The Friendship

By Mildred D. Taylor

This belongs to:

A Novel Study
By Take Flight With Teaching

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Pre-Reading Research
Use the Internet to research the below terms. Once you have researched these different topics, write a definition in your own words! This will help you remember the concept even better!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>My Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Segregation</td>
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<td>Jim Crow laws</td>
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</table>

About the Author: Mildred D. Taylor
A lot of good writers use stories and events from their lives to form their stories. Writers also generally write about what they know best or have experienced. Mildred D. Taylor has written many books and short stories. Researching the author of your book before you start reading can really help you understand more about it! Using the Internet (or if your book has a biography section/About the Author), research Mildred D. Taylor and answer the following questions.

1. Where and when was Mildred D. Taylor born?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

2. Was Mildred D. Taylor always a writer or did she have other jobs or careers? If so, please describe below.
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
Reading Assignment: pages 9-26
Standards Covered: RL: 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3, L 4.4a, L 5.4a

Before you read pages 9-26...

Look at the sketched illustrations in this short reading section. Then, make a prediction about what might happen on these pages. Which details in the pictures support your predictions?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

After you read pages 9-26...

Building Vocabulary:

1. Farm supplies and household and food goods were **sparsely** displayed on the shelves and counters and the floor space too... (page 12)

The word **sparsely** means ____________________________________________________________________________

2. “Ah, shoot, boy! You know they cant do no such a-thing.” Skeptically Little Man looked to Stacy for **affirmation**. (page 20)

The word **affirmation** means ____________________________________________________________________________

Text Dependent Questions:

3. Describe the setting of the story using specific details from what you read.

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Describe the impact that this particular setting has on the plot.

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

5. In the graphic organizer below, record details and adjectives from the text that describe some of the characters that were introduced in this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. Tom Bee</th>
<th>Dewberry Wallace</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reading Assignment: pages 27-36
Standards Covered: RL: 4.1, 4.3, L 4.4a, 5.1, 5.3, L 5.4a

Before you read pages 27-36...

Group Discussion Question: What seems to be the central issue or problem in the previous section? Why do you think that is the central problem? How or why does that problem cause the characters to act the way they do? (Hint: reread pages 24-26)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

After you read pages 27-36...

Building Vocabulary:
1. Say your age is making you forget ‘bout the way things is. But I say it ain’t your age, it’s your orneriness. (page 31)

In this context, orneriness most likely means___________________________________________________

2. Don’t you know them Wallace boys ain’t got no more sense’n a wall-eyed mule! (page 34)

What does Mr. Tom Bee mean when he compares the Wallace boys to a wall-eyed mule? How do you know?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

3. Compare and contrast John and his sons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Wallace</th>
<th>Comparative Traits/ Behaviors</th>
<th>John’s Sons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reading Assignment: pages 27-36 (continued)
Standards Covered: RL: 4.1, 4.3, L 4.4a, 5.1, 5.3, L. 5.4a

Text-Dependent Questions:

4. We learn a lot about John Wallace’s character in this section of the story. How did you view John Wallace during the first section (pages 9-26)? How do you view him now? Why or why not did your opinion change?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

5. Use your inference skills! Why do you think that Mr. Tom Bee keeps calling Mr. Wallace, “John”?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

6. Why do you think the author refers to Mr. Tom Bee as “mister” throughout the entire story even though African-Americans were never supposed to be called “mister” or “missus”? What details support your reasoning?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
Reading Assignment: pages 37-53
Standards Covered: RL: 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3

After you read pages 37-53...

Text Dependent Questions:
1. What did you learn about the relationship between Mr. Tom Bee and John Wallace?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do you think that John’s feelings about Tom using his “Christian” name have changed?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

3. Do Mr. Tom’s feelings about John Wallace change from the beginning to the end? Why or why not?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

4. In the end of the story, Mr. Tom Bee gets shot in the leg by John Wallace. Do you think John Wallace shot Mr. Tom Bee because he felt pressured by his peers or of his own free will? Explain your reasoning.

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

5. Did you enjoy reading this short story? Why or why not? Are you interested in the author’s other works?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
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