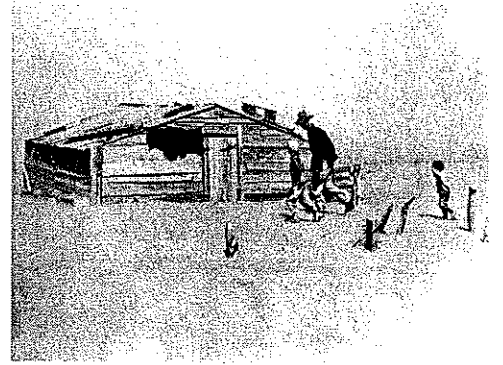




Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Study Questions



As you read this novel, answer the following questions. Use complete sentences at all times!

WINTER 1934

Section 1: Beginning: August 1920 - Birthday for FDR p. 3-15

1. What were the circumstances of Billie Jo Kelby's birth? Billie Jo was born at home before the doctor had time to get there.
2. Why was the heroine named Billie Jo? She was named Billie Jo because her father wanted a son.
3. What are Mr. Noble and Mr. Romney arguing about in *Rabbit Battles*? They are arguing about who can kill the most rabbits.
4. In what way does Billie Jo "love" Livie Killian? Billie Jo is jealous of her friend, Livie, because she is leaving and Billie Jo is not.
5. Who did Arley Wandersdale ask to play at the Palace before he asked Billie Jo? Arley asked Mad Dog Craddock to sing.
6. How does Billie Jo get her mother's permission to play the piano at the Palace? She waits until her mother is busy and distracted and then asks permission.
7. What does Billie Jo say that playing piano can be in *On Stage*? She says that playing piano is heaven.
8. Where does the money collected at the ball in *Birthday for FDR* go? The money goes to the Warm Springs Foundation.

Journal entry: (on the back of this paper) Write a paragraph about Billie Jo and what you think her days are like. Imagine you are her and you are living in the dry, dusty state of Oklahoma during the 1930s.

Section 2: *Not Too Much To Ask – Breaking Drought* p. 16-23

1. What did Billie Jo's mother donate to people in need? 3 jars of apple sauce,
cured pork, a feed sack nightie
2. Why did Billie Jo think she had to be so vigilant about money at Mr. Hardly's store? Mr. Hardly
was known to cheat people before
3. What did Billie Jo do when it was discovered that Mr. Hardly had given her four extra cents in change?
She took it back to the store
4. What would Billie Jo's mother have done if Billie JO had taken a gift from Mr. Hardly? She would
have been upset
5. Where did the wind storm take place in *Fifty Miles South of Home*? Amarillo, Texas
6. Why does Billie Jo's family set the table with plates upside down, glasses bottom up, and napkins folded over the silverware?
so the plates, silverware, and glasses will
not be filled with dust on the parts they
are going to eat off of
7. What does Billie Jo's father mean when he says, "The potatoes are peppered plenty tonight, Polly."
the pepper is really dust
8. What happened in *Breaking Drought* after seventy days? a little rain came

Writing assignment: On the back of this paper, rewrite "Rules of Dining" in prose.

rewrite in paragraph form

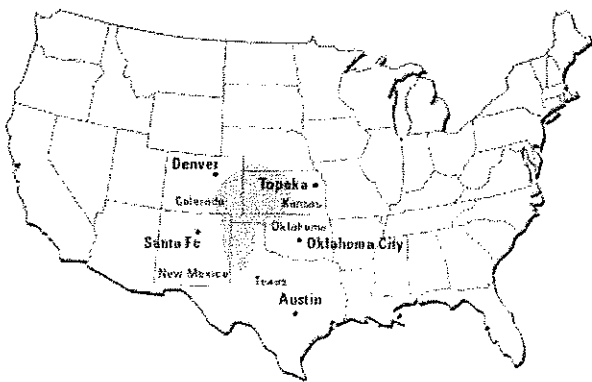
Section 3: *Dazzled – Fields of Flashing Light* p. 24-33

1. About what is Billie Jo dazzled in the poem of that name? by her mother
playing the piano
2. What happens to Billie Jo's father when he watches her mother play the piano? his eyes
get soft
3. When did Billie Jo's mother first teach her to play the piano? when she was 5
4. What does Billie Jo's mother say is the main reason that Billie Jo's father still believes in rain? because he is a farmer
5. Why won't Billie Jo's mother allow her to play for *Sunny of Sunnyside*? because she
would have to miss school
6. What did Billie Jo's mother say when told that Billie Jo scored at the top of the eighth grade at her school on an achievement test?
"I knew you could"

What is the main event that happens in *Fields of Flashing Light*? a dust storm
comes and destroys the wheat growing in the
field

Geography Practice: On the map provided, color the states that were affected by the dust bowl of the 1930s. Label the states on the blank map.

The Dust Bowl



- How many states were affected? 5 or 6
- Which state was affected the most? Kansas
- Which states look like they were affected the same? Colorado and Texas
Oklahoma and New Mexico

Name _____ Date _____ # _____

Spring 1934 Section 4: Tested by Dust through On the Road with Arley p. 35-51

Answer all questions in complete sentences!

.. For what reason does Billie Jo think that she and the other students should get bonus points on their six-weeks achievement test?

for taking a test during a dust storm

2. What money is the Kelby family going to get in time for the baby's coming? the money they lost from the bank

3. What bad news does the county agent bring in Beat Wheat? 1/2 of the wheat is lost, does what is left is smaller than it should be

4. Who is Joe De La Flor? a rancher

5. What is the major dispute between Billie Jo's mother and father in Give Up on Wheat? Ma wants to plant other crops and dad does not want to

6. What opera does Billie Jo realize she has never heard of in What I Don't Know? Madame Butterfly

Why are the two apple trees in Billie's Jo's yard still alive? because Ma waters and tends to them

8. What does Billie Jo's father say he remembers about World War I in France? the poppies

9. What will happen to the apples on the trees in a couple of months? they will be ready to make things with (pies, sauce, pudding, dumplings, etc.)

10. What was wrong with the rain that came in Dust and Rain? it was too hard and too fast, causing destruction instead of helping.

11. How much wheat does Billie Jo think her father will get harvested per acre of land? 5 bushels would be a miracle

12. How does Arley pay Billie Jo for her piano playing? in dimes

Name _____ Date _____ # _____

Summer 1934 Section 5: *Hope in a Drizzle* through *Devoured* p. 53-69

Answer all questions in complete sentences!

1. How much rain fell in *Hope in a Drizzle*? Quarter inch
2. What did Billie Jo secretly watch her mother doing during the light rainfall? standing out in the rain without any clothes on
3. What did Billie Jo's mother do when Billie Jo asked what she thought of having five babies all at once like Elzire Dionne in Canada? she cried
4. Where does Billie Jo say that she would like to walk to one day like the boys who are leaving their homes? west to California
5. What was the initial cause of the accident that hurt Billie Jo and her mother? there was kerosene in the bucket inside the stove
6. How were Billie Jo's hands hurt during the accident? she was trying to put out the fire on the
7. Who did Doc Rice tend to first when he arrived after the accident? her
8. What was the only real thing in Billie Jo's night mare after the accident? the part about her hands
9. What does Billie Jo say that her mother smells like lying under the sheet tent? searched meat
10. What did Billie Jo's father do with the money he found in the house after the accident? spent it drinking
11. What did Billie Jo do to make it worse for her mother while her father was in Guymon? dropped water on her sores
12. How did Billie Jo's mother die? from death

ocabulary words for this section: quintuplets kerosene desperate antiseptic chafed whirred

Writing: On the back of this paper, rewrite *Devoured*, p. 68-69, in prose. Remember the rules for writing!! (capitalization, punctuation, topic and concluding sentence!)

Name Mrs. Turner Date _____ # _____

Out of the Dust: Vocabulary Practice Sections 1-2

Section 1

testy bawling crouched distracted revenge scowl

Fill in the sentences with the correct vocabulary words.

1. ... but anyhow,/she was distracted enough,/I was determined enough,/this time I got just what I wanted.
2. They pledged revenge on the rabbit population; wagering who could kill more.
3. I came too fast for the doctor,/ bawling as soon as Daddy wiped his hand around/inside my mouth.
4. Ma crouched over the swept boards,/because that's where Daddy said it'd be best.
5. She always gets testy about my playing,/even though she's the one who truly taught me.
6. They scowl as they pass on the street.

Write the correct word from above in the blank next to the correct definition.

<u>revenge</u>	punishment in return for insult or injury
<u>scowl</u>	frown
<u>testy</u>	irritable; touchy
<u>distracted</u>	sidetracked; diverted
<u>bawling</u>	crying out loud
<u>crouched</u>	stooped

Section 2

whittled drought moldy squinted exposing

Fill in the sentences with the correct vocabulary words.

1. We shake out our napkins,/spread them on our laps,/and flip over our glasses and plates,/ exposing neat circle,/round comments/on what life would be without dust..
2. I squinted back at him as I gave him Ma's order.
3. ...and thinking about the secondhand music/in a moldy box at the shop in Joyce City.
4. And we're all whittled down to the bone these days...
5. One night, some rain came, but it did not end the drought.

Out of the Dust: Vocabulary Practice Sections 3-5

Section 3

dazzled

jealous

harvest

snatched

Fill in the sentences with the correct vocabulary words.

1. ... I remember being dazzled by her/whenever she played the piano.
2. ...but sometimes I think she's/just plain jealous when I'm at the piano/and she's not.
3. While Ma and Daddy slept/the dust came,/tearing up fields where the winter wheat,/set for harvest in June,/stood helpless.
4. The wind snatched that snow right off the fields...

jealous

envious

snatched

seized or grabbed

dazzled

amazed or bewildered with spectacular display

harvest

gathering in of a crop

Section 4

withered

wince

tart

searing

combines

Fill in the sentences with the correct vocabulary words.

1. One quarter of the wheat is lost; blown away or Withered up.
2. I wince at the sight of his rib-thin cattle.
3. To eat them now,/so tart ,/would turn my mouth inside out,/would make my stomach groan.
4. On Sunday,/winds came,/bringing a red dust/like prairie fire,/hot and peppery,/ searing the inside of my nose,/the whites of my eyes.
5. The Combines ^h gave started moving across the fields....

searing

scorching or burning the surface of

wince

to shrink or start involuntarily, as in pain or distress

combines

harvesting machines

tart

having a sharp pungent taste; sour

withered

dried up; shriveled