RUBY HOLLER





Some thoughts on Chapter 18 The Trepids

The more I get to know the Trepids, the more I wonder how they have run a home for children for so long. All they seem to care about is themselves, and Mrs. Trepid has absolutely no patience for children, even little babies for that matter. Mr. Trepid gets lost in his thoughts and is pretty impressed with every little thought he has.

During his “thinking time”, he remembers back to when a young sick boy in the home passed away. At the time, Mr. Trepid panicked and didn’t know what to do. So he pulled Dallas out of bed to help the boy. By the time the doctor arrived, the boy did not survive and he died. The next day, Mr. Trepid went to his own parents’ graves, not really knowing why he went there.

While the author doesn’t tell us exactly, I’m thinking that Mr. Trepid’s panic the night before had something to do with his own experience perhaps. Maybe he was thinking about when his own parents passed away. Sometimes a scary or upsetting experience can make us think of another experience that we once had. Maybe that’s what happened here with Mr. Trepid.

Also, of all people, why did Mr. Trepid call on Dallas to help? Why didn't he call Mrs. Trepid?

The author doesn't give us all the details here, but this part of the story DOES give us more insight into these characters.

What are you thinking at this point? Talk it out with someone or jot some ideas in your notebook. Send me an email if you have some questions or ideas to share with me. This part of the book always upsets me and it can be a bit confusing. How does it make you feel?



Chapter 19- Understone Funds

Conversation Starters...

Dallas and Florida have never known anyone quite like Tiller and Sairy, calling them "goofy". Tiller and Sairy's ideas about rules and punishment are quite unusual compared to their own experiences. What do you think about Tiller and Sairy's thoughts on punishment and rules?

Dallas and Florida find out about Tiller and Sairy's understone funds. What do you think about this?

Chapter 20- Through the Holler

★ After spending some time getting to know the Holler, what are you picturing? Think back to Chapter 8 (Hansel and Gretel) when they first arrived. This chapter will give you some ideas, too. What does your Ruby Holler look like? In your journal or on a blank piece of paper, create your visualization of this special place. I'd love for you to email me a picture of what Ruby Holler looks like in your mind?

Chapter 21- Lost and Found

Well, Florida has an "idea" that gets both she and Dallas into a "prickly" and "stingy" situation. What do you think about their decision to follow Tiller and Sairy to look for the understone fund hiding places?

Did you think it was wise for Sairy to talk openly about the understone funds? Tiller sure didn't think it was a good idea. What did he mean when he said he thought it was "too much temptation for kids who have so little."?

What do you think about Dallas and Florida's agreement at the end of the chapter?

(Remember, you will have your own great thoughts about these chapters. Talk out your thinking with someone at home or jot some of your ideas in a journal. If you find a great word or have a thought to share about the book so far, send me an email. I'd love to hear from you!)