Bright Path Sped

GRADES 6-8

47 PAGES





ROLL OF THUNDER HEAR MY CRY NOVEL STUDY

CHAPTER QUESTIONS, VOCABULARY, THEMES, CONTEXT

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Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it prints well on any printer.

About the book

You need your own copy of the book, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. All questions, words and pages here are original and contain no text from the book. This resource is not affiliated with or endorsed by Mildred D. Taylor, her publisher, or the owners of the book Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

Student work

A filled-in page carries a real student's name. Keep it in your records folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

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PREVIEW

How to Run the Novel Study

One plan for the whole book in 6 parts of two chapters, a question page for every part, and pages for the characters, the history, the writing and the vocabulary. Editions paginate differently, so check the split below against your copy.

A plan for the whole book

Read	Part	Page	Talk about it
Chapters 1-2	Meet the Logans	6	What makes a place feel like home?
Chapters 3-4	Fair and Unfair	7	What makes a rule fair or unfair?
Chapters 5-6	Pressure in the Community	8	Why do people stay quiet, and what makes someone speak?
Chapters 7-8	Choices and Friendships	9	What do friendships cost when a society draws lines?
Chapters 9-10	Choices and Courage	10	Why do people act together?
Chapters 11-12	What Matters Most	11	What does a voice that will not be silenced sound like?

The routine

- **Read two chapters** aloud, in small groups, or on their own: one part of the book.
- **Students answer** that part's question page (pages 6 to 11). Each page has recall, think, prove-it and your-view questions.
- **Keep the character pages going** alongside: the character map (page 13), how Cassie feels (page 15), cause and effect (page 18) and how Cassie changes (page 19).
- **Build the history** with the timeline (page 16) and the made-then-or-made-later sort (page 17). Read the context page (page 35) and the preparing-students page (page 36) first.
- **Look at craft** with Cassie's voice (page 20), whose view (page 21) and a letter (page 22).
- **Teach the vocabulary** with the four word pages (pages 23 to 26) and the match (page 27).
- **Finish** with the final review (page 30), the essay (pages 31 to 33) and the final project (page 34).

Ways to use it

- Whole class: read together, answer on paper, then talk.
- Literature circles: one group per part or per page.
- Independent or sub plans: a question page and a vocabulary page need no prep.
- More support: use the starters and talk it through with a partner first.

Spoilers and your answer key

The answer key (pages 38 to 42) touches how the book ends. Keep it away from students until the book is finished. Most questions ask for an opinion or a detail from the student's own copy, so the key says Varies and tells you what to look for.

Chapter page numbers and the edition I use (your wording)

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Think about Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry before you read. Then write your ideas.

1. Look at the title, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. What do you think it might mean? What do you picture?

2. What do you already know about the 1930s in the United States? Write what you know and what you wonder.

3. Think of a time something was unfair to you or to someone you know. What happened? (You may pass.)

4. Agree or disagree: a story can teach us about history in a way a textbook cannot.

☐ I agree ☐ I disagree

Why do I think so?

5. What questions do you hope the book will answer?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Eyed Soul

My name _____ Date _____

Chapters 5-6: Pressure in the Community



Read these chapters. Then answer each question.

Questions about Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Chapters 5-6.

1. Recall: Name one person in the story who has more power than the Logans. How does that person use it?

2. Think: Why might some people in the story choose not to speak up? What are they afraid of?

3. Think: How do members of the Logan family help or protect one another? Give an example.

4. Prove it: Find a moment of courage that is quiet instead of loud. What detail shows it?

5. Your view: When is it worth speaking up, even if it is hard? Take a side and explain.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Chapters 9-10: Choices and Courage

Read these chapters. Then answer each question.

Questions about Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Chapters 9-10.

1. Recall: Find a moment where people in the story act together or stand up for one another. Tell what they do and why.

2. Think: What does each person risk by joining in? Why might they do it anyway?

3. Think: Which characters help from outside the family? What does their help show?

4. Prove it: Find an event in these chapters that causes another event. Name both and tell how they connect.

5. Your view: Is it easier to stand up for something alone or with others? Explain your thinking.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Character Map

Fill in a map for Cassie and a map for one other person.

Cassie

Three words that describe

What this person wants

What gets in the way

A strength

A hard moment

A moment that shows who this person is

Choose one: Stacey, Little Man, Mama, Big Ma, Mr. Morrison, T.J. or Jeremy.

Name _____

Three words that describe

What this person wants

What gets in the way

A strength

A hard moment

A moment that shows who this person is

One way Cassie and the other person are alike

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



How Cassie Feels

Write how Cassie feels in each part, and why.

Chapters	How Cassie feels	Because...	A word or detail that shows it
Chapters 1-2			
Chapters 3-4			
Chapters 5-6			
Chapters 7-8			
Chapters 9-10			
Chapters 11-12			

PREVIEW

In which part is Cassie most hopeful? Show how.

A word for how Cassie feels at the very end of the book

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Cause and Effect

Write what happened. Then write what happened because of it.

A cause is why something happens. An effect is what happens because of it. Write one cause-and-effect pair for each part of the book.

Chapters	What happened (the cause)	What happened because of it (the effect)
Chapters 1-2		
Chapters 3-4		
Chapters 5-6		
Chapters 7-8		
Chapters 9-10		
Chapters 11-12		

Starters: Because ____, ____ happened. ____ happened, so ____.

Which effect surprised me most? What caused it?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cassie's Voice

Pick a page. Then tell how Cassie sounds as the narrator.

1. Cassie tells the story as I. How does that change what we know and what we do not know?

2. Find a sentence that sounds like a child talking. Copy a short part (under eight words) and tell what it shows.

3. How would a textbook tell about the same moment? Write two differences.

4. What is the mood of the page you chose? Check one.

☐ worried ☐ hopeful ☐ angry ☐ proud ☐ afraid ☐ calm

A word or detail that shows the mood

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Words: Land and Work

Read each word. Write a sentence. Add a word that means the same.

sharecropper (noun)
a farmer who works land owned by someone else and pays with part of the crop.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

landowner (noun)
a person who owns land.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

harvest (noun)
the time when a crop is gathered, or the crop itself.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

mortgage (noun)
a loan used to buy land or a home that must be paid back over time.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

debt (noun)
money or something else that a person owes.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

livelihood (noun)
the work a person does to earn what they need to live.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shop

My name _____ Date _____

Words: Standing Up

Read each word. Write a sentence. Add a word that means the same.

boycott (verb)
to refuse to buy from or use something as a protest.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

courage (noun)
the strength to do what is right even when you are afraid.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

dignity (noun)
the feeling of being worthy of respect.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

defy (verb)
to refuse openly to obey.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

protest (verb)
to say or show clearly that you disagree with something.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

loyal (adjective)
staying faithful to a person, a group or a belief.

My sentence

Same meaning _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Big Ideas

Find a moment in Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry for each big idea.

Family and land

Chapter _____

The moment, and what it shows

Standing up for what is right

Chapter _____

The moment, and what it shows

Fair and unfair rules

Chapter _____

The moment, and what it shows

Growing up and seeing clearly

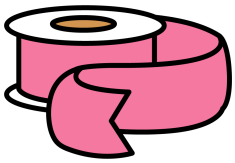
Chapter _____

The moment, and what it shows

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____



Final Review

Answer each question about the whole book.

Questions about the whole book, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

1. Recall: Tell what the book is about in three sentences: a beginning, a middle and an end.

2. Recall: Name four characters and tell how each is connected to Cassie.

3. Think: Why does land matter so much in this book? Give two reasons.

4. Think: Choose two moments, one unfair and one fair or kind. How do they help you understand the world of the story?

5. Prove it: Choose one big idea (family, land, fairness or courage). Prove it with two moments, named by chapter.

6. Your view: What can a novel teach about history that a textbook cannot? Take a side and explain.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

My Essay: Draft



Write your essay here.

Title of my essay _____

PREVIEW

Historical Context for the Teacher

Five points about the years around the book, where each was checked, and a note on teaching with care.

The years, in order

When	What is known	Checked in two places
Late 1800s to mid-1900s	Laws in Southern states keep Black and white people apart, including in public schools. They are called Jim Crow laws.	Jim Crow laws: Wikipedia, "Jim Crow laws"; National Archives, "Brown v. Board of Education (1954)"
1929	The Great Depression begins in the United States.	The Great Depression: Wikipedia, "Great Depression"; Federal Reserve History, "Great Depression"
The 1930s	The years in which this novel takes place, in Mississippi.	The 1930s setting: the cover copy of your edition; Wikipedia, "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry"
1954	The U.S. Supreme Court rules that separate public schools for Black and white children are unconstitutional (Brown v. Board of Education).	1954: National Archives, "Brown v. Board of Education (1954)"; Wikipedia, "Jim Crow laws"
1964	The Civil Rights Act is signed. It ends segregation in public places such as libraries and public schools.	1964: National Archives, "Civil Rights Act (1964)"; Wikipedia, "Jim Crow laws"

About the book

- The author is Mildred D. Taylor. The story is told by nine-year-old Cassie Logan and is set in Mississippi in the 1930s. The book has twelve chapters.
- The Logan family owns land. Land, school, fairness and standing up are among its subjects. Read the book first: this page does not retell it.

Where the history was checked

- **Wikipedia:** en.wikipedia.org, the pages "Jim Crow laws" and "Great Depression."
- **National Archives:** archives.gov, Milestone Documents: "Brown v. Board of Education (1954)" and "Civil Rights Act (1964)."
- **Federal Reserve History:** federalreservehistory.org, the essay "Great Depression." Check anything you add.

Teaching with care

- This is a story about real history and real harm. Keep the talk on the book and on facts you have checked. No graphic detail is asked for, and no student acts out or describes harm.
- Read the preparing-students page (page 36) before you begin, and tell families first (the family page is page 45). Any student may pass.
- Follow your school's and district's rules for when and how to teach this book.

Editions paginate differently: my page numbers for Chapters 1 to 6

My page numbers for Chapters 7 to 12

PREVIEW

Answer Key

Spoiler warning: this key touches how the book ends. A sample answer is one acceptable answer, not the only one; where a question asks for an opinion or a detail from the student's copy, it says Varies and tells you what to look for. The six parts are a suggested split; check them against your edition.

Chapters 1-2: Meet the Logans (page 6)

1. **Recall: The narrator.** Cassie Logan, who is nine. The second part varies: look for an idea such as a child notices and reports things that adults explain away.
2. **Recall: The family.** Varies. Three people from the student's copy with an accurate detail for each (for example Cassie's brothers, her parents or Big Ma).
3. **Think: Where and when.** Rural Mississippi in the 1930s. Accept details from the student's copy that show the time and place.
4. **Prove it: The land.** Varies. The family owns land, and land is a central idea in the book. Look for a meaning (safety, pride, freedom, a future) tied to a detail.
5. **Your view: Something that is yours.** Varies. A personal answer with a reason. Any student may pass.

Chapters 3-4: Fair and Unfair (page 7)

1. **Recall: School supplies.** Varies. Accurate details from the student's copy. The book shows Black students with less than white students had, which matches the history on the context page.
2. **Think: An unfair moment.** Varies. Look for an accurate event, who is treated unfairly and who holds the power.
3. **Think: How Cassie reacts.** Varies. A reaction with a detail from the student's copy and a reason tied to her age or her family.
4. **Prove it: Two reactions.** Varies. Two characters, two accurate details and a clear difference.
5. **Your view: A fair rule.** Varies. Look for a clear idea of fairness with a reason.

Chapters 5-6: Pressure in the Community (page 8)

1. **Recall: Who has power.** Varies. An accurate example from the student's copy. Look for how the power affects the family or the community.
2. **Think: Staying quiet.** Varies. Look for a fear named (losing work, land or safety) with a detail from the student's copy.
3. **Think: Family ties.** Varies. An accurate example from the student's copy and what it shows about the family.
4. **Prove it: Quiet courage.** Varies. A moment, a detail and why it counts as courage.
5. **Your view: Speaking up.** Varies. Look for a clear side with a reason. Any student may pass.

Notes on Chapters 1 to 6 (your wording)

PREVIEW

Answer Key

The final review and the pages that vary.

Final Review (page 30)

1. **Recall: The whole story.** Varies. Look for three accurate sentences in order. A sample: Cassie Logan, a nine-year-old in Mississippi in the 1930s, tells how her family faces unfair treatment and holds on to its land. (Accept the student's accurate middle and end from their own copy.)
2. **Recall: Who is who.** Varies. Four characters from the student's copy, each with an accurate connection.
3. **Think: Land.** Varies. Two reasons with two details.
4. **Think: Fair and unfair.** Varies. Two moments, named by chapter, with a comparison.
5. **Prove it: A big idea.** Varies. Two moments with chapters.
6. **Your view: Stories and history.** Varies. Opinion with evidence; look for a point about one family's view versus a summary of events.

Pages with no single answer

- **Before You Read, summaries, character map, alike and different, how Cassie feels (pages 5 and 12 to 15):** each is the student's own thinking. Check that every idea points to a chapter.
- **Cause and Effect, How Cassie Changes, Voice, Whose View, Letter, Big Ideas, Evidence, Final Project (pages 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 34):** open pages. Check that each cause really leads to its effect and that each idea points to a chapter.

How to read this key and mark open answers

- A plain answer is the fact asked for. Varies means the answer is an opinion or comes from the student's copy.
- Give credit for an opinion, a reason and a detail from the book, even if the wording differs from the sample. If a detail is wrong, ask the student to find it in the book.

Notes on the final review and the open pages (your wording)

PREVIEW

Essay Rubric

For the essay on pages 31 to 33. Five criteria, three descriptions each; add your own notes.

Student _____ Prompt (A, B or C) _____ Date _____

Criterion	Strong	Getting there	Not yet	My notes
Claim	A clear claim that answers the prompt	A claim, but it is vague or partly off the prompt	No clear claim	
Evidence	Three or more details from the book, named by chapter	One or two details, or details with no chapter	No details from the book	
Explaining	Each detail is explained and tied back to the claim	Some explaining; some details stand alone	Details are listed but not explained	
Organization	Opening, three reasons, closing; clear order	Most parts are there; order is hard to follow	Parts are missing or mixed up	
Language	Vocabulary words used correctly; few spelling errors	A vocabulary word or two; some errors	No vocabulary words; errors get in the way	

How to use it

Circle or highlight one box in each row. There is no total: your notes and the student's next step matter more. The student's checklist is on page 32.

PREVIEW

The Book at Home

Dear family, our class is reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, a novel set in Mississippi in the 1930s and told by a nine-year-old girl. It is about a family facing racism and unfair treatment. The book includes racist language and some frightening events. We keep our talk about the story, the characters and the facts we have checked. Questions are for talking, not for a grade, and a student may always pass. You are welcome to read the book first. Please contact me with any question.

Student _____

Chapters we are reading _____

Three things to talk about

- Ask your student: what is the book about so far, in three sentences?
- Ask: how do you think Cassie feels right now, and why?
- Ask: when is it worth speaking up, even if it is hard?

My words from home

One thing I learned _____

One feeling I noticed _____

A question I still have _____

Words that may come up

Segregation: keeping groups of people apart by rule. **Discrimination:** unfair treatment of people because of who they are. **Boycott:** to refuse to buy from or use something as a protest. **Dignity:** the feeling of being worthy of respect.

Note from the teacher

Note from home

PREVIEW