



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

THE EDUCATION OF LITTLE TREE

BY FORREST CARTER



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Item No. 200665

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Language****Objective:** Recognizing Indian contributions to the English language and American names**Activity**

Many Indian words have, through common usage, gained a place in the English language. It will not surprise you that “moccasin,” “totem,” and “wigwam” are among them. The Indian origins of some of the below words, however, are less well-known. In the following list, many, but not all, of the words have Indian origins. Circle the ones that you think came to us from Native Americans.

Indigo	Bison	Coyote	Cowboy	Stogie	Terrapin
Cannibal	Raccoon	Moose	Yankee	Hurricane	Quinine
Hammock	Punk	Condor	Mesquite	Thunder	Squash
Chipmunk	Snake	Maize	Canoe	Persimmon	Loom
Opossum	Kayak	Pumpkin	Skunk	Eagle	Barbecue

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1 – 19**Inference****Objective:** Drawing inferences**Activity**

Because he is young and inexperienced, Little Tree is often naïve. He often misinterprets what is happening around him. As he is the narrator, it is left up to us to infer what is actually going on.

Begin working on this chart now, and add to it as you read further along in the book. In the first column, quote a passage in which Little Tree is oblivious to what is really happening and provide the page number. In the second, explain what it is that Little Tree thinks is happening. In the third, write down what is actually happening. The first one is done for you as an example.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 4 – End of Book

Reading for Detail

Objective: Creating field guides

Activity

Throughout the course of the novel, Little Tree learns many lessons; these range from specific information about a certain bird's habits or a plant's properties, to more generalized statements about society and how to get along with politicians. If the information was collected into an illustrated field guide, others could benefit from Granpa and Granma's wealth of painstakingly acquired knowledge.

Outside of Granpa's opinions on politics and society, the bulk of what Little Tree learns falls into four categories:

- Plants, Trees, and Roots;
- Animals (dogs and horses need not be included);
- Birds; and
- Natural Medicine and Survival Skills.

Each group member will become a field expert in one of these areas. As an expert, take notes whenever information related to your field comes up in the novel. You will ultimately be responsible for compiling four typed and illustrated pages to be inserted into a "field guide" that will contain the work of everyone in your group. Some outside research will be required, as most field guides contain some basic factual information that is **not** imparted to Little Tree in the novel. If you are your group's bird expert and are making an entry about, for example, an eagle (Tal-con), you should include such significant facts as the life span, wingspan, eating habits, and dwelling habits of the average eagle in addition to whatever information you glean from Granpa's words. Decide together as a group what to call your field guide and what the cover should look like. At the end of the unit, you will turn in your guide for a group grade—to be determined in part by the thoroughness and artful presentation of your guide and in part by your success in working as a group.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 5 – 8**Understanding Slang and Colloquialisms****Objective:** Recognizing slang and its purpose in literature**Activity**

Carter's title for this chapter contains a slang expression of Granma and Granpa's: "I kin ye." The inclusion of slang expressions adds flavor and realism to a story. Slang and colloquialisms are such a part of everyday conversation that our own speech would sound formal and awkward to our ears if we never used it. To complete the below chart, find five (total) examples of slang or colloquial speech in Chapters 5-8. Place the slang expression and the page number on which it occurs in the first column. In the second column, provide a literal translation of the word or phrase. In the final column, provide at least **two** examples of slang words or expressions we use today that mean the same thing or something similar. "I kin ye" has been done for you as an example.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 6**Collage****Objective:** Making a poster**Activity**

This chapter, in which Carter describes the “Trail of Tears,” is full of heartrending, unforgettable images. Make a collage poster in memory of all those forced to make the “death march.” You may draw, paint, use a computer, clip images from magazines, or any combination of these, but you may not use words: make the images tell the story. Your poster should be at least 11 x 17 inches (the equivalent of two sheets of printer paper) in size. Be prepared to share your poster with the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 9

Resume Writing

Objective: Interpreting details from the text

Activity

Attached is a sample resume (filled out, in this case, for Shakespeare's character Macbeth). Notice that the resume includes career objectives, prior work experience, skills, personal interests, and references.

In Chapter 9, we learn that Granpa has never had a job in "public works." As an independent whiskey-maker, he has probably never had to apply for any kind of a job that requires a resume. The novel is set in the Depression years, however, and it would not be a stretch to suppose that the market for luxuries like whiskey is suffering. Imagine, then, that—with many misgivings, of course—Granpa has decided to fill out a resume and apply for a position working for someone else.

Your first task will be to think up a career for a person of Granpa's experience to pursue. Identifying that will allow you to write the resume so that it is targeted to a specific job. Remember, also, that Granpa's name is Wales (it would not do to put "Granpa" on one's resume). After the sample resume, a blank resume template is attached, but feel free to use a computer if you have one available.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 11

Critical Thinking and Creative Writing

Objective: Reading and responding to a relevant article

Activity

In this chapter, Little Tree experiences blatant, cruelly-intended racism. There are more subtle kinds of racism, of course. Is something that is not intended cruelly still racism? Perhaps the following will help you to decide.

Read the below article, which was published in 1999 by the National Coalition on Racism in Sports & the Media. Then complete the activities that follow.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 12**Simile**

Objective: Recognizing similes

Activity

Carter frequently employs simile in his descriptions, both in Chapter 12 and elsewhere in *The Education of Little Tree*. To complete the following chart, find examples of simile in Chapter 12. Quote the simile and place the page number on which it can be found in the first column. In the second column, list the things being compared. In the third, explain what the simile means in literal terms. The example is taken from Chapter 2.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 16**Satire****Objective:** Interpreting Little Tree's satirical comments**Activity**

In the following **Satirical Comments Chart**, interpret Carter's satire based on Little Tree's innocent comments and observations. The first column contains quotes from Chapter 16. To fill in the second column, decide what it is that Carter is poking fun at—or satirizing—in each quote. The first one is done for you as an example.