

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

Shiloh

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Published by Dell Publishing
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Accelerated Reader 5.1

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Shiloh
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Summary: Marty, a boy of eleven, lives in the hills near Friendly, West Virginia. Money is short in the family because any extra money is going into Marty's grandma's care. An abused beagle dog comes to Marty for help. At least Marty thinks the dog is being abused. The boy and the dog hit it off immediately. The dog's owner comes to get Shiloh, the dog's name given to the dog by Marty. Marty knows he must buy the dog from Judd, the dog's owner. The dog runs away from Judd again, and this time Marty keeps the dog a secret from his family. He keeps the dog penned up away from the house up in the hills where his family members never go. Shiloh is attacked by another dog while penned up and nearly dies. Marty and his father take Shiloh to a country doctor. Of course, Judd must be told. Marty is allowed to keep Shiloh until he is well again. Marty's family becomes attached to Shiloh too. On the way over to Judd's to plead with him to let Marty have Shiloh, Marty witnesses Judd shooting a doe out of season. Marty blackmails Judd into letting Marty buy Shiloh. Marty must work for Judd for \$2.00 an hour until he has paid off the \$40 that Judd wants for Shiloh. Marty does the work but is afraid all the time that Judd will go back on his word. When the time comes for Judd to give Marty the dog, he also gives Marty Shiloh's old dog collar. Marty is surprised that Judd and he have learned to get along.

Teacher's Guide

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

Chapter 1 Pp. 11-18

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

detour (6, 11) an indirect way of replacing part of the route

thigh (7, 13) the part of the vertebrate hind limb between the knee and the hip

groveling (10, 13) abasing oneself, humiliating oneself

whopping (5, 15) extremely large

pneumonia (8, 16) an inflammatory disease of the lungs

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What was Ma's wish? P. 11** For once she wanted a bite of food to be eaten directly and without a detour.
 - 1a. What does "wanted a bite of food to be eaten directly and without a detour" mean? Discuss.**
- 2. What kind of a house did the family live in? P. 12** The house was above Friendly. It was a little four-room house with hills on three sides.
- 3. What did the beagle look like? P. 13** The dog was shorthaired, white with brown and black spots. It was quiet as it slunk along, head down, tail between legs. It had a "no right to breathe" expression and was a year or two old.
- 4. How do you know the boy liked having the dog follow him? P. 14** He said, "I raise my gun, and then I decide the sound might scare the dog off."
- 5. Why would the kid be in trouble for getting his clothes wet? P. 16** His ma's mother had died of pneumonia. Ma was afraid that if members of her family got wet they could get pneumonia and die.
- 6. Why did the boy think the owner of the dog wasn't treating the dog right? P. 17** He said the dog acted scared. There were no marks on the dog, but the boy said you don't have to put a mark on a dog to hurt him.
- 7. Why did the boy name the dog, Shiloh? P. 18** Ma asked if the Shiloh dog was still there. The boy named him, Shiloh, after the place where the boy had found him.

Chapter 2 Pp. 19-27

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

- flustered** (8, 23) to put into a state of agitated confusion
- abandoned** (5, 24) to give up completely, forsake, desert
- gristmill** (, 24) a mill for grinding grain
- creation** (9, 27) the act of making or producing
- guarantee** (7, 27) to undertake an obligation to establish or continue

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What did Dad say about the left over rabbit that Marty wanted to give to Shiloh? P. 19** If you don't want it I'll take it for lunch tomorrow. What did this say about the financial condition of the family?
- 2. What did Marty feed Shiloh? P. 20** He fed Shiloh an egg from the chicken coop without letting Ma and Dad know he had taken it.
- 3. What did the boy have for a goal? P. 21** He wanted to be a vet.
- 4. How did the author describe how the boy felt when Dad pointed out that it takes money to go to school? Pp. 21-22** "my dream sort of leaks out like water in a paper bag" What is the meaning of this phrase?
- 5. What were the four reasons Marty didn't like Judd? Pp. 22-23**
 1. Marty saw Judd cheating the store keeper.
 2. Judd would spit tobacco close to you if he didn't like you.
 3. Judd blocked his view at the fairgrounds.
 4. Judd killed deer out of season.
- 6. Why did Marty ask where you report a person for mistreating animals? P. 24**
He wanted to report Judd.
- 7. What did a visitor in the hill country have to do when driving up to a place? P. 25** "up here in the hills you hardly ever get down to business right off – say howdys - talk about anything else but what you have come for and then when the mosquitoes start to bite get to the point"
- 8. What did Judd do as Shiloh leapt on the ground? Pp. 26-27** He kicked Shiloh. Shiloh ran off behind the trailer with its tail tucked, belly to the ground.

Chapter 3 Pp. 28-36

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

possum (, 34) an opossum, a tree-dwelling mammal, especially active at night

Comprehension Questions

1. **What did Marty decide early in the morning? P. 28** He had to buy Shiloh.
2. **What did Marty ask Dad before Ma was up? P. 29** How could he earn some money?
3. **What job did Marty do that he didn't get paid for? P. 30** He babysat Becky and Dara Lynn.
4. **What job did Dad say Marty could help him with? P. 31** Dad was a postal employee. Marty could help him with the Sears catalog that had just been sent out.
5. **What did Ma say about the seventeen lightning bugs? P. 32** "almost enough to turn off the electricity and let 'em light the kitchen"
6. **What mail stop really made Marty nervous? P. 33** when he took Judd his mail
7. **What was Judd doing when they got to his place? P. 34** cutting weeds on the side of the road
8. **What was Judd's name for Shiloh? P. 35** Judd didn't name his dogs. He called his dogs Git, Scram, or Dammit.
9. **What did Marty tell Judd? P. 36** He told him that the dog's name was Shiloh.

Student's Guide

Chapter 1 Pp. 11-18

Vocabulary

detour (11)

thigh (13)

groveling (13)

whopping (15)

pneumonia (16)

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Ma's wish? P. 11
2. What kind of a house did the family live in? P. 12
3. What did the beagle look like? P. 13
4. How do you know the boy liked having the dog follow him? P. 14
5. Why would the kid be in trouble for getting his clothes wet? P. 16
6. Why did the boy think the owner of the dog wasn't treating the dog right? P. 17
7. Why did the boy name the dog, Shiloh? P. 18

Chapter 2 Pp. 19-27

Vocabulary

- flustered (23)
- abandoned (24)
- gristmill (24)
- creation (27)
- guarantee (27)

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Dad say about the left over rabbit that Marty wanted to give to Shiloh? P. 19
2. What did Marty feed Shiloh? P. 20
3. What did the boy have for a goal? P. 21
4. How did the author describe how the boy felt when Dad pointed out that it takes money to go to school? Pp. 21-22
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6. Why did Marty ask where you report a person mistreating animals? P. 24
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Chapter 3 Pp. 28-36

Vocabulary

possum (34)

Comprehension Questions

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7. What was Judd doing when they got to his place? P. 34
8. What was Judd's name for Shiloh? P. 35
9. What did Marty tell Judd? P. 36

Student's Workbook

Chapter 1 Pp. 11-18

Vocabulary

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thigh (13) _____

groveling (13) _____

whopping (15) _____

pneumonia (16) _____

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3. **What did the boy have for a goal? P. 21** He wanted to be a vet.

4. **How did Marty feel when Dad pointed out that it takes money to go to school?**

Pp. 21-22 His dream might always be just a dream.

5. **What were the four reasons Marty didn't like Judd? Pp. 22-23** 1. Marty saw

Judd cheating the store keeper. 2. Judd spit tobacco close to you if he didn't like you.

3. Judd blocked his view at the fairgrounds. 4. Judd killed deer out of season.

6. **Why did Marty ask where you report a person for mistreating animals? P. 24**

He wanted to report Judd.

7. **What did a visitor in the hill country have to do when driving up to a place?**

P. 25 A visitor visited awhile before getting down to business.

8. **What did Judd do as Shiloh leapt on the ground? Pp. 26-27** He kicked Shiloh.

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Key Questions

Shiloh

Answer these questions in complete sentences. Name _____

Chapters 1-3

1. How do you know the boy liked having the dog follow him? P. 14 _____

2. What did the boy have for an ambition? P. 21 _____

3. What did Ma say about the seventeen lightning bugs? P. 32 _____

Chapter 4-6

4. Why was Marty's family so poor? P. 39 _____

5. How did Marty keep from lying to Judd about seeing Shiloh? P. 53 _____

6. Why was Marty so hungry all the time? P. 62 _____

Chapter 7-9

7. What lie did Marty tell David so he wouldn't be able to come to Marty's house? P. 69

8. How did Dara Lynn get a blister? P. 77 _____

Key Questions Answer Key

Answer these questions in complete sentences. Name _____

Chapters 1-3

1. How do you know the boy liked having the dog follow him? P. 14
The boy said, "I raise my gun, and then I decide the sound might scare the dog off."
2. What did the boy have for an ambition? P. 21
The boy wanted to be a vet someday.
3. What did Ma say about the seventeen lightning bugs? P. 32
She said that there were almost enough to turn off the electricity and let them light the kitchen.

Chapter 4-6

4. Why was Marty's family so poor? P. 39
Grandma got so feeble that every spare cent went to pay for grandma's care, there was nothing left for a pet.
5. How did Marty keep from lying to Judd about seeing Shiloh? P. 53
Marty told Judd he hadn't seen the dog in the yard around the house all day.
6. Why was Marty so hungry all the time? P. 62
He was sharing his meals with Shiloh.

Chapter 7-9

7. What lie did Marty tell David so he wouldn't be able to come to Marty's house? P. 69
Marty told David his mom had a really bad headache all the time.
8. How did Dara Lynn get a blister? P. 77
She wore her new shoes home.
9. Why did Dad and Marty go up to Shiloh's pen in the middle of the night? P. 87
They heard a dog fight during the night.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
