

Petey Teacher Resource Discussion Packet

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Please note this packet is designed as a “pick and choose” set of materials to use with students. It is split between part one and part two.

1. Students / Families are recommended to watch the video Ben has on his website as an introduction to Ben and his incredible story of his life’s path.
2. Also, investigate and learn all that the website contains about Petey and the actual person Petey represents.

Keep a list of overall themes from part 1:

Characters: For each character listed below, please discuss character traits, accomplishments, quirks, challenges, experiences, conflicts. Discuss the characters throughout the novel.

Petey:

Calvin:

Joe:

Owen:

Trevor Ladd:

Esteban:

Cassie:

Part 1-

Vocabulary in context:

- *deficiencies - page 2 *impeccably - page 5
- *deciphering- page 13 *monotony- page 15
- *jarring descent -page 29 *bellowed- page 49
- *pummeled p. 51 *diligent -page 75
- *inevitable p. 85 *despondently - pg. 93
- *reflection pg 118

Figurative Language:

1. What is the figurative language as the top of page 10?
2. What is the fig? Language at the end of paragraph 3 on page 35?
3. What is the figurative language in the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 52?
4. What is the figurative language in the first sentence on page 59?
5. What is the figurative language in the last sentence on page 76?
6. What is the figurative Language in the second to last paragraph on page 80?

Questions for Discussion and comprehension:

1. Look at the first page. Where is the location of the setting? Bozeman(where Ben lived)

2. What was the mood in the hospital room when mom was able to hold her baby? Why?
3. The parents clearly loved Petey. What events led to bringing Petey to an institution?
4. On page 17, when Petey was five, “ Nobody could read his thoughts, nor could they see the feelings Petey was developing, and wanted so desperately to express.” What is your opinion on this statement? What are your thoughts?
5. What characteristics describe Esteban? (page 20-23 for clues and evidence)
6. What is the importance of the Hershey Bar for Esteban and Petey?
7. See ending of page 36. What technique is used by the author?
8. Page 39, first paragraph, what does the sentence “It became a delicate art.” mean?
9. The mice play a crucial role in understanding how intelligent Petey really is. Can you give evidence?(chapter 5)
10. Why did the mice play such a critical role for Petey? What is so important about the last line on page 47?
11. We will read the last para on page 49-top P 50. What emotions and voice does it show about the decision Petey has made regarding the mice?
12. Why is the last paragraph on page 56 so important to Petey and the voice the author is portraying?
13. Why were the mice so important to Petey?

14. What conflict occurred right at the end of chapter 7, page 64? What must it feel like to be helpless as Petey felt?
15. What do you think it meant to Petey and Calvin to have each other as best friends?
16. Why was Joe realizing he could not work much longer?
17. What were some of Joe's positive character traits that allowed him to work so well with Calvin and Petey?
18. What must it be like to be Petey, for example when he had the flu and pneumonia, and have the doctor refer to him as an idiot to Joe?
19. What are the critical themes that come out of Petey's friendship with Calvin, the mice, and Joe and especially when Petey was ill?
20. How did Joe's leaving affect Petey?
21. Read bottom half of pg. 93. What quality of Calvin's is shown here?
22. In chapter 11, Petey goes outside for the first time in eight years. What must that feel like? What is it like for Petey to get outside?
23. (Page 97) How does Cassie feel about Petey? How does Petey feel about Cassie?
24. What does this quote mean and why is it so important for all of us?"I've been thinking , what Calvin needs in life is purpose. All people need purpose. Would you let Calvin be responsible for taking care of you?"

25. A huge conflict appeared on page 104 when Cassie tells Petey she is leaving to go to NY. She is crying. Why? What conflicts are going on in Petey's mind?
26. What purpose did the necklace serve for both of them?
27. Petey and Calvin act as if they are back in seclusion. What was the cause of this?
28. What is the importance of this quote? "They seemed like children, innocent and helpless, in a world that controlled them. (pg. 120)
29. Owen came to work instead of retiring so he could have a purpose.
30. Owen said, "I realize that, but I could open up their world. I'd like to get Petey a wheelchair and plan some activities?" Why is this statement so important to Owen, Petey and Calvin?
31. Owen told Petey he would be able to go outside everyday and appreciate nature and the author wrote, "Doubt showed in Petey's eyes." Let's talk about that.
32. How was life for Petey and Calvin with Owen?
33. How did Christmas allow Petey and Calvin to experience the important gift of giving?
34. We will discuss this quote from page 135. " Petey loved life more than any human Owen had ever met. Petey savored moments with fathomless appreciation. Simple joys and pleasures became splendid happenings. His compassion and thoughtfulness defied reason"

35. Owen's words to Petey contained much wisdom. What is the theme of this quote on page 137? "Someday, somewhere, there's gonna be a better world. When we get there, my friend, you're gonna be at the head of the line."
36. How did Petey handle the sudden move to the nursing home in Bozeman and the sudden loss of Calvin?
37. Page 142- after losing his family, "Petey made a vow. He would still be happy, but from now on, no matter how difficult, he would never allow himself to love anyone again. He had been hurt for the last time!" How does this decision make you feel? What character traits would you say Petey is showing?

From Part One:

What are the main themes the author wants us to remember from this powerful book with such incredible characters?

Part Two:

Vocabulary on context:

1. Appendage- page 155
2. Sauntered- page 168
3. Taunted - page 170
4. Glee- page 183
5. Derive. - page 185, 2nd paragraph
6. Expenditure- page 187, end of first paragraph
7. Giddy- pg. 189, top of page

8. Tedium- top page 221

Figurative Language:

1. Simile in second paragraph on page 155.
2. What is the simile at the start of page 181?
3. What is the personification in the second paragraph on pg 229?

Comprehension :

1. Who is Trevor Ladd? Explain how he made a courageous decision at the start of chapter 15? What does that instantly teach us about Trevor?
2. What “non-truth” did Trevor tell the person who worked at the nursing home when she asked if he recognized the boys?
3. Define Trevor’s relationship with his parents and their relationship with him?
4. Read the last paragraph on page 153 to the top of page 156.. What does this teach us and what is the theme presented here?
5. At the start of part two, how was Trevor feeling about being at the nursing home? Why is this normal?
6. Trevor told Sissy he would not be back, but what did he do to protect Petey?
7. Why do you think Petey especially appreciated going for walks?
8. What is the conflict about the wheelchair?

9. What event occurred that resulted in Petey and Trevor bonding?
10. What is learned at the bottom of page 175? It presents a great theme.
11. Fishing becomes a highly important turning point? How so?
12. How did you feel after hearing the administrator refused a new wheelchair for Petey? Please support your answer.
13. What was Trevor's mom most concerned about?
14. What was Petey's experience like at K-Mart?
15. Read middle para, on page 199, ...sitting beside Petey....what is so special in the words and voice of this paragraph?
16. What was Petey's response when he met Owen after so many years?
17. What is the theme at the very bottom of page 204?
18. What evidence do we have that Petey and Trevor have really connected? (Trevor is trying to raise \$ for a new wheelchair and also trying to find Calvin)
19. On the top of page 219, Trevor wondered how he ever got to like Petey so much? What is it, do you think, that made this relationship so important for both?
20. Read the bottom of pg. 221 to top of 222. What evidence supports the claim that is made?
21. Describe Shawna and her role in the story?
22. What is the theme at the bottom of page 227?
23. What is the theme at the bottom of page 239?

24. Read bottom of p. 247 to top of p. 248, what is the very important theme being presented?
25. On page 254, in the second paragraph, what is a very important theme?
26. What is Trevor's plan to get the wheelchair?
27. What was fishing such an important symbol of?
28. Read the bottom half of p. 272- 273. How are the words and actions of the characters powerfully aligned to the themes of Petey's life?
29. Explain how Trevor's relationship, which started when teens were throwing snowballs at Petey, was so equally important to both of them, leading to Trevor saying , " Petey is my best friend."
30. What was Trevor's question to Petey? It led to an important theme about family? What was that?
31. . What did the important theme of "Go Fishing" stand for?