

The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Teachers Resources:

Introduction	2
Suggestions for Using the Unit	2
Suggestions for Evaluation	3
Objectives and Skills	4
Student Tracking Sheets	5
Teacher's Record Sheets	7
Rubric for Evaluation	14
Evaluation Sheets	15
Venn Diagram	18
Map of USA	19
Character List & Plot Synopsis	20

Work Sheets:

Vocabulary Lists and Comprehension Questions	21
True or False Question Sheets	29

Activity Cards:

Words! Words! Words!	37
Grammar & Punctuation	43
Creative Writing	51
Research	55
Elements of the Novel	59
Integrated Activities	64

Answer Key	68
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The Watsons Go to Birmingham, - 1965

Reading and Comprehension

Chapters 1 and 2

A. Vocabulary

Make sure you understand these words before you read. Use a dictionary if necessary.

generate encouraged pouting delinquent passionate
automatically hostile humorous emulate punctual

B. Read Chapters 1 and 2.

C. Understanding the Novel

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Refer to the novel if necessary

1. Momma was not used to the cold weather in Michigan. Why not?
2. How did Byron and Buphead teach Kenny to survive a blizzard?
3. What happened to Byron when he was supposed to be scraping the ice off the car?
4. How did Byron get his mouth off the mirror?
5. Kenny was often teased about two things. What were they?
6. What happened when the two new boys got on the school bus?
How did the bus driver react?

D. Thinking About the Novel

These questions ask for your ideas and opinions. Therefore there are no incorrect answers. You must, however give reasons and justify your answers.

1. What would you do if you were Kenny and your older brother and his friends kept teasing you?
2. Byron ignored his parents, teased Kenny and frequently behaved badly.
Do you think all older siblings behave in this way?
Why do you think Byron behaved like this?
3. Kenny is teased because he reads well for a student of his age.
Do you think he would be teased in the same way if he was exceptionally good at baseball or basketball?

Chapters 5 and 6 - True or False?

Are these statements True or False?.

1. Byron was not permitted to play with matches. _____
2. Byron was playing with matches in his bedroom. _____
3. Momma said she would burn Byron to teach him a lesson. _____
4. Joey thought Byron should be burned as a punishment. _____
5. Joey thought Byron should be whipped, but not burned. _____
6. Every time momma struck a match Joey blew it out. _____
7. Dad punished Byron for playing with matches. _____
8. Byron thought the family were on welfare and was ashamed. _____
9. Kenny signed for the groceries at Mitchell's Store. _____
10. Dad had arranged credit and would pay the bill all at once. _____
11. Byron thought signing for the groceries was a terrible idea. _____
12. Byron bought chocolate chip cookies on credit from the store. _____
13. Kenny decided to tell his parents what Byron had been doing. _____
14. When Byron threw a cookie at the bird he hit it. _____
15. The bird was injured by the cookie. _____
16. When he saw he had killed the bird, Byron laughed. _____
17. Byron felt sorry about killing the bird. _____
18. Kenny saw Byron had buried the bird. _____

**Creative Writing
Activity 1**

Chose one of the events from the novel, *The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963*, and rewrite it in the form of a script for a play.

You should use characters from the novel, but may introduce new ones if you wish.

Remember to include stage directions in your script.

**Creative Writing
Activity 2**

Pretend you are Kenny.

Write a letter to a friend, telling them about the trip to Birmingham to visit Grandma Sands.

Your letter should tell about the people you met and the things that happened on the trip, but should also include how you felt about the various people and events.

Your letter should use the correct format for a friendly letter.

Integrated Activities

Activity 1

1. On the map of the United States of America mark and label the following places:
 1. Flint, Michigan
 2. Detroit, Michigan
 3. Toledo, Ohio
 4. Cincinnati, Ohio
 5. Lexington, Kentucky
 6. Chattanooga, Tennessee
 7. Birmingham, Alabama
2. With a red pencil, trace the route followed by the Watson family on their journey.

You may use an atlas to help you with this activity.

Integrated Activities

Activity 2

Create a time line showing the important events in the novel.

You may not be able to find exact dates, but make sure that you have the events listed in the correct chronological order.

You may wish to add small illustrations to make the time line more interesting.