

Hoot Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

1. Why does the running boy grab Roy's attention?
2. Roy figures a boy wouldn't skip school alone. What does this say about his character?
3. Why does Roy not fight Dana? What does this say about Roy's character?
4. The author changes point of view from Roy to Officer Delinko. Why?

Chapter 2

1. Why does Roy hit Dana?
2. Why does the author describe the girl in the bus doorway?
3. Why does Roy try to run away when he learns about the move to Florida?
4. Why doesn't Roy tell Miss Hennepin the whole truth? What does this say about Roy's character?

Chapter 3

1. The author could have had the vandals put many objects in the latrines. Why did he choose alligators?
2. Why isn't Roy's father angry about Dana's broken nose?
3. Officer Delinko doesn't want overtime pay; he wants to solve the mystery. What does this say about his character?

Chapter 4

1. After reading about Officer Delinko's stakeout, how do you feel about his character?
2. Why does Roy confront Beatrice? Do you feel he did the right thing by talking with her the way he did? What does this say about his character?
3. How does Dana react when Roy delivers the apology note?
4. How does Dana's mom react when Roy delivers the note?

Chapter 5

1. Why would Roy slip out to do some detective work without telling his parents where he is going?
2. What does Roy's Montana adventure with the grizzlies say about his character?
3. Why does the boy not let Roy see the campsite once he finds him?

Chapter 6

1. Why do Roy and his father think the account in the paper of the police car being painted is humorous? What does this say about their characters?
2. How do you feel about the police captain lying to the newspaper about the officer being on flu medicine?
3. Does Officer Delinko's decision to take the long route to work so he can see the construction site fit his character? Why or why not?

Chapter 7

1. How does the author convey Beatrice's strength?
2. Why did the boy choose to live in the panel truck instead of a fancy car?
3. Officer Delinko is from a family of policemen. Do you think it is common for children to grow up and take jobs similar to those their parents had?
4. How does Roy feel about being a snitch for the policeman? Would you help the policeman? Why or why not?

Chapter 8

1. Curly doesn't like to be blamed by his boss for the delays on the job. What does this say about his character and his relationship with his boss?
2. The names of the dogs are German except for Pookie Face. Why is this dog's name so odd?
3. Why does Roy provoke Dana into hitting him? What does this say about his character?
4. Beatrice rescues Roy. What does this say about her character?

Chapter 9

1. What are Roy's choices for dealing with Dana's planned attack?
2. Does Roy feel that he's brought the fight on himself? Why or why not?
3. Why is the fight between Dana and Roy carefully detailed? How do the boy's tactics show their differences?

Chapter 10

1. Why does Beatrice save Roy again?
2. What makes Roy think Beatrice is an expert at lying to adults?
3. On the way to the junkyard, Beatrice tells Roy about her family. Why does she trust him enough to reveal this part of her life?
4. Mullet Fingers believes he is justified in vandalizing the site because he is protecting the owls. Do you agree or disagree that the boy is justified for his behavior?

Chapter 11

1. Why do you think Roy automatically tries to wave down the police car? If you had been in Roy's situation, would you have waved down the car?
2. Officer Delinko wants Mr. Eberhardt to write a letter of recommendation for him. Why does Mr. Eberhardt seem impatient with the policeman?

Chapter 12

1. Roy tells the hospital clerk that Mullet Finger's name is Roy Eberhardt. Discuss whether or not this was a wise decision.
2. The kids tell whopping lies, and the doctor doesn't believe them. Why does she believe Beatrice when she says that the boy sometimes runs away from home and doesn't return for a while?
3. Roy once saw a man killed in a snowmobile accident, and he doesn't want to see any gore again. Why do you think Roy feels this way?

Chapter 13

1. What does Roy's dad mean when he tells Roy that he's growing up fast?
2. Roy's mom says she's proud of Roy. Then she tells him to judge situations by listening to both his heart and his brain. Which one do you think Roy listened to at the hospital and why?
3. Why doesn't Roy explain what he means when he asks his mom what he should do about the owls?

Chapter 14

1. What type of man did Roy expect Dana's father to be? Is this the type of person you expected? Why?
2. Roy sounds very mature when he speaks to Dana about talking out their differences instead of fighting. How does Dana sound?
3. Can Roy understand Mullet Fingers' resignation about how his mother feels toward him? Why or why not?

Chapter 15

1. Why does Roy have to come up with a plan for the construction site? What does this say about his character?
2. The author writes that when Roy moons Dana he is out of character for a basically shy boy. Do you agree, or do you think this gesture fits Roy's character?
3. Is Dana out of character when he gives Roy's name to Curly? Why or why not?
4. How do you feel about Dana's arrest? Is it fair?

Chapter 16

1. Roy experiences two emotions when he learns of Dana's arrest. What are they and how can he feel such opposite emotions?
2. Is Curly a likable character? Why or why not?
3. The author presents the Eberhardts as loving, caring parents, and he presents the Leeps as fighting, unkind parents. Do you feel both sets of parents are realistic or stereotypical?

Chapter 17

1. Do you think Chuck Muckle knows something important about the owls?
2. Roy tries to avoid calling attention to himself while school is buzzing with talk of Dana's arrest. Is this keeping with Roy's character? Why or why not?
3. Officer Delinko doesn't think Dana is a vandal. Why?

Chapter 18

1. Why does it take Officer Delinko so long to realize what will happen to the owls if the construction begins?
2. Why did Beatrice bite her stepmother's toe?
3. Mullet Fingers and his dad talk in the garage. It's the boy's mother who won't allow the boy to stay at their home. Do you find this situation odd? Why or why not?

Chapter 19

1. Now that he's aware of the owls, Officer Delinko wonders if they can be moved. Do you think this is a realistic situation to the problem?
2. Officer Delinko thinks Kimberly Lou Dixon is a lady until she opens her mouth. What is your impression of her?

Chapter 20

1. The Mother Paula actress defies Chuck Muckle when he makes a grab for the megaphone. Is this keeping with her character?
2. Does it surprise you that Mullet Fingers didn't think he would know how to operate the camera properly? Why or why not?
3. Why doesn't Officer Delinko tell the crowd that the snakes are fake? What does this tell you about his character?

Chapter 21

1. Mrs. Eberhardt is making a scrapbook of the owl demonstration. How do you think she feels about Roy's part in the event?
2. Roy feels that Mrs. Leep hasn't changed a bit but only wanted to be on TV. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Epilogue

1. The author uses current names of celebrities in the Epilogue. Do you think this will date his book? Does any other chapter date itself? How?
2. The author never explains what Mr. Eberhardt does for a living, but hints at it throughout the book. What do you think his job is?

Writing Activities: CHOOSE ONE

1. Roy thinks that Mullet Fingers' creek is "incredibly beautiful and wild; a hidden sanctuary." Think of a place where you have been, or that you have heard about, that could be described in the same ways. Write a descriptive paragraph using your senses.
2. Reread the letter Beatrice received from Mother Paula's in response to the letter she sent to them. Now imagine you are Beatrice and write a follow-up letter, commenting on whether they are taking the issues of the owls seriously enough and whether it seems that they will act on the matter.

Hoot Project: CHOOSE ONE

1. Roy is continually bullied by Dana Matherson who is bigger and older than Roy. On the day Dana tries to choke him, Roy fights and gets into trouble. Conduct research on bullying to find out (1) the reason that bullies pick on people, (2) the action that victims of bullies can take to protect themselves, (3) the actions that schools can take to prevent bullying, (4) the actions that parents can take to prevent bullying, and (5) educational programs that are designed to prevent bullying. Display the results of your research in a PowerPoint presentation or poster and present it to the class.

2. Burrowing Owl Research

What does the word *cunicularius* mean?

Where in the US are the *athene cunicularius* found?

When are burrowing owls most active?

Length? _____ Weight? _____ Wingspan? _____

What do burrowing owls feed on?

Unlike other owls, what do these owls eat?

What types of habitat are they generally found?

What types of owls are endangered?

What steps are being taken to save burrowing owls?

How many birds are endangered in the world or U.S.?

Give details on one specific bird that is endangered in the United States?

Draw a picture of the endangered bird you chose.

Extra Credit:

Create a poster of Burrowing Owls on Marco Island

Map out the streets that you visit.....

Take pictures of the burrowing owls and write a brief description of what the owls were doing while you were at that location.

Were they sleeping, eating, hiding in their burrows, etc.