



**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 9-12**

# Weirdo The

Theodore Taylor

**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# The Weirdo

Theodore Taylor

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**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Rate each of the following statements before you read the novel and discuss your ratings with a partner. After you have completed the novel, rate and discuss the statements again.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
strongly agree strongly disagree

Before After

- 1. Hunters have a right to hunt. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Hunting is necessary to keep bears and other animals from overpopulating. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Teenagers should obey their parents. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Having a disability makes a person stronger. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. You shouldn't ask a person about his or her disability. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Swamps are ugly, frightening places. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. "You can't fight City Hall." \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Hypnosis is a lot of hokum. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Hypnosis is a helpful tool in court because it improves witnesses' memories. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. People get what they deserve. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Beauty is only skin-deep. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. You can run, but you can't hide. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Animals have the same right to live that people do. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. You have to stand up for what you believe in. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- \* 11. **Prediction:** What will happen at the meeting?
- \* 12. If you were Sam, would you go to the meeting?

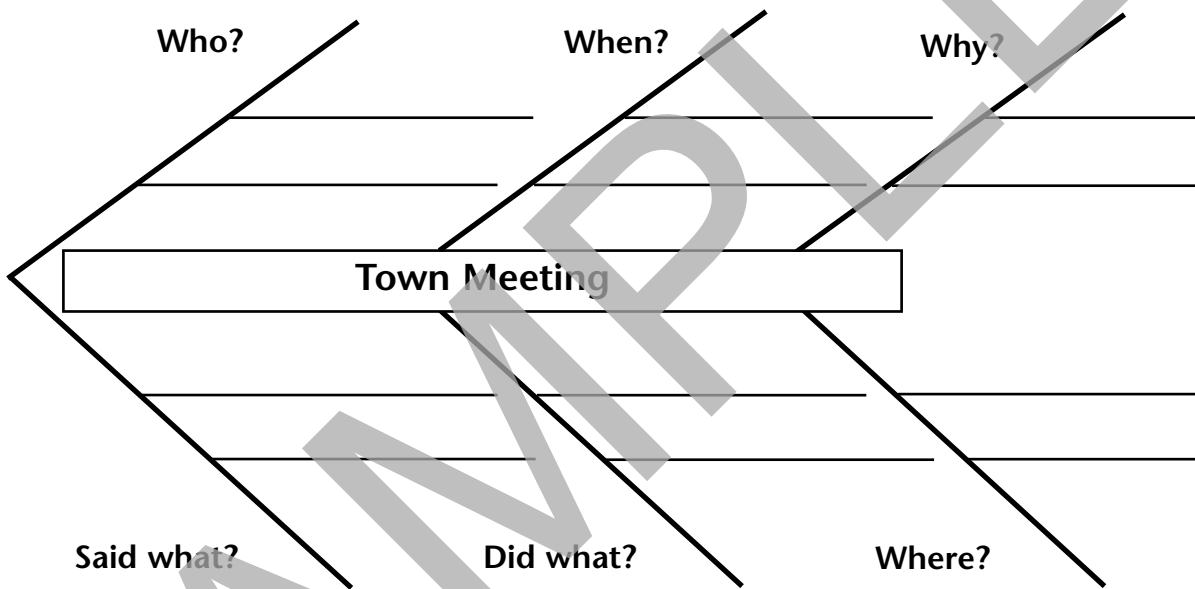
**Book Four, pages 200-221**

1. How many people show up at the meeting?
2. Where does Sam sit at the meeting?
3. How does the audience treat Chip?
4. Why are Sam's aunt and uncle upset?
5. What happens to the ban on bear hunting?
6. How does Sam's father treat her after the meeting?
7. Why is Slade angry with Bailey?
8. How does Slade get his revenge on Bailey?
9. With what crimes is Bailey charged?
10. Why has Chip gone away?
- \* 11. **Prediction:** Do you think Chip and Sam will see each other any more? Will Sam continue to campaign actively on behalf of the bears?
- \* 12. How has Chip come out of "hiding"?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Project:** You are a reporter for the *Powhatan Press*. Write a newspaper story about the town meeting. Give background for the meeting—what the debate over bears is about, who is at the meeting, where and when it is held, what has happened. Summarize high points of the meeting—including an eyewitness account of the meeting and some quotes from Bo’sun Sanders’ and Chip’s presentations. Include a snappy headline and captioned “photo.”

1. Complete the graphic organizer, below, to organize the details you will use in your story.



2. Draft the story.

3. Have a peer editor read the story and fill in the following checklist:

- Does the story clearly explain why the meeting has been called?
- Are there enough details to help the reader “see” what happened at the meeting?
- Does the article convey the heated atmosphere of the meeting?
- Does the story indicate the contrast between the attitudes of hunters and environmentalists?
- Are some of Chip’s and Bo’sun Sanders’ exact words included?
- Are there at least two eyewitness accounts from spectators?
- Does the article explain when and how the controversy over the ban will be resolved?
- Does the reporter maintain an unbiased viewpoint?
- Have any errors in spelling or punctuation been corrected?
- Does a brief headline capture the reader’s interest?