



BOY'S LIFE SUMMER PACKET



Julie Herman Cohen

A Boy's Life Study Guide

About the Novel

- A. Robert McCammon's usual genre is horror, but A Boy's Life has been called a fantasy and a "fictography." What is a fictography?

- B. What is a major theme of the novel?

1. Describe in a few words the following characters:

Cory

Davy Ray

Lady

Old Moses

Vernon Thaxter

2. What was the Easter ritual involving Old Moses and the Lady?

3. What was Dr. Lezander's "unofficial" job at the church on Sunday?

4. Who were the Glass sisters and what was their Sunday "job"?

What was peculiar about them?

5. Who was Brenda Sutley? In what ways did she torment Cory?

6. Gotha and Gordo Branlin were little devils. How did they make Cory their target at church that Easter Sunday?

6a. What event cleared the church that Easter before Rev. Lovoy had finished his sermon?

7. Describe how Cory's bike died and what was done with it.

8. Why did Cory say that Mr. Sculley understood the very nucleus of existence?

9. What item did Mr. Sculley show Cory and his dad?

10. What happened during the flood to cause Cory to prove his courage to himself?

11. When Cory and his mom went to see the Lady upon her request, what did she tell Mrs. Mackenson in private about those on "the other side"?

12. When Cory received the bike from Lady, what did he name it and how did it help him?

13. Who was Jaybird and what incident caused Cory to lose some respect for him?

14. Why was Nemo a pathetic character?

15. What happened on the boys' camping trip?

16. What did Reverend Blessett mean when he said, "This incessant squallin' must cease!"?j

17. How did Owen Cathcoate prove himself at the end of the story? What was his claim to fame that he didn't like to talk about at the barbershop or any place else?

18. Who came to see Rebel when he was in his pen dying? How did that "visitor" convince Cory that he should not have prayed for Rebel to live?

19. Why did Cory hop the train to Birmingham? How did it contribute to his maturity?

20. What was the “bribe” that Dr. Leazander offered Cory in exchange for being quiet about the green feather and giving it back to him?

21. The last chapter of the book has the author returning to Zephyr. How had it changed? How had he changed?