

***Teaching Unit
For
Hoot
By Carl Hiaasen***

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Hoot Teaching Unit

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Hoot

Pre-reading Activities

Name _____

Date _____

Anticipation Guide

Read each of the following statements. Place a T beside the statements that you think are true and an F beside statements that you think are false.

If you know something is going to happen to the environment that you know is wrong, you should do something to keep it from happening. _____

It is okay to lie if your fib helps a good cause. _____

You should always stand up to bullies. _____

There is nothing I can do to help an animal or plant that is in danger of becoming extinct. _____

Writing Response

In *Hoot*, one person leaves his family and lives alone in the outdoors. Think about what it would be like to be homeless and on your own without anyone to care for you. What would you need to survive? What traits do you have that may help you survive or not survive? Complete the following chart with things that you would need to live on your own and a list of words that describe your personality. Then, write a paragraph telling whether or not you think you could make it.

Things I would need	My personality traits

Hoot

Chapter 1

Conflict, Point of View, and Irony

Name _____

Date _____

Conflict

There are two plots that are emerging in this chapter. One plot involves Roy, and the other plot involves Officer David Delinko. Use the following chart to summarize the complications that arise in chapter one for each character.

Character's Name	Conflict	Type of Conflict
Roy		
Officer Delinko		

Point of View

Though it is only the first chapter, the reader can already tell the point of view that is used in this novel. Complete the following chart on point of view.

Point of view used in this book	Evidence that proves I am right on the point of view	Advantages of this point of view

Irony

Verbal irony involves a contrast between what is said or written and what is meant. Example: if you call a really tall person, "Shorty".

Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Example: A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.

Dramatic irony occurs when the audience or the reader knows something a character does not know. Example: The reader knows who the criminal is, but the characters do not know.

1. Why is Curly's name an example of verbal irony?

2. It is ironic that Garrett's mother is a guidance counselor at Trace Middle. What type of irony is this?

Hoot
Chapter 2
Examine Word Choice

Name _____

Date _____

Carl Hiaasen's word choice is nothing short of excellent in this novel. Let's take a look at it in chapter two.

Complete the following chart by looking at each provided page and finding words, phrases, or sentences that paint a picture in your mind, linger in your memory, or that you think are just "cool ways to say something".

Page Number	Word, Phrase, or Sentence	Why I like it
14		
15		
16		
17		

Reread the following paragraph from this chapter. Then, underline the words and phrases that help create imagery.

Sitting with his back to the doors, he wolfed down a chili burger and a carton of lukewarm milk. Dessert was an overbaked chocolate chip cookie the size of a hockey puck and just about as tasty. "Gross," he muttered. The inedible cookie made a thud when it landed on the plate.

Write a paragraph about another school meal using your own descriptive words, phrases, and strong verbs.

Hoot
Chapter 3
Suspense and Tone

Name _____

Date _____

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. Read the following paragraph.

*Officer Delinko asked, “Can I check out your latrines?”
“Sure, but there ain’t much to wreck on a port-a-potty,” Officer Delinko went in, shined his flashlight into the toilet hole and saw alligators!*

The action in this chapter is not written like the above passage, and thankfully so! If it were, it would lack suspense. Complete the following chart to figure out what the author did to create suspense.

Actions before alligators are revealed to the reader	How this adds suspense

Tone

Roy’s mother said that the tone of Roy’s letter was “forceful”. What other words could you say describe the tone of this letter? Rewrite the letter using either another tone. You could use an angry tone, a sarcastic tone, an apologetic tone, or one of your choosing.

Dear Dana,

Hoot
Chapter 4
Beatrice and her Barbecue Sandwich
Voice

Name _____

Date _____

Go back and read the episode when Roy confronts Beatrice in the lunchroom. Pay attention to what happens to her barbecue sandwich. Write down in order what happens to the sandwich.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Who does this sandwich symbolize? How does it add to the tone?

What is Voice?

Voice is the “energy” of a piece of writing. It is what makes a story or other piece of writing fun to read. It is what makes the reader laugh out loud, smile to him/herself, or want to cry. Voice creates a response in the reader. This novel is full of voice, and that is evident every time you laugh out loud or smile to yourself. Go back and choose your favorite parts of the book so far. Most likely, these passages contain voice.

My favorite passages:

Page _____
Page _____

One way to create voice in narrative writing is through characters. Carl Hiaasen brings each of his characters to life by giving them voice. Each character has his/her own distinct personality, and we are able to reveal their personalities largely because of what they say. Read the following statement made in this chapter by Dana’s mother. After reading this, what can you infer about Mrs. Matherson?

Dana’s shoulders stiffened. His mother clucked in amusement. “You gotta be kiddin’! This little twerp is the one who messed up your face?”

Inference about Mrs. Matherson _____

Hoot

Chapter 5

Vivid Descriptions / Imagery

Name _____

Date _____

There are certainly vivid descriptions in this book, and Roy's encounter with the snakes is no exception to Carl Hiaasen's creative imagery. Read the following passage, paying attention to the bolded descriptive words.

*They had broad **triangular heads**, like the prairie rattlers back in Montana, but their bodies were **muck-colored** and **ominously plump**. Roy recognized the snakes as cottonmouth moccasins, highly poisonous. They carried **no rattles** to warn in advance of a strike, but Roy saw that the tips of their **stubby tails** had been **dipped in blue and silver sparkles**, the kind used in art projects. It was a most peculiar touch.*

*Roy struggled to remain motionless while the **fat reptiles untangled themselves** at his feet. **Tongues flicking**, some of the moccasins extended to their full lengths while others **coiled sluggishly**. Roy counted nine in all.*

Write a poem about snakes using most, if not all of the bolded words from the passage. Your poem does not need to rhyme. Your poem can be about the snakes that Roy encounters or just about snakes in general.

Roy's encounter with these snakes causes him to have a flashback. Reread the episode when Roy has this flashback. Why does the author choose to tell us this story? What do we learn about Roy from the flashback?

Make a list of any words or phrases used in the flashback that create imagery in the passage.

Hoot
After Chapter 6

Wanted Poster for The Running Boy

WANTED!



Description: _____

Last seen: _____

Hoot

Test chapters 1-7

1. Why would Curly say, “What owls?” when asked about the burrowing owls?
 - a. He had no idea what Officer Delinko was talking about.
 - b. He did not know that owls were on his property.
 - c. He knew about them, but he was not worried about what happened to the owls.
 - d. He wanted to do everything he could to protect the owls.

2. What made Miss Hennepin eventually believe Roy’s story?
 - a. She talked with Roy’s parents.
 - b. She saw a note that Dana had written to harass Roy.
 - c. She saw marks on Roy’s neck.
 - d. She believed Roy’s explanation of the fight.

3. *The boy was still far ahead of him [Roy]. And Roy was gulping like a beached trout.*
What is being compared in this simile?
 - a. Roy is being compared to a beached trout.
 - b. The boy ahead of Roy is being compared to a beached trout.
 - c. The way Roy is breathing is being compared to a beached trout.
 - d. The way Roy looks is being compared to a beached trout.

4. Which of the following words best describe Roy?
 - a. lonely and sad
 - b. brave and unconventional
 - c. timid and reserved
 - d. arrogant and greedy

It turned out that Curly’s real name was Leroy Branitt, and he was the “supervising engineer” of the construction project. He scowled when he saw the policeman write down “foreman” instead.

5. In the above passage, *supervising engineer* is a(n) _____ for *foreman*.
 - a. euphemism
 - b. oxymoron
 - c. metaphor
 - d. symbol

6. How did the running boy get the name Mullet Fingers?
 - a. His fingers (and body) smell like a mullet.
 - b. He lost a finger in a fishing accident.
 - c. He tried to feed a mullet a finger.
 - d. He can catch a mullet with his hand.

7. Who is Beatrice Leep's step-brother?
- Dana Matherson
 - David Delinko
 - Mullet Fingers
 - She does not have one.
8. Read the following sentence: *Considering the circumstances, it was the best-tasting cookie he'd ever eaten.* Which word in the sentence contains the suffix that means "made of" or "to become"?
- considering
 - circumstances
 - eaten
 - none of these
9. The main character of Hoot is _____.
- Roy
 - Beatrice Leep
 - Dana Matterson
 - b and c

Read the following passage, and then answer questions 10-11. *The boy was straw-blond and wiry, and his skin was nut-brown from the sun. The expression on his face was intent and serious. He wore a faded Miami Heat basketball jersey and dirty khaki shorts, and here was the odd part: no shoes. The soles of his feet looked as black as barbecue coals.*

10. What literary device is employed in the passage?
- flashback
 - imagery
 - hyperbole
 - symbolism
11. The passage in number 10 appeals most strongly to _____.
- basketball fans
 - the sense of sight
 - the sense of touch
 - students
12. Why did Officer Delinko give Roy his card?
- Officer Delinko wanted Roy to teach him how to ride a bike.
 - Officer Delinko wanted Roy to call him in case of an emergency
 - Officer Delinko wanted Roy to get his mother to write a thank-you note
 - Officer Delinko wanted Roy to call him if he ever heard a kid talking about the Mother Paula's Construction Site

13. Which of the following best describes Officer Delinko?
- good hearted, but a little gawky/goofy
 - timid and quiet
 - intelligent and a perfectionist
 - smug and sneaky
14. Garrett thinks that Roy is going to get beaten up badly when Dana comes back. What does this show about Garrett and his support for Roy?
- that Garrett is a really good friend and will help Roy if he needs it
 - that Garrett has little faith in Roy's ability to defend himself
 - that Garrett is betting against Roy in hopes of making some money
 - that Garrett does not like Roy at all
15. True or false? Roy decided not to write the apology letter to Dana.
- true
 - false
16. How do Roy and his parents find out about the police cruiser windows getting painted?
- the newspaper
 - Garrett told Roy.
 - The Department of Justice
 - a middle school rumor
17. Who is "Cowgirl"?
- Mullet Fingers
 - David Dilinko
 - Roy
 - Dana
18. What can the reader infer about Mullet Fingers?
- He is self-reliant.
 - He is knowledgeable about nature.
 - He is fast and has quick thinking.
 - all of the above
19. In the story, Beatrice bites _____.
- Roy's cookie in half
 - Roy's rear bike tire
 - a barbecue sandwich
 - a pancake

20. Which of the following best describes Beatrice at this point in the book?
- kind-hearted
 - compassionate
 - witty
 - demanding
21. *Traffic was steady in both directions, creeping through the standing water.* This sentence contains which of the following types of figurative language?
- simile
 - metaphor
 - personification
 - hyperbole

“I probably shouldn’t tell you this,” said Garrett, “but some of the kids are taking bets.”
“Great. They’re betting on whether Dana’s going to beat me up?”

22. When Roy responds, “Great”, he is using _____.
- verbal irony
 - situational irony
 - dramatic irony
 - a metaphor
23. Roy’s conflict with Dana Matherson is _____.
- Internal
 - External

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