mileage computer is.
14. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
- idiom
  - simile
  - metaphor
  - personification

*The letter was a hot coal in my shaking hands. I gaped at Avanelle, who stood still as a statue in a sunbeam from the skylight. Her emerald eyes were shooting sparks, and her orange hair was a ball of fire.*

15. What does the metaphor *the letter was a hot coal in my shaking hands* mean?
- The letter was hot and burning her hands.
  - The letter was something she wanted to get rid of quickly.
  - The letter was something she was proud of holding.
  - The letter was on fire because Avanelle lit a match to it.

*I thought of Brownie, the big shepherd dog we'd had at the farm. Brownie was a good pet, playful and gentle, but he'd killed a chicken and Dad gave him away. "He's tasted blood," Dad had said, "and he'll always want more."*

16. Which of the following literary techniques is used in this passage?
- flashback
  - foreshadowing
  - symbolism
  - imagery
17. Why does the author choose to use this memory?
- to compare Delrita to the chicken because she was always afraid
  - to allow the reader to see in his/her mind a picture of this dog and chicken
  - to allow the reader to understand Delrita's childhood
  - to link Delrita's need for Avanelle to the dog's need for the blood of a chicken
18. Which of the following best describes the overall tone of this novel?
- sad but hopeful
  - sad and depressing
  - humorous and sarcastic
  - serious but informal
19. Which of the following is the best theme for this novel?
- Watch out what you wish for because it may come true.
  - Punky was a man who loved clowns and though he died, we will always remember him.
  - Life is like an untouched block of wood. We can carve out a beautiful niche for ourselves, or we can leave it untouched and unproductive on a shelf.
  - Not every lesson can be learned in a classroom.
20. Which of the following could be the climax of this novel?
- when Delrita meets Avanelle's mother for the first time
  - when Punky dies
  - when Delrita's parents die
  - when Avanelle gets mad at Delrita over the letter to her father
21. Which of the following is not an internal conflict in this novel?
- Delrita's shame of Punky
  - Delrita's grief over her parents
  - Delrita's quarrel with Aunt Queenie
  - Avanelle's shame of her father being in jail



22. If you were asked to analyze Delrita and Avanelle by comparing and contrasting them, which of the following would be the best comparison of Delrita and Avanelle to include in an essay?
- They are both girls.
  - They are both insecure and both need each other.
  - Both of them are artistic.
  - Both of them are in school.

*They were precious jewels, a reminder that no one, ever, would fling horns as well as Punky.*

23. The underlined words form a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

- Idiom
- Simile
- Personification
- Metaphor

24. Herkimer symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.

- Bert and Sam
- Birdie and Randolph
- Punky and Delrita
- Queenie and Avanelle

*“Is it Tree?” I hoped fervently that he’d have a logical explanation. Maybe he’d been hit by a train or his house had burned down.*

25. The tone of this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

- livid
- melancholy
- dejected
- sarcastic

26. What is Delrita’s motivation in giving the Ronald McDonald she carved to Rudy?

- She is tired of having it in her pocket.
- She wants to honor Punky’s giving spirit.
- She does not want Tree to see the work she did.
- She plans to give up carving due to Punky’s death.

*I was squeezing the little clown so hard that a cramp shot up my arm and electrified me with a revelation.*

27. What literary device is used in this passage?

- flashback
- simile
- imagery
- symbolism

28. Who carried the banner at Punky’s funeral?

- Birdie and Avanelle
- Tree and Mike
- Avanelle and Tree
- The football team

29. What were the words written on Punky’s banner?

- “Bang, Punky”
- “We’ll miss you, you old goat.”
- “Punky, a man who loved clowns”
- “Punky loved DJ”

30. Which of the following sentences contains the strongest verb?
- He was wearing a navy blue jacket that said “Workshop Supervisor”.
  - He pointed to the other workers.
  - Boss strode over to him and said, “My name’s Boss.”
  - “All right, then, it is a deal.”
31. Why was Tree unable to keep his date with Delrita?
- He had too much homework to do.
  - He had not had enough time to watch MTV to learn dance moves.
  - He had to keep his siblings because his mom had to go to the hospital.
  - The coach called a mandatory football practice.

*The nurse just looked at me... “Wait,” I said again, plucking the cowboy hat and lunch box off of the cart. The nurse snatched them back and said huffily, “I’m just moving them to another room.”*

32. Based on the nurse’s words and actions, what can you infer about her?
- She is happy and fully enjoys her job.
  - She is grumpy and easily aggravated by her patients.
  - She is lonely and wishes she had a friend.
  - She is ugly and ashamed of her looks.

**Matching – Match each quote with the person who said it.**

- Walt
- Susie
- Boss
- Queenie
- Tree

33. “Punky Holloway,” She said, shaking a finger at him, “don’t even think about pruning these flowers.”
34. “You’re a man who loves clowns, and it so happens I’m a man who loves red socks. Just this once I’m willing to make a trade. Shake, and we’ve got a bargain.”
35. Look, Frankie. See my pretty bird? Punky gave him to me. I like Punky. He’s my boyfwiend.”
36. “You’ve got to understand something about Avanelle. She’s got a couple of real bad hang ups about us being on welfare and about Dad. She’s not like me.”
37. “Most of our employees have been kept in a valley by their disabilities. We teach them to use whatever capabilities they have to climb up to the mountain top.”

**Matching – Match each character with the correct description.**

- A. Susie**
- B. Queenie**
- C. Marcus**
- D. Walt**
- E. Rudy**

- 38. This character worked with Punky at the workshop and wore bows in her hair.
- 39. This character was the Jensen's young neighbor and played with Punky.
- 40. This character was blind and assembled mud mats at the workshop.
- 41. This character was ultra organized.
- 42. This character informed Delrita of her parents' deaths.

**Answer Key  
Unit Test**

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	B
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	D
7	A
8	D
9	D
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	D
15	B
16	A
17	D
18	A
19	C
20	B
21	C
22	B
23	D
24	C
25	D
26	B
27	C
28	C
29	B
30	C
31	C
32	B
33	D
34	A
35	B
36	E
37	C
38	A
39	C
40	E
41	B
42	D

*The Man Who Loved Clowns*  
Chapters 1-2  
**Author's Craft (lead, imagery, symbolism)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

An author's craft - the specific techniques that an author chooses to relay an intended message. These techniques can include (but are not limited to) tone, flashback, imagery, irony, word choice, and dialogue.

**In chapters one and two, we will examine the author's craft of using a lead or "grabber", symbolism, flashback, and vivid descriptions.**

### **Lead/Grabber**

Reread the first paragraph of the novel.

*"Delrita! Delrita Jensen! Wait up!"*

*I clutched my books to my chest and plowed on through the sea of sweaty bodies in the junior high hallway. Without looking back, I knew it was that new girl yelling at me. Because she and I had to share a math book, she was the only person in this whole school who didn't consider me invisible. All I wanted was for her to leave me alone.*

1. What type of grabber/lead does the author choose to use? Dialogue grabber.
2. Is this grabber effective? Yes If so, what questions arise in your mind after reading it?

Sample: Who is Delrita? Why do they have to share a math book? Why does the narrator say she is "invisible"? Why does the narrator want this new girl to leave her alone?

### **Descriptions and Imagery:**

**Imagery – Language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind.**

The author weaves in a description of Delrita in this first chapter. What phrases are used to describe her? She is skinny as we know from the description "pipe-cleaner legs". She is a tall, skinny brunette. She's 13 years old.

- Throughout this chapter, the author uses imagery to help the readers feel like they are there. Read the following two passages and underline the smells that the author refers to.  
*Without answering, I walked through the doorway onto the sidewalk, away from the noise*

and the smell of books and chalk dust. Across the street, a man was mowing a ditch, and I caught a faint whiff of dust and dried weeds.

- Underline the imagery that is included when there is a description of the busses.

Almost in unison, the bus drivers started grinding gears and revving up their engines. The exhaust fumes burned my eyes and throat.

### Discuss:

Why should authors use imagery? So that readers feel like they are in the story and so the story comes to life for the readers.

## Chapter 2

**Symbolism – The author’s use of an object, person, place, or event that has both a meaning in itself and stands for something larger than itself.**

Read the following passage from chapter two.

*To chase away my fears, I’d think about the tree I’d once seen growing from a rock. Maybe I’d be like that tree, which stood proud and willowy after fighting its way to the sun, while the rock was cracked with a deep, jagged scar all the way to the ground. Sample answers below.*

What does the tree symbolize? Overcoming fears, her fight, who she would like to become

What does the rock symbolize? “cage” that keeps her trapped, brokenness, weakness, shame

The author chooses to use this symbolism to help the reader learn about Delrita. Which is she more like at this point in the book, the rock or the tree? the rock

**Flashback – The technique of disrupting the flow of a narrative by having a character remember past events.**

Where is the flashback in this chapter? Flashback is about when they first move to Tangle Nook. Page 16

### Discuss

Why do authors use flashbacks? Authors provide flashbacks to give us the “back story” of characters. This helps the reader understand why things happen.

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 3-4

## Understanding Idioms & Making Inferences/Drawing Conclusions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Idiom**- Words used in a special way that may be different from their literal meaning (e.g., **It's raining cats and dogs.**)

Underline the idioms in the following sentences from chapters three and four. Then, tell what each idiom means.

1. *If she passed the word during fourth hour Monday, Avanelle would be out of my hair.*

Meaning leave her alone

2. *With a clean red T-shirt and a freshly scrubbed face, Punky made a beeline for Aunt Queenie.*

Meaning He went straight to her.

3. *Wouldn't she hit the ceiling if she knew that as soon as Punky cleaned the meat off a horn, he'd fling the bone behind the TV?*

Meaning Be upset

4. *She probably thought I was like the other kids, who hadn't exactly beaten a path to her locker when she enrolled in school this morning.*

Meaning made a point to get there

**Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions** Whenever we read something, we are constantly making inferences and drawing conclusions. We do this based on what we already know from our prior knowledge or what we learn from the text.

Read the following passages from chapters three and four. Then, answer the questions.

*"Hi, hon. How was school today?" she asked...*

*"Nothing to shout about. I got a B on my book report, and Mr. Casey thinks I have artistic promise."*

*"Promise? That's an understatement if I ever heard one."*

- What does Delrita's mom mean when she says, "That's an understatement if I ever heard one."?

What can you conclude about Delrita's artistic ability? She is a very good artist.

*Punky loved commercials, and he was always flipping the channels back and forth, watching for his favorites. Our cupboards overflowed with boxes of detergents that danced, toilet paper that unrolled itself, and several kinds of cat food, even though we'd never owned a cat.*

- Why are their cupboards full of all of these products? Because he watches all of the commercials and then wants to buy the products that he sees advertised in the commercials

*“But he’s never even been to school,” argued Aunt Queenie...*

*Uncle Bert looked uncomfortable. He wiped his face with his napkin and said uneasily, “Queenie, we’ve been through all this before...*

*“Before Mama died, I gave her my word that I’d keep him with me always, and that’s what I’m doing. I know you’ve helped some with the handicapped, but you haven’t lived it. Mama and I have, and Bert. Ask him what it’s like to see people poking fun and making mean comments about someone you love.”*

*Uncle Bert, who’d been taking a drink of iced tea, started choking. I wondered if it was on purpose.*

- What can the reader conclude about Bert from these two passages?
  - a. He loves his wife and will always defend her point of view on things.
  - b. He is intimidated by his wife and a little afraid to express his own opinions.
  - c. He thinks his wife is right all of the time.
  - d. He enjoys arguing with his wife and likes to pick fights with her.

*Punky looked startled at the magnified sound. He grabbed the mike from Dad, crammed it back into the box, and shoved it at Uncle Bert. “You have it,” he said.*

- Why does Punky give back the microphone?

*He doesn’t like the loud noise it makes.*

*When I leaned over and saw a kid’s program featuring Jellybean the Clown, I knew Punky wouldn’t touch the dial again until the show was over.*

*Around midnight, when I heard the first TV station signing off the air, I brushed the wood shavings off my lap and got up.*

- These two passages help the reader to infer about the setting. We are given hints in these passages about when (around what year it is) the action in this book takes place. Underline the hints. Can you find them? When do you think this book takes place? Early 1980s



## The Man Who Loved Clowns Quiz Chapters 1-5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Who is Marcus?
  - Punky's brother
  - Georgina's bratty little brother**
  - Delrita's teacher
  - the neighbor's pet
- Punky received all of the following for his birthday except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - red socks
  - a radio
  - a swing**
  - a microphone
- Whose favorite color is green?
  - Punky
  - Bert
  - Avanelle
  - Delrita**
- What is Delrita's hobby?
  - painting
  - drawing
  - carving**
  - swimming
- If you were Punky, what is a "horn"?
  - a pencil
  - a chicken bone**
  - something that makes noise
  - something that makes music
- Who says, "I declare."
  - Uncle Bert
  - Aunt Queenie**
  - Shirley
  - Delrita
- What does Punky like to watch on television?
  - Soap Operas
  - Commercials**
  - The news
  - Game shows
- Where can Punky use the gift certificate he received for his birthday from Bert?
  - McDonald's**
  - the ice cream parlor
  - the theater
  - the candy store
- Delrita wants to be able to carve a \_\_\_\_\_ the most.
  - swan**
  - clown
  - turtle
  - duck
- Punky often rolls \_\_\_\_\_ on his sawed off table.
  - horns
  - crayons**
  - sticks
  - socks

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

## Reading Guide

### Chapter 7

Read chapter seven to yourself. You can either answer these questions as you go, or answer them after you finish reading.

1. Write the title of this chapter The Moptops
2. Who is the title referring to? The Shakleford's Avanelle and her family
3. What two things make Punky cry? Rain and Organ music
4. How old was Punky when his mother died and he had to move in with Shirley? 16
5. Who is Miss Myrtle Chambers? An 80 year old woman who goes to church with Delrita's family
6. True or false? Uncle Bert and Queenie go to the same church as Delrita. true
7. What was one funny thing that Punky said to someone at church? Write the page number and what he said.  
"Hey, buddy. Clown hair, like Wonald McDonald." Page 63    "You're fat." Page 66
8. Who is Tree? Avanelle's older brother What's his real (whole) name Trezane Shakleford
9. Every time someone says "Amen" in church, Punky says, bang!
10. What did Punky do to embarrass Delrita so much? He patted Mrs. Shakleford on her stomach and  
said, "You're fat."

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 6-7

## Word Choice, Dialect, and Tone

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Choice** – The effective use of words to enhance style, tone, or clarity in writing.

June Rae Wood uses many strong verbs to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Read the following sentences from chapters six and seven, and underline the strong verbs.

1. Punky grabbed the tea and chugged it down while I said, “Wash your hands and face. The hamburgers’ll be done in a jiffy.”
2. I shot into the bathroom, but he was already replacing the cap on the empty bottle.
3. “Wait a minute,” he replied, puttering off to his bedroom, his lunch box under his arm.
4. When he had donned his cowboy hat and admired himself in the mirror, he said, “Ready.”

### **Strong versus Weak**

Read the following sentences. The one with a strong verb is a sentence found in the novel. The one with a weaker verb is not in the novel. Place a check mark beside the one with the stronger verb. Visualize yourself acting out each scene. Be prepared to explain why the sentence with the strong verb is more effective.

1. He pried open the egg, which held a green plastic whistle on a string.

He opened the egg, which held a green plastic whistle on a string.

2. After snatching up a bottle of shampoo, I hustled Punky to the checkout lane.

After picking up a bottle of shampoo, I walked Punky to the checkout lane

3. I was embarrassed as customers and cashiers turned to see the commotion.

My cheeks burned with embarrassment as customers and cashiers turned to see the commotion.

**Dialect**:-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.

- June Rae Wood uses dialect in this novel. It is most evident with Birdie and Punky.
- For example, when Punky says, “Don’t want no rain,” the author is using dialect. This sentence is not written in Standard English. It contains two negative words, which is incorrect. However, it is characteristic of people with Down Syndrome, because most of them do not speak in Standard English all of the time.
- The author of this book also uses dialect with the character Birdie. Find an example from chapter six that exemplifies Birdie’s dialect.

**Example 1 Page #56** When Birdie says, **“Cause my daddy stoled?”**

**Tone** – The writer’s or speaker’s attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details.

*“Looks like there’s a pretty good crowd today,” Mom said as Dad drove into the parking area of Countryside Church.*

*“Yeah,” Dad replied, shutting off the motor. “Maybe twenty-five, thirty people, counting us and the preacher. I hope there’s room for us to sit inside.”*

- Which word best describes Sam’s tone in this passage when he responds to Shirley’s comment about the crowd at church?

a. sentimental   b. desperate   c. **sarcastic**   d. humorous

*“She’s my girl, you old goat,” said Punky, placing his hands on his hips.*

*“My girl,” Uncle Bert said over his shoulder as Aunt Queenie pulled him toward a pew.*

- Which word best describes this conversation between Punky and Uncle Bert?

a. angry   b. **playful**   c. guilty   d. objective

**How would you describe the tone at the end of chapter seven when Delrita runs out of the church?**

**Read the following passage. Pay attention to the underlined words from the passage to help you come to a conclusion about the tone. Do these words have a favorable or unfavorable connotation?**

*The words felt like a slap across my face. I raced down the aisle, out of the church, and lunged for the car. It was suffocating because the sun had come out, and I cranked down the window furiously. How stupid I had been to let my guard down, even for a minute, since I already knew my life could never be normal...I slid to the floor and prayed that he wouldn’t find me. Scrunching down with the floorboards gouging into my knees... **angry, embarrassing, candid***

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

## Chapter 8

### Conflict

**Conflict – A struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces (external conflict) or the character’s emotions (internal conflict).**

Complete the following chart to analyze the conflicts that are present in the novel.

Character	Conflict	Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict	Type of conflict (internal or external)
<b>Delrita</b>  Sample answer	Her constant worry that people are making fun of Punky	So they had laughed at Punky after all. I felt strangely disappointed	internal
<b>Avanelle</b>  Sample answer	She wants to keep the fact that her father is in jail a secret.	“What did she talk about? Avanelle asked quickly. ... “Oh,” said Avanelle, obviously relieved.	internal

❖ In chapter eight, there is a notable description of the weather.

*When the last bell rang and everyone swarmed out of the building, storm clouds boiled in the sky and thunder rumbled from west to east like low-flying jets. The air, which had hung hot and heavy in the classrooms all afternoon, suddenly turned cold, as if someone had opened a giant refrigerator.*

❖ Authors often use descriptions of weather to emphasize the dramatic events that occur as well as the dramatic inner changes in the main character. At this point in the book, are there any dramatic changes in Delrita? How can the weather be linked to those changes? Delrita is changing . She is opening up more to Avanelle and even Tree.

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

After Chapters 9 - 10

## Foreshadowing & Point of View

**Foreshadowing is when the author gives the reader a hint of something that is going to happen before it actually happens. Foreshadowing is used to build suspense or create anxiety.**

We just found out that Delrita's parents were killed in a car accident. June Rae Wood provided us with foreshadowing for this tragedy. Go back and look in chapters nine and ten to find it. Complete the following chart once you have found the clues.

Passage	Page #	What this foreshadows
<i>In some places, the guardrails along the road's edge seemed like small protection from sheer drop-offs into empty space.</i>	83-84	This foreshadows the car accident and the fact that the guardrails would not protect them.
<i>"Bringing that trailer into these hills wasn't such a good idea. It's top-heavy without a load, and I can feel it bucking against us every time I touch the brakes."</i>	84	This foreshadows the cause of the accident.

### Discuss:

How does this foreshadowing create suspense? Foreshadowing causes the reader to wonder about or predict future events. This in turn makes the reader want to keep reading to find out if this will happen. Any time a reader wants to keep reading to find out what will happen, suspense is at work.

**Point of view: The position or vantage point from which the events of a story seem to be observed and presented to us. The chief distinction usually made between points of views is that between third person narratives and first person narratives.**

This book is told from Delrita's point of view, which makes it a first person narrative. The first-person point of view sacrifices omniscience and omnipresence for a greater intimacy with one character. It allows the reader to see what the focus character is thinking and feeling.

Answer the following questions to analyze the point of view used in this novel.

1. What is the advantage of reading this story from Delrita's point of view?

We really get to know Delrita. We go where she goes. We like who she likes and we dislike who she dislikes. We know all of her inner thoughts and feelings.

2. How would the story be different if it were told from Aunt Queenie's point of view?

We would probably like Aunt Queenie a lot more. We would not know what goes on at school or at home with Delrita. We would know more about Aunt Queenie's life, her thoughts, and her feelings. The story would be completely different.

3. How would the story be different if it were told from the third person omniscient point of view?

The narrator would let us in on more than one character's thoughts and feelings. We may know what Aunt Queenie thinks and feels. We may be able to look in on Punky at home while Delrita is away at school. We may have even been able to read about the accident and know the last words or thoughts of Shirley and Sam. The story would certainly be different with this point of view.

*The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 11-12

**Mood & Metaphors**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mood** – The overall emotion created by a work of literature. It is the emotional atmosphere that often has a lingering effect on its readers.

1. What mood does the author create in chapter eleven? **sad, serious, mournful, profound**

2. What words and phrases help to create that mood? Complete the following chart with words or phrases from this chapter that create this mood.

<b>Numbness</b>	<b>Chasm of death</b>	<b>Black hole</b>	<b>Satin. Cold. Casket.</b>
<b>Blood</b>	<b>...leave me all alone</b>	<b>The memories she has of her parents</b>	<b>Screaming sirens</b>

**Metaphor** - An imaginative comparison between two unlike things in which one thing is said to be another.

Chapter 12 includes some awesome metaphors. Complete the following chart by finding the metaphor, writing it, and telling what it means.

<b>Page #</b>	<b>Metaphor</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>107</b>	<i>I became a blank wall</i>	<b>She's just there. She is "closed off" from others.</b>
<b>107</b>	<i>The experience was a nightmare.</i>	<b>It was horrible and awful.</b>
<b>108</b>	<i>Punky was the glue that held me together.</i>	<b>He is the one person who kept her strong – who kept her going.</b>
<b>110</b>	<i>The place was a jungle.</i>	<b>There were so many plants it looked like a jungle.</b>
<b>111</b>	<i>Punky and I were just a broken fingernail, a thorn in her toe...</i>	<b>To Queenie, Punky and Delrita were just aggravations and pains that she wanted to get rid of.</b>
<b>112</b>	<i>Punky's a born comedian..."</i>	<b>Punky is funny in a good way.</b>

Choose one sentence and rewrite it without the metaphor. Which one is better?

Why? **Accept reasonable answers.**

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

## Chapter 13

### Figurative Language & Conflict

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **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. Figurative language, however, is not always obvious, as we see with the simile, *Dreams are like a river* or with the metaphor, *Life is a game*. There are several ways that we can interpret these two examples of figurative language. We must use our imagination, reason, and trial and error in order to do so.

Chapter thirteen of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Look at the following simile from chapter 13. “*Life is like an untouched block of wood. We can carve out a beautiful niche for ourselves, or we can leave it unused and unproductive on a shelf.*”

Paraphrase these lines. What does this mean?

**Sample answer: Life is like a block of wood. It's up to us to do something with our lives. If we sit around and do nothing, we will not be productive with our lives.**

Do you agree with Walt's simile? yes

Create your own simile comparing life to something other than a block of wood. Try to create one that could help Delrita with her struggles. Accept reasonable answers.

#### **Conflict**

How has Delrita's internal conflict changed or deepened? List some of the things that she is struggling with in her mind. **Delrita's life has changed drastically. Now, not only does she struggle with her shame of Punky, she must also cope with the grief over her parent's death that overwhelms her. In addition, she has Aunt Queenie to deal with.**



*The Man Who Loved Clowns*  
Chapter 14  
Compare/Contrast, Symbolism & Turning Point

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use the Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the Shackelford's house and way of life with Aunt Queenie's and Uncle Bert's. **The Shackelford's house is smaller and not as nice. Aunt Queenie's home is big and filled with modern, expensive décor. The Shackelford's home is more like a home. Aunt Queenie's home is not home-like. The Shackelford's home has lots of kids. Aunt Queenie's home only has Delrita and Punky. Queenie's home is filled with plants. Shackelford home is filled with laughter and homemade snacks.**

There is a turning point in this chapter for Delrita. What happens that causes a change in her? **Page 127 – I felt warm inside. I'd finally burst through the rock. Delrita decides to finally open up and to allow Avanelle to be her friend.**

**What symbolism is included in this chapter? Analyze each example of symbolism by telling what it means. Bursting through the rock is symbolic of Delrita overcoming her fear of having friends. Also carving a swan with outstretched wings symbolizes Delrita trying to "spread her own wings" by opening up to others.**

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

## Chapter 15

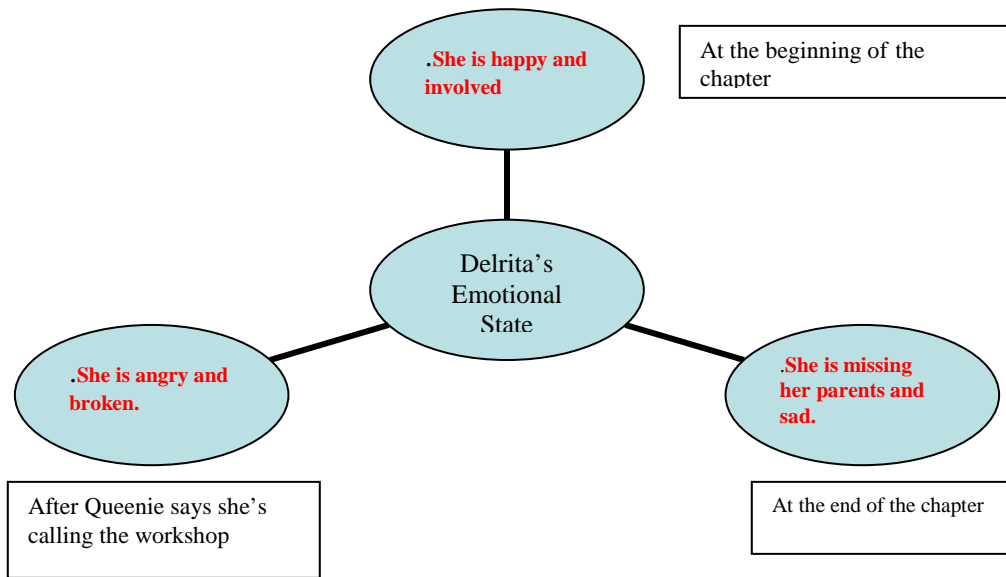
### “Taking a Closer Look”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Delrita’s changes

Delrita has struggled internally throughout the entire book so far. In chapter fifteen, we notice that she is continuing to change. She seems to be opening up to Avanelle more and has truly accepted her as a friend. However, her emotions in this chapter are like a pendulum, swinging up and down. Complete the following map to illustrate her state of mind at this point in the novel. What does this tell you about her internal conflicts?



#### **Punky’s World**

*“This was Punky’s world – a cowboy hat, a radio, a flag, seven clowns, and a lunch box full of broken crayons.”*

This line of the novel is a memorable one because it highlights the simplicity and the childlike innocence of Punky. Try creating a line similar to this one for the following characters.

Aunt Queenie: This was Queenie’s world –

**Sample: a hundred potted plants, community service, and a life of perfection.**

Delrita: This was Delrita’s world – **sample: her carving tools, an extreme amount of grief, and an uncle named Punky whom she adored.**

Birdie: This was Birdie’s world-

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

## Chapter 17

### Indirect Characterization

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In chapter 17, we meet several new characters. The author indirectly reveals these characters' personalities through what they say, how they look, their behavior, and what other characters say about them. Complete the following chart to examine each character.

Mr. Reese / "Boss"	
His words tell you that he is	
<i>Kind, in charge</i>	
His looks tell you that he is	
<i>older</i>	
Other characters tell you that he is	
<i>Compassionate, a good boss or leader, caring</i>	
His behavior tells you that he is	
<i>Kind</i>	
Susie	
Her words tell you that she is	
<i>Kind, friendly, outgoing also that she has Down Syndrome</i>	
Her looks tell you that she is	
<i>Cute – bows in her hair</i>	
Other characters tell you that she is	
<i>kind</i>	
Her behavior tells you that she is	
<i>Has Down Syndrome, outgoing</i>	
Barney	
His words tell you that he is	
<i>Funny, stubborn, outspoken</i>	
His looks tell you that he is	
<i>That he has Down Syndrome too</i>	
Other characters tell you that he is	
<i>Likable, kind, Outspoken, a ladies' man (lol- secretary says, "He says that to all the girls.")</i>	
His behavior tells you that he is	
<i>Outspoken, stubborn</i>	

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

Chapters 18 - 19

“Change”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In these two chapters, we notice a change in Delrita’s attitude toward Aunt Queenie, and we see a change in Punky. Answer the following questions about these changes.

1. What does Delrita find out about Aunt Queenie that allows Delrita to see her aunt in a new light? **She was never able to have children of her own.**
2. Who reveals this information about Aunt Queenie to Delrita? **Uncle Bert**
3. We, the readers, are just now beginning to see Aunt Queenie in a different light as well. Why are we only just starting to see why Aunt Queenie is the way she is? **Because of the point of view Since Delrita is telling the story, we only understand things as she begins to understand them.**
4. How is Punky changing? **He is making friends, and he now has a purpose in life.**
5. What does Delrita think about the changes in Punky? **She is happy about them, but they also cause her to be more disappointed in herself.**

*I held the ugly blob of a snowman in one hand and Walt’s perfect swan in the other. They symbolized the difference between what I was and what I wanted to be, and I had no idea how to get from one to the other.*

6. What do you think Delrita needs to do in order to become the swan instead of the snowman?

**Answers will vary. She needs to open up more. She needs to make things right with Avanelle. She needs to stop worrying so much.**

7. At this point in the novel, does Punky symbolize the swan or the snowman? **the swan**

Explain your answer. **He is making new friends and enjoying life.**

8. Which one does Avanelle symbolize at this point in the novel, the swan or snowman?

Explain. **The snowman. She is still struggling with internal conflicts.**

9. In chapter eighteen, Avanelle and Delrita are in an external conflict. The fact that Avanelle did not believe Delrita when she told her that she did not show those girls the letter shows that Avanelle struggles with \_\_\_\_\_.

a. making friends    b. telling the truth    c. **trusting people**    d. pride

# The Man Who Loved Clowns

Chapters 20 - 21

Motivation, figurative language, Discussion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Motivation is whatever pushes a character toward one action instead of another. Answer the following questions about motivation.

1. What is Delrita's motive for giving the swan to Avanelle?

**She hopes it will be a peace offering and will mend their friendship.**

2. What is Punky's motive for giving the swan to Suzie?

**He likes Suzie.**

Complete the following chart on figurative language found in these two chapters.

Figurative Language	Page #	Meaning
Simile: "...he's like a cat on a hot roof."	179	<b>He's ready to go – in a hurry.</b>
Idiom: <b>...let the cat out of the bag</b>	183	<b>Told the secret</b>
I was the rock, cracked and crumbling, not the tree after all Type: <b>Metaphor</b>	193	<b>She is still struggling with her conflicts that she is unable to overcome.</b>
Idiom: <b>...beginning to smell a rat</b>	194	<b>Know that something was going on, like a trick or a lie</b>
Idiom: <b>lost my marbles</b>	195	<b>Lost her mind</b>

Discussion:

1. Why doesn't Avanelle accept Delrita's apology? What would be the risk in becoming friends again? **She has issues with trusting people probably because of her dad being wrongly convicted. The risk would be her getting hurt again.**
2. Why do you think Tree did not show up to pick up Delrita for the dance? **Predictions will vary.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why does Queenie cast a withering glance at a man pumping gas? **He was staring at Punky.**
2. Who is Pete? **He works at McDonalds and he too has Down Syndrome. He is Punky's friend.**
3. Why is it amazing that Rudy says he can "see" Ronald McDonald? **He is blind.**
4. What conclusion does Delrita jump to when she sees Cindy talking to Tree?  
**That Tree was at the dance with her**
5. What does Brother Hicks tell Delrita about Gardenia Shackelford?  
**That she went into labor**
6. What decision does Delrita make at the end of the chapter?  
**She would go back to being invisible.**
7. Explain how Delrita's treatment of Tree is like Avanelle's treatment to Delrita.

**Delrita did not trust Tree just like Avanelle did not trust her. Also, she decides to "close herself off" where Tree is concerned just as Avanelle did to her.**

# *The Man Who Loved Clowns*

After chapter 24

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

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

**Theme:** the stories central message; a life lesson

## **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.
- 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.

## **Plan for understanding theme in The Man Who Loved Clowns:**

**Step 1:** List words from the novel that express the big ideas or topics from the novel.

**Sample list:** shame, love, grief, overcoming, spreading your wings, friendship, trust, family

**Step 2:** Think about what the characters in the novel do and say that relate to the topics you listed above.

**Step 3:** Come up with a statement of the author's point or message based on one or more of your big ideas. *Remember, you should be able to support your statement with things the characters do and say.*

**Step 4:** List evidence from the novel to support your theme statement. (This should be things the characters did and said.)

**Note: Answers may be debatable on static/dynamic.**

**The Man Who Loved Clowns**

**Character Analysis**

<b>Character</b>	<b>Traits</b>	<b>Round/flat</b>	<b>Static/dynamic</b>
Delrita	Artistic Shy Caring talented	round	dynamic
Punky	Kind Lovable Stubborn Friendly outgoing	Round	dynamic
Avanelle	Outgoing Kind	Round	dynamic
Queenie	Proper Organized Talented	Round	Static --It's not her that changes, it's Delrita's attitude toward her that changes.
Bert	Intimidated by his wife Caring Playful Slow to anger	Round	Static – He's the same ol' Bert in the end as he is in the beginning of the book
Susie	sweet	flat	static
Barney	Stubborn Kind	Flat	static
Boss	Kind	Flat	static
Tree	Kind Athletic Compassionate trustworthy	Round	static
Birdie	Kind	Flat	static



**If you enjoyed this teaching unit, visit our website:**  
**[www.elacoreplans.com](http://www.elacoreplans.com)**

We have tons of resources for ELA teachers including [novel units](#), [short story lessons](#), [writing activities](#), and [Common-Core bell ringer activities](#). You can print free samples from all of these online teaching materials!

Happy Teaching! ☺  
ELA Core Plans  
S&T Publications, LLC