

Quiz Time

Directions: Respond to the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the Ultra-Glide? _____
2. What does Dad tell Kenny is the reason that Byron is being sent to Birmingham?

3. Name three things that Momma did to get ready for the trip to Birmingham. _____

4. Why do you think Mrs. Davidson gave Joetta the angel statue? _____

5. Did you think that Byron was going to make the entire trip without speaking? _____

6. Of the places that the Watsons stop during their trip, which one would have interested you the most? Explain why. _____

7. Name two things that frightened both Kenny and Byron at the two different rest stops.

8. Why doesn't anyone want to hold Joey's head while she sleeps? _____

9. How would the Watsons' trip have been different if they had followed Momma's plan?

10. How does Grandma Sands compare to Kenny's expectations? _____

11. Why do you think that Momma seems so upset about Mr. Robert? _____

12. Who do you think will triumph this summer: Byron or Grandma Sands? Explain.

Recreate the Brown Bomber

Directions: Kenny gives a vivid description of the Brown Bomber. Using this information and your imagination, recreate the Brown Bomber in one of the following ways:

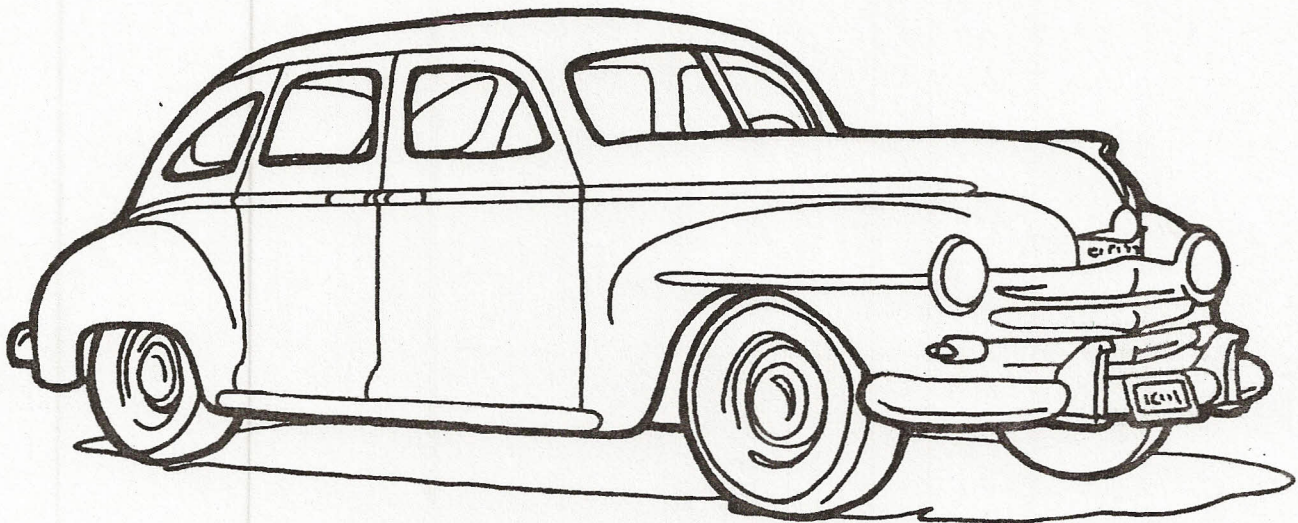
- ☐ Using watercolors, pastels, or markers, do a detailed painting or drawing of the Brown Bomber.
- ☐ Create a computer 3-D model of the Brown Bomber using graphics software.
- ☐ Build the Brown Bomber using cardboard, craft sticks, papier-mâché over wire frame, modeling clay, Legos™, or any other appropriate building material.

You can add any details you'd like, but you must include these four details in your drawing or model:

- the damaged hood ornament
- the Ultra-Glide
- the rearview mirror to which Byron's lips were stuck
- the bar down the front of the windshield

Tips for models

1. A wooden board will support the model's weight better than a cardboard one.
2. Use aluminum foil for chrome on the car (bumpers, hood ornament).
3. To provide a realistic setting, paint or use marker to make a road underneath the Brown Bomber; you can even glue real crushed gravel (if available).
4. Use modeling clay to create Momma, Dad, Byron, Kenny, and Joetta and place them around or inside the Brown Bomber.
5. Think of special touches you can add—for example, glue fabric on the seats for upholstery, or fashion tiny ice scrapers and glue them on the hood.



Figurative Language

Talented writers such as Christopher Paul Curtis use figurative language to make scenes more vivid. In *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* he uses these figurative language devices:

Hyperbole—an obvious exaggeration

Example: The garbage can was **the size of the Titanic**.

Simile—a comparison using the words “like” or “as”

Examples: The hungry boy ate **like a horse**. The soup was **as cold as ice**.

Metaphor—an implied comparison in which one thing is called another

Example: The girl **was a scared rabbit**.

Personification—giving human characteristics to a thing (plant, animal, or thing)

Example: The vine **clutched** at her leg and **refused** to let go.

Directions: Read each quote from the book. Decide whether it is an example of **hyperbole (H)**, **simile (S)**, **metaphor (M)**, or **personification (P)**, and write the abbreviation for your choice on the line provided. Then highlight (or underline) the words that indicated to you the type of figurative language being used. (In the examples above, these words have been bolded.)

- _____ 1. “That snake in the grass has got his phone off the hook.”
- _____ 2. “With Byron walking around me like that we must have looked like we were in the Wild West and I was a wagon train and Byron was the Indians circling, waiting to attack.”
- _____ 3. “The door jumped out of her way . . .”
- _____ 4. “Larry Dunn was the king of the kindergarten to fourth grade of Clark Elementary . . . but Byron was a god.”
- _____ 5. “Momma’s voice got strange, hissing like a snake . . .”
- _____ 6. “Momma said that last part like she was dropping a bomb on Grandma Sands.”
- _____ 7. “I knew this was a worm with a hook on it, but I bit anyway.”
- _____ 8. “I’ve got about a million [dinosaurs], but before LJ started coming over I had two million.”
- _____ 9. “If there was a forest fire somewhere all Smokey the Bear would have to do is hold me upside down over it and the fire wouldn’t have a chance.”
- _____ 10. “All the kids were looking at me like I was a six-legged dog.”
- _____ 11. “. . . when his fingers found out it was them that were going to get burned, they let go of Byron’s throat and joined the rest of his body in deciding to wait at Buphead’s until Dad got home.”
- _____ 12. “Then he dropped the bomb on me.”

Using a Road Atlas

One of the reference materials you will use repeatedly throughout your life is a road atlas. Whenever you go on a road trip, you can refer to this book of maps to find out how to get where you're going (and back again!).

1. Find a map showing the entire continental U.S. in a road atlas. Using your finger, follow the Watsons' route down I-75 from Flint, Michigan, to Birmingham, Alabama.

2. Cities appear in large bold print on a map. Refer to the road atlas to find the name of five cities that they must have passed through on their way and write them here: _____

3. Name the six states that the Watsons traveled through. Also name the capital of each of these states. Each capital's name will be shown next to a star inside a circle. _____

4. Did the Watsons travel through any of these state capitals? If so, which one(s)? _____

5. Shortly before the border of Alabama, the Watsons stopped following Route 75 and traveled on what route number? _____
6. Turn to the page showing the state of Alabama. Do any cities have their own map insets on this page? What are their names? Why do you think they have map insets? _____

7. Describe a different route (using route numbers and where they change) that the Watsons could have taken on their way back to Flint. _____
