

Name _____ Date _____

Sounder

by William H. Armstrong

Chapter 1

1. Is this family wealthy or poor? How do you know this?

2. Why doesn't the boy go to school in the winter?

3. Describe Sounder. Why is he special?

4. Why is it hard to find prey when it is windy?

5. What does *addled* mean?

6. What is *night loneliness*, and when did the boy feel it?

7. Why is the boy lonely?

8. When did his mother hum, and what did her mouth look like?

9. The boy remembers being laughed at for two reasons. What were they?

10. Why does the boy want to learn to read?

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Chapter 2

1. Who could the boy see in the light of the lamp?

2. Who was it, and what could they smell?

3. Who did the sheriff put cuffs on, and what did it sound like?

4. Why were they arresting him, and what evidence did they have against him?

5. What did the boy see them do to his father?

6. How did the boy feel?

7. Describe what happened with Sounder.

8. What did the boy find in the frozen hole?

9. What was he going to do with what he found?

Chapter 3

1. Why does the boy want the sun to come out?

2. What is the difference between cabin windows and house windows?

3. Where do you think Sounder is?

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Chapter 4

1. What did the boy's mother do in town?

2. Where in the woods does his mother think Sounder is? Why would he be there?

3. What story did the boy want to hear?

4. Who was the small cake for?

5. Why must the boy go to the jail for his mother?

6. How did the boy feel going through town?

7. Why does the boy think the cabin is as lonely as jail?

8. What does the boy want to happen to the deputy?

9. How do you feel about the red-faced man?

Chapter 5

1. What does the boy dream about?

2. Describe what Sounder looks like on the porch.

3. Where was Sounder's one eye always pointed?

4. Where has his father gone, and why might he get off early?

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Chapter 6

1. Why does the boy like bible stories?

2. How is he learning to read?

3. Do you believe he'll find his father?

Chapter 7

1. Why does he prefer the unpainted cabins?

2. Why did the big book make him sad?

3. What does the boy mean when he says the old man is *conjured* or *addled*?

4. How can you tell this is a kind man?

Chapter 8

1. What does the old man want the boy to do?

2. Why does his mother want him to go?

3. Who would meet him when he came home in the summer?

4. What made Sunder seem young again?

5. Describe the boy's father's and Sunder's behavior.

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Writing

1. The boy was young but he told the men in the field he had lived a long time. Explain why he felt that way.

2. The boy showed courage again and again in the story. When do you think he showed the most courage? Write about that time, how he showed courage, and why you chose that time.

3. How was Sounder important throughout the story?

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Answers

Chapter 1

1. Poor. The cabin is small; the roof sags, and light comes in the cracks
2. It is too cold to walk that far
3. He could tree a possum and his bark was louder than any dogs'
4. Animals don't like to move when it's windy
5. Crazy
6. It is fear; when his father was gone at night
7. He doesn't have any neighbor children to play with
8. When she was worried. It looked like her lips were glued together
9. His patches were different colors; he was always late to school
10. With stories, he wouldn't be so lonely

Chapter 2

1. Three white men
2. The sheriff and two deputies. They smelled ham
3. He cuffed the boy's father; it sounded like a gate latch
4. He stole the ham, and they found his patch on the smokehouse door
5. They pushed him into the wagon and chained him up
6. Sad and scared that he wouldn't see his father again
7. Sounder chased the wagon, and a deputy shot him
8. He found one of Sounder's ears
9. He would put it under his pillow

Chapter 3

1. The sun would warm them up
2. Cabin windows have faces; house windows have curtains
3. Answer is dependent on student's interpretation

Chapter 4

1. She sold walnut kernels
2. Sounder would bury himself, and the oak leaves would heal his wounds
3. The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego
4. It was for his father
5. Women aren't allowed in jail
6. He was scared and lonely
7. Both are so dark and quiet
8. He wanted him to crumble to the floor with the cake crumbs
9. Answers will vary

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Chapter 5

1. Of his father's chained hands, and learning to read
2. One foot dangling, one ear missing, and hairless on one side
3. To the road, looking for his master
4. He had gone to hard labor, and may get off for good behavior

Chapter 6

1. In the Bible, no journey is hopeless
2. He picked up newspapers and magazines from the trash
3. Answers will vary

Chapter 7

1. People in unpainted cabins come out to talk, and sometimes offer food
2. He can't understand what it says
3. Confused or crazy
4. He offers to clean his bleeding hand and offers him a bed for the night

Chapter 8

1. Come to school and learn to read
2. Maybe the teacher will write letters to camps to find his father
3. Souder would come to meet him
4. He heard his master coming
5. They seemed like a great man-and-dog team again