

NAME _____

NO. _____

GRADUATION OF JAKE MOON

DEFINE THESE WORDS USING CONTEXT CUES:

1. pathetic (pg 2)

2. conscience (pg 3)

3. decency (pg 3)

CHAPTER ONE – THE TWIST

4. What made the boys think there was something wrong with the old man? _____

5. What made the boys stop making fun of the old man? _____

6. What was the twist? _____

7. What could be wrong with the old man? _____

8. Who is telling the story? _____

CHAPTER 2 THOR, GOD OF THUNDER

1. Explain how Jake's grandfather got the name Skelly. _____

2. page 7 ... Hoist him onto his shoulders Write the dictionary definition of hoist as it is used in this sentence. _____

3. What good thing did Skelly do for Thorbert Piddler? _____

4. Explain how this affected Thorbert Piddler. _____

5. What special gift did Skelly have? _____

6. Explain what Alzheimer's disease is. _____

7. Why was Skelly's absentmindedness a really big deal to Jake? _____

8. Anger is part of having Alzheimer's disease. What did Skelly get angry about? _____

9. How do you know the photo of Thorbert and Skelly meant a lot to Thorbert? _____

CHAPTER 3 BE-HINDS AND OTHER FAMILY MATTERS

1. "And okay, fine, I admit there was a scuffle." Write the dictionary definition of scuffle as it is used in this sentence. _____

3. "Had to have two of his dogs amputated." Write the definition of amputate as it is used in this sentence. _____

4. Why did Ma kick Jake under the table? _____

5. "I sat there contemplating the horrors of Hiram Wickham,..." Write the definition for contemplate as it is used in this sentence. _____

6. Explain Alzheimer's three stages. _____

7. What is the purpose of the Post-It notes and the list? _____

8. Why did the notes pinned to Skelly's shirt bother Jake? _____

9. Explain what Skelly meant when he said, "Sometimes, messin' up is the best teacher." _____

10. What happened when Skelly took the table into the house? _____

Choose the character **Jake Moon** or **Skelly** to follow through his different “stages” in the story. Use these pages for your Character Notes and Textual Evidence.

- Character Notes are for observations, insights, and details about the character you choose.
- Textual Evidence refers to quotations and page numbers to back up your observations.
- Keep a running log on your character throughout the book.
 - Look at how your character changes over time.
 - Do you notice any specific “stages” of development?
 - For example, Jake deals with his grandfather’s illness by moving through different emotional stages.

CHARACTER SELECTED: _____

CHARACTER NOTES

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

CHAPTER 4 LUCKY DUCK

1 Why didn't Jake think the jokes made by the hospital people were funny? _____

2. " ... patients can become so overwhelmed it's almost like they don't have the energy to keep fighting anymore..." Write the dictionary definition for overwhelm as it is used in this sentence. _____

3. Depression is a symptom of Alzheimer's disease. What did some of the characters do to try to cheer Skelly up? _____

4. What is a caregiver? _____

5. Jake said Skelly's behavior was getting weirder and weirder. Give two examples. _____

6. Why is Jake beginning to feel resentful toward Skelly? _____

7. Difficulty in choosing words is a symptom of Alzheimer's disease. Give an example of what Skelly said and what he really meant. _____

8. How did Skelly embarrass Jake in front of his teammates? Give 2 examples. _____

CHAPTER 5 JUST SAY NO

1. Why did Jake want to be friends with Aaron Friar? _____

2. "First, in a covert operation at school, I got a hold of the latest teenage slasher movie, ..."

Write the dictionary definition of covert as it is used in this sentence. _____

3. How did having Aaron come over to Jake's house actually backfire for Jake? _____

4. What changes has Jake been making in his life because of Skelly's illness? _____

5. Why didn't Jake go home to relieve Lanna after school? _____

6. Did Jake deserve for his mom to be so mad at him? _____ Explain your

answer. _____

7. What would you have done in Jake's place? _____

8. Does Jake really hate his grandfather? _____

Why or why not? _____

CHAPTER 6 THE NUT

1. & 2. "Mom had just cooled down from her tirade at school and was apologizing for going ballistic.

Write the dictionary definitions of tirade and ballistic as they are used in this sentence.

Tirade _____

ballistic _____

3. Why was it a coincidence that Mrs. Alma Russell answered the phone? _____

4. Why was hiring Alma Russell one of the best things that ever happened to Skelly? _____

5. What were some quirky or unusual things about Mrs. Russell? (Name 2) _____

6. Why did Jake feel guilty at dinner the night of the Dumpster episode? _____

7. What happened at the House of Pancakes that was embarrassing for Jake? _____

8. An **idiom** is a phrase that has two meanings: the real meaning that is common and a meaning that is not so common and not likely to be true.

- For example: a fork in the road could mean there is an actual fork in the road even though that is not likely to happen.
- A fork in the road usually means where a road branches off into two roads. On page 55, Jake's mother yelled to another driver to "keep his drawers on."
- What is the common and not common meanings of that phrase?

Common _____

Not common _____

9. On page 57, what does it mean "...Mrs. Russell's voice can puncture a truck tire?" _____

10. Mrs. Russell told Jake the two of them could give his grandfather a bath when Jake got home. Two guys on their way to ball practice cracked up and Jake hid his face. He said it was becoming a way of life. What was becoming a way of life for him? _____

11. What does Jake do at the end of the chapter that tells you that he really does love his grandfather? _____

BE SURE YOU ARE KEEPING UP WITH WRITING DOWN YOUR CHARACTER NOTES AND TEXTUAL EVIDENCE!!!

CHAPTER 7 THE PEARL

1. What did Jake mean when he said that some teachers understand that kids' brains go on vacation the first week in May. And that no matter how hard you knock, there won't be anyone home until September? _____

2. Describe how Jake identified with *The Pearl*? _____

3. "James may be older than me, but he has not scruples." Write the dictionary definition of scruples as it is used here. _____

4. Describe Aunt Marguerite. Include examples to back up what you say. _____

5. What do you think of what Jake says about Aunt Marguerite? Do you agree?

_____ Why or why not? _____

6. Page 70 "But believe me, Jake, staying bitter will only make you more miserable." Write the dictionary definition of bitter as it is used here. _____

7. Write a synonym (word that means the same) for bitter: _____

CHAPTER 8 SINKING AND FLOATING

1. Page 72 “Okay, Skell. Let’s give it a shot.” What does this idiom really mean? _____

2. What tradition have Skelly and Jake had since Jake was a baby? _____

3. What is Jake learning from Mrs. Russell? _____

4. What good luck happened to Jake in this chapter? _____

UPDATE YOUR CHARACTER NOTES AND EVIDENCE.

CHAPTER 9 OFFICER HAPPY

1. What does Jake mean when he says he thinks Mr. Waxman is on the shady side of the law? _____

2. How did Skelly get away from the Senior Center? _____

3. What made Jake think he could do a better job of finding Skelly than the police? _____

4. Describe 'Officer Happy'. _____

UPDATE YOUR CHARACTER NOTES AND EVIDENCE.

CHAPTER 10 SHERMAN KELLY

1. What kind of person is Mrs. Russell? (Include examples to back up what you say.) _____

2. Why don't Jake and James get along? _____

3. What do you learn about James and his feelings toward his grandfather and Jake from his confrontation (argument) with Jake? _____

4. What was their reaction to the 10:00 news story about Skelly? _____

UPDATE YOUR CHARACTER NOTES AND EVIDENCE.

CHAPTER 11 CANDLE BURNS

1. What was the lead that Officer Rios had? _____

2. Was it good news or bad news for the family that Officer Rios did not find Skelly? Explain. ____

3. Explain how Campbell Burns and Skelly met, and how Skelly got back home. Include lots of details. _____

4. Why is 'Candle Burns' the title of this chapter? _____

UPDATE YOUR CHARACTER NOTES AND EVIDENCE.

CHAPTER 12 GRADUATION BOY

1. How has James changed since the beginning of the book? _____

2. How did it happen that no one was watching Skelly at graduation? _____

3. List 4 things that embarrassed Jake on the evening of his graduation.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4. Why did Mrs. Rook tell Jake he should be proud? _____

5. Besides graduating from eighth grade how else did Jake 'graduate'? _____
