

The Light in the Forest

Study Guide

Name _____

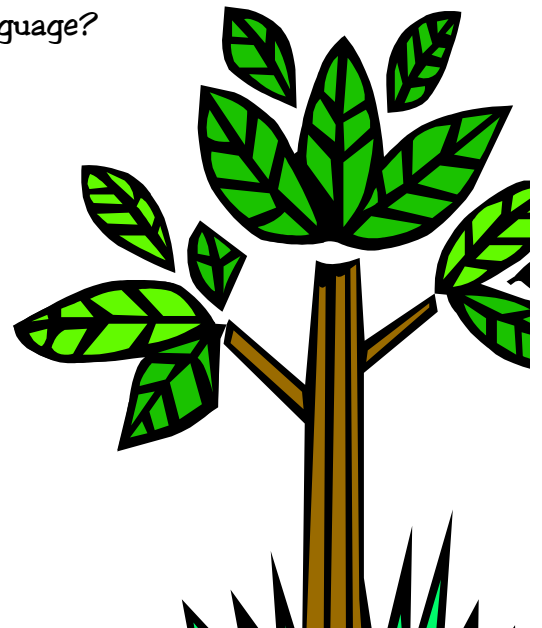
Chapter 1

Words to Know:

- sapling- a young tree
- redoubts- small, usually temporary, military defense barriers
- aversion- a feeling of repugnance toward something
- affronted- insulted, especially face-to-face

Study Questions:

1. How does the boy's father prepare him for hardship?
2. How long had the boy been living among the Indians and why was he taken? How did his father make him a true Indian?
3. How does True Son attempt to avoid returning to his white family?
4. What do the whites call the Lenni Lanape Indians and their language?
5. Why does True Son want to kill Del at the end of Chapter 1?



Chapter 2

Words to Know:

- stint- a period of time spent at a specific activity
- plumb- absolutely to a complete degree
- palavering- talking or conversing idly
- bandy- to exchange words argumentatively
- doughtier- more valiant
- sassed- talked disrespectfully to
- trussed- tied tightly

Study Questions:

1. What is the destination of Colonel Bouquet and his men, and why does Del see it as a suicide march?
2. What is the Colonel's policy on attacking Indians?
3. According to Del, why had most of the men marching with Colonel Bouquet volunteered?
4. Why do the Indians agree to give up their white captives?
5. What does Del think of True Son, in comparison to the other prisoners?

Chapter 3

Words to Know:

- forsaken- renounced or turned away from entirely
- haltered- tied up
- clout- a piece of cloth or leather
- strouding- a coarse woolen cloth
- parched- deprived of moisture; thirsty

Study Questions:

1. Why is there excitement among the white men in camp?

2. What does True Son imagine will happen if he eats a May apple root, and why is that preferable to going to Pennsylvania?
3. What makes True Son abandon his plan to eat the root of the May apple?
4. What initially stops Half Arrow from coming out of the woods to join True Son at first?
5. What are the gifts Half Arrow brings and who are they from?

Chapter 4

Words to Know:

- persimmon- the berry of a persimmon tree
- ramrod- a straight, slender stick used for loading a firearm

Study Questions:

1. Why does Little Crane believe the white people are strange?
2. What is Little Crane referring to when he speaks of "The Great Being" and the "Good Book"?
3. What are some of the differences in behavior between white men and Indians that True Son, Half Arrow, and Little Crane discuss?
4. Why does Del tell Half Arrow that the Indian cannot cross the river? How does Del force him to go?
5. What is the main point of the message Half Arrow gives to True Son on behalf of his father?

Chapter 5

Words to Know:

- turncoat- one who switches to an opposing party; traitor
- stockades- enclosures or pens made with posts and stakes for defense
- pallid- pale
- presumptuous- overstepping one's bounds; bold

Study Questions:

1. How does True Son feel about Fort Pitt?
2. When True Son crosses the mountains, he sees what he calls "the barbarous homeland of his white enemies." Describe what True Son sees.
3. What is True Son's opinion of the white people's village?
4. How is each captive claimed?
5. What does True Son think of his birth father?

Chapter 6

Words to Know:

- nigh- early; almost
- squadron- a military unit
- invalid- a person who is disabled
- arrested- stopped

Study Questions:

1. What is significant to True Son about the Susquehanna River?
2. How does True Son attempt to escape?
3. How does True Son react to his white mother?

4. What is True Son's birth name?

5. What do the white men's clothes symbolize to True Son?

Chapter 7

Words to Know:

- bolster- a long pillow or cushion
- gaol- a jail
- abhorrence- hatred; loathing
- kit- animal cub; baby
- crockery- ceramic pottery made of clay
- derrison- ridicule or scorn

Study Questions:

1. Why does True Son believe the white men are pale?
2. What does True Son's Indian father note is the difference between how Indians handle prisoners who like them and how whites handle them?
3. What are the three ways that True Son feels he has been imprisoned?
4. What are some of the words True Son's family uses to refer to Indians? What do these words tell you about the general opinion of Indians?
5. How does Uncle Wilse justify killing the Conestoga to True Son?
6. Why does Uncle Wilse strike True Son?

Chapter 8

Words to Know:

- millstones- circular stones used for grinding grain
- languish- to be or become feeble or weak
- encumbrances- things that hinder or bother
- bower- an attractive dwelling or retreat
- cooperage- the business that repairs wooden casks or tubs

Study Questions:

1. How is True Son forced to wear white men's clothes?
2. What is the "Great Spirit Lodge" and why does True Son find it so strange?
3. Why does Bejance say that Gordie and True Son are enslaved?
4. Who is Corn Blade?
5. How does True Son spend January?
6. Why is True Son unable to go see Corn Blade as he wishes?

Chapter 9

Words to Know:

- galls- irritates
- deliberate- to think about carefully
- lithe- flexible and graceful
- dram- a small portion of something to drink
- precepts- commands or a general rule of action
- unfathomable- impossible to comprehend
- provocative- designed to arouse emotions
- brooked- tolerated
- seraph- angel

Study Questions:

1. What happened the day the Indians took True Son? What literary term would be used to describe the first four paragraphs of this chapter?
2. Describe Parson Elder.
3. Why is Myra feeling worse lately?

4. What items are missing around the house that Kate believes True Son is taking?
5. Why does True Son think that white men, including Parson, try to give Indians rum?
6. What is the Parson's advice to Myra regarding Johnny?

Chapter 10

Words to Know:

- gallipot- a small ceramic pot
- brusque- short and abrupt
- miasma- a corrupting atmosphere
- remuneration- pay; recompense

Study Questions:

1. Why is Dr. Childsley unwilling to specifically diagnose Johnny's fever?
2. What is the burden that Harry has long carried in his mind? Find a statement relating to Harry that shows the general prejudice about other races.
3. Why does Aunt Kate return Johnny/True Son's Indian dress?
4. What does Parson Elder's son tell Harry?
5. What are the two possible reasons that the men at the mill sent the Indians to Mr. Owens?
6. What happened while the Indians were at Mr. Owens' house?
7. For the first time in the book, the author inserts a date in Chapter 10. What is the date and where is it found?
8. Who is the main character in this chapter, and how can you tell?

Chapter 11

Words to Know:

- ripples- a succession of small waves; ripples
- terrapin- a kind of turtle
- insidious- treacherous
- mow- a pile of hay or grain in a barn

Study Questions:

1. At first, why does True Son think the pain in his forehead is just from his eyes?
2. What effect does the song of the turtle dove have on True Son?
3. What message does Bejance reiterate to True Son when he sees him working in the field?
4. What changes True Son's resignation about dying?
5. How does True Son signal to the Indian, and why does that call work?
6. Who is the Indian that the white men have killed?
7. What happens when True Son confronts his uncle about Little Crane's death?

Chapter 12

Words to Know:

- burr- the rough, prickly outside of a fruit
- alacrity- cheerful readiness
- pelt- an animal skin
- save- except
- dugout- a boat made by hollowing out a large log
- thong- a strip of leather or hide
- weirs- fences set in a waterway for catching fish

Study Questions:

1. What does True Son believe will happen if he returns to the family he has just escaped from?
2. What is the one part of his life with the whites that True Son will miss?
3. What does Half Arrow believe the long pointed stone means?
4. How does Half Arrow justify taking the trader's boat?
5. On their second night of boating, why does Half Arrow wake True Son with a word of caution?

Chapter 13

Words to Know:

- benediction- a speech that promotes goodness or well-being
- pliant- easily manipulated; yielding
- seine- a large net that hangs in the water and is used to enclose fish
- boon- a timely benefit; favor
- thwarts- rowers' seats extending across a boat
- vermillion- a vivid reddish-orange

Study Questions:

1. Explain how the boys catch fish.
2. What is the fortune True Son and Half Arrow have dreamed of that they now are achieving?
3. How long do the boys live in the forest? What do they spend their time doing?
4. Why do they move from their forest paradise?
5. How does Cuyloga greet True Son?

Chapter 14

Words to Know:

- hominy- kernels of corn that are used for food
- cronies- close friends; pals
- carrion- dead flesh
- stratagem- a trick in war for outwitting the enemy
- meritorious- worthy of praise
- incredulity- strong disbelief

Study Questions:

1. How does the village celebrate the return of True Son and Half Arrow?
2. Who does not join in the festivities and why?
3. When Little Crane's brother, Thitpan, arrives, what does he do?
4. Why does Cuyloga feel that True Son must come to war with him?
5. Why does the small scalp with long blonde hair disturb True Son? How does he address the issue?
6. Describe True Son's dream about his white family.
7. How do the other men prepare True Son for the ambush?
8. Why does True Son shout to warn the whites that there is an ambush?

Chapter 15

Words to Know:

- volition- the act of making a choice

Study Questions:

1. What happens when True Son begins taking off the white men's clothes?
2. What does True Son know it means when the others paint his face black and white?
3. How does Cuyloga vote?
4. What does Cuyloga decide is the only solution to their situation?
5. Why would True Son exchange the second trip across the river for the first?
6. In the final paragraph, how does True Son view life with the whites as opposed to life with the Indians? Has his opinion changed throughout the story?