

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Tex

by S. E. Hinton

Copyright © 2000 by Prestwick House Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593.
www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her
personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale. *Revised June 2003.*

ISBN 13: 978-1-60389-948-2

Reorder No. 201355

Tex

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. define literary terms associated with novels and be able to cite examples of each.
2. define important vocabulary words used in the novel and be able to use them correctly in context.
3. identify and trace the development of the main theme of *Tex*.
4. identify the point of view of the storyteller and discuss the author's use of this particular method.
5. pick out significant events, scenes, or speeches and explain their significance to the novel as a whole.
6. identify the important conflicts which lead (rising action) to the climax.
7. explain how the author resolves or does not resolve the various conflicts brought up during the course of the plot.
8. discuss how the setting influences the way in which the action occurs.
9. trace the development of the major relationships in this novel.
10. recognize several important quotes and explain their importance to the general understanding of the novel.
11. discuss the importance of the supporting characters to the success of the plot.
12. trace the growth and development of the main character.

Tex

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Discuss the time period during which this story takes place. Do you find this timing realistic for the action to really happen?
2. Mason and Jamie are very important characters, both in Tex's life and to the book as a whole. Briefly describe each supporting character and discuss their influences on the main character personally and on the novel in general.
3. Relationships with fathers play an important role in this novel. Briefly describe Pop and Cole and show how each is influential in the development of his child/children's personalities and behavior.
4. Describe the interactions between Tex and Jamie. What does each character seem to want from the other? How does the end of the novel resolve their relationship?
5. Describe the interactions between Mason and Tex. What does each character seem to want from the other? How does the end of the novel resolve their relationship?
6. Lem is an interesting character. Pick out two or three significant scenes where Lem says or does something important to the course of the novel. Using these scenes, explain his importance to the plot.
7. Choose two or three scenes where Johnny says or does something that affects Tex and the course of the novel. Explain why Johnny's words and actions are important.
8. There are several references to drugs and alcohol in this novel. Identify two or three of these references, naming the characters involved and the result of their behavior.
9. Consider how this novel ends, not just for Tex, but for other characters, too. What one (or possibly two) thing(s) would you change if you could rewrite the story? Why would you make these specific changes? How would this change/change influence other parts of the tale?
10. Identify the elements in *Tex* that make it a coming-of-age novel.

Tex

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter One

Vocabulary

paddock – enclosure, corral, ring

lean-to – shed, hut, shelter

whippoorwill – bird with a distinctive call

1. Where and when do we first meet the main character?
2. Where is Pop?
3. How does the author give you information about Tex?
4. Who is Tex talking to during his ride before school?
5. Who are Johnny and Mace?

Chapter Three

1. In Chapter Three, Cole Collins pays the McCormicks a visit. Why?
2. Why did Lem leave their small town? How does his leaving affect Tex? What does Lem's leaving mean to Tex?
3. Lem's visit brings up some interesting issues between the brothers. What are some of these issues?

Chapter Five

Vocabulary

20-gauge – a type of shotgun

obscene – offensive, disgusting, revolting

1. In chapter five, Tex and Mace ride into the city together. Why does each one go?
2. While Tex is waiting for Mace to get through at the hospital, he gets into some potentially serious trouble. What happens?
3. Being accused of shoplifting reminds Tex of the time he was in jail. Recount this memory and explain why this jail experience was so terrible for him. What literary term refers to this type of storytelling?
4. What amazing realization does Tex come to after he sees Jamie at the mall?
5. What do the hospital tests reveal about Mace's health?

Chapter Seven

Vocabulary

frenzied – frantic, furious, possessed

wistfully – thoughtfully, reflectively, longingly

1. The boys are featured on television the evening of their kidnapping, and everyone is calling on the phone to congratulate them. What is the most important call they get and what is its message?
2. This day has been a very event-filled day. Recount its main events.
3. How does the reunion with their father go for the boys?
4. What does Pop promise Tex for the end of the month?
5. What happens when Mace and Tex go to buy Negrito back from his new owners?

Chapter Eleven

1. What very important information does Pop share with Tex in the hospital?
2. Explain why the rodeo may be an important symbol to Pop, more than just a fun place to spend time.
3. How is each of the brothers like their mother?
4. Explain why Tex's recurring nightmare is more of a flashback than a dream.
5. S. E. Hinton uses many similes when she is writing. Find the simile on page 201 and explain the comparison.
6. Who else visits Tex while he is recuperating in the hospital?
7. What is Mason's reaction to his brother's injury?
8. What does Jamie say right after she reaffirms that she loves Tex? Why is this important?