

A Teaching Unit For Flush

By Carl Hiaasen



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Teaching Unit

Flush

Carl Hiaasen

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Flush Teaching Unit

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Flush

Pre-reading Activities

Name _____

Date _____

Anticipation Guide

Read each of the following statements. Place a *T* beside the statements that you think are true and a *F* beside statements that you think are false.

If you know something is going to happen to the environment that you know is wrong, you should do something to keep it from happening. _____

It is okay to break the law if you are doing it to help a good cause. _____

You should always ignore bullies. _____

What goes around comes around (In other words, people get what they deserve.) _____

Pollution is not a big deal. _____

You should not take money that is offered to you if it was obtained illegally. _____

Everyone is capable of controlling his/her own behavior at all times. _____

You should keep your friends close but your enemies closer. _____

Chapter Titles for *Flush*

Carl Hiaasen does not include chapter titles in this novel. After you read a chapter, create a title for it using the following chart.

Name: _____

Chapter	Title
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	

Flush
Chapter 1

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Why is Noah's Dad in jail?
2. Who owns the *Coral Queen*?
3. How did Noah's parents meet?
4. Who is Abbey?
5. What does Noah's dad think Dusty Muleman has been doing illegally?

Point of View

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. This point of view provides the reader with the advantage of really getting to know the character who is narrating. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used.

What point of view is used in *Flush*? _____

Who is telling the story? _____

What are some things that we have already learned that we may not have learned if another point of view were used?

If it were told from a different character's point of view, what are some things that we may know about that we do not know about now?

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

Describe the relationship between Noah and Abbey.

Describe the relationship between Noah, Abbey and their father.

"It's not his heart I'm worried about, it's his brain," she said. What does Noah's sister mean by this statement? What can the reader infer about her relationship with her father at this point in the novel?

Flush Chapter 2

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Who is Jasper Muleman, Jr.?
2. Describe Lice Peeking.
3. What did Lice Peeking steal from Mr. Muleman?
4. What does Noah and his father want from Lice Peeking?
5. Why was Noah's mother chopping onions?

Direct & Indirect Characterization

1. **DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.
2. **INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

Fill in the blanks on the following charts.

<i>Lice Peeking's Traits</i>	<i>Evidence (Quote from the book)</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
Unkempt, dirty	...Dad said everyone had called him Lice, for obvious reasons, since elementary school. It didn't look like his bathing habits had improved much since then.	
	"What do I care about baby sea turtles? I got my own daily survival to worry about."	

<i>Jasper's Traits</i>	<i>Evidence (Quote from the book)</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
	He was a well-known jerk.	Direct

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

He told Dad and the other guides that he'd inherited some money from a rich uncle who'd died in an elephant stampede in Africa. I remember Mom's eyes narrowing when Dad told us the story- it was the same look I got whenever I tell her I'm done with my homework and she knows better. (Page 15)

What can you infer from this passage? _____

There, lying open on the bed, was my mother's suitcase. Not her vacation suitcase, either, but the big plaid one. (page 23)

What can you infer from this passage? _____

Flush
Chapter 3

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Who are Thom and Rado?
2. What did Shelly bury with the shovel?

Figurative Language- Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, idiom, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Chapter three of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Idiom- an expression that means something totally different than what it says.

Page 25 - "Tell her to hang in there, Noah."

What does the underlined idiom mean? _____

Simile - compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Page 27 - *I've always liked watching the sky drop down like a foamy purple curtain when a summer storm rumbles across Florida Bay.*

What two things are being compared with this simile? _____ and _____

Why is this simile effective? _____

Find a simile on page 31. _____

Metaphor - compares two things by calling one thing another.

Page 34 - *Shelly thumped him with both heels and said, "Get up, you sorry sack of beans, before I park that slimy aquarium on your head."*

Underline the metaphor.

What is being compared with this metaphor? _____

Personification - nonhumans are given human traits or attributes

Page 28 - *...when a summer storm rumbles across Florida Bay. If you're on the ocean side of the islands, it can sneak up on you from behind, which happens a lot to tourists.*

What is being personified in this sentence? _____

Write this sentence without personification.

Which is better, your new sentence or the sentence with personification? _____

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

Sometimes, late in the afternoon, my father would take me and Abbey out fishing. Even if the snappers weren't biting, we'd stay until sunset, hoping to see the green flash on the horizon. The flash was kind of a legend in the Keys-some people believed in it and some didn't. Dad claimed that he'd actually seen it once, on a cruise to Fort Jefferson. For our fishing expeditions, either Abbey or I always brought a camera, just in case. We had a stack of pretty sunset pictures, but no green flash.

What can you conclude about this "green flash"? What do you think it is? _____

Do some online research on the green flash of the Florida Keys. Write a brief summary of your findings.

Flush Chapter 4

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. How did Bull get his nickname?
2. What did Jasper do to Noah after he hit him?
3. What did Noah do to Jasper after Bull and Jasper left?
4. What happened to Jasper's johnboat?
5. Why is Abbey crying at the end of this chapter?

Developing Realistic Characters

When writing a narrative, it is important that your characters seem believable and realistic. One way to do this is through dialogue. Another way is through their mannerisms, and yet another way is through descriptions. Carl Hiaasen does a stupendous job making his characters realistic. Complete the following chart by looking back through chapter four at these characters. Examine what these characters say, their mannerisms, and Carl Hiaasen's descriptions to complete this analysis. The first one has been done for you.

Character	Author's words that make this character seem real	Characterization created by...
Mr. Shine	<i>He looked mopey and gray, and his eyelids drooped. Abbey said he reminded her of Eeyore from Winnie-the Pooh.</i>	Description, simile
Bull		
Miles Umlatt		

Discussion:

"Too many people these days, they just turn their backs or close their eyes, pretending everything is wonderful in the world." (page 47).

What do you think about this statement? Is it true? Do you think there should be more people like Noah's father? Could you be like Noah's father?

What do you predict will happen in the next chapter?

Flush
Chapter 5

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Why wouldn't the deputy allow Noah in to visit his father?
2. What did Lice Peeking do to Jasper Jr.?
3. What did Noah and Abbey witness as they hid and watched the workers on the *Coral Queen*?
4. What happened to Abbey at the end of this chapter?

Descriptions and Imagery:

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

- Throughout this chapter and the entire novel, Carl Hiaasen uses imagery to help the readers feel like they are there. He describes the characters so that the reader has a complete picture of what the person is like. Read the following two passages and underline the words that allow you to "see" Lice Peeking.

He was lounging on the front stoop, sucking on a cigarette. His hair was wet and tangly, and his shirt was damp. I couldn't tell whether he'd taken a shower or sprayed himself down with a garden hose.

Lice Peeking scratched his chin, which was raw and peeling. "Where's your house at?" he asked.

You Try It!

Let's create a character. We have no idea what Lice Peeking's mother is like, but let's use our imagination. Write a short paragraph in which you describe Lice Peeking's mom. Have her doing something (anything-like planting flowers or chasing a mouse with a broom) as you describe her. Like Carl Hiaasen, weave imagery and descriptions of her into your short passage. You could tell how she smells. (Remember, Shelley smells like tangerines.) Also, have her speak. (Dialogue can reveal a lot about a person.) Make sure you describe her so that the reader has a picture of her in his/her mind.

Discuss:

Why should authors use imagery?

Predict: What do you think is about to happen to Abbey?

Flush
Chapter 6

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What did Abbey do to the stranger who had her by the neck?
2. Why didn't Lice Peeking show up at Noah's house to get the skiff?
3. Who is going to help Noah?

Bias

Bias is a one-sided judgment either for or against a particular person, position, or thing. In order to locate bias, one must look at word choice and the exclusion and inclusion of particular information. Headline news articles should not be biased, neither should news reported on television. However, sometimes bias is still evident. Look at the following passages from page 62.

Miles Umlatt described my father as "passionate about the environment" but also "volatile and impulsive."

Are these statements biased? Is it a one-sided view, or does it show both sides of Paine Underwood?

"Half the article is Dusty Muleman saying Dad's a liar and a crackpot," I said.

"Dusty plays golf every Sunday with the newspaper's publisher," my mother said.

Do these statements show that the article was biased? How?

Writing Assignment

Write the newspaper article about Paine Underwood. Choose whether you want to write a biased version of the story or an unbiased version. Remember, to be unbiased, it should stick to the facts and not give any one-sided opinions or judgments.

Local Cabbie Defends Sinking of Casino Boat

Flush
Chapter 7

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What did Noah and Abbey do to the television, and why did they do it?
2. What did Noah find out about the sewage tank?

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. Read the following paragraph.

I'd been rummaging through the wheelhouse, hunting for any scrap of evidence that might help Dad - a note in the crew's log, an order in Dusty's handwriting to dump the tanks, whatever - when a mullet boat rumbled into the basin. A man in rubber boots rose in the bow and started tossing a cast net. The noise woke up the bald guy, who got out of the car and stretched his arms and lit up a cigarette.

Now I was stuck. There was no way to leave the Coral Queen without being spotted under the dock lights. I could see Dusty's goon guy sitting on the hood of his station wagon, the tip of the cigarette glowing orange whenever he took a drag.

On tiptoes I made my way down a stairwell to the second casino deck, which, like the others, was enclosed to keep out the rain. I snooped around until I found a rack of poker chips that the crew had forgotten to lock away. I carried the rack up toward the front of the boat and opened one of the side windows. I waited there until the mullet netter motored out of the basin and the marina was quiet.

Then I reached out the window and dropped the poker chips. They made a very impressive racket...He was bounding up the aft stairs as I was sneaking down the forward stairs. When I heard his heavy footsteps on the deck above me, I hustled to the stern, stepped lightly onto the gangplank, and then bolted for cover.

The action in this chapter is not written like the passage below, and thankfully so! If it were, it would lack suspense. Complete the following chart to figure out what the author did to create suspense.

I'd been rummaging through the wheelhouse, hunting for any scrap of evidence that might help Dad - a note in the crew's log, an order in Dusty's handwriting to dump the tanks, whatever - when a mullet boat rumbled into the basin. A man got out, and woke up the bald guy. I snuck down the stairwell, threw some poker chips down and bolted for cover.

Actions before Noah runs for cover	How this adds suspense

Flush
Chapters 1-7 Test

Name _____

Date _____

1. What point of view is used in this novel?
 - a. First person - Noah's point of view
 - b. First person - Abbey's point of view
 - c. Third person limited to Noah
 - d. Third person omniscient
2. Where is Noah's father at this point in the plot?
 - a. gone to war
 - b. on a casino boat
 - c. in jail
 - d. in a courtroom

In the room there was another deputy - a broad, jowly bear standing next to the door that led to the jail cells.

3. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
 - a. simile
 - b. metaphor
 - c. idiom
 - d. personification
4. Which of the following best describes Noah's relationship with Abbey?
 - a. They get along well.
 - b. They fight all of the time.
 - c. Abbey is jealous of the attention that Noah gets.
 - d. They are always competing with one another.
5. Which of the following is part of the setting of this story?
 - a. Florida in the winter time
 - b. Florida in the summer time
 - c. Mississippi in the spring time
 - d. North Carolina in the summer time
6. What is the *Coral Queen*?
 - a. a cruise liner
 - b. a hotel
 - c. a gambling boat
 - d. a tree house

"You listen here," Lice Peeking said. "What do I care about baby sea turtles? I got my own daily survival to worry about."

7. From this passage, the reader can infer that Lice is not too worried about the environment and saving animals. Is direct or indirect characterization used to help us conclude this?
 - a. direct
 - b. indirect
 - c. both
 - d. neither

8. Which of the following best describes Noah's feelings toward his dad?

- a. anger and resentment
- b. pride and concern
- c. embarrassment
- d. uncaring

"Tell her to hang in there, Noah."

9. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?

- a. idiom
- b. metaphor
- c. personification
- d. simile

10. What did Lice Peeking agree to take from Noah's father for his statements about Muleman's dumping sewage into the water?

- a. his truck
- b. his skiff
- c. \$12,000
- d. a pack of cigarettes

The perfume that Shelly had on was making me dizzy. It smelled like a bag of tangerines.

11. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence, and what does it create?

- a. metaphor which creates imagery
- b. personification which creates direct characterization
- c. idiom which creates symbolism
- d. simile which creates imagery

"Politicians, dictators, kings, phony-baloney preachers - most of 'em are men, and most of 'em lie like rugs," she said. "Don't you dare grow up to be like that."

12. Which of the following most likely states Shelly's bias of men?

- a. She knows there is some good in every man.
- b. She thinks most men are no good.
- c. She knows that only her man is bad.
- d. She thinks women are much smarter than men.

13. How did Bull get his nickname?

- a. He is as big as a bull.
- b. You can't believe a word that he says.
- c. He has an earring in his nose.
- d. He is extremely strong.

The reporter's name was Miles Umlatt. He was thin and blotchy and his nose was scuffed up like an old shoe.

14. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?

- a. idiom
- b. metaphor
- c. personification
- d. simile

15. Which of the following best describes Lice Peeking?

- a. timid yet strong
- b. lazy and selfish
- c. gentle and concerned
- d. sickly and weak

One of the songs was called "My Favorite Mistake," and my mother liked to joke that she could have written it herself - about my dad. This time, though, she didn't smile when the song came on.

16. From this passage, the reader can infer that...

- a. Noah's mother is upset with Paine.
- b. Noah's mother thinks marrying Paine was the best thing she ever did.
- c. Noah's mother loves this song.
- d. This song makes Noah's mother think of how much she loves Paine.

17. What did Abbey do to the guy who grabbed her by the neck?

- a. She hit him.
- b. She pulled his hair.
- c. She bit him.
- d. She stomped on his toe.

Miles Umlatt described my father as "passionate about the environment" but also "volatile and impulsive."

18. Why are these statements in the newspaper about Paine Underwood **not** biased?

- a. They show both sides of him instead of only one side.
- b. They are both correct.
- c. Neither statement is true.
- d. Both statements focus only on the good side of Paine Underwood.

Mom and I knew better than to start a conversation - even at her best, my sister wasn't a bundle of cheer in the mornings.

19. From this passage, we learn that Abbey is not a morning person. What type of characterization was used to let the reader know this?

- a. direct characterization
- b. indirect characterization
- c. both
- d. neither

20. Which of the following is **not** a comparison of Paine and his wife?

- a. They were both born in Florida.
- b. They both got a speeding ticket before they met.
- c. Both of their parents once worked at Disney World.
- d. Both of them love their children.

**Flush
Answer Key
Test chapters 1-7**

Number	Answer
1	a
2	c
3	b
4	a
5	b
6	c
7	b
8	b
9	a
10	B
11	d
12	b
13	b
14	d
15	b
16	a
17	c
18	a
19	a
20	c

Flush
Chapter 8

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What did Shelly's pistol turn out to be?
2. What does Shelly believe happened to Lice Peeking?
3. Where does Shelly decide to go work, and why?
4. How much money does Muleman make a night off the *Coral Queen*?
5. How did Noah's dad get out of jail?

Go back and reread the passage that describes Noah's dream (pages 92-93). Then, **create a comic strip** illustrating the dream. When you are finished with the comic strip, try to interpret the dream. Do you think there is any symbolism in his dream? What could it all mean?

Use the boxes below to illustrate your comic strip. Pay attention to Hiaasen's imagery as you draw each scene. You may use captions or dialogue. You may not need all of the boxes on this page.

Discussion

Write your interpretation of Noah's dream. Include any symbolism that you think is there.

Shelly said "My momma used to say, ' Keep your friends close, girl, but keep your enemies closer.'" What do you think this means? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Flush **Comic Strip Rubric**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
<p>Scene selection: Includes all of the most important events from the dream</p>	15	
<p>Captions: Captions are clearly related to both the scenes drawn and to the important events from the dream. The captions are well written with few spelling, punctuation or grammar errors.</p>	35	
<p>Characters: Main characters from the dream are included and their actions and dialogue in the comic strip match those from the chapter.</p>	25	
<p>Background illustrations: The illustrations are directly related to the imaginary provided by the author and help the reader understand the scene.</p>	25	
TOTAL	100	

Flush Chapter 9

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. According to Paine, why did he escape from jail?
2. How was he able to get out, past the guards?
3. How did Thunder Beach get its name?
4. Who does Noah run into on his way home?
5. What did Jasper Jr. hurt on himself?

Irony (There are three types of irony.)

Verbal irony involves a contrast between what is said or written and what is meant. Example: if you call a really tall person, "Shorty".

Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Example: A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.

Dramatic irony occurs when the audience or the reader knows something a character does not know. Example: The reader knows who the criminal is, but the characters do not know.

After reading the definitions of the three types of irony, complete the following chart. Read each passage, decide which of the three types of irony is used, and then explain how you know that the type of irony you chose is correct.

Passage	Type of irony used	Explanation
<i>Dad folded his arms thoroughly exasperated. "So I am a fugitive after all." "Congratulations," Abbey muttered. (page 99)</i>		
<i>He'd planned to release you this morning, bail or no bail. He's already lined up a judge to sign the order. "...Paine, you didn't need to escape. They were getting ready to evict you."</i>		

Discussion

Should Paine promise to stop spreading stories about Dusty Muleman so that the charges against him can be dropped? Complete the following charts listing reasons he should and reasons he should not.

Reasons he should	Reasons he should not

Flush
Chapter 10

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What did the judge do to Paine?

2. Why does Shelly come to visit the Underwood's house?

3. What happens to Abbey in this chapter?

Foreshadowing

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.

At the end of this chapter, we find out that Abbey is missing. There were clues that led up to this. Go back and look at page 113. Find the foreshadowing on that page.

Foreshadowing on page 113 _____

"Where do you think you're going?" Mom demanded.

"The video camera is missing," my father said.

What does Paine's statement about the video camera foreshadow? _____

Discuss:

How does this foreshadowing create suspense? _____

Predict what you think will happen. Include your idea about where Abbey is.

Flush Chapter 11

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Where did Noah and his parents go to look for Abbey?
2. Where did they find Abbey?

Capitalization

Have you noticed how sometimes *dad* is capitalized and sometimes it is not? There is a rule for that.

You only capitalize words such as mother, father, mama, daddy, aunt, and uncle when these words are used as names. That means if you can substitute the person's name in its place and it makes sense, you capitalize it.

Example: *Every so often, my mother would call out Abbey's name while Dad probed the shadows with the spotlight.*

Explanation: *Mother* is not capitalized in this sentence because it has the word *my* before it, and because it would not sound right to say *my Donna would call out Abbey's name*. *Dad* is capitalized because it is used as a name. Also, if you say his name in the place of *Dad*, the sentence makes sense. ...*while Paine probed the shadows with the spotlight.*

Look at the following sentences from the novel. Place a checkmark in the bubble if the sentence correctly uses capitalization. If the sentence is not capitalized correctly, edit it.

- "Have you seen her?" mom asked again.
- "I was," Dad said, "until my daughter went missing."
- "Noah, what's going on?" my Mother said like she'd already forgotten about my black eye.
- Mom must have figured that this was a good a time as any for dad to start acting remorseful, even if he didn't mean it.
- My mother put down her fork.
- Slowly dad pivoted his shoulders and began walking away.

Predict

Where do you think Abbey has been?

Flush
Chapter 12

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Where was Abbey when she recorded the video?
2. What was wrong with the tape?
3. What happened to Paine when the police came to the house?
4. Why does Noah go into the filthy water the second time?
5. Who is Billy Badcock and where does he work?
6. Why does Dusty never get caught emptying the tank?

Allusion

An allusion is a reference to a person, a historical event, or a fictional character or story. Writers usually expect the readers to recognize an allusion. This chapter contains three allusions to famous people. Let's see if you can find them and identify who these people are.

Allusion	Page number	Who is this person?	Why was this allusion used? What emphasis is made by referring to this person?

There is another allusion on page 61. What is it? _____

Discuss

"The smart humans owe it to every other living creature not to let the dumb humans wreck the whole planet." (page 139)

Do you think this could be one of the themes of this novel? _____

Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? _____

**Flush
Before Chapter 13**

Name _____

Date _____

Create a Plan

What would you do?

Work with a partner or group to create a game plan to bring justice to Dusty Muleman.

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

Step 4:

When thinking of a plan like this, you should always be prepared. What could go wrong with your plan?

What could you do to avoid those problems or to defeat them?

Propaganda Techniques

Propaganda: An extreme form of persuasion for the purpose of getting people to do certain things or think a certain way. Propaganda appeals to emotions rather than to intellect, and many times, only one side of a situation is presented. Complete the chart by filling in the example column with commercials that you have seen.

Types of Propaganda

Type	Definition	Example
Bandwagon	An appeal for others to “join the crowd” in order to be on the “winning side”	
Testimonial	A famous person endorses a product, person, or idea	
Card Stacking	Presenting only the positive information and leaving out anything that may be negative	
Glittering Generalities	Emotionally appealing words are used to describe a product or idea, but no evidence is given to support it	
Name Calling	The use of words that have a negative connotation	
Plain Folks	The use of common, ordinary people are used to promote a product	
Rewards	The use of gimmicks, rebates, free toys, etc. to promote and sell a product	
Emotional Appeal	The use of fear, humor, something sad, etc. to get your attention and remember a product	

Flush

Create an Advertisement

Name _____

Date _____

Create your own advertisement persuading people to “save the loggerhead turtles” from contaminated water. Use at least two propaganda techniques in your ad.

Use this sheet to plan your advertisement.



Flush
Chapter 13

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What did Paine Underwood get a job doing?
2. What did Abbey do to Bull?
3. Who came to the rescue for Abbey and Noah?

Writing Opportunity

In this chapter, we meet a mysterious and interesting new character who says that he is "nobody". Write a poem about this tough old pirate. Weave the descriptions of this man that Carl Hiasen provides into your poem. You can write a narrative poem with rhyme and rhythm or make it a free verse poem. Use the following passage from page 153 to help you.

The voice belonged to a lanky, long-armed man with wooly, silvery hair. A gleaming gold coin hung from a tarnished chain around his neck. His craggy face looked like a mahogany stump, and on one tanned cheek was a scar in the shape of an M.

Anybody could see that the guy was old - and tough. Shirtless and barefoot, he leaned casually against the trunk of a tall pine. His weather-beaten cutoffs had been bleached gray by the sun, and a dirty red bandanna was knotted around his right wrist. The curly hair on his bare chest was as shiny as the hair on his head.

Write a draft of your poem on the lines below.

Flush
Chapter 14

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What do Abbey and Noah plan to buy with the fifty-seven dollars and sixteen cents?
2. What is the code name for their secret mission?
3. What does Bull have to say to Abbey and Noah?
4. Why does Bull say what he says to Abbey and Noah?

Idioms

Idioms are made up of 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 chapter fourteen. Then, tell what each idiom means.

1. *"Now don't get your shorts in a knot," she said. "I'll tell Dusty I got sick off the shrimp salad - what's he gonna do, make me go in a bucket?"*

Meaning _____

2. *Shelly tossed her head. "Oh no you don't, James Bond Jr. It's too hairy."*

Meaning _____

(What other literary device is used in this sentence? _____)

3. *"You don't bring me along, I'll rat you out to Dad and Mom," my sister declared.*

Meaning _____

4. *Shelly sighed. "I must be outta' my mind."*

Meaning _____

5. *Not if we hoped to catch Dusty Muleman red-handed.*

Meaning _____

Flush

Test Chapters 8-14

Name_____

Date_____

1. What does Shelly think happened to Lice?
 - a. He ran away for good.
 - b. He joined Dusty Muleman and is helping him dump waste into the ocean.
 - c. He was murdered.
 - d. He went to Mexico with Noah's father's boat.

"Maybe 'cause it's the right thing to do. Or maybe 'cause now I've got a dog in this fight."

2. What does Shelly mean by this comment?
 - a. Her dog has been in a fight, so she needs to do what is right.
 - b. She is wrong for being involved, so she calls herself a dog.
 - c. She now has more of a reason to be involved.
 - d. Her boyfriend has been killed by a dog.
3. What was ironic about Paine breaking out of jail?
 - a. He was caught and put back in jail on the same day.
 - b. He was about to be released from jail anyway.
 - c. He had some help escaping from jail.
 - d. He was sad that he had escaped from jail.

"Hey, dorkbrain, where's your training wheels?" he said....

"That's original," I said to Jasper Jr.

4. What type of irony is Noah using in his response to Jasper Jr.?
 - a. dramatic irony
 - b. situational irony
 - c. verbal irony
 - d. all of these
5. Which of the following is **not** a reason that Shelly believes that Lice Peeking disappeared?
 - a. He hasn't called begging to come home.
 - b. None of his local party pals have heard from him.
 - c. She found blood in the car.
 - d. He didn't show up to work.

In the dream I started thinking about all the monster barracudas and sharks that live on the reef, and what a bad thing it would be to tumble overboard there.

6. In Noah's elaborate dream, what might the barracudas and sharks mentioned in this passage symbolize?
 - a. the dangerous fish in the ocean
 - b. the dangerous people he may face
 - c. hatred and envy
 - d. sadness and grief

"Then, if the sheriff is in a generous and forgiving mood, he'll go ahead and release you - legally, quietly and without further embarrassment."

The word "embarrassment" hung in the air like a foul smell.

7. What does the underlined simile in this passage mean?
 - a. When someone is embarrassed, that person puts off a foul smell.
 - b. It stinks to be embarrassed.
 - c. The embarrassment is there, covering everything, and will not go away.
 - d. The embarrassment is like dropping something into a toilet.
8. What was wrong with Abbey's video?
 - a. It was too short.
 - b. Everything was too small and unclear.
 - c. She videoed the wrong thing at the wrong time.
 - d. The sound on the tape did not work.
9. Which of the following sentences from the novel contains an idiom?
 - a. "Abbey's little adventure was the last straw," he said.
 - b. Being right isn't worth squat if you're endangering the people you love.
 - c. Later Abbey and I packed a lunch and rode our bikes to Thunder Beach.
 - d. The smart humans owe it to every other living creature not to let the dumb humans wreck the whole planet.
10. What did Noah do to save the loggerhead turtle?
 - a. He jumped in a boat and went out to get it.
 - b. He threw out a net and caught it.
 - c. He jumped in the water and splashed around to scare it away.
 - d. He screamed from the shore and threw sand into the water.
11. Why does the coast guard never catch Dusty emptying the holding tank on one of their surprise inspections?
 - a. Someone calls the coast guard and warns them not to.
 - b. Someone calls Dusty to warn him about the surprise inspection.
 - c. Dusty has a bell that warns him when the coastguard arrives.
 - d. He only empties it in the early morning hours.

It was costing him money every time the cab was off the road, in the body shop. "One more crash," he'd warned my dad, "and you're fired." The guy acting like he was Donald Trump.

12. What literary device is used in this passage?
 - a. symbolism
 - b. irony
 - c. allusion
 - d. flashback

"She risked her neck just to prove I was right about the casino boat. But you know what, Noah? Being right isn't worth squat if you're endangering the people you love."

13. What does this statement that Paine says to Noah reveal about Paine at this point in the novel?
- He realizes that everything he has done regarding the *Coral Queen* has been stupid and worthless.
 - He realizes that standing up for what is right is not as important as keeping one's family safe.
 - He realizes that he endangered himself and that his family does not agree with what he is doing.
 - He realizes that he needs to include his children when he does something like sink a boat so that they will not try to do it on their own.

It was one of those bright hazy days with no horizon, when the sea and the sky melt together in a pale blue infinity. The heat rippling off the dead-calm water made the lighthouse seem to flutter and shimmy in the distance.

14. Which of the following literary devices is used in this passage?
- simile
 - imagery
 - irony
 - allusion

15. Why did Noah wade out into the foul, muddy water when he and Abbey saw Shelly at Thunder Beach?

- to rescue a hurting turtle
- to see how deep the water was
- to retrieve a can that was littering the water
- to show Abbey and Shelly that he was not a bad swimmer

16. What did Abbey do to Bull when Jasper Jr. and Bull snatched them from their bikes and dragged them into a stand of Australian pines?

- She socked him in the nose.
- She made him cry.
- She bit his ear.
- She told him exactly what she thought of him.

Jasper Jr. wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer, but he knew that the stranger meant business.

17. What does the underlined idiom in this sentence mean?

- Jasper Jr. was very silly.
- Jasper Jr. was upset.
- Jasper Jr. only used sharp knives.
- Jasper Jr. was not very smart.

18. Who rescued Noah and Abbey from Jasper Jr. and Bull?

- Paine
- An old pirate
- Lice Peeking
- Rado and Thom

Flush
Test Chapters 8-14
Answer Key

NUMBER	ANSWER
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	C
5	D
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	B
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	C
16	C
17	D
18	B

Flush
Chapter 15

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Who is Godzilla?
2. How did Noah get onto the *Coral Queen*?
3. What was Abbey doing while Noah was on the *Coral Queen*?
4. Where are Noah's and Abbey's parents?

WHAT IS VOICE?

Voice is the “energy” of a piece of writing. It is what makes a story or other piece of writing fun to read. It is what makes the reader laugh out loud, smile to him/herself, or want to cry. Voice creates a response in the reader. This novel is full of voice, and that is evident every time you laugh out loud or smile to yourself. The colorful characters throughout this novel really add voice. Everything from their names (Lice Peeking! Come on, that’s hilarious) to their descriptions brings this book to life! In this chapter, we briefly meet an older lady who is desperately trying to get into the restroom. Hiaasen describes her in a way that we can picture her; her dialogue is hilarious, and the entire scene is full of voice.

“You open up right this second!” the old woman squawked. “I gotta go now!”

She wore a shiny copper-colored wig that fit like a helmet. Her face was caked with powdery makeup, and her sparkly fake eyelashes were longer than a camel’s. A cigarette dangled from parrotfish lips that were puffy and painted the color of sliced mangoes.....

The parrotfish lady pounded at the flimsy door with her bony fists. “My bladder’s about to blow like Mount Saint Helen, you hear me, young man?”

Go back and find other short passages in the book that are full of voice.

My favorite voice passages:

Page _____
Page _____

Predict

Carl Hiaasen uses “cliffhanger” endings in many of his chapters. At the end of this chapter, a little foreshadowing creates suspense. Reread the last lines. Predict what will happen.

The bouncers reached out and lunged, but I was already in the air, falling sweetly to freedom. Or so I told myself as I hollered, “Geronimo!”

Flush
Chapter 16

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What does Noah run into under the water?
2. Why was Abbey late picking up Noah in the boat?
3. Who helps Abbey and Noah after Dusty Muleman and the "bald goon" pull a gun on them?
4. What happens to Noah and Abbey once they get away from Dusty Muleman and the "bald goon"?
5. Who is the old sailor?

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is present 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.

One example of foreshadowing in this chapter is on page 196:

The wind was clocking around to the northwest. In summer that usually means bad weather is on the way.

This foreshadows the storm that hits while Abbey and Noah are stranded in the boat.

Now that we know who the old pirate guy is, let's take a look back to find out if the author left us any clues. Complete the following chart to search for foreshadowing.

Page Number	Foreshadowing	Why or how this is a hint
3 and 4		
49		
153		

Predict

What do you think will happen with Dusty Muleman?

**Flush
Chapter 17**

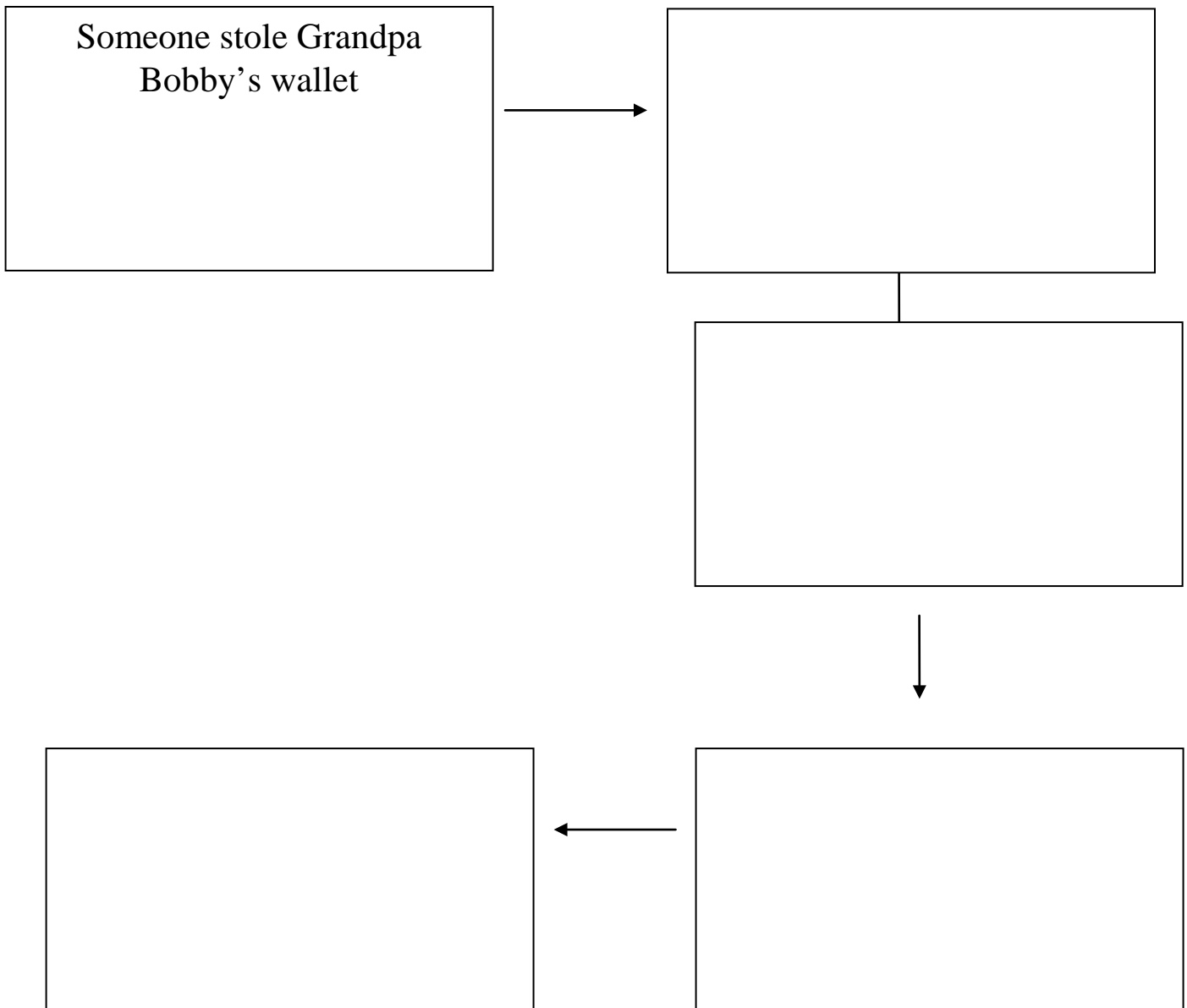
Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What was Grandpa Bobby smuggling to South America?
2. How did he get his scar?
3. Why did the government tell Noah's family that Grandpa Bobby was dead?
4. What made Grandpa Bobby return to help?
5. What kind of gun did Dusty Muleman have?

Cause/effect This chapter perfectly illustrates how cause and effect relationships work. Complete the following cause/effect chart mapping out the mix up about Grandpa Bobby's death.



Flush
Chapter 18

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. Who did Noah and Abbey find asleep on the floor at Shelly's house?
2. What did the "blood stain" in Shelly's jeep turn out to be?
3. What does Noah show Jasper Jr. and Bull that makes them afraid?

Strong Verbs

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

Read the following passage. Underline each strong verb, and then complete the chart.

Jasper Jr. hopped off the bike and let it fall. I could see that he was boiling mad. He stalked up to me and grabbed my handlebars and wrenched them back and forth, trying to knock me off.

Strong Verb Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice

Flush
Chapter 19

Name _____

Date _____

Writing Opportunity

In this chapter, the headline for the story on the *Coral Queen* is mentioned, but the news story is not in the book. Following the headline and the details given in the book about what took place to prove that Dusty Muleman was dumping waste into the water, write a news report.

Read the following information on writing a news report before you start.

- A news report is based on facts. Do not include your opinions.
- The first paragraph contains the most important information: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?
 - It is arranged in an “inverted pyramid” style:



This means that facts are arranged from most important to least important. It allows you to see a lot of information quickly in the first couple of paragraphs. The least important facts are nearer the end.

Answer these questions in the lead of your news report:

1. Who is it about?
2. What happened?
3. When did it happen?
4. Where did it happen?
5. Why did it happen?
6. How did it happen?

Remember, not everyone knows what the reader knows. Write only what would appear in the *Island Examiner*. You cannot say that Noah, Abbey, and Shelly worked together to put the dye in the toilets, because authorities do not know this. You can, however, make up a statement that one of the characters like Shelly would say for the article.

HeadLine: Casino Boat Busted in Pollution Probe

Flush

Newspaper Article Rubric

Name: _____

Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
Article is about the pollution put in water from the <i>Coral Queen</i>	10	
Article gives facts and not opinions	15	
Article tells: Who _____ What _____ When _____ Why _____ Where _____	50	
Organized, article "makes sense"	15	
Neat, well written with few (if any) spelling or grammatical errors	10	
Bonus: pictures, made to look like a "real" newspaper article, dateline/byline used correctly	10	
TOTAL	110	

Flush Chapter 20

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. How much money did Noah's father receive in his cash reward?
2. Why did Paine punch holes in the doors?
3. How much did Dusty Muleman get fined?
4. What is Paine being accused of at the end of this chapter?

Context Clues

You can really build your vocabulary by reading books like *Flush!* Let's take a look at some words that you can learn by using context clues.

Read each of the following sentences from chapter twenty. Use context clues to figure out the best meaning of the bolded words.

1. So we were really **amped** to know that Dad would soon be back in his skiff, guiding for bonefish and tarpon and snook. (page 244)
 - a. excited
 - b. discouraged
 - c. afraid
 - d. tired
2. "Until then, I guess I'm out of action," he said **dejectedly**," unless I learn how to steer a boat with my feet." (page 247)
 - a. in a sad way
 - b. in an excited way
 - c. in an angry way
 - d. in a frightened way
3. "How do you know that for sure?" the detective asked **snidely**. (page 251)
 - a. in a sad way
 - b. in a mean way
 - c. in a sympathetic way
 - d. in an excited way
4. Dad tried to act **indignant** by folding his arms, but the casts were too bulky. "Officers, what's this all about?" he demanded. (page 251)
 - a. cool
 - b. calm
 - c. upset
 - d. afraid

Discussion

What do you think happened to the Coral Queen? Do you believe that Paine was involved?

Flush Chapter 21

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension:

1. What did Noah's mom show Lieutenant Shucker that proved that Paine could not have committed the arson?
2. Who was responsible for burning down the *Coral Queen*?
3. How did the fire get started?
4. What did Noah and his family see as they sat watching the sun set?

Theme

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 Flush:

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.)

Flush
Who's Who When it Comes to Characters

Name _____

Date _____

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

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

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

Who is the protagonist? Why?

Who is the antagonist? Why?

Who is the hero? Why?

Who is the obstacle character? Why?

Static or Dynamic? Round or Flat?

Which characters are dynamic in this novel?

Which characters are static?

List three round characters. List three flat characters.

Flush
Writing Opportunity

Cinquain: a poem containing five lines

Write a cinquain poem using a character or object found in the novel as the basis of your poem. The cinquain format and topic suggestions are listed.

Cinquain Poem Format

Line 1: a noun

Line 2: two adjectives to describe the noun in line one

Line 3: three -ing verbs

Line 4: a phrase describing the noun in line one

Line 5: a synonym for the noun in line one

Possible Topics:

Noah

Abbey

Paine

Jasper Jr.

Bull

Lice Peeking

Shelly

Dusty Muleman

Flush
What's in a Name?

Name _____

Date _____

Carl Hiaasen weaves humor into every page of this novel, and even the names of his characters will make most readers chuckle. Let's take a look at some of these characters and how their names match their personalities.

Character's Name	Why that name fits the character
Noah	
Paine Underwood	
Lice Peeking	
Dusty Muleman	
Mr. Shine	
Bull	
Luno	

You try it!

Think of a name that would fit each of the following. Try to make yours as interesting and witty as the ones in *Flush*. Do not use names of people that you know!

A cowboy _____

A teenage girl bully _____

A very boring history teacher _____

Flush

Final Test

Name _____

Date _____

1. Which statement best expresses Paine Underwood's attitude toward pollution?
 - a. There is no excuse for polluting the environment.
 - b. Sometimes you have to overlook a little pollution.
 - c. Instead of avoiding pollution, people should learn from it.
 - d. Everyone should recycle.
2. In what way does Paine teach his children about standing up for what is right?
 - a. He serves as an example.
 - b. He guides them with love.
 - c. He shares stories about his childhood.
 - d. He gives them lots of advice.
3. Which of the following best describes Noah's attitude toward his father?
 - a. critical and confusing
 - b. obedient and submissive
 - c. appreciative and admirable
 - d. resentful and angry
4. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
 - a. eloquent and encouraging
 - b. profound and serious
 - c. humorous and amusing
 - d. sarcastic and stern

Read the following sentence, and use it to answer questions five and six.

"He's lost his marbles," Abbey muttered.

5. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
 - a. idiom
 - b. metaphor
 - c. personification
 - d. simile
6. What is the strongest verb used in this sentence?
 - a. lost
 - b. marbles
 - c. muttered
 - d. Abbey

He was shaking the hand that he'd hit me with, as if there were a crab or a mouse trap attached to it. Bull was following behind, cackling like a hyena.

7. What is being compared in the simile in the above passage?
 - a. Jasper's hand shaking to the way a person with their hand in a mouse trap would shake it.
 - b. Jasper's hand to a mouse trap
 - c. Bull to a hyena
 - d. Jasper to a bull

"Well, Noah, you've got to admit," Miles Umlatt said, "his behavior has been erratic. Unpredictable, I mean."

er·rat·ic: \i-rat-ik\ adj. Middle English,

1 a: having no fixed course : wandering <an erratic comet> barchaic : nomadic

2: transported from an original resting place especially by a glacier <an erratic boulder>

3 a: characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or uniformity <erratic dieting> <keeps erratic hours> b: deviating from what is ordinary or standard : eccentric <an erratic genius>

8. Which definition of *erratic* in the above dictionary entry best demonstrates the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence?
- definition 1
 - definition 2
 - definition 3a
 - definition 3b

He peeked inside to make sure that it was only a letter, and he said he'd give it to my Father later.

9. What type of error is found in the above sentence?
- spelling
 - punctuation
 - capitalization
 - none
10. Which of the following is the best theme for this novel?
- There's always room for improvement.
 - It is best to be on the safe side.
 - People shouldn't dump sewage in the water.
 - What goes around comes around.
11. The old pirate in the novel was _____.
- Paine's father
 - Paine's lawyer
 - Bull's father
 - Shelly's boss
12. The main conflict in this novel begins when...
- Paine and his family move to Florida.
 - Paine goes to jail the first time.
 - Noah gets in a fight with Jasper Jr.
 - Paine sinks the *Coral Queen*.

...I knew he was a good person. Even when he flies off the handle, at least he's fighting for something close to his heart.

13. Which words in this passage form an idiom?
- He was a good person.
 - He flies off the handle.
 - He's fighting for something close to his heart.
 - b and c

14. In the novel, the use of the first-person point of view allows the author to -
- share Noah's inner thoughts and feelings.
 - concentrate on creating unusual characters.
 - focus more on Dusty Muleman.
 - describe the story's setting in vivid details.
15. How has Paine changed by the end of the story?
- He is learning how to take care of his children better.
 - He has learned to put things in perspective.
 - He has decided to sink one boat a week.
 - He realizes he was wrong and should never stand up for what is right.

"Kids, lemme tell you somethin' about your daddy. He's a good man, but sometimes his brain takes a nap and lets his heart take the tiller."

16. What does Grandpa Bobby mean by this statement?
- Paine has frequent headaches and trouble with his heart.
 - Paine is a good man, but his brain and heart tell him to do the wrong things.
 - Paine often follows his heart instead of reasoning with his brain.
 - Paine often falls asleep while driving the boat.
17. Why did the government send letters to Paine saying that Grandpa Bobby was dead when he really wasn't?
- Grandpa Bobby was an undercover agent, and the government did not want Paine to know he was alive.
 - A dead man was found with Grandpa Bobby's wallet, so the government actually thought he was dead.
 - Grandpa Bobby was a prisoner of war, and the government did not want Paine to know that he was still alive.
 - The government wanted Paine to send money to release his father's body.
18. Who was responsible for burning down the *Coral Queen*?
- Paine and his father
 - Bull and Jasper Jr.
 - Noah and Abbey
 - Dusty and his friend
19. What is Grandpa Bobby looking for?
- Amanda Rose
 - His lost compass
 - Treasure
 - His wife

When the flash of green came, it lasted for only a magical flick of time - so brief and brilliant and beautiful, I was afraid I'd imagined it.

20. What does the green flash symbolize at this point in the novel for Paine and his family?
- happiness
 - sadness
 - loss
 - resentfulness

Flush
Final Test
Answer Key

Number	Answer
1	A
2	A
3	C
4	C
5	A
6	C
7	A
8	D
9	C
10	D
11	A
12	D
13	D
14	A
15	B
16	C
17	B
18	B
19	A
20	A

Answer Key
Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1

1. he sank the Coral Queen
2. Dusty Muleman
3. waiting in line to pay for speeding tickets
4. Noah's sister
5. dumping sewage into the basin

Chapter 2

1. Dusty Muleman's son
2. dirty, smelly, unkempt
3. Shelly
4. proof of the dumping
5. to hid the fact that she had been crying

Chapter 3

1. Noah's friends
2. lobster shells

Chapter 4

1. You can't believe a word he says
2. spit in his face
3. cast a fishing line at him and hook his shirt
4. it sank
5. She heard her mom say "divorce" while talking to the lawyer

Chapter 5

1. Channel 10 news was interviewing him
2. made him apologize and knocked the wheelbarrow over
3. pumping sewage
4. someone puts his arm around her neck

Chapter 6

1. bit him
2. he left town
3. Shelly

Chapter 7

1. Abbey distracted her mom while Noah moved the satellite so her mom could not watch Paine's interview on the news.
2. It is empty; not being used

Chapter 8

1. a lighter
2. Dusty had him killed
3. the Coral Queen to get information on Dusty
4. \$10,000
5. He escaped

Chapter 9

1. to give people in the town the truth
2. a wreck in front of the jail had the guards' attention
3. a bolt of lightning killed a man there
4. Jasper Jr. and Bull
5. kicked Noah

Chapter 10

1. Placed him under house arrest
2. She saw the Coral Queen crew dump sewage into the basin.
3. She is missing.

Chapter 11

1. to the Marina where the Coral Queen is
2. on the side of the road

Chapter 12

1. a tuna tower
2. It was unclear; too fuzzy.
3. They took him back to jail for 48 hours.
4. to get the turtle to leave the filthy water
5. a gambling addict who works with the Coast Guard
6. Billy Badcock warns him every time.

Chapter 13

1. driving a rescue boat
2. bit his ear and wouldn't let go
3. a strange man - an old pirate

Chapter 14

1. dye
2. operation Royal Flush
3. that he is sorry and he will not beat up Noah again
4. The old man (pirate) told him to

Chapter 15

1. Rado's dog
2. in a crate
3. sitting in a dingy reading
4. on a "date" (dinner and a movie)

Chapter 16

1. a manatee
2. the engine stalled
3. the pirate guy
4. the engine fails
5. Grandpa Bobby (Paine's father)

Chapter 17

1. Emeralds
2. those he worked for cut him with a knife
3. a dead American had his wallet
4. he saw his son on the news
5. flare gun

Chapter 18

1. Lice Peeking
2. ketchup
3. the gold coin

Chapter 20

1. \$1,000
2. because Dusty Muleman got his job back
3. \$10,000
4. burning down the *Coral Queen*

Chapter 21

1. the bill from the emergency room
2. Jasper Jr.
3. cigars and fireworks
4. the green flash

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