**Chapters 1 and 2 Comprehension Questions**  
  
  
1. Do you think Bud and Jerry truly feel “cheerful, helpful and grateful” to be going to foster homes? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
2. Why do you think that Bud’s eyes don’t cry anymore? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
3. Why does Bud think six is a tough age?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
4. Why does Bud think the man in the flyer is his father? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
5. How does Todd get Bud into trouble with Mrs. Amos?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
6. How do you think Bud feels about Todd lying?  
  
  
7. Why won’t Mrs. Amos let Bud take his suitcase with him into the shed?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
8. Why does Bud have to bite his tongue when he gets into the shed?  
  
  
**Chapter 3 and 4 Comprehension Questions:**  
  
  
1. How does Bud feel about being locked in the shed ?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
2. Why does Bud attack the hornet nest?  
  
  
3. Why does Bud sneak into the Amos house?  
  
  
4. Why does Bud want to get the gun out of the house before he takes his revenge?  
  
  
5. How does Bud take revenge on Todd?  
  
  
6. How do you think Bud feels as he leaves the Amod house with his suitcase?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer if possible.  
  
  
**Chapters 5 and 6 Comprehension Questions**  
  
  
1. How does Bud feel about “being on the lam”?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
2. What does Bud think about the way his mother looks in the picture he carries of her?  
  
  
3. How did Bud’s mother feel about the name Bud? What was her intention for naming him Bud?  
  
  
4. What do you think Bud’s mother meant when she told him, “When one door closes, don’t worry, because another door opens”?  
  
  
5. Describe how Bud’s pretend momma and daddy treat him.  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
6. How do the people in line feel about the rich, white family in the picture that hangs over the mission building?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
7. How do you think Bud feels as he watches his pretend family walk away without him. Explain: why do you think he feels this way?  
  
  
**Chapters 7 and 8 Comprehension Questions**  
  
  
1. How is the smell in the library unlike the air anywhere else?  
  
  
2. According to Bud, what does the phrase, “Haven’t you heard?” usually mean?  
  
  
3. How do you think Bud feels when he hears that Ms. Hill has moved away? Explain: Why do you think he feels this way?  
  
  
4. What is Hooperville/Hooverville?  
  
  
5. What does the man in Hooverville mean when he says that President Hoover worked so hard to make sure every town had a Hooverville that it seemed criminal to call it anything else?  
  
  
6. Why do you think Bud opens up to Deza Malone and tells her about his mother.  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
7. Why do you think the white people in Hooverville wont accept help from others?  
  
  
8. What does Deza mean by saying that the poor kids all alone on the road are like dust in the wind?  
  
  
9. What is the trick that Bud uses to help himself fall asleep?  
  
  
10. Why do you think the police try to prevent the men from getting on the train?  
  
  
**Chapter 9 and 10 Comprehension Questions**  
  
  
1. Why do you think the librarian is so nice to Bud?  
  
  
2. Why does Bud think ideas are like trees?  
  
  
3. How does the idea that Herman E. Calloway is Bud’s father blossom?  
  
  
4. Why do you think Bud ducks into the bushes when a car passes?  
  
  
5. According to Bud’s rule number 87, what does it really mean when adults tell you they need help with a problem?  
  
  
6. Why does Bud lie to Mr. Lewis and tell him that he is from Grand Rapids?  
  
  
7. Why do you think Mr. Lewis stops to help Bud when so many cars passed without stopping for him.   
  
  
**Chapter 11 Comprehension Questions**  
  
  
1. Why does Bud pay close attention to the way Mr. Lewis drives a car?  
  
  
2. According to Bud’s rule number 29, what should you do when you wake up but aren’t sure where you are?  
  
  
3. Why does Bud think its different to lie to a kid than to lie to an adult?  
  
  
4. What is the difference between a Pullman porter and a redcap?  
  
  
5. Give two examples of ways that Mr. Lewis teases Bud and his family.  
  
  
**Chapter 12 Comprehension Questions**   
  
  
1. Why does Mr. Lewis send a telegram to Herman E. Calloway?  
  
  
2. Why does Bud count to ten as the policeman talks to Mr. Lewis?  
  
  
3. In your own words, explain what a Labor Union is  
  
  
4. Why does Mr. Lewis want Bud to put the box under the seat before the policeman comes over to the car?  
  
  
5. How do you think Bud feels when he realizes that Herman E. Calloway is very old?  Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.  
  
  
**Chapter 13 and 14 Comprehension Questions**  
  
  
1. How do you think Herman E. Calloway and Jimmy feel when they hear Bud’s announcement?  
  
  
2. How do you think Bud feels when Jimmy invites him to come to the Sweet Pea to eat ? What makes you say that?  
  
  
3. Why does Jimmy continue to tease Bud?  
  
  
4. Why do you think Bud begins to cry and cannot stop? What makes you say this?  
  
  
**Chapter 15 and 16 Comprehension Questions**   
  
  
1. Why does Herman E. Calloway call his house the Grand Calloway Station?  
  
  
2. Why do you think that Herman E. Calloway doesn’t like Bud?   
  
  
3. What does Bud consider more important, the suitcase or the items inside the suitcase? Why?  
  
  
4. Describe how you think Bud feels when Steady Eddie gives him a recorder?  
  
  
5. How do you think Bud likes the new name given to him by the band? Provide proof from the story to support your claim.  
  
  
**Chapter 17 and 18 Comprehension Questions**   
  
  
1. Do you feel that the band members are prejudice against white people ? Provide proof from the text to support your claim.   
  
  
2. Why do you think Bud wants to show Herman E. Calloway the rocks his mother gave him?  
  
  
3. Describe two emotions that Bud feels when he learns that Herman E. Calloway is his grandfather. Explain why Bud has these two feelings.  
  
  
**Chapter 19 Comprehension Questions**   
  
  
1. Why do you think Herman E. Calloway locks himself into the room after he finds out that Bud is his grandson?  
  
  
2. Explain why Mr. Calloway never got in touch with Bud and his mother.  
  
  
3. In your opinion, why does Bud go into Herman E. Calloway’s room and put the rocks and flyers on his dresser?  
  
  
4. Why does Bud say that the squeaks and squawks of his saxophone were the closing of one door and the opening of another door ?