

Name: _____ Date: _____

Bud, Not Buddy
by Christopher Paul Curtis

Chapters 1 & 2 Reading Comprehension

1. Where does Bud live at the beginning of the story?

2. What are Bud and Jimmy chosen for?

3. How many foster homes has Bud been sent to?

4. How old was Bud when he came to the Home?

5. What significant item does Bud keep in his suitcase?

6. Who does Bud think is his father?

7. How did Bud get the flyer?

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8. How does Todd Amos explain the fight with Bud to his mother?

9. What is Number 3 of Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself?

10. What does Todd mean when he says, "You got all the way up to R"?

11. What is Mrs. Amos afraid that Bud will do?

12. How does Bud know that the Amoses broke their promise not to look in his suitcase?

13. What does Todd warn Bud is in the shed?

14. What does Bud see on the floor of the shed?

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Chapters 1 & 2 Vocabulary

Use each word in a sentence that shows the meaning. If you are unsure of the meaning, use a dictionary, and then write the definition of the word in your own words.

glum _____

depression _____

foster _____

commence _____

twine _____

cur _____

provoke _____

asthma _____

urchin _____

mutter _____

ingratitude _____

vermin _____

ilk _____

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Chapters 1 & 2 Writing

1. Bud thinks that six is a real rough age to be at, because adults start to treat you differently and scary things start to happen to your body, like teeth falling out. What do you think about this?

2. Bud begs the Amoses not to send him back to the Home, so they'll think they're doing the opposite of what he wants. What do you think of Rules and Things Number 118?

3. How does Bud try to take charge of his own life? What might you do in his place?

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Chapters 3 & 4 Reading Comprehension

1. What are the monster heads guarding the doorknob?

2. How did Bugs get his nickname?

3. What does Bud think he sees at the top of the shed?

4. What two weapons does Bud have?

5. What does Bud realize when he attacks the vampire bat?

6. How does Bud get out of the shed?

7. Who is Bud the most mad at?

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8. How does Bud get into the house?

9. How does Bud prepare for a quick getaway?

10. What does Bud do with the shotgun?

11. What revenge does Bud want on Todd?

12. Where does he pour the water?

13. How does Todd react?

14. What is Bud's favorite saying in the whole world?

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Chapters 3 & 4 Vocabulary

rafters _____

rev _____

stake _____

tussle _____

revenge _____

icebox _____

spigot _____

whilst _____

valve _____

lam _____

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Chapters 3 & 4 Writing

1. When Bud holds the Amoses' shotgun, he imagines what would happen if he used it. What tempted him to use it?

2. Bud sets off to take his revenge on the Amoses. How do his actions effect the whole family, and not just Todd?

3. How are Todd and Bud's lives different? How do the differences explain the way each boy acts?

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Chapters 5 & 6 Reading Comprehension

1. Where does Bud plan to stay the night?

2. What ruins his plan?

3. What is Bud's Momma doing in the photograph?

4. What did Momma fight with her father about?

5. What was Bud named after?

6. According to Bud's Momma, what happens when things get bad?

7. Why did it scare Bud?

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8. How does Bud plan on getting breakfast?

9. What goes wrong?

10. How does Bud get a place in line?

11. What name is Bud given?

12. What does Bud wish his “parents” would stop doing?

13. What is served for breakfast?

14. What does the mother share with Bud?

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Chapters 5 & 6 Vocabulary

handy _____

fumbling _____

sidesaddle _____

telegraph _____

filth _____

horrid _____

bud _____

mission _____

privilege _____

squint _____

considerate _____

pout _____

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Chapters 5 & 6 Writing

1. Bud's momma tells him that a nother door will open. W hat doors have opened for Bud since his momma died? Do you think they've been good or bad?

2. If you were in Bud's position, would you go on the lam? Why or why not?

3. The man in the overalls breaks the rules and tells a lie to let B ud in line. Should some rules be broken? Why or why not?

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Chapters 7 & 8 Reading Comprehension

1. What is the first thing Bud does in the library?

2. What does Bud think makes people fall asleep in libraries?

3. What is worse than laughing out loud in the library?

4. What happened to Miss Hill?

5. How long would it take Bud to walk to Chicago?

6. What wakes up Bud?

7. What is Bud prepared to do to his attacker?

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8. What is Bugs planning to do?

9. What kind of a city is "Hooverville"?

10. How do the boys know they're in the right place?

11. What do the boys do in exchange for dinner?

12. Why is Deza in Hooverville?

13. How does Bud put himself to sleep?

14. Why doesn't Bud make it onto the train?

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Chapters 7 & 8 Vocabulary

cellar _____

whiff _____

hypnotizing _____

retrieve _____

stricken _____

matrimonial _____

radiate _____

atlas _____

hoodlum _____

muskrat _____

wiry _____

genie _____

fidget _____

alias _____

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Chapters 7 & 8 Writing

1. What do you think Deza means when she says to Bud, "I guess you sort of carry your family around inside of you?"

2. Do you think it was right of the Hooverville men to get onto the train, even though the police tried to stop them? Why or why not?

3. If you were Bud, what would you have done - tried to hop the train, gone back to the home, set out to look for your father, or something else?

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Chapters 9 & 10 Reading Comprehension

1. How long would it take Bud to walk to Grand Rapids?

2. What is the surprise that the librarian has for Bud?

3. What else does she give Bud?

4. To what does Bud compare the beginning of ideas?

5. When does Bud first say that Herman E. Calloway is his father?

6. Why does Bud think that his mother kept the flyers?

7. What has Bud's idea turned into?

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8. What does Bud hear when he gets into the country?

9. What does the man do when he gets out of his car?

10. How does the man get Bud to talk?

11. What kind of hat is the man wearing?

12. Why does Bud tell the man he's from Grand Rapids?

13. What does the box in the car say it contains?

14. What does Bud do when he gets in the car?

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Chapters 9 & 10 Vocabulary

pictorial _____

devour _____

crick _____

terminally _____

warbler _____

ventriloquist _____

urgent _____

telegram _____

gearshift _____

lever _____

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Chapters 9 & 10 Writing

1. If you were Bud, what are two reasons it might be important to find out who your father is?

2. Bud has become convinced that Herman E. Calloway is his father. What do you think of his theory?

3. If you were in Bud's position, would you trust the man in the driver's hat? Why or why not?

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Chapters 11 & 12 Reading Comprehension

1. What stops Bud's getaway in the car?

2. What is the blood really for?

3. Why does Mr. Lewis ask if Bud was in the army?

4. What is Bud's strategy when he wakes up in a strange place?

5. What question does Kim ask Bud?

6. Why is it hard for Bud to eat with the Sleet and Lefty Lewis?

7. What work do Mr. Lewis and Mr. Sleet do?

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8. Why do the cops stop Lefty's car?

9. According to Lefty, what is a union?

10. What promise does Bud have to make before Lefty will let him look in the box?

11. What is in the box?

12. What kind of a strike did the factory workers start?

13. What makes Bud sure that Herman Calloway is his father?

14. What makes Bud doubt his idea?

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Chapters 11 & 12 Vocabulary

genuine _____

condition _____

judgmental _____

tatters _____

reputation _____

guarantee _____

trousers _____

knickers _____

worrisome _____

scrawny _____

porter _____

labor _____

loathsome _____

confidential _____

dignity _____

sully _____

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Chapters 11 & 12 Writing

1. How is the box that Lefty hides from the cops dangerous?

2. In what ways are Herman Calloway and Bud alike?

3. Do you think that Herman is really Bud's father? Why or why not?

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Chapters 13 & 14 Reading Comprehension

1. Who sticks up for Bud?

2. What can grown-ups always tell about Bud?

3. What does Bud have to do in exchange for a meal at the Sweet Pea?

4. What do each of the musicians play?

5. What does the Thug tell Bud to do when they get to the Sweet Pea?

6. How does Bud break his Rules and Things Number 63?

7. Why is Steady Eddie Bud's favorite of the Dusky Devastators of the Depression?

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8. What does NBC stand for?

9. What does Miss Thomas criticize the musicians for not noticing about Bud?

10. What does Bud have to apologize to Herman E. Calloway for?

11. What does Tyla apologize to Bud for?

12. What does Miss Thomas order for Bud?

13. What does Bud compare Miss Thomas' humming to?

14. What embarrassing thing happens to Bud after he eats?

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Chapters 13 & 14 Vocabulary

rehearse _____

scamp _____

digest _____

fester _____

shun _____

coot _____

gig _____

dusky _____

devastate _____

bawl _____

reserved _____

vocal _____

scour _____

tremendous _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Chapters 13 & 14 Writing

1. What do you think Bud finds with the musicians that he's been missing?

2. If you were Bud, would you want to stay with the Dusky Devastators? What might be hard about it? Why or why not?

3. Bud thinks that heaven must smell like the Sweet Pea. What do you think heaven would smell like?

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Chapters 15, 16 & 17 Reading Comprehension

1. Why is the house called Grand Calloway Station?

2. What is number twenty-eight on Bud's Rules and Things?

3. Why does Herman E. Calloway lock the closet doors?

4. According to Bud, what is the best thing in the room?

5. How long does Bud sleep?

6. What excuse does Herman E. Calloway use to leave the kitchen?

7. Why does Miss Thomas ask if Bud's ears were burning?

Name: _____ Date: _____

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8. What part of Bud needs to be strong if he's going to stay?

9. What two things does Steady Eddie give Bud?

10. What nickname does the band give to Bud?

11. What game does Bud play with the mop?

12. How well does Mr. Calloway succeed at making Bud work hard?

13. Which two musicians have a “conversation” with the music?

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Chapters 15, 16 & 17 Vocabulary

scamp _____

urinate _____

chemical _____

relieve _____

pulse _____

weakling _____

spirit _____

copacetic _____

ratty _____

carburetor _____

embouchure _____

tone _____

nominate _____

compromise _____

reed _____

squab _____

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Chapters 15, 16 & 17 Writing

1. If you were to pick a nickname for Bud, what name would you give him and why?

2. If you were Mr. Calloway, would you trust Bud? Why or why not?

3. What do you think Miss Thomas means when she tells Bud that he will need to have a strong spirit if he stays with the band?

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Chapters 18 & 19 Reading Comprehension

1. Why does Mr. C. always keep one white musician in the band?

2. What bad news does Bud get while they're packing up the instruments?

3. What does Mr. Calloway ask Bud to pick up?

4. What does Bud tell Mr. C. when he sees what's in the glove box?

5. What question had no one in the band ever asked Bud?

6. Who was Angela Janet?

7. What does Bud feel when he finds out who Herman E. Calloway is?

Name: _____ Date: _____

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8. What is Mr. C. doing when Bud finds him?

9. What convinces Miss Thomas and Mr. Jimmy that Bud's mother is who they think she is?

10. What does Bud realize about the room he's been sleeping in?

11. Why didn't Mr. C. visit his daughter?

12. What has Miss Thomas been saving for Bud?

13. Why did Mr. C. start saving rocks?

14. What does Bud do with the picture of his mother on the horse?

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Chapters 18 & 19 Vocabulary

dinky _____

stiffed _____

nudge _____

tidings _____

mildew _____

rummage _____

insinuate _____

tragedy _____

kin _____

weeping _____

hue _____

ornery _____

merchandise _____

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Chapters 18 & 19 Writing

1. What does Bud do with all the things he's been carrying around in his suitcase? Why do you think he does what he does?

2. Why do you think it took so long for everyone to figure out who Bud is?

3. What doors are opening and closing for Bud when he plays his saxophone?

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Chapters 1 & 2 Answers

1. In a Home for orphans.
2. To be sent to foster homes.
3. This is the third.
4. Six.
5. A jazz flyer.
6. Herman E. Calloway.
7. His mother brought it home.
8. He says that Bud started a fight when Todd tried to make sure he'd gone to the bathroom.
9. If You Got to Tell a Lie, Make Sure It's Simple and Easy to Remember.
10. The Ticonderoga pencil fit in his nose up to R.
11. Wet the bed.
12. The twine is tied in a knot he doesn't know.
13. Vampire bats, spiders and centipedes.
14. A patch of blood from the last foster kid.

Chapters 3 & 4 Answers

1. Fish heads.
2. When a cockroach crawled in his ear.
3. A vampire bat.
4. A rake and a jackknife.
5. That it's really a hornets' nest.
6. Through the window.
7. Himself.
8. Through the kitchen window.
9. By leaving his suitcase outside the back door.
10. Hides it on the back porch.
11. For him to wet the bed.
12. Over Todd's pajama pants.
13. By wetting the bed.
14. He who laughs last laughs best.

Chapters 5 & 6 Answers

1. In the library basement.
2. Bars on the windows.
3. Sitting on a horse.
4. Wearing a dirty twenty-five gallon cowboy hat.
5. A flower bud.
6. Doors open.
7. He imagined ghosts opening the doors.
8. At the mission.
9. He oversleeps and gets in line too late.
10. A man pretends Bud is his son.
11. Clarence.
12. Smacking him.
13. Oatmeal.
14. Brown sugar.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Chapters 7 & 8 Answers

1. He smells it.
2. The smell and page powder.
3. Drooling in the books.
4. She got married and moved to Chicago.
5. Fifty-four hours.
6. Bugs stepping on a twig.
7. Stab him.
8. Ride the rails.
9. A cardboard jungle or shantytown.
10. Because they're hungry, tired and scared.
11. Wash the dishes.
12. Waiting for her father to come back from out west.
13. Thinking about stories his mother used to tell him.
14. His flyer comes loose as he throws his suitcase on and slows him down.

Chapters 9 & 10 Answers

1. Twenty-four hours.
2. A book about the Civil War.
3. A sandwich.
4. A seed.
5. In the home, when another boy bets him that he doesn't know who his father is.
6. So that he could figure out who his father is.
7. A huge maple tree.
8. The sounds of bugs, frogs and mice.
9. Whistles and calls to Bud.
10. Offering him a sandwich and pop.
11. A chauffeur or driver's hat.
12. So that the man would feel sorry for him and put him on a bus to Grand Rapids.
13. Human blood.
14. Locks the doors and drives off.

Chapters 11 & 12 Answers

1. The car stops running.
2. For an operation at the hospital.
3. Because he says "sir" a lot.
4. Pretend he's still asleep while he tries to figure out what's going on.
5. How his mother died.
6. They talk constantly.
7. Railway work.
8. To make sure he's not a labor organizer.
9. When a group of workers try to make things better for themselves and their children.
10. That he won't tell anyone about what he sees.
11. Papers for a union meeting.
12. A sit-down strike.
13. He talks and thinks like Bud.
14. He's old.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Chapters 13 & 14 Answers

1. Jimmy.
2. That he's hungry.
3. Explain himself and tell the truth.
4. The drums, saxophone, trombone, and piano.
5. Give Herman E. Calloway a kiss and call him daddy.
6. By calling Herman E. Calloway a mean old coot.
7. Because he gets the other men to stop teasing Bud.
8. Nobody but Calloway.
9. His bites, swollen hand, and beat-up eye.
10. Pointing at him.
11. Mistaking him for a musician.
12. Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, okra, and cider.
13. Standing on railroad tracks when a train is coming.
14. He starts crying.

Chapters 15, 16 & 17 Answers

1. Because it has people coming and going at all hours like Grand Central Station.
2. Gone = dead!
3. So that Bud won't steal anything.
4. The wall covered in pictures of horses.
5. Past noon.
6. Fixing his car.
7. Because they were talking about him.
8. His spirit.
9. A suitcase and a recorder.
10. Sleepy LaBone.
11. He pretends it's a leaking submarine.
12. He does a bad job of it.
13. Miss Thomas and Steady Eddie.

Chapters 18 & 19 Answers

1. To put the Log Cabin in his name, because black people couldn't own property there.
2. That he has to ride back with Mr. C.
3. A rock.
4. That he's got rocks like that, too.
5. His mother's name.
6. Bud's mother and Mr. C.'s daughter.
7. Glad that he's not his father.
8. Crying in Angela's room.
9. Bud's picture of her on a horse.
10. That it was his mother's.
11. Because he didn't know where she was.
12. A picture of his mother as a teenager.
13. Because Angela asked him to bring her one from a trip.
14. Pins it up on her wall of horse pictures.