

Out of the Dust

by Karen Hesse

Polly Kelby
(mom)

Billie Jo Kelby
1934 - Depression
Joyce City, Oklahoma

Bayard Kelby
(dad)

Winter - Spring 1934

A. Setting - Provide two specific details from the text for each topic.

Weather Conditions:

- _____
- _____

Farming Conditions:

- _____
- _____

Living Conditions:

- _____
- _____

B. Character's Point of View - Explain 3 situations where Billie Jo has a positive point of view and 3 situations where her point of view reflects unhappiness.

Billie Jo has a positive POV about

Billie Jo's POV reflects unhappiness about

1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

C. Protagonist – **Character Traits** (*adjectives that describe a character's personality*)

List 3 character traits that describe our protagonist, Billie Jo. Then, describe a specific action from the story to support each trait.

Trait: _____	Example:
Trait: _____	Example:
Trait: _____	Example:

D. Identifying Secondary Characters

What do we know about . . . (provide **two details** from the text for each)

1. Livie Killian

- _____
- _____

2. Arley Wanderdale

- _____
- _____

3. Mr. Hardly

- _____
- _____

4. Miss Freeland

- _____
- _____

5. Mad Dog Craddock

- _____
- _____

Poetic Devices: "Fields of Flashing Light" (p. 31-33)

Authors use poetic devices to show us ideas *in creative and different ways*. Examine the poem "Fields of Flashing Light" on p. 31-33. Find examples of the poetic devices listed below and explain the special meaning or feeling the author wants us to understand by use of the device.

A. Personification (include the object and the words that show it personified)

Example #1:	Special meaning or feeling:
Example #2:	Special meaning or feeling:
Example #3:	Special meaning or feeling:

B. Similes (include both things being compared)

Example #1:	Special meaning or feeling:
Example #2:	Special meaning or feeling:

C. Repetition (include the words from where the repetition begins to where it ends)

Example #1:	What idea is the author emphasizing?
Example #2:	What idea is the author emphasizing?

Summer 1934

A. Plot Development - Using sentences, describe four main events from this section.

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

B. Mood – In literature, mood refers to ***the way the story makes the reader feel***. Describe the feelings you had as a reader during this section. Explain **why** this part of text created this “mood” for you. (Use sentences.)

C. Themes - A theme is a *message about life the author wants the reader to understand*. Themes are often reflected through the experiences of a main character.

For each theme topic, describe something specific from the novel involving characters and events.

Guilt	
Blame	
Isolation	
Forgiveness	

Autumn 1934 - Winter 1935

A. Plot Development– Explain how **characters** and **events** are involved in each topic:

Wireless Power	
cranberry sauce	<i>Pa loved Ma's cranberry sauce. He missed it at Christmas. Billie Jo did not know how to make it.</i>
Russian thistle	
one-half ton of sugar	
Hazel Hurd Players	

B. Poetic Device: REPETITION

Re-read the poem "Real Snow" on p. 90. Locate and analyze two places where the author uses repetition.

#1 Where the author uses repetition:	➡	Why the author uses repetition:
#2 Where the author uses repetition:	➡	Why the author uses repetition:

C. Close Read - COMPARE/CONTRAST

Re-read the poem "State Tests Again" (p. 99) and then re-read the poem "State Tests" on p. 30. In the last line of "State Tests Again," why does Billie Jo say, "**It would be enough**"?

D. Evidence - Re-read the poem "Outlined by Dust" on p. 111-114.

What evidence suggests that Billie Jo's father is trying to move on with his life?

- _____
- _____

Where in the poem does Billie Jo reveal compassion for her father?

- _____

Explain what Billie Jo means in the last stanza when she says:

But it can't be. I'm my father's daughter.

- _____
- _____

E. Poetic Device: ALLITERATION

In the poem "Something Sweet from Moonshine," (p. 125) re-read the last four lines of the second stanza. List and analyze examples of the author's use of alliteration.

Examples of alliteration:	What "effect" does the alliteration create?

F. Important Ideas - Skim the poem "Dust Storm" on p. 142 – 146. Choose and copy 3 vivid passages that convey important ideas. Explain each important idea being expressed.

Passage or line from poem	Important idea being expressed
1. 	→
2. 	→
3. 	→

Spring 1935

A. **Plot Development** - Explain the **events** from this section regarding each topic listed:

Aunt Ellis	
Amarillo	
James Kingsbury	
dimes	

B. **Close Reading** - Re-read the poem "Heartsick" on p. 153.

Which line most strongly reflects the reason Billie Jo is feeling "heartsick"?	Explain why you chose this line:
Choose two lines in the poem that strongly reflect a problem in Billie Jo's relationship with her dad:	
1. _____	
2. _____	

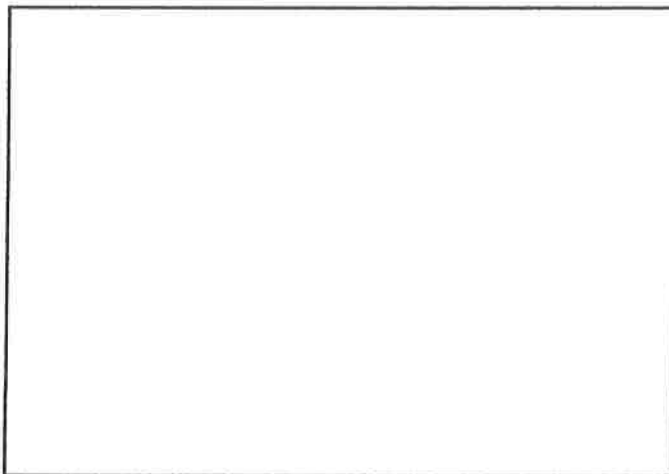
C. **Make an Inference:** Does Billie Jo seem like the type of person that will eventually accept Aunt Ellis's invitation? Why or why not?

D. Figurative Language – PERSONIFICATION

Re-read the poem "Fire on the Rails." (p. 156) Locate and analyze two places where the author personifies fire.

Example#1 (where the fire is personified): →	How does the personification add to the author's "effect"? →
Example#2 (where the fire is personified): →	How does the personification add to the author's "effect"? →

E. Imagery – The poem "Blankets of Black" (p.162-167) paints a picture of Black Sunday, a disastrous day in the Dust Bowl era. The author uses **imagery –words that create vivid pictures in our minds**—so that we can visualize the event. Skim the poem and then sketch a visual below based on a piece of imagery.



Copy the lines from the poem that include the imagery shown in your sketch:

Summer 1935

A. Close Reading - Complete the task for each poem listed.

POEM	TASK	TEXT-BASED RESPONSE
"The Dream"	Find 2 lines or phrases in the poem that suggest the piano is like a supportive mother.	1. 2.
"Midnight Truth"	Explain what Billie Jo is saying in the last stanza.	
"Something Lost, Something Gained"	Find 3 places where loneliness is emphasized in the poem.	1. 2. 3.
"Met"	What does Billie Jo mean when she tells her father: <i>I can't get out of something that's inside me</i> (lines 10 and 11)?	

B. Opinion/ Reaction:

How did you feel about Billie Jo's decision to leave? Also, do you believe she was right to change her mind after her experience in the boxcar? Express your ideas in clear and complete sentences. Provide reasons to support your opinions.

Autumn 1935

A. Close Reading - Complete the task for each poem listed.

POEM	TASK	TEXT-BASED RESPONSE
"November Dust"	In what ways does nature seem to be cooperating now?	
"Thanksgiving List"	How does this poem's form as a "list" add to its meaning?	
"Teamwork"	Re-read stanza one. Explain how the <u>title</u> fits the poem.	
"Finding a Way"	Read the last two lines. Why are these lines a strong ending for the novel?	

B. Theme - Choose one theme topic and discuss Billie Jo's experiences with the topic in this section of the story. Use complete sentences with specific events and details.

Overcoming Obstacles	Importance of Home	Acceptance of Self	Acceptance of Change
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