

***Witness* by Karen Hesse**

I. Please answer the following questions after reading each Act. Use the PEA/3-sentence format. (36 pts.)



Act I:

- 1) Whose perspective is *Witness* told from? Explain.
- 2) Why does Merlin Van Tornhout say, "I pushed the window up in school to get the stink of Leonora Sutter out of the classroom"? Explain.
- 3) Describe the "setting" of *Witness*? (Please include a discussion of the physical setting and time period as well as the social setting and environment.)

Act II:

- 1) What happened to the "rich" boy in Chicago?
- 2) How does Mr. Field's story about the Civil War regiment affect Leonora? Explain.
- 3) Which groups of people do the Klan dislike? Are you surprised by this?

Act III:

- 1) How does the Klan appear to serve the "best interest of the greater community"?
- 2) Percelle Johnson saves Viola Pettibone's cat? What does this reveal about the community's values?
- 3) Do you believe in capital punishment for minors? Explain.

Act IV and V:

- 1) How does Constable Johnson feel about having to protect the "200 negroes that have moved into the state to build the dam"? Explain.
- 2) Why is Reynard Alexander's perspective important to the story? Explain.
- 3) What does the "young buck" symbolize at the end of *Witness*? Explain.

II. In a well-written paragraph, please discuss the title of this book. Why do you think Karen Hesse entitled the novel *Witness*? Do you think it's a good title? Are the theme and central idea hidden in the title? (8 pts.)

III. In your opinion, which character in the novel is the most significant to the plot, mood or theme? (You may use a 3+sentence PEA or an 8-sentence paragraph to answer.) (6 pts.)



