



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 3-5

Racing the Sun

Karina Halle

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Racing the Sun

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

9. Where does Brandon go on Memorial Day?
10. What does Grandpa Berger do at the cemetery?
11. **Predict:** Will Grandpa get back to Little Water?

Chapter 10—pages 93-101

1. What is Grandpa doing when Brandon wakes up?
2. What has happened to the squash Brandon planted beneath the bedroom window? What does Grandpa say is wrong with the plants?
3. What does Grandpa do in the garden? How does Brandon react?
4. Which plants does Grandpa leave in the ground?
5. According to Grandpa, when should people think about those who have died? Why?
6. Why does Brandon cry?
7. What is Brandon's plan for getting Grandpa to Little Water?
8. Why do Brandon and Grandpa go to the mall?
9. **Predict:** Will Brandon's plan work? Why or why not?

Chapter 11—pages 103-112

1. Who takes Brandon and Grandpa into the city?
2. What kind of driver is Mrs. Berger?
3. What does the man on the bus think is wrong with Grandpa?
4. What does the woman on the bus do to help Brandon and Grandpa?
5. What does Grandpa tell Brandon about the man on the bus?
6. According to Grandpa, what has Brandon's father forgotten?
7. What does the man on the bus buy for Grandpa?
8. Why does the man on the bus apologize to Brandon and Grandpa?

Chapter 12—pages 113-122

1. How does Grandpa plan to get from the bus station to Little Water?
2. What does the man from the ticket counter tell Grandpa and Brandon? Why is this a problem for them?
3. What makes the man from the ticket counter change his mind?
4. Why does Brandon call his father?
5. What does Brandon's father say before he gets off the phone?
6. Who takes Brandon and Grandpa to Little Water?
7. Why does Brandon ask Grandpa if he is scared? What is Grandpa's answer?
8. What is the Happy Hunting Ground? What does Grandpa say about it?
9. What does Grandpa say about being proud of Brandon's father? What does Grandpa want him to understand?
10. What does Brandon remember about playing with his cousins?

Name _____

yucca (56)
winded (59)
humanitarian (61)
diluting (66)
basin (70)
pancreas (71)

craze (57)
furiously (59)
generosity (63)
adjustments (67)
tang (70)
foundation (72)

ethnic (57)
sputtering (60)
leisurely (64)
perspective (67)
reminiscing (71)

promote (57)
sheepishly (61)
fury (66)
parallel (68)
gestured (71)

Directions: Write the correct word from the list beside each definition.

1. a gland where insulin is produced _____
2. a sharp acrid taste _____
3. remembering past experiences _____
4. a fad _____
5. pertaining to a cultural group _____
6. an underlying support _____
7. moved the body to express something _____
8. concerned with the needs of people _____
9. without haste; unhurried _____
10. with embarrassment _____
11. great anger _____
12. out of breath _____
13. bowl-shaped area _____
14. unselfishness _____
15. stuttering _____

What secret message is spelled out by the letters in the boxes?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Name _____

Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are three main types of conflict: person against person (PP), person against nature or society (PN), and person against himself/herself (PS).

Directions: The characters in *Racing the Sun* experience many conflicts during the story. In the chart below, list the names of three major characters from the story. In the space provided, list two conflicts each character experiences and indicate which conflict is involved (PP, PN, or PS). Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

Character: _____

Conflict	Resolution

Character: _____

Conflict	Resolution

Character: _____

Conflict	Resolution