TeachersFirst READING TREKS

Bud, Not Buddy

Teacher Guide

Access Reading Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 10–12
Grades: 5–7
Reading Level: 5th Grade
Lexile Measure: 950L
Guided Reading Level: U
Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA): 40-50

Content Areas: English/ language arts, reading, literature, and social studies, including individual development, identity, and geography.

Synopsis of Book

Christopher Paul Curtis used his grandfather as character inspiration to tell the story of 10-year-old orphan Bud Caldwell's quest to find his father. Bud has never known his father, and his mother died when he was just six years old, placing him in the home for abandoned and orphaned children. After several failed foster family situations and despite his circumstances and the effects of the Great Depression, Bud Caldwell sets out to follow the one clue his mother left him. Bud's life lacks structure, so he creates rules and ideas that govern how he responds to situations and jumps to (often erroneous) conclusions. As a result, the story takes twists and turns that lead to lots of surprises and new friends along the way.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Common Core State Standards for 6–12

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes

- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 4: INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Social Justice Standards

- Identity
- Diversity

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying Reading Trek map as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map and highlighting its various layers.
2. Create character maps or charts using Facing History & Ourselves (TeachersFirst review) or use a printable character map to assess and increase understanding. These may be posted in the classroom to generate a gallery walk about the story. For remote learning, post digitally by uploading the files or scanned images to the classroom LMS.
3. Music, including jazz, has changed over time. Learn more about jazz by viewing Jazz History Pages (TeachersFirst review). Identify the various instruments that make up jazz bands beyond those mentioned in the story. Learn

about the Roots of Jazz (TeachersFirst review) and use the Jazz in America (TeachersFirst review) glossary to help students better understand some terms that may be confusing.

4. The adults in this story react and respond to situations very differently, especially when Bud confronts the man he believes to be his father, sharing his mother's identity and death. Have students consider the adults in their own lives and how they respond to stressful situations, then create Venn diagrams for at least three of the individuals using ClassTools Two and Three Circle Interactive Venn Diagrams (TeachersFirst review).
5. All of the Pullman Porters were African American males—intentionally. Learn about George Pullman's story and the elegant rail cars bearing his name in this document from Joseph Husband, and be sure to remember the time frame in which it was written. Find additional information in the Library of Congress article "Pullman Porters." African Americans were denied membership in labor unions at that time and consequently formed their own—the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Despite the degradation, the men hired to be Pullman Porters took pride in their employment, earning tips that supplemented their wages and helped them reach middle-income status for their families. Use Vevox (TeachersFirst review) to anonymously ask questions (polls, short answers, and more) to gauge student opinion and address discrimination.
6. Jazz music in the early 1900s had a swing feel, and the dance steps associated with jazz evolved with the music over the decades. After learning a bit about jazz dance and its history and some of the basic steps of the Charleston, swing dance, and the Jitterbug, assign or have students choose a partner or practice the dance steps individually. This activity can be done in conjunction with a physical education teacher.

Extension Activities:

1. Create the complete list of Bud's "Rules and Things," adding each to the list as the reading progresses. When the class has completed reading the story, allow students to submit additional rules or ideals to fill in the blank spaces. Discuss the validity of each rule and how Bud's rules impacted his hasty conclusions about people and situations.
2. As a class, discuss the term "hobo," what their life would have been like during the Great Depression, and what circumstances may have led to an individual or even a family living this way. Learn more about Hoovervilles and the concept of riding the rails (you can also listen to an interview with Walter Ballard, who lived it). Use Printable Comic Strip Templates (TeachersFirst review) to create a story of someone living in one of these situations.
3. Have students explore racism as it existed during the Great Depression. Racism was rampant in almost all areas of the United States. Protests varied from peaceful to violent eruptions. Using "Race Relations in the 1930s and 1940s" (a part of the U.S. History Primary Source Timeline's the Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945) as a research starting point, students can compare and contrast racism and race relations in varied settings and time frames. Students may also choose to compare and contrast how Asian Americans were impacted during this time period.

4. Listen to various jazz audio snippets at Jazz in America (TeachersFirst review). Students can choose one snippet that inspires them personally and create a response in the form of a poem or drawing.
5. Using the jazz audio snippets, create a Kahoot! (TeachersFirst review) quiz with either the name or images of instruments. Students use their devices to log in to the quiz to identify the predominant instrument heard in the snippet. (This activity could be co-planned with the school's music teacher.)
6. Have students explore Google Arts and Culture's Paint with Music (TeachersFirst review) by using the different instruments in two or more of the backgrounds to create sound bits. Email the links or share them through Google Classroom. These audio snippets can be uploaded to a variety of projects.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps
- OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks
- TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps

Other Resources:

- Christopher Paul Curtis
- Perfect Blues: 1920's, 30's, and 40's Vintage Blues
- Benny Goodman: The Official Website of the King of Swing
- Through Bud's Eyes: An Exploration of the History Behind the Novel Bud, Not Buddy
- Lit Lovers Summary, Author Bio, and Discussion Questions
- Riding the Rails Timeline
- America on the Move
- MLB Negro League Photo Gallery
- Transcripts of Reading Rocket Interviews with Christopher Paul Curtis
- ReadWriteThink Bud, Not Buddy Lesson Plan
- Quizlet Flashcards for Bud, Not Buddy
- Capitol Corridor Honors Pullman Porters and Their Contributions to Black History
- How Pullman Porters Influenced a Generation of Black Train Travelers
- The Pullman Porter Museum
- Cab Calloway
- Jazz Music: 1920's and 1930's Golden Years
- The 1930's
- Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Stories from the Great Depression
- History Brief: Daily Life in the 1930's