

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

Bud, Not Buddy

By Christopher Paul Curtis
John Newbery Medal
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Scholastic Publisher

Bud's story is set in the 1930's during the Great Depression. Mr. Curtis's use of colloquialisms of the era will greatly add to the reading comprehension and vocabulary of students who read this novel. In addition, Bud's plight will enlighten young readers of today to the many hardships faced by people of that bygone time.

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Teacher's Guide

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

The answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

Preset: You might want to have the student/students do research on the Great Depression of the 1930's. Another option is to read and discuss the "Afterword" written by the author about the story and its setting.

Chapter 1 Pp. 1-8

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

flyer (L, 6) an advertising circular

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Where was Bud when the story opened? Pp. 1-8** He was in an orphanage. The story takes place during the Great Depression in the 1930's. He and Jerry were approached by a case worker.
- 2. What was Bud trying to do for Jerry when they were getting their things together to go to new foster homes? Pp. 1-8** Bud was trying to lift Jerry's spirits. Jerry was only six and afraid about the foster home with a father, mother, and three girls.
- 3. Why did Bud think being six years old is a bad time in a person's life? Pp. 1-8** You start losing your teeth. Everyone says it's normal, but you get to thinking about what part of you is coming off next—your arm, your leg, etc. And six was Bud's age when his mother died.
- 4. What object did Bud have that most kids at the orphanage didn't have? Pp. 1-8** He had his own suitcase with flyers at the bottom. He took good care of his suitcase.
- 5. What picture was on one of the flyers that was especially important to Bud? Pp. 7-8** The poster had a picture of a guy next to a big fiddle. Bud suspected that this man was his father.

Chapter 2 Pp. 9-30

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

cur (, 10) a mongrel dog

provoked (8. 11) exasperated; incited to anger

his **asthma** (, 11) an allergic disorder marked by difficulty in breathing and a cough

ingratitude (, 14) lack of being grateful or thankful

strapping of your life (4, 16) to flog or beat with a strap

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Whose side did Todd's mother take when Todd was beating Bud to a pulp? Pp. 9-10** She took Todd's side even though Bud had a bloody nose. She even called Bud a cur.
- 2. What list of things did Bud keep track of in his head to make life "funner?" P. 11** He kept track of the rules for lying. Rule #3 was about making a lie believable. The rule said to keep the lie simple.
- 3. What woke Bud up from a deep sleep? P. 12** Todd had pushed a pencil up Bud's nose while Bud was sleeping. That action started the fight.
- 4. What reprisal did Mrs. Amos enact? Pp. 13-14** She locked Bud in the bedroom until later when Mr. and Mrs. Amos unlocked the door. They had Bud's suitcase with them. They told him that he would be going back to the orphanage.
- 5. Where was Bud going to spend that night, and what did he have to do before the Amoses turned him out? Pp. 15-16** The Amoses planned to put Bud in the shed for the night. But first Bud had to apologize to Todd who play acted about how badly Bud had hurt him.
- 6. Why did Bud beg Mrs. Amos not to send him back to the home? Pp. 17-18** He was hoping to go back to the home. Another rule for lying that Bud had was to give adults something that they think they can use to hurt you by taking it away.
- 7. While Mr. Amos was locking Bud in the shed, why did Bud keep biting his tongue? Pp. 19-20** Bud was afraid he would beg Mr. Amos not to put him in the shed. The shed was terrifying.

Student's Guide

Chapter 1 Pp. 1-8

Vocabulary

flyer (6)

Comprehension Questions

1. Where was Bud when the story opened? Pp. 1-8
2. What was Bud trying to do for Jerry when they were getting their things together to go to new foster homes? Pp. 1-8
3. Why did Bud think being six years old is a bad time in a person's life? Pp. 1-8
4. What object did Bud have that most kids at the orphanage didn't have? Pp. 1-8
5. What picture was on one of the flyers that was especially important to Bud? Pp. 7-8

Chapter 2 Pp. 9-30

Vocabulary

cur (10)

provoked (11)

his **asthma** (11)

ingratitude (14)

strapping of your life (16)

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Student's Workbook

Chapter 1 Pp. 1-8

Vocabulary

flyer (, 6) an advertising circular

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Teacher's Workbook Key

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SAMPLE OF SELECTED PAGES
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Key Questions

Key Questions

Answer these questions in sentence.

Name _____

1. Ch. 1 Why did Bud think being six-years old was a bad time in a person's life?

2. Ch. 3 When Bud hit the "bat" with the rake, what happened?

3. Ch. 5 Why was the picture of Momma so precious to Bud?

4. Ch. 6 Why did the "pretend" brother and sister pout while at the table?

5. Ch. 8 After Bugs found Bud sleeping under a tree at the library, what did he propose?

Key Questions Answer key

Answer these questions in sentence.

Name _____

1. Ch. 1 Why did Bud think being six-years old was a bad time in a person's life?

You start losing your teeth. Everyone says it's normal, but you get to thinking about what part of you is coming off next—your arm, your leg, etc. Six was Bud's age when his mother died.

2. Ch. 3 When Bud hit the "bat" with the rake, what happened?

The bat turned out to be a hornets' nest, and the hornets came after him.

3. Ch. 5 Why was the picture of Momma so precious to Bud?

It was the only picture of his mother that he had.

4. Ch. 6 Why did the "pretend" brother and sister pout while at the table?

The pretend momma made them share the brown sugar she had in a packet with Bud. When the pretend family left Bud, the pretend brother looked back and stuck his tongue out at Bud.

5. Ch. 8 After Bugs found Bud sleeping under a tree at the library, what did he propose?

They should jump on a freight train and ride the rails out west to pick fruit. He said they could make lots of money.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
