Wish You Well

Summer Reading 2014

1. What kind of automobile did the family drive?
2. What was Jack Cardinal’s occupation?
3. Where did he want to move the family?
4. What farm animal was Oz going to be in the play at his school?
5. What caused the car wreck?
6. Where did the family originally live?
7. What was Jack’s mother’s name?
8. Who was the younger of the two children?
9. What mode of transportation did they use to get to Virginia?
10. What did Lou “steal” back from the nurse?
11. Did Lou and Oz sometimes eat cornbread in gravy for breakfast? T or F
12. Who spent more time with Mother—Lou or Oz?
13. Who had written letters to Louisa?
14. When they went to school, with whom did Lou get in a fight?
15. What was the teacher’s name?
16. What kind of car did Cotton drive?
17. What was the name of the friend who came to visit them often?
18. To whom did Cotton read?
19. Did Diamond always go barefooted?
20. What town did Lou, Diamond and Oz visit?
21. What did Cotton do for a living?
22. What movie did the children see when they went to Dickens?
23. Did Cotton enjoy reading as a hobby?
24. Did Cotton have copies of Lou’s father’s books at his house?
25. What was Lou’s morning job before she went to school?
26. What did Billy Davis put in Lou’s desk?
27. Did Billy Davis’s father beat him?
28. Was Lou short or tall for her age?
29. What was Diamond’s last name?
30. Did Diamond live with his parents or alone?
31. What was the Southern Valley?
32. What natural product was on Louisa’s land?
33. How did Diamond’s father die?
34. What gifts does Cotton bring Lou, Oz, and Eugene? (before the parade)
35. What was Diamond’s dog’s name?
36. Who delivered Sally Davis’s (Billy’s mom) baby?
37. What does Sally name the child?
38. What religion is Lou?
39. Who was Eugene?
40. Who died in the mine explosion?
41. Who brings food to Billy and his family?
42. What gift did Diamond give Oz?
43. What did Lou find at Diamond’s?
44. Who came to Lou's rescue when Mr. Davis was going to strike for being a smart mouth?
45. Where did Cotton go to law school?
46. Who paid Louisa's back property taxes?
47. Does Louisa die by the end of the book? Yes or No
48. Who wanted Louisa's land?
49. Who is Mr. Goode?
50. Who saved Louisa's land and how?
51. Who married Cotton?

Part II: Short-Answer Questions

1. Why does Lou, Oz, and Amanda move in with Louisa.
2. What new living conditions do Lou and Oz have to adapt to on the farm?
3. What does Eugene share in common with Lou and Oz?
4. How does George Davis respond when Jeb accidentally destroys his still?
5. What is George Davis doing while his child is being born? What character trait does this incident emphasize?
6. Why does Southern Valley want to buy Louisa’s property, and why will Southern Valley not just buy the mineral rights?
7. What is happening when Louisa suffer her stroke?
8. How does Louisa’s stroke help Southern Valley in its attempts to get her land?
9. What do the children leave at the wishing well when they change their wish?
10. What is Cotton suggesting when he asks Commonwealth’s attorney Goode “whether Southern Valley has made a donation to your campaign, sir?”

Part III: Essay Questions (Choose four)

Directions: Answer the following discussion questions in two or three paragraphs.

1. One theme of Wish You Well is “Children without Parents.” Choose two characters from the novel that lack parents or parental guidance. How does their situation affect their actions and feelings? How does one’s reaction differ from the other’s? In your explanation, give examples from the novel to support your ideas.
2. The main setting of Wish You Well is mountain on which Louisa’s farm sits. Describe this setting and its effects on the main characters, and explain how the setting helps to shape the main conflicts in the story.
3. Identify one the novel’s main symbols and explain what it represents. Consider how its meaning changes over the course of the novel and what drives that change. Support your argument with evidence from the novel.
4. One critic says of Wish You Well, “The denouement may be too tidy, but readers won’t object.” Do you agree with this assessment? Are the loose ends tied up in too tidy a fashion? If so, are readers likely to overlook the matter? Why or why not? Support your opinion with evidence from the novel.
5. Discuss the literary devices used in the novel. Are they effectively used? Support your opinion with evidence from the novel.