

NEWBERY MEDAL WINNER

CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS



ELIJAH
OF BUXTON

 SCHOLASTIC

Chapters

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How this Novel Study works:

For Each Chapter

- Vocabulary in context
- Big Idea
- Summary Quote

For Every 5 Chapters

- Character Reflection (PATH) and/or Setting Connection (MAP)

For Every 10 Chapters

- Essay Test

Ch.1 Vocabulary

mercy - (n.) compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone

spectacles - (n.) seeing glasses or eyewear

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

Acceptance	Emotion	Knowledge	Punishment
Anger	Equality	Logic	Reasoning
Anxiety	Epiphany	Love	Responsibility
Awareness	Experience	Mercy	Risk
Beauty	Family	Nature	Separation
Betrayal	Fate	Necessity	Status
Cause & Effect	Fear	Obedience	Stereotype
Change	Freedom	Observation	Suspicion
Communication	Future	Opposition	Synergy
Connection	Happiness	Pain	Tension
Control	Honor	Past	Tradition
Courage	Hope	Peace	Truth
Creativity	Ignorance	Prejudice	Whimsy
Deception	Instinct	Present	Will
Denial	Intuition	Pride	Wisdom
Desire	Justice	Progress	Youth

Ch.1 Summary Quote

"There ain't nothing in the world she wants more than for me to quit being so doggone fragile. It's something I'm aiming to do myself, but the trouble is me and her have two different ways of doing it. And her way always seems to be the exact back side of mine." - pg. 10

Why does Ma insist that Elijah learn to stop being so fragile?

Ch.2 Vocabulary

plentiful - (adj.) existing in abundant quantities

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.2 Summary Quote

“One minute Ma, who’s got a good head for thinking, tells me I got to respect everything what growned folks say and the next minute she’s wanting me not to believe some of the things the same growned folks tell me.” pg. 28

Why does Elijah get confused by the two things his mother tells him?

Ch.3 Vocabulary

conjure - (v.) to appear suddenly as if from magic

commotion - (n.) A state of confusion

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

Acceptance	Emotion	Knowledge	Punishment
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Ch.3 Summary Quote

“He says the sweet-talking is like a rattling-snake’s rattles, it’s like you’re getting a warning that you’re about to get bit.” pg. 48

Despite remembering Pa’s advice, how does Elijah fail to understand the lesson?

Ch.4 Vocabulary

scallywag - (n.) A amusing but misbehaving person.

scythe - (n.) a tool used for cutting crops such as grass or wheat

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.4 Summary Quote

“ Mr. Highgate took the horse and saddle to the sheriff in Chatham so’s no one would say we stoled ‘em. Some of the white people ‘round here are always trying to blame everything that goes bad on Settlement folks and we weren’t looking for no trouble.” pg. 62

Why do you think that the Buxton’s neighbors blame things on the settlement?

Ch.5 Vocabulary

whittling - ()

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.5 Summary Quote

“If you go at it ‘specting something bad to happen, all you gunn do is draw that bad thing to you. You caint be timid ‘bout nothing you do, you go at it like you ‘specting good things to come out of it.” pg. 77

Do you think that Mr. Leroy is giving Elijah good advice? Why or why not?

Character Reflection (PATH)

Choose a character to reflect on.

What has this chapter revealed about their PATH?

Plan *(What are they working towards?)*

Adversity *(What challenges did/will they face?)*

Thoughts *(What is on their mind the most?)*

Help *(What will help them in the next step?)*

Setting Connection (MAP)

What has this chapter revealed about the current setting's MAP?

Motivation *(How does it motivate the characters to act?)*

Atmosphere *(What mood or emotions does it evoke?)*

Potential *(What might happen if the characters stay?)*

Ch.6 Vocabulary

persnickety (adj.) - placing too much emphasis on trivial or minor details.

berserk () -

commence () -

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.6 Summary Quote

“ ...but today he’d writ ‘cross the blackboard in letters big enough that you could’ve read em’ from Lake Erie in the fog: FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT! ” pg. 81

Why do you believe that Mr. Travis is so upset at Cooter’s innocent behavior at the sawmill?

Ch.7 Vocabulary

none - *nada, nil, zero, zip, zilch*

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Anger	Equality	Logic	Reasoning
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Ch.7 Summary Quote

“ You think it ain’t choke up with the same kind of hate and disrespect it has when they say it? You caint see it be even worst when you call it out?” - pg. 99

What does Mr. Leroy’s metaphor about swallowing the poison whole mean?

Ch.8 Vocabulary

oddity - (n.) a strange or peculiar person, thing, or trait.

astounding - (adj.) surprisingly impressive

dexterity - (n.) skill in performing difficult tasks, often using hands.

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.8 Summary Quote

“ It sure was a good thing that I was the only one from school who saw this. Sitting there with purple and black streaks down his chest and bawling whilst wearing half a woman’s leaf dress was the kind of thing that no one wouldn’t let him forget about for years.” pg. 115

How are the characters of the performance described? Why do you think the author chose those descriptions?

Ch.9 Vocabulary

rigmarole - (n.) a difficult or lengthy procedure

plague - (n.) a severe sickness that can reach large populations

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.9 Summary Quote

“...the conjurization was on him was so strong that Sammy kept on doing it. But it did seem like his enthusiasm for the whole thing was getting littler and littler.” pg. 131

Why do you think Sammy continues on with the performance?

Ch.10 Vocabulary

diversion - (n.) an activity that distracts from something else

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.10 Summary Quote

“ He said ‘It wasn’t what I thought it was.’ ‘What’d you think it was? Weren’t it just a carnival?’ ‘Forget this happened. It was a bad idea from the start.’ ” pg. 147

Why was the preacher so upset when the actual carnival sign was revealed?

Character Reflection (PATH)

Choose a character to reflect on.

What has this chapter revealed about their PATH?

Plan *(What are they working towards?)*

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Help *(What will help them in the next step?)*

Setting Connection (MAP)

What has this chapter revealed about the current setting's MAP?

Motivation *(How does it motivate the characters to act?)*

Atmosphere *(What mood or emotions does it evoke?)*

Potential *(What might happen if the characters stay?)*

Ch.11 Vocabulary

churning - (n.) to agitate or turn vigorously

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.11 Summary Quote

“ ...we would always tell the new folks that it was the most beautifulest day to get free. Far as I can tell, the weather didn't have a whole lot to do with it. ” pg. 165

Why do you think the family ran toward each other like they hadn't seen each other in years?

Ch.12 Vocabulary

None - zero, zip, nil, nada, zilch

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Anger	Equality	Logic	Reasoning
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Ch.12 Summary Quote

“ Maybe all the sad things ‘neath the scars and burns and the pieces that were missing off their kin were stories best not looked at too hard.

This thinking like a growned person was starting to be sensical.” pg. 180

Why do you believe that Elijah is starting to understand the logic of adults?

Ch.13 Vocabulary

haunch - (n.) The thigh or upper leg of a human or animal

parlour - (n.) a sitting room in a house meant to sit guests

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.13 Summary Quote

“ Ma said, ‘Well, the body don’t never endure, do it? But I hopes...naw, I knows that something inside all of us be so strong it caint be stopped. It fly on forever.’ ” pg. 199

What does Elijah’s mom mean when she says that something will fly on forever and how does that relate to John Holton?

Ch.14 Vocabulary

abolitionist - (n.) A person who favors the elimination of slavery or other institution

dumbstruck - (adj.) Unable to speak to to shock or surprise

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.14 Summary Quote

“ ‘cause if they take you to De-troit ever again and you don't head right out for Canada, you ain't go no right to live than one of n'em chickens. You ain't got no more sense than one n'em yard birds whats happy to hang 'round till it they turn to get slaughtered?” pg. 210

What did Sarah's mother mean when she compared her to a chicken waiting to be slaughtered?

Ch.15 Vocabulary

admirable - (adj.) deserving of respect and approval

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.15 Summary Quote

*“ She walked over to where he fell and he wrapped his arms ‘round her legs like a drowning man holding on to a tree in a flood.”
pg.220*

Why do you think Mrs. Holton chose Mr. Leroy to receive all of the gold she had? Why did he deserve it?

Character Reflection (PATH)

Choose a character to reflect on.

What has this chapter revealed about their PATH?

Plan *(What are they working towards?)*

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Help *(What will help them in the next step?)*

Setting Connection (MAP)

What has this chapter revealed about the current setting's MAP?

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Ch.16 Vocabulary

toting - (v.) to carry something of importance

demon - (n.) an evil spirit or devil

Big Idea

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Ch.16 Summary Quote

“ The Preacher pulled open his waistcoat and showed Mr. Leroy the old pistol that he’d let me shoot off once and said ‘ Oh, don’t you worry Brother Leroy. I’d not go into that den of vipers unprepared.’” pg. 237

What message is the Preacher trying to send by leaving behind his fancy gun?

Ch.17 Vocabulary

rapscallion - (n.) a mischievous person

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

Acceptance	Emotion	Knowledge	Punishment
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Ch.17 Summary Quote

“ Then out of the blue something came to me. This Whole mess weren’t no ones fault but my own! If I had’t’ve told Mr. Leroy that the preacher weren’t gonna steal his money, none of this would’ve happened!” pg. 247

Should Elijah be afraid or should he feel guilty for his part in the gold being stolen? Explain why or why not.

Ch.18 Vocabulary

None - zero, zip, zilch, nada

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.18 Summary Quote

“ Let this be a lesson to you. You caint let your wantings blind you to what’s the truth. You always got to look at things the way they is, not the way you wish ‘em to be.” pg. 242

Why is it important for Elijah to separate the way he wants things to be from the reality of the situation?

Ch.19 Vocabulary

None - zero, zip, zilch, nada

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.19 Summary Quote

“ He said, ‘Lijah, this here’s gunn turn out right. I feel it in my heart.’

Me, Mr. Leroy and Jingle Boy started heading south-west, getting ready to catch ahold of the stealer of dreams.” pg. 274

Elijah could have told several people about Mr. Leroy’s plan. Why does he not get help or explain to an adult?

Ch.20 Vocabulary

None - zero, zip, zilch, nada

Big Idea

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Ch.20 Summary Quote

“...but I couldn't for anything see how a river made so much difference. How could one side of a river mean you were free and the other side mean you were a slave?” pg. 278

How do you think Mr. Leroy knew he wouldn't live much longer? Why do you think he stuck to his plans of going to retrieve the money?

Ch.21 Vocabulary

conjure - ()

commotion - ()

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

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Ch.21 Summary Quote

“ I knowed it would be like pretending to be an angel. It was the kind of thing that would make you ‘shamed the next time you ran into a real angel or abolitionists. It was the kind of thing that shouldn’t be involved in no sort of game. ” pg. 308

Why does Elijah now realize that his childhood games are foolish? Do you think that he will be able to explain this to Emma and Cooter?

Character Reflection (PATH)

Choose a character to reflect on.

What has this chapter revealed about their PATH?

Plan *(What are they working towards?)*

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Setting Connection (MAP)

What has this chapter revealed about the current setting's MAP?

Motivation *(How does it motivate the characters to act?)*

Atmosphere *(What mood or emotions does it evoke?)*

Potential *(What might happen if the characters stay?)*

Ch.22 Vocabulary

None - zero, zip, zilch, nada

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

Acceptance	Emotion	Knowledge	Punishment
Anger	Equality	Logic	Reasoning
Anxiety	Epiphany	Love	Responsibility
Awareness	Experience	Mercy	Risk
Beauty	Family	Nature	Separation
Betrayal	Fate	Necessity	Status
Cause & Effect	Fear	Obedience	Stereotype
Change	Freedom	Observation	Suspicion
Communication	Future	Opposition	Synergy
Connection	Happiness	Pain	Tension
Control	Honor	Past	Tradition
Courage	Hope	Peace	Truth
Creativity	Ignorance	Prejudice	Whimsy
Deception	Instinct	Present	Will
Denial	Intuition	Pride	Wisdom
Desire	Justice	Progress	Youth

Ch.22 Summary Quote

“ I felt something terrible, but she was wasting her time. I still couldn’t speak or understand the growned-folks language. I couldn’t think of nothing past how to get these folks freed, and it looked like there weren’t nothing I could do. ” pg. 320

What do you think the mother is trying to tell Elijah? Was there something else from the book that provides clues?

Ch.23 Vocabulary

Recollection - (n.) the act of remembering something or someone

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

Acceptance	Emotion	Knowledge	Punishment
Anger	Equality	Logic	Reasoning
Anxiety	Epiphany	Love	Responsibility
Awareness	Experience	Mercy	Risk
Beauty	Family	Nature	Separation
Betrayal	Fate	Necessity	Status
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Creativity	Ignorance	Prejudice	Whimsy
Deception	Instinct	Present	Will
Denial	Intuition	Pride	Wisdom
Desire	Justice	Progress	Youth

Ch.23 Summary Quote

“ This ain’t Canada, this America. They ain’t nowhere near the same. I do truly feel for them poor souls what’s been caught, but they got’s laws here. ”

Was Elijah right to return to Buxton? Why or why not?

Ch.24 Vocabulary

Conscience - (n.) an inner voice or guide that assists in decision making

Big Idea

Choose one idea for this chapter and explain why it's the big idea.

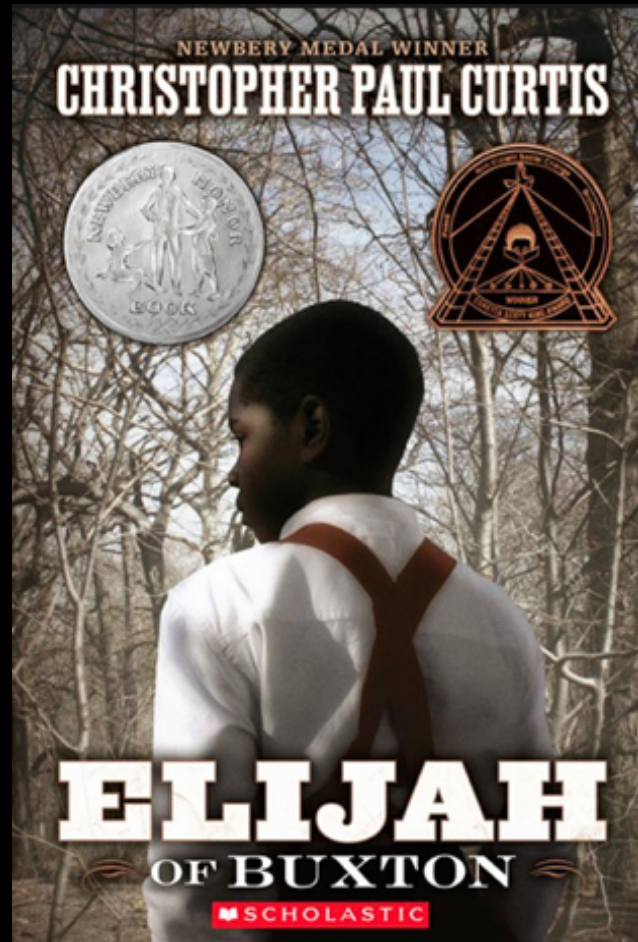
Acceptance	Emotion	Knowledge	Punishment
Anger	Equality	Logic	Reasoning
Anxiety	Epiphany	Love	Responsibility
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Creativity	Ignorance	Prejudice	Whimsy
Deception	Instinct	Present	Will
Denial	Intuition	Pride	Wisdom
Desire	Justice	Progress	Youth

Ch.24 Summary Quote

“ ‘ I promised that you weren’t going back to Kentucky. I promised you I weren’t gunn allow you to go back, only I never thought it would be like this. You know I never would’ve done nothing to hurt you ‘less it spare you a whole life of hurt, don’t you? Never, baby.’ ” pg. 335

What does Mrs. Chloe mean when she says that she would never hurt her baby unless it would spare her a life of hurt?”

Socratic Seminar



Prep Work

- Use Close Reading Annotations as you read through the selected quotes from the novel.
 - **Circle** powerful words or phrases
 - **Underline** Key Ideas
 - Write thoughts or questions (?) in the margin
 - **(!)** By important things

Rank Order Definitions

- **logic** - a reasonable way of thinking.
- **boredom** - the state of feeling bored.
- **ignorance** - lack of knowledge or experience.
- **control** - power to influence behavior or events.
- **illusion** - a thing that is wrongly interpreted by the senses.
- **contentment** - a state of happiness or satisfaction.

Ground Rules

1. Speak so that all can hear you.
2. Listen closely.
3. Speak without raising hands.
4. Refer to the text.
5. Talk to each other, not just to the leader.
6. Ask for clarification, don't stay confused.
7. Invite and allow others to speak.
8. Consider all viewpoints and ideas.
9. You are responsible for the quality of the seminar.