**Prepare Your Notebook**

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN A BOOK (NOT JUST READ IT), SHOULD KEEP A NOTEBOOK. ANY TYPE OF NOTEBOOK WILL DO, EVEN PAPER STAPLED TOGETHER!

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**BUD, NOT BUDDY**

by Christopher Paul Curtis

- The first page of a notebook usually gets lots of wear and tear and frequently rips out, so beginning on the second page, start numbering your pages front and back.
- **Page 1** will be your title page. Write the title and author’s name on this page. Once you’ve finished the book, come back to this page and draw a picture that fits the story.
- Leave pages 2, 3, and 4 blank for now.
- Label page 5 “Table of Contents.” As you answer questions and complete activities in this document, add them to your table of contents and add the correct page number.
- Print a copy of page 9 of this document. Tape or glue it into your notebook on page 8. It works best to fold it in half top-to-bottom and tape or glue just one half to the page. That way you can keep it neatly in your notebook and open it to work on it. Fill it out as you read the book.
- On page 9 of your notebook write “Chapters 1-3.” You’ll be answering the questions that begin on the next page here. Add that title and the page number to your table of contents. Continue answering questions and completing activities in this document and then add the correct page numbers to your table of contents.

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ANYTHING TYPED IN BLUE IS A HYPERLINK, JUST CLICK ON IT TO GO TO A WEBSITE OR DOCUMENT.

PLEASE REPORT BROKEN LINKS TO MS. COOKIE.

GO TO THE BACK OF YOUR NOTEBOOK AND COUNT INWARD 5 PAGES. LABEL THIS PAGE “GLOSSARY.” THERE WILL BE WORDS TO ADD TO YOUR GLOSSARY THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT. YOU’LL NEED TO LOOK UP THEIR DEFINITIONS AND ADD THEM TOO. BE SURE TO WRITE DOWN THE CORRECT DEFINITION—THE ONE THAT FITS FOR THIS STORY. IT MAY NOT BE THE FIRST ONE LISTED IN A DICTIONARY OR ON MERRIAM-WEBSTER’S ONLINE DICTIONARY.
Chapters 1-3

1. How old is the main character? How many foster homes has he lived in up until this time? Be sure to answer in complete sentences!

2. Go to this site and read about the Great Depression. Who was president when the Great Depression started? What was considered the main cause? What date did this happen? When people lost their homes, what did they call the places where they ended up living? What did they call jack rabbits? What did they call broken down cars?

3. Why does Bud think the man on the flyer is his father? Be sure to use specific examples from the book to support your answer.

4. Why do you think Bud didn’t tell Mrs. Amos the truth about what happened between him and Todd?

5. How did Bugs get his nickname? Do you have a nickname or do you know someone who does? How did you or he/she get that nickname?

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IF THERE HAD BEEN INTERNET IN THE 1930S, BUD WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOOK UP VAMPIRE BATS AND SEE THAT THERE AREN’T ANY IN THE U.S. THEY ONLY LIVE IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. Why do you think Bud didn’t tell Mrs. Amos the truth about what happened between him and Todd?

5. How did Bugs get his nickname? Do you have a nickname or do you know someone who does? How did you or he/she get that nickname?

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A cur is a mean or cowardly person.

Add these words and their definitions to your glossary: glum, commence, ilk.
Chapters 4-7

1. Do you think Todd ever figured out Bud had caused him to wet his bed? Why or why not?

2. The author, Christopher Paul Curtis, uses non-standard language in much of the book. He writes they way people spoke at the time and spells the words that way. An example is in chapter 5 when Bud says his mom would “look hard in my face, grab a holt of my arms. ...” If written correctly, this would say, “grab ahold of my arms. ...” There are many examples in this story. Keep a list of other examples of non-standard words and spellings you find in the book on pages 3 and 4 of your notebook. Label the page “Non-standard Language.”

3. What did Bud’s mom tell him about his name? Why was his name Bud, not Buddy and why did she name him Bud?

4. Why do you think the family in line for breakfast chose to pretend Bud was with them? What did they say and do that made people around them think he really was a part of their family?

5. What do you think the next door to open for Bud will be? What evidence from the book supports your guess?

SEE MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE’S FAMOUS PHOTO OF THE BREAD LINE UNDER THE BILLBOARD IN COLOR AND LEARN THE STORY BEHIND IT HERE.

THE REFRIGERATOR WAS INVENTED IN 1923, BUT MOST PEOPLE COULDN’T AFFORD ONE. THE ICEBOX (LIKE THE ONE ABOVE) WAS MORE COMMON. ICE TRUCKS DELIVERED BLOCKS OF ICE TO HOMES (THE SIGN TOLD THEM HOW MUCH YOU WANTED). ICE WAS PUT IN THE TOP OF THE ICEBOX TO KEEP THE FOOD CHILLED.

A cat burglar is a criminal who sneaks into buildings, often by crawling through windows.


PRETTY BOY FLOYD

wikimedia commons
Chapters 8 & 9

1. There are lots of examples of figurative language in this story like when Bud says he “felt like he had to suck all the air out of Flint” in order to talk. Keep a tally of all the examples you find from chapter 8. I found 23! Write down your favorite idiom, simile, and hyperbole from chapter 8 and explain what each mean. If you don’t remember what figurative language is go to this site to find out.

2. What was wrong with Bug’s coin flipping, “Heads I win, tails you lose”?

2. Read about real kids who “rode the rails” during the depression. What are some of the reasons they left home?

3. The police were doing their jobs by stopping the men from getting on the train and burning Hooverville. Was it the right thing to do? If you were a policeman and knew you would lose your job too if you didn’t do it, what would you do?

4. Do you think Herman E. Calloway is really Bud’s father? Why or why not? What evidence in the story supports your guess?

Add this word and its definitions to your glossary: kin

“...before you can say Jack Robinson...”
1. Explore this interactive Google Map of Michigan and see all the places Bud talks about. Draw your own map of Michigan in your notebook. Label the places you think are most important from the story.

2. Why do you think the man still wanted to help Bud even after he tried to steal his car?

3. What can you infer about Owosso, Michigan from the way the man talks about it?

4. How is eating a meal at Mrs. Sleet’s house different from eating a meal at the Home?

5. Being a Red Cap like Mr. Lewis or a Pullman Porter like Mr. Sleet were some of the only jobs available to African Americans during the depression. Read the 1st page and the 1st paragraph of the 2nd page of this magazine article from 1938 (it’s a PDF and may have to be downloaded). What jobs did Red Caps have before the Depression? How much money did they make?

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN JUMP IN & OUT OF 4 STATES (OR STAND IN ALL 4 AT ONCE!) IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA OF THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES? THIS IS JUST LIKE WHAT BUD DID JUMPING IN AND OUT OF FLINT.

Knickers were short pants boys wore in the 1920s and 30s. The boy in the photo to the right is wearing knickers. Boys typically wore knickers until they were 13 or 14 year old when they got to wear long pants.

Whenever you write about a person, use their entire name the first time (like I did on page 3 of this document), then only their last name (never just their first) after that.
1. What are all the things about Herman E. Calloway that convince Bud he is his father?

2. Bud has been told many times he has good manners. We often don’t teach our children to say “sir” and “ma’am” anymore, but there are manners every kids should know. Read this list and write down the four manners you need to work on the most and the one you are the best at doing.

3. Restaurants were not as common in the 1930s (when this book takes place) as they are today and there weren’t any fast food restaurants yet, like McDonald’s or Jack-in-the-Box. What things about the restaurant surprise Bud?

4. Why do you think Bud started crying so hard after not being able to cry for so long? What was different about what was happening to him now that made him so emotional? List the specific things people around him said and did that you think contributed to his finally being able to cry again.

Another example of non-standard language the author uses, is the first sentence of Ch. 12. “After breakfast me and Mr. Lewis...” Want to know when to say, “Me and Mr. Lewis” or “Mr. Lewis and I” correctly? Find out here.
1. Who, do you suppose, is the little dead girl?

2. Why did Miss Thomas say, “You know, Herman, half the time I don’t know if I should laugh at you or just feel sorry for you”? What do you think she meant?

3. What are the three reasons the band gives Bud the name Sleepy LaBone?

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Grand Central Terminal in New York City, NY. It is often called Grand Central Station after the building that was on the site previously, but torn down to make room for this one.
Chapters 17 - Afterward

1. Bud was used to hard work, so the cleaning they were making him do in the Log Cabin wasn't hard. In those days, kids really were expected to do much more than they do now. Many children worked full time jobs instead of going to school. Look at the timeline on this page. When was a Federal Law against children working (known as child labor) finally passed? Was this before or after this book was supposed to take place?

2. Google Mecosta and add it to your map of Michigan.

3. Do you think Herman E. Calloway was crying because he thought it was awful Bud's his grandson? What is more likely to be the cause of his sadness?

4. Who did the author name Lefty Lewis after?

5. Listen to some examples of 1930s Big Band and Jazz music. Which song is your favorite?

6. Go back to your title page and draw a picture.
Good authors show instead of tell. They describe characters and what’s happening by painting a picture with words instead of just telling you.

Choose 4 of the character traits listed on the chart (or another one you think describes Bud) and find a specific example that shows Bud possessed that trait.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Action that shows that trait</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>clever</td>
<td>When Mr. Lewis drops him off at the Log Cabin, he tells him he wants to talk to his dad alone so he won’t be embarrassed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Works Cited


<http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/john_brown_and_the_harpers_ferry_raid.php>.


<http://www.contingetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/us_history.html>.


Attention teachers; did your students enjoy this book project? If so, check out my other book projects:

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- Because of Winn-Dixie
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**Michigan history/social studies**
- Next Spring an Oriole

**California history/social studies**
- Island of the Blue Dolphins
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- Esperanza Rising
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Check out my explorations too:
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- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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