

Red Kayak Novel Study

Section One: Chapters 1–4 (The Search and Rescue)

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Why shouldn't Brady keep dwelling on the past?

2. Where does Brady live?

3. *Why are Brady, J.T., and Digger best friends? Why do you think Brady takes the role of "referee"?

4. Why did the state legislature cut the number of hours in Brady's dad's workday?

5. What worries Brady about Mr. DiAngelo kayaking?

6. Why is Digger angry with Mr. DiAngelo?

7. How old is Ben?

8. Why does Brady fear something happened to one of his parents?

9. Where is Brady told to search for the kayak?

10. What is the name of Brady's father's boat? Why was this name chosen?

11. *Why do you think Brady can imagine how cold and scared Ben is?

12. What happens to make Brady think searching the little creeks is a waste of time? Why does he keep searching?

Section Two: Chapters 5–9 (The Aftermath and Discovery)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

1. *Why is Brady scared when he finds Ben? Is his fear justified? How does he combat his fear?

2. What are the “ABCs” Brady learned at the fire station?

3. *Why does Brady feel as if a year has passed since he left home that morning?

4. Who is the first person to telephone and praise Brady?

5. Why did Mrs. DiAngelo and Ben take the kayak out on a bad day?

6. Why was Brady in the newspaper when he was nine?

7. Who suggests that Ben could have brain damage?

8. Why does Brady's mom take him out of school?

9. What does Brady find in the river?

10. Why doesn't Brady tell his dad he feels responsible for Ben's death?

11. Where are Amanda's things? Why?

12. What does Brady do when he "flips out"?

Section Three: Chapters 10–12 (Dealing with Grief and Suspicion)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

1. Why does Brady's mom ask Carl to talk to Brady?

2. What advice does Carl give Brady?

3. Why does J.T. lie to Brady?

4. Why won't Brady go to the National Aquarium in Baltimore ever again?

5. What idea does Brady get from watching Aunt Tracy?

6. What does Brady's mom hear from someone at the grocery store?

7. How does Brady's dad hurt his feelings?

8. Who is pressuring Brady's father? Why?

9. What happens when Brady tries to check his crab pots?

10. *Why does Mrs. DiAngelo's e-mail change everything for Brady?

11. When did Brady's mom plant a butterfly garden? How did it help her?

12. What does Brady say to his mom in an unusual, exasperated manner? What is her reaction?

Section Four: Chapters 13–15 (The Truth Revealed)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

1. Why is Mrs. DiAngelo going to Washington?

2. What does Brady find behind the DiAngelos' boathouse?

3. Why didn't Digger swim with Brady and J.T. last summer?

4. Whose idea was it to drill holes in the DiAngelos' canoe?

5. Whom does Brady first suspect had something to do with sinking the kayak?

6. Where is J.T.'s father? How does J.T. plan to help him?

7. Why does Brady go to J.T.'s house? What happens?

8. How does Digger react when Brady confronts him?

9. What does Brady do with the drill? Why?

10. Why does Brady go back to the DiAngelos' house? What does he find?

11. Who can Digger push around?

12. What does Digger ask Brady to do?

Section Five: Chapters 16–19 (Secrets and Confrontations)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

1. Why does Brady cry?

2. What is Mrs. DiAngelo's reaction to the cleaned-out boathouse?

3. What "cruel thing" does Brady say to Digger? Why does he say it?

4. Why is there a police car at Digger's house?

5. What ceremony does Digger miss?

6. For what does J.T. thank Brady?

7. What worries Brady's mom?

8. What is J.T.' s real name? What is Digger's?

9. When did Digger chip his tooth?

10. What does Auntie Janet give to Brady? Why is this object special?

11. What does Brady realize about J.T. and Digger?

Section Six: Chapters 20–22 (Moral Dilemmas)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

1. What are sponge crabs?

2. *Why doesn't Brady take Tilly out on the water? What does this tell you about him?

3. How does Brady justify what he does with the drill?

4. Why does Brady go back to work for Mrs. DiAngelo?

5. Who comes home on the Fourth of July? How does this make Brady feel?

6. *Does Brady's dad have a choice about joining the watermen's protest?

7. What does Brady's mom give him?

8. Why can't J.T. donate a kidney to his dad?

9. What does the butterfly garden symbolize to Brady's mom?

10. What does Brady's dad say is wrong for the bay?

11. What does Brady ask his father to do?

12. Why doesn't Brady tell his dad the truth?
