

HEART OF A SHEPHERD

by
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Companion Guide
From



INTRODUCTION

HEART OF A SHEPHERD can serve as an introduction to the livestock industry, told from the perspective of Brother, the youngest of five brothers living with his father and grandparents in Eastern Oregon. Brother knows all about the ranch, how to run it and the various seasons of the year, but when his father is shipped to Iraq, is Brother up to running the ranch?

In this companion guide you will find “*POWER WORDS*” and “*VO-COW-BULARY*”. These are words from each chapter that may be unfamiliar to students. Students could define these, use them in sentences or work to use them in writing. “*POWER WORDS*” are more traditional vocabulary words, where as “*VO-COW-BULARY*” are words associated with agriculture. Not all chapters have unusual vocabulary words, so in some cases there is not a vocabulary section included. There are “*QUESTIONS*” to use as discussion starters or as reading checks and writing prompts called “*WRITE AWAY*” to encourage students to write more about a specific topic. An “*EXTENSION ACTIVITY*” has been added to some chapters with links to other Agriculture in the Classroom activities. “*LOOKING AHEAD*” encourages students to think about some subtle clues the author gives about the story. Encourage your students to write reactions to these prompts and save them to use as they gain more information.

THE CHESS MEN

POWER WORDS

Expanded
Mending
Ebony
Ivory
Thermal

VO-COW-BULARY

Lamb
Pasture

QUESTIONS

1. How do you mend fences?
2. Explain why Grandpa's chess set is so unique.
3. Who and what does Brother name his chess pieces after?
4. Why is Brother called by that name?
5. How long will Dad be gone?
6. Who is going to be gone with Dad?
7. Where is Brother's mom?
8. What does Brother's mom do?

WRITE AWAY

1. Brother spends much time describing his chess moves. Write about what you think his special connection to the game of chess is.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

*The story is set in Malheur County, Oregon. Find it on a map, and do some research about the county. Next find the same type of information about the county you live in.

LOOKING AHEAD

*On page 5 Brother's knight says, "It's a rough spot, ladies, but one or the other of them will have to do, You know it's true." What do you think Brother is really talking about given the news of his father's recent deployment?

COW CAMP

POWER WORDS

Girth
Platoon
Scurry

VO-COW-BULARY

Quarter Horse
Mustang
Shetland Pony
Herefords
Angus

QUESTIONS

1. Describe Brother's family.
2. Describe what happens at a typical cow camp.
3. How is this year different at cow camp?
4. Why is Dad learning Arabic?
5. How does Spud save Brother?

WRITE AWAY

*After the snake incident Dad tells brother that a 'healthy fear of snakes' could help on the ranch. How could be afraid of something be good for you? Write you thoughts on this---and include anything that you are afraid of that might help you.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Learn more about various horse breeds at

<http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-breeds/default.aspx>

Learn about breeds of cattle at

<http://www.thecattlesite.com/breeds>

LOOKING AHEAD

*Dad says that a "man's life is not so much about courage. You just have to keep going. You have to do what you've promised, brave or not."
What are the promises that have been made?

FIRST FLOCK

POWER WORDS

Morale
Vacuum
Calloused

VO-COW-BULARY

Bum Lambs
Ewe
Bridle

QUESTIONS

1. Why don't the brothers play chess with Grandpa?
2. Who is the new hired man?
3. What does Brother feel he have in common with Ernesto?
4. What does Brother feel is the worst part of ranching?
5. What was Grandma's role in World War II?
6. Describe the school Brother attends?
7. What happened to Pippin?

WRITE AWAY

*Grandpa is a Quaker, and he is also a member of the NRA. Investigate each and write about how the two might be in conflict with each other.

* On page 27 Brother recalls that the lambs aren't supposed to have names, only horses and dogs are allowed to have names. What does he mean by that? Why wouldn't a cow, a chicken, a pig, or a lamb have a name? Write your answer in detail.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

One of Brother's favorite constellation is the Herdsman--investigate this and other constellations at

<http://stardate.org/nightsky/constellations/bootes>

LOOKING AHEAD

* On page 34, Brother wonders how he will ever become a 'real rancher'? Because he hates death, and ranching and soldiering both involved death, what else do you think Brother might do?

* On page 37 Ernesto says that Brother has the "heart of a shepherd". Brother is a little surprised about this because he is a rancher. What else do you think it could mean?

MAN OF THE HOUSE

POWER WORDS

Shard
Suture
Nudge

VO-COW-BULARY

Cutting Horse

QUESTIONS

1. What was Grandpa's job in the army?
2. What was Brother's present from his mother?
3. Why does John encourage Brother NOT to study engineering or education?
4. What does Brother do when he isn't assigned a job on Christmas Eve?
5. How do the brothers describe the condition of the Grands and of the farm?
6. Why does Brother attack?
7. How do the brothers apologize?
8. How does Pete refer to Brother at the end of the chapter?

WRITE AWAY

*Describe why Grandma spends so much time fussing with the flag at the door.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Brother makes some great hot chocolate. For an inside view of the hot chocolate visit the authors website!

<http://www.rosanneparry.com/resources/resources-for-kids/brothers-killer-hot-chocolate-recipe>

LOOKING AHEAD

*As Brother is suturing Pete's wound, he thinks 'You can't pretend to be a doctor just because someone needs you--not when you are only a kid.' What other unique situations might Brother be faced with? Write your ideas.

SERVING THE ALTER

POWER WORDS

Thermos
Octave
Edification
Conviction

VO-COW-BULARY

Stray Cats

QUESTIONS

1. How does Brother describe Father Rosetti?
2. Why is 'fancy' like a swear word to Grandpa?
3. Why hasn't the new priest driven a car in years?
4. Describe how Brother and Grandma differ on 'toe-kissing'.
5. Describe the differences between the religion of the Grands.
6. Father Ziegler surprises Brother by doing and saying several things. List these surprises.
7. How does Father Ziegler react to Brother's name.
8. What is Father Ziegler's name?
9. What nicknames do Father Ziegler and Brother give to each other?

LOOKING AHEAD

*At the end of the Chapter, Father Ziegler tells Brother that he has a talent for church type of things. How might this fit with Brother becoming a rancher?

PROMISES MADE

POWER WORDS

Battalion
Formidable
Casualty
Alliance
Stockade
Stealth
Brigade

VO-COW-BULARY

Acre
Calf Roping
Stock

QUESTIONS

1. What is government land?
2. Rosita and Paco are Basque. What does this mean?
3. Describe the action during the playground 'war'. How does Paco 'die'?
4. What happens to Paco and Rosita's parents?

WRITE AWAY

*Brother offers to take care of the stock at the Ugarte place. As he offers, he knows it is the right thing to do, but there could be complications. Describe the challenges that Brother will need to overcome to help the Ugarte's.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Calf Roping is used in ranching to catch a calf for a specific purpose such as to brand or examine. Now people compete to see who can rope the quickest. Check out this video of championship Calf Roping.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKwZ3Zw9y6k&feature=player_detail_page

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

POWER WORDS

Concentration
Atlas

VO-COW-BULARY

Birthing Stall
Heifer
Branding

QUESTIONS

1. Describe how Brother helped deliver the calf.
2. Explain what Grandpa means when he says the land makes weather as much as the sky.
3. Why do the brothers have a Sunday night computer chat?
4. Why does Brother want to acid brand the calves?
5. Why does Frank think Brother wants to acid brand?
6. How is branding going to be different than in years past on the ranch?
7. Who will come home this summer to help on the ranch?
8. What does Pete mean when he says Brother has his boots on the ground?
9. What do the brothers decide Brother should do?

WRITE AWAY

*Write about what you think Grandpa means when he says 'Land shapes a man's heart too'. Describe with detail how the land in your area or where you have traveled may have shaped your heart.

THE VETERANS

POWER WORDS

Veteran
Civilian

VO-COW-BULARY

Stirrup

QUESTIONS

1. Describe how Frank drive.
2. Describe the VFW Celebration.
3. Why is Brother shocked to see Mrs. Ugarte smoking?
4. How does Mrs. Ugarte compare Brother to his mother?
5. Why does Mrs. Ugarte say soldiers smoke?
6. How does Mrs. Ugarte describe Brother's mother?
7. How does Mrs. Ugarte describe Brother's father?
8. Brother and Paco finally have a chance to talk. How does Paco describe his parents?

WRITE AWAY

*In Oregon, student drivers need 100 hours of behind the wheel experience. Compare this to the rules and regulations of Illinois. Write what you think should be the rules and regulations governing driving.

*Paco describes what happened to his parents. What do you think Brother thinks his dad will return like?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Traditional Basque Folk Dancing is very interesting. Check out this video featuring Basque dancing in Butte, Montana. Imagine Rosita and Paco doing something similar.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2UqgwfH0AY&feature=player_detailpage

LOOKING AHEAD

Mrs. Ugarte tells Brother that his mother would tell him to "Make his own lines". What do you think Brother will do? As you look back on some of your answers--have you noticed a change in what you think Brother wants to do?

WAITING FOR BEAUTIFUL

POWER WORDS

Devoured
Scorched
Heft

VO-COW-BULARY

Barbed Wire
Bandana
Grazing
Pulaski

QUESTIONS

1. Why are Brother and Grandpa putting up fencing?
2. What mistake does Brother make while putting up the fence?
3. Why is Grandma sorting through materials?
4. Why does Grandpa mow the grass next to the house?
5. The Deputy announces they have 15 minutes. 15 minutes until what happens?
6. Brother opens the gates for the pigs and chickens. Where do they go?
7. How does Brother convince Ike to go?
8. Grandpa encourages Brother to turn around and go to the black if the fire catches them. Why?
9. How do Grandpa and Brother find Ernesto?
10. Why do Grandpa and Ernesto light a fire themselves?
11. How did Grandpa hurt his arm?
12. Why does Grandpa want Brother to sing?
13. What does Grandpa say about Grandma?
14. What does it mean that Brother 'waits for "beautiful" but it never comes'?
15. Who does Brother ask for help from?
16. Who helps Brother with Grandpa?
17. What constellation guides Brother to the fairgrounds?

WRITE AWAY

*Barbed Wire was invented in Illinois. Describe how Barbed Wire was and is still used in agriculture. How did Barbed Wire change the face of agriculture and how cattle were ranches.

LOOKING AHEAD

Grandpa says to Brother that "Talent is not your problem, Brother. Deciding what to do with your talents, that the tricky part." What is Brother's talent? What do you think he'll do with them?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Learn more about Barbed wire and the Illinois connections at:
www.barbwiremuseum.com

COMING HOME

POWER WORDS

Lamenting
Wake
Latrine

VO-COW-BULARY

Hay

QUESTIONS

1. When did Grandpa's heart give out?
2. What did Brother tell Grandma?
3. After the fire, what does the ranch look like?
4. What did Grandpa think sheep should be used for?
5. How did the barn catch on fire?
6. How did the brothers become a 'house full of men that didn't know what to say to each other'?
7. How does Pete react to Brother throwing up?
8. As Brother surveys the farm, what are some of the problems he sees?
9. What happened to the chickens?
10. What is special about the reservoir?
11. Why do you think Dad is so jumpy?
12. How does Brother react to the news from Dad?
13. What does Brother tell Dad he wants to do with his life?
14. What does Grandpa leave for Brother?
15. Who show up to help the Alderman family?
16. Describe what the guests bring.

LOOKING BACK

*What does Brother decide to do when he grows up? Does this surprise you? Write about this

LOOKING AHEAD

*Imagine Brother in 10 years? What does his story look like? Is he still in the Army? What are his Brothers up to? What does Brother do with his life? Write about the next chapter in Brother's life.

*The book ends with Brother saying "I know the man I'm supposed to become." Write about the type of man you think Brother will become.