

8th Grade Summer Reading 2022

True Grit by Charles Portis

Overview: This summer, you will be reading *True Grit* by Charles Portis. Aside from a hard copy book, you may use *Bookshare* or *Learning Ally* if you are set up with one or both, or a purchased audiobook if needed.

1. Use complete sentences to answer the reading comprehension questions attached and use details from the novel to support your answers. **Please type your work.** It is a good idea to read the questions before you read each chapter to help you focus.
2. Then, choose **one** of the two projects from the project list at the end of this packet.
3. Here is a list of characters and background to help you understand the novel:

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/ReaderResources-True-Grit.pdf>

Turn in to your language arts teacher by **August 19, 2021**

If you have questions, you can email us at:

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Comprehension Questions for *True Grit*

- As you read the novel, please stop after each bolded section and answer the questions by typing them into this Word document. Don't forget to save your work!
- Your responses should restate the question and be answered in complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. What was Tom Chaney's crime?
2. Why did Frank Ross go to Fort Smith?
3. Describe Tom Chaney.
4. Describe Frank Ross.
5. Describe Yarnell Poindexter.

Chapter 2

1. Describe Fort Smith.
2. Why was Mattie unable to find the sheriff or the undertaker?
3. What did Mattie say to Yarnell to persuade him to go to the hanging?
4. What food did Mattie eat for the first time at the hanging?
5. What business did Mattie take care of at the undertaker's?
6. What did Mattie learn from the sheriff?
7. How did Yarnell feel about Mattie's decision to stay in Fort Smith?
8. Why did Mattie think it was all right for her to go after Chaney instead of attending her father's funeral?
9. Why did Mattie feel that Mrs. Floyd was taking advantage of her?
10. How did Mattie solve the problem of Grandma Turner stealing the covers?

Chapter 3

1. What did Mattie have against "Federal people"?
2. Describe Judge Parker.
3. Describe Rooster Cogburn.
4. How did Mattie get Cogburn's attention?
5. Why did Rooster put Mattie's cup in the floor?
6. What did Mattie think of the job Rooster did of loading her gun?
7. Who was Columbus Potter?

Chapter 4

1. What were Mattie's opinions of Al Smith and Woodrow Wilson?
2. Describe LaBoeuf.

3. By what name did LaBoeuf know Tom Chaney?
4. How did Mattie know that she and LaBoeuf were searching for the same man?
5. In what ways did LaBoeuf and Mattie disagree?
6. For each of the characters, Mattie, Rooster, and LaBoeuf, what was the purpose of their trip in the Indian Territory?

Chapter 5

1. What did Mattie mean when she said to LaBoeuf, "You are powerful free for a stranger"?
2. How did Mattie feel when she received the \$325?
3. What did Stonehill tell Mattie about Rooster?
4. Describe Rooster and LaBoeuf's weapons.
5. Describe Eastern Oklahoma.

Chapter 6

1. How did Mattie explain the defining characteristic of Cumberland Presbyterians?
2. Was Rooster right to tell the boys to lie to Mr. Simmons? Did the boys believe Rooster?
3. To whom did Rooster refer when he said, "Mr. James, the Missouri bank examiner"?
4. How did Mattie describe the ferry crossing?
5. What did Rooster learn from Mr. Bagby?
6. What did Rooster say to insult LaBoeuf's horse?
7. What foodstuffs did Rooster carry?
8. What two words did Mattie use to describe the blazing fire and showers of sparks?
9. Why was traveling difficult in the snow?
10. Why did Rooster go to the abandoned dugout?
11. Describe the dugout.
12. Why were Moon and Quincy living in the dugout?
13. On p. 135, what had Mattie figured out that LaBoeuf didn't know?
14. Why wouldn't Mattie eat a corn dodger?
15. What topics did Rooster and Mattie discuss while they were waiting for the Pepper gang?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.
 - i.
 - j.
 - k.
 - l.
 - m.
16. What was LaBoeuf's account of the attack on the Pepper gang?
17. How was LaBoeuf injured?
18. What was Rooster's account of the attack on the Pepper gang?

19. What evidence against the Pepper gang was found in the stock cave and on Haze's horse?
20. What objects made Mattie think they were getting closer to Chaney?
21. Read p. 153 paragraph 2 and 3. What does this show about Rooster?
22. Describe the robbery of the Katy.
23. What did LaBoeuf tell about his Civil War experience?
24. Whom did Rooster seek out in McAlester?
25. What did Rooster talk about in his conversation with Captain Finch?
26. What advice did Mattie give Rooster at the railroad agent's office?
27. Why was LaBoeuf in favor of Mattie going with them when Rooster wanted her to stay at McAlester's?
28. What news did Captain Finch bring?
29. What three men were involved in the corn dodgers incident?
30. What was the bad result of the Captain's visit?
31. What was Rooster's opinion about a man working for a woman?

Chapter 7

1. Why did Mattie blame Rooster for her unfortunate situation?
2. How did Rooster and LaBoeuf trick Ned Pepper?
3. What did LaBoeuf and Mattie see in the meadow below?
4. What weapon did Chaney use against LaBoeuf?
5. What caused Mattie to fall into the pit?
6. Describe Mattie's position in the pit.
7. Why did Mattie have trouble using her arms?
8. Describe what Mattie saw inside the pit.
9. While Mattie was trapped in the pit, what things frightened her?
10. Why did Mattie try to get the shirt?
11. What was inside the blue shirt?
12. What did Mattie use to keep herself from sliding through the hole in the floor?
13. Who was hit in the head and fell into the pit near Mattie?
14. Where were Rooster and Mattie when he began to work on getting the poison out of her arm?
15. When Mattie saw that Little Blackie was the one used to pull her and Rooster from the pit, she quoted this Bible verse: "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner." Why did Mattie think this was appropriate for the occasion?
16. Why did Mattie say, "Keep your seat, trash," to Frank James?
17. Where did Mattie bury Rooster?
18. What was Mattie's business?
19. Did you have any idea that Mattie would be bitten by a rattlesnake? What parts of the story foreshadowed the snakebite?

True Grit Summer Reading Project

Overview: Once students have completed the questions for the novel, *True Grit* by Charles Portis, they are to complete **ONE** of the attached projects. Students will be allowed to choose to complete a reflection journal or collage.

1. Reflection Journal

Journal writing encourages students to explore their thoughts and ideas. Journal writing for students engages them in the process of brainstorming and organizing their ideas. It teaches them to develop writing skills and become articulate, and it encourages them to share their ideas with teachers.

Students are expected to include the following:

Five diary entries written in first person point of view by one of the novels characters. Entries should be reflections about events and conflicts in the novel important to the main character. Entries should span the entire novel and be in a final edited format.

Expectations for Journal:

- Each entry should be a minimum of ½ page.
- All writing must be in first person point of view.
- Everything must be in a final edited format.

2. Collage

A photo collage is a collection of cut-up photos and images that are combined, layered and glued together on a piece of paper. A photo collage is piece of artwork that can be used to display information or preserve memories.

Students are expected to include the following:

- Choose 8 -10 visuals that reflect an aspect of the story. These could be photos, illustrations, or sketches.
- Each visual should include a caption that explains its relevance to the novel/main character.

Expectations for Collage:

- Collage should be displayed on a 9 in x12 in poster board or construction paper.
- Illustrations must be taped or glued.
- Captions should be clearly written and proofread.

