pictures of hollis woods

By Patricia Reilly Giff

Discussion Questions p. 1-17

Chapter X:

1. Do you think it was fair of Mrs. Evans to draw an X over Hollis’ picture?
2. Why do you think Hollis ran away?

Chapter 1:

1. What does it mean to be a “foster kid”?
2. Why did Josie Cahill greet Hollis and her caseworker with a knife?

Steven

1. What do Steven and Hollis have in common?
2. Why does Hollis seem to like Steven?

Discussion Questions p. 18-36

Chapter 2:

1. When Hollis says she is “taking days off,” what is she really doing? (p.20)
2. Why would Steven question Hollis wanting to stay with Josie?

Fishing in the Delaware River:

1. What do you notice about how the chapter names change and how the text changes throughout the chapters? How does this relate to the story?
2. What do you think Hollis did to “mess everything up”?

Chapter 3:

1. What does Hollis mean by “running money”? (p.33)
2. Hollis says, “It’s enough… more than enough.” What does she mean by this?

Discussion Questions p. 37-54

The Old Man’s Mountain:

1. Why was Hollis worried about the end of the summer coming?
2. How has Hollis’ childhood been so far? How do you know?

Chapter 4:

1. What did Beatrice and Josie do for a living?
2. What did Hollis learn about “seeing the world” in different ways?

The Old Man:

1. What does Hollis’ name mean? How did she get it?
2. Why was it a big deal for Hollis to actually look at the Old Man?

Chapter 5:

1. Why did Hollis lie about telling Josie that it was a school holiday?

Discussion Questions p. 55-87

Chapter 6:

1. Why do you think Hollis didn’t get to stay with the Old Man, Izzy, and Steven if she had been wanted?

Driving the Truck:

1. Do you think Hollis and Steven will get in trouble for driving the truck?

Chapter 7:

1. Why did Hollis skip school again?
2. Why is Hollis being moved to another family? How does she feel about it?

Izzy:

1. Why couldn’t Izzy and the Old Man keep Hollis?
2. Do you think Hollis will be able to go back to them?

Chapter 8:

1. Why does Hollis feel like she has to stay with Josie?

End of Summer:

1. Why do you think Hollis feels like Steven and the Old Man fighting is her fault?

Chapter 9:

1. How does Hollis know what to do to run away?
2. Where are Hollis and Josie going?
3. When was the last time Hollis had run?

Discussion Questions p. 88-109

Chapter 10:

1. Where did Hollis and Josie go? Should they be there?
2. What do you think happened to the truck?

Izzy’s Cake:

1. Why did Hollis want to go up the mountain?

Chapter 11:

1. Where was Hollis going to go to get food?
2. Why was Hollis so scared to see another person?

Discussion Questions p. 110-125

Hollis Woods:

1. How does Hollis describe happiness?
2. How do you describe happiness?

Chapter 12:

1. Why does Hollis think Josie looks sad?

On the Mountain:

1. How did Hollis get the scar on her forehead?
2. Why does Hollis feel like Steven knows her?
3. How did the truck get ruined?

Discussion Questions p. 126-143

Chapter 13:

1. Why did the sweater hanging on the hook make Hollis nervous?

A Mountain of Trouble:

1. Do you feel like the accident was Hollis’ fault? Why or why not?
2. Why didn’t Hollis want to go back to Steven, Izzy, and the Old Man?
3. What happened to Steven?

Chapter 14:

1. Why does Hollis feel like the wooden figure doesn’t look like her?
2. Does it seem like Steven’s family doesn’t want Hollis anymore? Why or why not?

Discussion Questions p. 144-166

The Conference Room:

1. Why wouldn’t Hollis go with the Old Man?

Chapter 15:

1. What did Hollis learn by looking at her drawings?

Chapter 16:

1. Why was Hollis so curious about the candy? Where did she think it came from?
2. Who was on the snowmobile?
3. Why did Hollis want to call Beatrice before she made a decision?

Chapter 17:

1. Do Steven, the Old Man, and Izzy still want Hollis?

Christina:

1. How is this chapter with italic text different from the others?
2. Why is the baby so significant?