

Literature Circle Questions

Use the questions and activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech.

1. What are some of the rules of Boxton Creek Home? What are some of the punishments Dallas and Florida receive for breaking the rules?
2. What did the twins do that made the Hoppers bring them back to the home?
3. When Dallas is sent to the Thinking Corner, what does he think about? What does Florida think about?
4. Why is Dallas more eager to go with Tiller and Sairy than Florida? What is he excited about?
5. When Florida and Dallas first arrive in Ruby Holler, they ask Tiller and Sairy a lot of questions about their new home. What do the questions reveal about other places they've lived?
6. Even though Dallas and Florida are twins, in some ways they are very different. Make a list, comparing and contrasting the twins. Make the same list for Tiller and Sairy.
7. How do Dallas and Florida feel about not knowing what their parents look like? Are there any positive aspects that either sees about not knowing?
8. How does Florida change over the course of the novel? Find examples of things she does or says at the end of the book that she wouldn't have done at the start.
9. Compare the Trepids and Tiller and Sairy. What is each like as a couple? How are their views on children different? What kinds of secrets do they keep from one another?
10. Z is a very mysterious person. What kind of person do you think he is? What clues does Creech give you to his character? Do you think he will become closer to the twins in the future?
11. Would you like to live in Ruby Holler? Explain and discuss the positive and negative things about living in a holler.
12. If you could give the twins one piece of advice, what would it be? How would it change the story? What if you could tell the Trepids one thing?

13. Creech includes a lot of the characters' dreams in the novel. Why do you think she does this? Discuss how dreams affect the story and different characters in it.
14. Trust and honesty are important themes in this book. Who do you think the most trusting characters are? Who is the least? Who is the most dishonest? Do you think anyone in the book is unwisely trusting and honest? When and why? How does being trusted change the twins?

Note: These questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-5; Application: 6-7; Analysis: 8-10; Synthesis: 11-12; Evaluation: 13-14.

Activities

1. Draw a map of Ruby Holler. Then try mapping an area of your town like Z mapped the holler. Choose to mark down all the stones, trees, flowers, or what ever you choose.
2. Pick any two characters and write a diary entry that each might have written the same day.
3. Illustrate a timeline of Dallas and Florida's life before they lived in Ruby Holler, creating a picture for each place they've been.

Other Books by This Author

Novels: *Bloomability, Chasing Redbird, Love That Dog, Walk Two Moons, The Wanderer, Pleasing the Ghost*

Picture Books: *A Fine, Fine School, Fishing in the Air*

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