

### Part One: Winter 1934

**Answer each question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Winter 1934” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. What do the "Rules of Dining" (p. 21) tell you about Billie Jo's family?
2. Billie Jo says of Ma, "In the kitchen she is my ma, in the barn and the fields she is my daddy's wife, but in the parlor Ma is something different" (p. 24). What does Billie Jo mean by this? How do Ma's book of poetry and the piano relate to Billie Jo's statement?

### Part Two: Spring 1934

**Answer each question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Spring 1934” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. Apples, dust, wind, fire, a piano--all of these images are repeated in the text. Why does the author put them there? How do images enhance the story? What would it be like without the 'word pictures'?
2. Describe Billie Jo's relationship with her ma. Does any of it seem familiar? How does playing the piano bring them together while also drawing them apart?

### Part Three: Summer 1934

**Answer each question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Summer 1934” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. Explain in detail (and in your OWN WORDS) the scenario about the kerosene placed on the stove? –make sure you cover the “before,” “during,” and “after.”
2. What makes a good neighbor? Are Billie Jo's neighbors good to one another? What are some examples of how her neighbors help one another? Relate these neighbors to your own neighbors. (compare/contrast)

#### Part Four: Autumn 1934

**Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Autumn 1934” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. Why is the art exhibit so important and so painful for Billie Jo? What does this tell us about her character? What elements of the story does the exhibit bring together?

#### Part Five: Winter 1935

**Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Winter 1935” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. Billie Jo says her father "spends long days digging" (p. 111). How does the digging represent Billie Jo's relationship with her father? What is the texture of their relationship? What could either of them do to save their fragile family?

#### Part Six: Spring 1935

**Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Spring 1935” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. Billie Jo compares her ma to a tumbleweed, while her father "was more like the sod. / Steady, silent, and deep" (p. 202). Is Billie Jo more like her mother or her father in this respect? What image could Billie Jo be compared to?

#### Part Seven: Summer 1935

**Answer 2 of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper titled “Summer 1935” in at least a ½ page thorough response each.**

1. Billie Jo says, ". . . if I had any boy court me / it'd be Mad Dog Craddock" (p. 153). How do her feelings about him change as the story progresses? Is he more than a friend to her? What are Mad Dog's feelings? He would be interesting to explore in a Point of View response.

2. Students sometimes comment on the babies that appear and disappear in the story: the Lindbergh baby, Franklin, the Dionne babies, the migrant baby, and the baby abandoned on the church steps. Is there a connection between these babies? Why does the author include them in the story? Why does Billie Jo want to adopt the abandoned baby? Why does her father refuse?
  
3. Why does the man on the freight train give Billie Jo the photograph of his family?

Part Eight: Autumn 1935

**Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper titled “Autumn 1935” in at least a ½ page thorough response.**

1. What does the author want you to learn from this story?