

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 1



Key Paragraph – p.3

“Here we go again. I felt like I was walking in my sleep as I followed Jerry back to the room where all the boys’ beds were jim-jammed together. This was the third foster home I was going to and I’m used to packing up and leaving, but it still surprises me that there are always a few seconds, right after they tell you you’ve got to go, when my nose gets all runny and my throat gets all choky and my eyes get all stingy. But the tears coming out doesn’t happen to me anymore, I don’t know when it first happened, but it seems like my eyes don’t cry no more.”

Writing Prompt

Bud is about to be placed in his third foster home. As he follows Jerry, another boy being placed in a foster home, to pack up their things, he narrates that *“it still surprises (him) that... the tears coming out doesn’t happen to (him) anymore...[p. 3].”* How does change affect Bud and Jerry? How do they feel about being placed in a foster home? What does Bud do to help Jerry with this new change? Do you feel Bud handles this information and change appropriately?

Do you agree or disagree with how Bud this news and change. Write a one paragraph in which you argue your viewpoint. Introduce your claim and acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Support your claim with logical reasons. Maintaining a formal style make sure you use words and phrases to create cohesion in your paragraph. Conclude with a statement, which supports your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 2



Key Paragraph – p.9

“There comes a time when you’re losing a fight that it just doesn’t make sense to keep on fighting. It’s not that you’re being a quitter, it’s just that you’ve got the sense to know when enough is enough.”

Writing Prompt

Todd, the son of the foster family where he is staying, is harassing Bud. He has just stuck a pencil up Bud’s nose while asleep. Bud then punches this twelve-year-old boy, who is twice his size, and is ready to defend himself. Soon after, he narrates: *“There comes a time when you’re losing a fight that it just doesn’t make sense to keep on fighting. It’s not that you’re being a quitter, it’s just that you’ve got the sense to know when enough is enough [p. 9].”* What does Bud mean when he says this? In what way does he change his thinking? How does this event change his life? Based on this paragraph what has Bud revealed about his character? This decision is going to change his life forever? Do you think he is right, enough is enough?

Write an argument in which you support or oppose his statement. Argue why this statement can forever change his life and attitude for the positive or negative. In this paragraph state your viewpoint. Acknowledge the opposing view. Give facts and reasons to support your argument. Conclude with a statement that support supports your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 3



Key Paragraph – p. 25

“There was a light on. That had to be Mr. and Mrs. Amos’s bedroom. The little bit of light that came through the hole in the paper made me calm enough that I could lay my head on my pillow and take a nap”

Writing Prompt

Bud was forced to spend the night alone in Amos family’s garden shed. Bud was already hurt and scared from his beating at the hands of Todd, and the reaction of Mrs. Amos. Once inside the shed, Bud was faced with a number of frightening obstacles. He saw some ambiguous shapes like a “gray gas can in one corner and a pile of gray rags”. Suddenly he saw some strange eyes staring at him from the door of the shed.

Some would say that fear is natural. Once Bud conquered his fears he was able to lay down to nap. **Write an argument in which you argue that we should conquer our fears. In your paragraph state your viewpoint and acknowledge the opposing viewpoint to your reader. Give 2-3 reasons that support your viewpoint. Use coherent language and connections to keep a clear flow. Conclude with a statement that supports your viewpoint.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 4



Key Paragraph – p. 35

“I tiptoed out of the room and down the hall and out the door. My favorite saying in the whole world is ‘He who laughs last laughs best’ so I put my hand over my mouth and whispered, ‘ha-ha-ha.’”

Writing Prompt

Bud not Buddy is the protagonist in the book. From the start of the book we know that Bud has had a particularly difficult and heart wrenching childhood ever since his Mother passed away. In Chapter 2, Bud faces an abusive foster care home. He experiences a series of difficult events that unfold upon his arrival at the Amos’s home, most at the hands of Todd, the Amos family child. In Chapter 3, Bud is locked up in a dark and frightening shed, from which he escapes, but not before he cuts his hand. His last thought as he leaves the shed is “Aha, you doggone Amos’s, that hurt, but now I get my revenge!” Consider Bud’s actual choices and contrast it with other choices he could have made in Chapter 4.

List 3-5 alternative choices Bud could have used to change his situation in chapter 4.

Choose one from your list.

Write a one paragraph argument in which you defend the reasons you feel Bud could have taken a different course of action. Give reasons for your viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 5



Key Paragraph – pg. 42

Bud's mother tells him, "A bud is a flower-to-be. A flower-in-the-waiting. Waiting for just the right warmth and care to open up. It's a little fist of love waiting to unfold and be seen by the world. And that's you."

Writing Prompt

Bud's mother explains his name to him and why it is significant.

Do you think there is significance in a name? or do names mean nothing?

Write 3 reasons why a name is significant.

Write 3 counter claims to your arguments.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 6



Key Paragraph – pg. 49

You could tell they were rich 'cause the car looked like it had room for eight or nine more people in it and 'cause they had movie star clothes on. The woman was wearing a coat with a hunk of fur around the neck and the man was wearing a suit and a tie and the kids looked like they were wearing ten-dollar-apiece jackets. Writ about their car in fancy letters it said," THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE AMERICA TODAY!

My pretend daddy read it and said, "uh-u-uh, well, you go to give them credit, you wouldn't expect that they'd have the nerve to come down here and tell the truth." (p. 49)

Writing Prompt

The billboard is filled with irony. "There is no place like America today."

Write a 1 paragraph argument in which you state if you agree or disagree with the advertisers. State your viewpoint and acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Give reasons and examples to defend your view. Use formal language with good transitions to create cohesion and flow in your paper. Conclude your paragraph by restating your viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 7



Key Paragraph

"After while I got my suitcase and walked into the regular air and stinking smells of Flint. That library door closing after I walked out was the exact kind of door Momma had told me about. I knew that since it had closed the next one was about to open.

I went back under my tree and before I knew it I was asleep. [p.59]

Writing Prompt

Once again Bud's life has shut a door on him. For his age he possesses certain wisdom about him, he knows that he has to continue to move on and forward. He knows at a young age that he is in control of his life and his circumstances. Do you agree or disagree with him. Do you think he should rely on others or take control and change what he can change?

Write a one paragraph paper in which you either support or oppose the above viewpoint. Use examples from the reading so far to support your viewpoint. Use good transitions to give your writing flow. Conclude re-stating your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 8



Key Paragraph

"I was thinking. Deza's momma was right, someone who doesn't know who their family is, is like dust blowing around in a storm, they don't really belong any one place. I started wondering if going to California was the right thing to do. I might not know who my family was, but I knew they were out there somewhere, and it seemed to make a whole lot more sense to think that they were somewhere around Flint instead of out west.[p.78]

Writing Prompt

Bud has to decide if he wants to continue on to California or stay and go toward Flint.

Create a list of pro's and con's for Bud. Do you think he should follow Bugs to California or move on to Flint?

Based on your list write a one sentence statement telling Bud what choice to make, give one reason why he should make it, conclude why he should make that choice. This should be a very clear and concise argument. Use your list to develop a strong thesis, support it, and write a strong conclusion.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 9



Key Paragraph

"I walked over to where it landed and picked it up. Man, this is one tough suitcase, you couldn't even tell what it had been through, it still looked exactly the same. [p.84]

Writing Prompt

In many ways Bud and his suitcase are very similar. They are rugged and worn but regardless of how they get thrown about they still are able to function and carry on. Do you think it is important to carry on, regardless of what like is throwing at you? What happens if you give up? Do you have a responsibility to others to keep strong and move forward?

Write a 1 paragraph argument in which you agree or disagree with the above statement. Write your opening argument. Give reasons to support your opinion. Acknowledge that there is an opposing viewpoint. Be clear and concise. Use good transitions and formal language. Close with a strong statement that supports your viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 10



Key Paragraph

It is funny how ideas are, in a lot of ways just like seeds. Both of them start real, real small and then. . .they've grown and grown a lot bigger than you ever thought they could.

Writing Prompt

Think about Bud and his background. He can get lost in a book for hours. He is self-sufficient; he is wise enough to know that small ideas and thoughts can turn into amazing ideas and reality. Do you think that ideas are the start of greatness?

Write one sentence in which you state your viewpoint.

Take the opposing viewpoint and write a paragraph in which you defend against your original view. Use examples from the text and your life to support your viewpoint. Conclude with a statement that summarizes your opinion.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 11



Key Paragraph

I was carefully talking to him this time so he couldn't track where I was. I turned my head sideways out of my mouth like one of those ventriloquists. "Just leave them at the side of the road and I'll get them. And please open the bottle of pop, sir, I don't have a bottle key on me." pg. 101

Writing Prompt

Observe the interaction between Bud and the man in the car. How did Bud feel and react when the man approached and talked to him? Based on what the man said, why do you think the man stopped to ask Bud to get into the car? If you were Bud, could you trust this man and get into his car? Why did Bud eventually agree to riding in the car? What caused him attempt to run away with the car?

Write a letter to Bud. In your letter tell him that he should trust the man. Based on today's reading give evidence to support your argument. Conclude your letter by re-telling Bud to trust Lefty.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 12



Key Paragraph

"The people started passing the big blue plates around and stabbing toast and pancakes and sausages with their forks I watched to see how much everyone took and tried to take the same. Then I started to watch how much food the two kids put on their fork every time so I wouldn't look like a pig." pg. 126

Writing Prompt

Bud realizes that he needs to have proper manners in order to survive. In this situation he didn't know what to do, so he observed what was going on around him and took his cue from that. Do you think it is important for people to be taught manners? What are three manners or behaviors do you think are the most important to possess?

Write an argument in which you defend your three manners. Explain to the reader which three are important to you. Give reasons to support your claims. Use connecting words and transitions to keep a logical flow in your writing. Make sure your conclusion explains your viewpoint to the reader.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 13



Key Paragraph

“Herman E. Calloway, my father, said, “There comes a time when you’re doing something and you realize it just doesn’t make any sense to keep on doing it, you aint a quitter, it’s just that the good Lord has seen fit to give you the sense to know, you understand, enough is enough.” pg.146.

Writing Prompt

Bud hears Lefty make this statement. He has said those exact same words before. In his mind it confirms that Herman E. Calloway is his father.

Write a list of reasons that this statement confirms Bud’s viewpoint.

Write a list of reasons that his statement does not confirm Bud’s viewpoint.

Which list has more validity? **In paragraph form tell your reader which list has more validity. Defend your reasons with logic and examples from the text or life. Close by restating your original viewpoint.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 14



Key Paragraph

Steady Eddy said, "I like that, 'my eyes don't cry no more.' You mind if I borrow that? That sounds like a great name for a song."

I said, "No, sir, I don't mind at all."

He reached over and rubbed his hand over my head and said, "Yeah, you're all right, little fella. And don't you worry none too much about the Thug, Mr. C. changes drummers the way most folks change their drawers. What you see in that front seat is a man on borrowed time. [pp 159-160]"

Writing Prompt

How did the rest of the band treat Bud after they invited him to have dinner with them? Think of 2 examples from the book that demonstrate how the band treated Bud. Did this treatment help Bud relax or did he become more scared? Do you think it changed how Bud thought of himself? How can people's attitude toward you change how you view yourself?

Write a 1 paragraph argument in which you defend or oppose that people's attitudes and reactions are contagious. You can use examples from the text, your experiences, or another source to defend your writing. Use good transitions and be clear and concise. Conclude by restating your original viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 15



Key Paragraph

Miss Thomas reached across the table, patted my hand and said, “We’ll talk tomorrow, Bud, I bet you’re sick and tired of answering people’s questions, aren’t you?”

I said, “Yes, ma’am, I am.” But I did notice that she’d said “tomorrow.” That might mean they weren’t going to try and send me back to Flint right away! [p169]

Writing Prompt

So far, since walking into the club and meeting the band with Mr. Calloway, Bud has met someone who was mean, someone who was nice and someone who jokes around a lot. How would you describe how Miss Thomas treated him?

Choose one of the characters who fits the description above (mean, nice, jokes, or caring). Which characteristic do you think impacted Bud most?

Write a one paragraph argument in which you describe the characteristic and its impact on Bud. Give examples from the text. Give reasons to support your claim. Conclude by restating your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 16



Key Paragraph

“ He was so doggone mean and hard to get along with it just didn’t seem like it was true that he could be anyone’s daddy. The way he was so worried about me stealing stuff from him before he even knew if I was honest or not made me wonder if someone who was so suspicious could ever be kin to me.” [p.181]

Writing Prompt

After spending the evening over dinner with Mr. Calloway’s band members, Miss Thomas took Bud to Mr. Calloway’s home so that he would have a place to stay for the night. Mr. Calloway accused Bud and told him not to steal or snoop. Think about someone you have had a brief encounter with. Have you ever accused someone or been accused by them without all of the facts, “first impressions”. Is it fair to judge someone by a first impression?

Write a 1 paragraph argument in which you defend first impressions. Give reasons and details that support trusting your instincts. These can be real or made up. Use formal language to create logical flow and cohesion in your writing. Conclude by restating your thesis.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 17



Key Paragraph

Steady Eddie said, “That’s what I need to know, are you attached to the suitcase, or is it the things inside that are important?”

I’d never thought about that before, I’d always thought of the suitcase and the things inside together.”

Writing Prompt

Eddie forces Bud to think hard about his suitcase. Was it the suitcase that had value or was it the memories and items inside that had value? Did those things hold any value to anyone else or just Bud? Why was it important that he keep them? What were there significance? Think about the value that things have.

Write down one thing or relationship you value most?

Write a paragraph in which you argue why that item/relationship is most important to you? Give reasons facts to defend your choice? Use formal language and clear transitions to help your paragraph flow. Restate your opinion in your conclusion to support your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 18



Key Paragraph

“Miss Thomas rubbed her hand across my head and said,

“Bud you’ve done a great job, the place is sparkling.”

I was going to say, “Thank you, ma’am,” but it seemed like talking was wrong with all these wonderful sounds coming from the people on stage.” [201]

Writing Prompt

Sometimes silence is golden. However, it is also one of the hardest things people can do, be silent. In a modern age of technology, twitter, Facebook, e-mail, etc. sometimes hard to find or be silent. As fabulous as the information age is, what are we missing by our fear of silence? Do you agree or disagree that we should take time to be silent?

Write one paragraph in which you defend or oppose silence. Give details and facts to support your opinion while acknowledging the opposing viewpoint? If you agree with the need for silence, where do you go to find it? Use formal language, and conclude with a statement that supports your viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 19



Key Paragraph

Herman E Calloway was still hot. “You throw a lot of ‘sirs’ around but you’ve still got a real strong, real smart-mouthed, disrespectful streak in you, boy. Now you answer the question or I’ll—[pg. 212]

Writing Prompt

Based on what you know about Bud and his circumstances do you think he is disrespectful? Is it possible to be disrespectful based on the circumstance.

Write a one-paragraph argument in which you defend or oppose his behavior to Mr. Calloway. Use examples from the reading to defend your position. Acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Use formal language and include a strong conclusion that supports your viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 20



Key Passage, pg. 234

Deza Malone was right, I was carrying Momma inside me and there wasn't anyone or anything that could take away from that or add to it either".

Writing Prompt

Think about the people in your life who are with you. . .what compels us to carry the memory of someone with us? Why is our experience with that person unique?

Write a paragraph in which you share your experience with keeping someone's memory alive. Explain to your reader with details how that experience was uniquely yours.

In a separate paragraph argue that no one else can share the same experience that you have even if you have similar backgrounds (i.e. are both kids in the same home, with the same parents, and similar circumstances) Give details and examples that defend your position. Conclude by restating your thesis.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Day 21



Key Passage, pg. 242

I'm afraid that when I was younger and my grandparents and parents would start to talk about their lives during the depression, my eyes would glaze over and I'd think, "Oh, no, not those boring tall talks again!" and I'd find the most convenient excuse I could to get away from them. Now I feel a real sorrow when I think of all the knowledge, wisdom and stories that have been lost with the deaths of my grandparents. (242.)

Writing Prompt

As Christopher Paul Curtis concludes the Afterword of *Bud, Not Buddy* he expresses regret for leaving the room when his grandparents and parents would talk about life during the depression and how he missed out on family and oral history.

What do you do when your grandparents and parents are talking about their lives, family history or what world events have impacted their lives and what role they took? Do you run and hide as Christopher Paul Curtis did? Do you take in the history and learn from family members with life experience or do you need to learn your way the hard way.

The quarter theme is **Change Requires Effort**. Change is possible. Change requires three things; a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

In a paragraph write how you will take the theme of Change Requires Effort, the regret and disappointment that Christopher Paul Curtis shared regarding taking advantage of family and oral history and listen and learn. Be sure to include who you feel could have the greatest impact on you learning about family history.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Bud, Not Buddy, Final Writing Project



The final writing product of *Bud Not Buddy*, is an argument essay in which the reader gives their opinion and evaluation of the novel. This assignment will also complete the 12th side of the Bloom Ball. You can utilize the writing assignments and tasks from the Bloom Ball, in which you summarized the novel, wrote a character sketch of Bud, and analyzed the saddest, funniest, or most exciting part of the story to help give more support and examples in your writing.

Final Writing Task write a 5 paragraph essay, telling your opinion of the book *Bud, Not Buddy*. As you introduce the novel state your opinion of the book and acknowledge others may feel differently. Give three reasons with evidence from the reading which supports your thesis (you can use information from your Bloom Ball to assist in this process). Use formal language and good transitions to create cohesion in your writing. In your final paragraph explain why you would or would not recommend it to a friend.

The Bloom Ball

- I. Carefully cut out twelve circles from template.
- II. Before answering the following questions, be sure to observe where the lines of the pentagon are. Do not write or draw on the outside of the lines.
- III. Complete the following activities in your pentagons. Plan the lettering to use up the entire space and remember aesthetics.

Knowledge: (Preview Day of the lesson plan)

6. Write the title and author if your book.
7. Write four facts about the author of the book.

Comprehension: (day 3 of the lesson plan)

8. Describe Bud Caldwell. Include both physical and behavioral characteristics in your description.

Application (day 6 of the lesson plan)

9. Draw a picture or map of the setting of the story.

Analysis:

5. Write a poem about the story. **(Day 7 of the Lesson Plan)**
10. Write a summary of the beginning of the novel **(Day 11 of the Lesson Plan)**
11. Write a summary of the middle of the novel **(Day 13 of the Lesson Plan)**
12. Draw a picture of the most exciting, the funniest, or the saddest part of the story. Explain your choice. **(Day 17 of the Lesson Plan)**
9. Write a summary of the ending of the novel **(Day 20 of the Lesson Plan)**

10. In one paragraph, write a different ending to the story. **(Day 21 of the Lesson Plan)**

Evaluation: (Day 21-22—part of the final writing product)

11. Write a paragraph, telling your opinion of the book Bud, Not Buddy. Explain why you would or would not recommend it to a friend.

Synthesis: (Day 19 of the Lesson Plan)

12. Describe some qualities about Bud that you admired or disliked. Elaborate.

Fold each circle on the lines so that the folds are facing up.

Glue, tape or staple your circles together to form a dodecahedron. Check to see that all edges are facing up

