

Old Yeller

Fred Gipson

Chapter 1

1. When does the story take place?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Why is the father leaving?
4. Name the two boys in the story?
5. Who is telling the story?
6. Who was Bell and what happened to him?
7. Who was Jumper and how does Travis make him behave?

Vocabulary: dingy, writhing, dun, mule

Chapter 2

1. Describe Old Yeller's appearance.
2. Does his appearance reveal anything to us?
3. How does Arliss react when he first sees the dog?
4. What decision does Mama make concerning the dog? Why?

Vocabulary: bobbed, clout, sober, doe

Chapter 3

1. What advice had Papa given Travis about hunting?
2. What are the Salt Licks and why are they important?
3. Why did Travis refuse to shoot at the javelina hogs?
4. What game does Travis finally kill?

Vocabulary: withers, wallowing, sulk,

Chapter 4

1. Why were the two bulls fighting?
2. What happens when Travis attempts to get Old Yeller to help?
3. Describe two comical events that happen with the old cart?

Vocabulary: roan, bullwhip, canyons, boars, knoll, tallow, broadside, hilt, astride, reeking, braided, aggravated, heave, careened

Chapter 5

1. What was Arliss in the habit of doing?
2. Why did his mother punish him when she found the baby copperhead?
3. Why did the mother bear attack Arliss?

Vocabulary: copperhead, tortilla, fib, wedges, frantic, prowl, lunging, rowdy

Chapter 6

1. How did Travis' feelings about Old Yeller change after the bear attack?
2. Why was Mama puzzled when Old Yeller wouldn't eat any of the gobbler?
3. Describe Bud Searcy's appearance.
4. Who was Lisbeth and what did she reveal to Travis?
5. What does hydrophobia mean and what word do we normally use for this disease today?

Vocabulary: rout, briars, colt, sumptuous, watercress, solemn, roost, mauled

Chapter 7

1. Describe the various methods Travis used in his attempts to keep Old Yeller from wandering off at night.
2. Why did Travis and Old Yeller sleep in the corn patch?
3. How does Old Yeller fight the heifer?
4. Why does Travis "nearly die" at the end of the chapter?

Vocabulary: rogue, mange, shucks, wallow, heifer

Chapter 8

1. Who was Burn Sanderson?
2. Why was Travis angry with Bud Searcy?
3. What kind of a trade did Mr. Sanderson make with Arliss?
4. Why did Travis want to "get out of sight in a hurry"?
5. What warning does Burn Sanderson give the Coates family?

Vocabulary: flank, commotion, venison, bits, plague, sternness

Chapter 9

1. Why did most of the hog owners keep four or five old barrows to run with the sows?
2. How did Travis mark the pigs born that year?
3. Why did Travis have to stay in the tree after he had marked the pigs?

Vocabulary: drooling, drought, shoat, sows, tushes, whetted, gnarled, castration

Chapter 10

1. How did Travis keep track of how many pigs had been born that year?
2. What did Bud Searcy tell Mrs. Coates when he visited their home?
3. What happened to Travis when he tried to catch the second pig?
4. What happened to Old Yeller when he tried to intervene?
5. Why did Travis decide to leave Old Yeller behind? What would you have done?

Vocabulary: prickly pear, shabby, entrails, mournful

Chapter 11

1. How did Mama clean and treat Travis' wound?
2. Why does Travis insist on going back to Old Yeller?
3. What does Mama use for thread to sew up Old Yeller's wound?
4. Why does Mama send Arliss to look for a green lizard?
5. What are the signs at the end of the chapter that Travis' leg has worsened?

Vocabulary: coil, buzzard, flinch

Chapter 12

1. Describe the device Mama used to keep Jumper away from the corn.
2. How did Travis react to another visit from Bud Searcy?
3. How do Mama and Travis react when Mr. Searcy offers to leave Lisbeth behind to help out their family?

Vocabulary: butter churn, binding, poultice, drouth, puny, fretful

Chapter 13

1. What are some of the signs that Lisbeth was a good helper?
2. Describe the actions of Spot and the roan bull during the next few days.
3. What is Travis forced to do at the end of the chapter?

Vocabulary: tote, nettles, blattting

Chapter 14

1. Give two reasons why they had to remove the carcass.
2. What is meant by the expression, "I knew he wasn't throwing off"?
3. What were they forced to do when they couldn't move the bull?
4. Explain what happened to Spot?

Vocabulary: foul, carcass, varmint, haunches, trace, stench, hideous, frayed, shedding

Chapter 15

1. Why does Travis start to worry about Mama and Lisbeth?
2. What instructions does Mama shout out to Travis?
3. What horrific scene unfolds in front of the cabin?
4. What does Mama reluctantly offer to do if Travis can't?
5. How did you feel at the end of this chapter?
6. Do you think you would have been able to do what Travis did?

Vocabulary: fussy, cornbread, recollected, hamstring, shuddered, muzzle

Chapter 16

1. What does Papa bring for Travis?
2. Summarize what Papa tells Travis about life?
3. Why is it exactly that Travis begins to feel better?
4. Describe your favorite part of the story?

Vocabulary: romped, speckled, clamped, frazzle