

Old Yeller

Reading Guide

by David Kohl

For the book by Fred Gipson



LOGOS PRESS
Elementary Literature Series

Suggestions For Use

This literature guide is designed to be completed by a fifth grade student over the course of one semester. Students may certainly read more than the five books contained in this guide if they are so inclined. Five required books would be a reasonable goal for a school semester, but a lot depends on how much time - if any - you spend on projects, how much time daily you devote to reading, and what else you do in your reading program. For best results, parents may read and discuss the books and the questions with their students.

Books on the fifth grade literature list vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Your students may find some books harder to grasp than others.

Questions fall into three basic levels: literal, inferential, and evaluative; or, as someone put it, “on the lines”, “between the lines”, and “beyond the lines”. Some literal level questions have one right answer, but most questions have more possibilities.

Our typical reading period is about an hour long. First someone reads aloud to the class for 15 minutes from a book not on the literature list. It could be related to something we are studying in history, or it could be just for fun. For the remaining 45 minutes students read and answer the comprehension questions. If they finish early, they read a book of their choice.

Some editions of some books have no chapter numbers, so you may have to number them yourself.

A typical weekly cycle includes four days of new assignments; the fifth day is a catch-up day for students who need the extra time, or a free reading day for those who don't.

I require thorough, accurate answers in complete sentences, and I grade on content - which should include style - and mechanics. The questions should be thought of as more short essay than short answer.

Here are the four vocabulary steps used throughout this guide:

Vocabulary: The Four Steps

- A. Find the vocabulary word; write it in context.
- B. Guess the meaning from context; write it.
- C. Write the dictionary definition next.
- D. Finally, use the word in a sentence of your own.

Enjoy your books!

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Moscow, ID
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Old Yeller
by Fred Gipson

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 1 -2

1. Where does the story take place, and when?

2. Who are the characters?

3. Explain why the dog was named Old Yeller.

4. Describe the dog.

5. Why was Travis so angry with him?

Answer Key

Old Yeller

Chapters 1 - 2

1. Where does the story take place, and when?

The setting is Birdsong Creek, Texas, on a ranch, in the late 1860s.

2. Who are the characters?

The characters are Travis, Old Yeller, Papa, Mama, and Little Arliss.

3. Explain why the dog was named Old Yeller.

The dog was a dingy yellow color (“yeller”) and his bark was more of a yell than a bark.

4. Describe the dog.

The dog was big, ugly, slick-haired, “yeller”-colored with one ear missing and a tail so short it was almost missing too.

5. Why was Travis so angry with him?

He had eaten Travis’s family’s meat, which had been hanging from the rafters.

Chapters 3 - 4

1. Why was Travis so proud of shooting the doe?

Travis had made a clean kill of a deer on the run. He got meat for the family like Papa did, and didn’t cause an animal a lot of suffering.

2. Why was Travis careful not to shoot a javelina?

If you wounded a javelina, the whole bunch might come after you, ready to eat you alive. Although their tusks were shorter than those of the range hogs, they’d keep after you for a longer time.

3. Why did Travis get angry with Old Yeller during the bullfight?

Travis liked to watch bulls fight. At first Travis was angry because the dog interfered with the bullfight. Then he was angry because Old Yeller wouldn’t chase off the bulls when they were banging into the house and demolishing the fence.