

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1 – One-Week Brother

1. What is the setting of the first chapter?
2. What time of day is it at the start of the story?
3. Where is Uncle Travis at the start of the story?
4. Why does Tommy J call Johnny’s mother “Momma”?
5. Describe what Tommy J looks like.
6. From where does Pa pick up the orphan, Josh?
7. Why is No Good an only child?
8. Describe No Good’s Pa.
9. For what two reasons did Momma smack No Good with a wooden spoon twice?
10. Describe how No Good feels about getting Josh as a brother by the end of the chapter.

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 2 – Cleanin’ Up

1. Where is Josh going to sleep his first night?
2. Why does Momma want to give Josh a bath?
3. Why does she want to give No Good a bath even though he’s too old?
4. How does No Good feel about pancakes?
5. How can No Good tell Josh grew up poor?
6. What does No Good think happened to Josh’s back?
7. What evidence does the author give that Josh was very dirty?
8. How does No Good and Josh both get Momma wet?
9. What makes No Good and Josh laugh?
10. Why is No Good’s opinion of Josh different at the end of the second chapter verses the first chapter?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 3 – Down the Stink Bug Trail

1. What captured No Good's attention when he first woke up?

2. Describe No Good's neighborhood.

3. How does Old Man Jones view No Good?

4. Where did No Good and Josh see Ansel?

5. Who nearly ran over No Good in his car?

6. Why did Cully have to wait for his sister to come home?

7. How did the Stink Bug Trail get its name?

8. What was Old Man Badeau probably doing in the water?

9. Who guess correctly what happened to Josh's hand?

10. What did Josh hide from Officer Carter?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 4 – Cully

1. What state was Josh in when he finally showed up in the kitchen?
2. What does No Good suggest calling Josh that makes her say, “No Johnny”?
3. Why didn’t No Good and Josh eat breakfast?
4. Describe Jacob and Seth.
5. What did the boys pretend were hand grenades?
6. How did Josh save No Good from the farm hands?
7. Where did Cully probably get the cigarette he was smoking?
8. Who said the phrase, “nothin’ but gator bait”?
9. What does Cully do after he fights No Good and before he says “Scarecrow”?
10. How does No Good feel about crying?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 5 – Old Man Badeau

1. What does No Good read in his bed?

2. Why does Josh run away?

3. How does Pa know No Good was in a fight?

4. Where does No Good find Josh?

5. From whom does No Good believe Old Man Badeau got his clothes?

6. What has gotten Old Man Badeau in a “heap of trouble” in the past?

7. What comes first in Old Man Badeau’s opinion?

8. How old is Old Man Badeau’s grandson?

9. Who does Josh say is an orphan?

10. Why does No Good cover Josh with a blanket?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 6 – Tommy J

1. What wakes No Good?
2. Why is Momma worried?
3. How does No Good and Josh escape the house?
4. What time of day is it?
5. How does No Good and Josh climb onto Ansel's roof?
6. Describe Ansel's roof.
7. Where does No Good find Tommy J?
8. What might have happened to Tommy J?
9. What does No Good do when he sees Momma from the porch?
10. What does No Good think about when he falls back asleep?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 7 – Now What?

1. What does No Good and Josh share eating?
2. What does Pa tell No Good and Josh to do?
3. What does the author mean by “Miss Maples talked Yankee”?
4. Why does Miss Maples jump from a chair?
5. How does Miss Maples feel about looking after kids?
6. What was Miss Maples’ second rule?
7. Why is Cully unable to leave his house?
8. Describe the inside of Cully’s house.
9. What happens to the radio No Good tries to turn on?
10. Who comes up with an idea of what to do by the end of the chapter?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 8 – Run Off

1. What is Jeannie doing when the boys enter the bedroom?
2. What does Josh plan on doing?
3. Who does Cully insult that causes No Good to attempt to punch him?
4. What does No Good, Cully, and Jeannie see just outside the Peterson farm?
5. When No Good coughed from scooping goat dung to his mouth, who did the cops think was coughing?
6. How did No Good use a goat to distract the cops?
7. How does Jeannie get stuck while running from the Peterson farm?
8. Where does No Good, Cully, and Jeannie after No Good fell into the water?
9. Why does No Good think the cops caught someone?
10. With whom does Cully leave?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 9 – Soaked

1. How does No Good fix Jeannie's pants?

2. Describe Ansel.

3. How did Ansel and No Good fall into the water?

4. Where did Old Man Badeau take everyone?

5. Why did Old Man Badeau leave?

6. Why didn't the nurse listen to No Good?

7. What kind of mood was Pa in when No Good saw him?

8. Why was No Good surprised to get money from Pa?

9. Who did No Good and Josh think was arrested for Tommy J's murder?

10. Out of No Good, Josh, and Jeannie, who wanted to go straight home?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 10 – Imprisoned

1. Why did it stink at the bus stop near the jail?

2. According to No Good, why doesn't Josh need to look for trouble?

3. Why did Jeannie punch No Good?

4. What type of birds is flying near the jail?

5. According to Uncle Travis, what did the jail used to be?

6. Where does No Good, Josh, and Jeannie hide to spy on the jail yard?

7. Who was the last person to step out into the jail yard?

8. What probably happened to Old Man Badeau when he was arrested?

9. What does Josh do after Old Man Badeau stepped to the fence?

10. How does Josh feel after talking to Old Man Badeau?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 11 – The Bombshell

1. What did Pa know No Good would do after he gave him bus fare?
2. What did No Good do when he stepped out of the bath?
3. By what name does Josh call No Good?
4. What shocking news does Josh say about Old Man Badeau?
5. Who is Josh's father?
6. What nicknames did Josh and his mother have for each other?
7. Why wouldn't the doctors believe Josh's mother was his mother?
8. What did Old Man Badeau tell Josh while they were at the jail?
9. What object did No Good feel like was stuck in his mouth?
10. Where did No Good sleep at the end of the chapter?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 12 – Uncle Travis

1. What was Momma cooking when No Good woke up?
2. What did Momma do with the egg No Good dropped on the floor?
3. Describe Uncle Travis.
4. What gift does Uncle Travis give No Good? Why was it special?
5. How does No Good wake up Josh?
6. No Good says “somethin’ was different” about Josh. Why does he say this?
7. What does No Good say that causes Momma to send him to his room?
8. What is the last question No Good asks Pa when he’s about to spank the boy?
9. What does Pa hit with his belt?
10. What will No Good tell Momma about Josh by the end of the chapter?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 13 – The Half-Breed

1. When Momma and Pa walk off to talk alone, who does Uncle Travis think they are talking about?

2. Why does Uncle Travis use the phrase “talkin’ in code”?

3. What secret does No Good share with Uncle Travis?

4. Why does Uncle Travis think having a “half-breed” is trouble?

5. What is the name of the town Uncle Travis thought Josh should live?

6. What does Josh do to Uncle Travis after he grabs the boy by the collar?

7. What does Pa do to Uncle Travis that surprises No Good?

8. What does Pa want Uncle Travis to do after he throws him out?

9. Describe the house after the fight.

10. What are No Good’s parent’s first names?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 14 – The Scar

1. Why didn't No Good think Josh would go back to First Baptist?
2. What light-colored object did No Good find in a briar bush?
3. Where does No Good find Josh?
4. What did Josh mean when he said, "I trusted you"?
5. What does No Good hear and see that reminds him of Josh's father?
6. How did Josh physically hurt No Good?
7. What name does Josh call No Good for the first time?
8. What hung like a loose tooth at No Good's house?
9. What did Momma do to No Good's back?
10. How does No Good feel about Josh coming back?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 15 – Josh

1. What was No Good doing when Cully's pa came to the door?
2. What does Pa tell Momma to leave and not put away?
3. Describe the scene outside of No Good's house.
4. Who stood at the entrance to the hospital when No Good arrived?
5. Describe Josh's condition at the hospital.
6. What does Momma attempt to do to Josh?
7. What's the first name Josh calls out?
8. By the way Josh acts, he doesn't seem to be able to see well. Why?
9. What did No Good say he always wanted?
10. What happened to Josh at the end of the chapter?

No Good
John Hope
Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 16 – The Promise

1. What game does No Good play at the beginning of the chapter?
2. What is the name of the lake to where No Good walks?
3. Why was Old Man Badeau released from jail?
4. How did Old Man Badeau feel about losing Josh?
5. Who does No Good blame for Josh's death?
6. Why is Old Man Badeau not worried about getting wet?
7. What's Old Man Badeau's real name?
8. What didn't No Good want to be called anymore?
9. How did Momma keep her promise?
10. What does No Good mean by "I know that they're nearby, saving me a plate"?