

Study Guide  
For Literature Test  
"Rites of Passage"

Identify the following people, places, and terms on a separate sheet of paper.

From "Through the Tunnel":

Jerry  
Jerry's mother  
Older local boys  
Safe beach  
Rocky bay

From "The First Appendectomy":

Dr. William Nolen  
Mr. Polansky  
Dr. George Walters  
Bellevue Hospital

From "Plainswoman":

Nora  
Rolf  
Pleny  
17 year old ranch hand  
Woman with pistol  
The Great Plains  
New England  
Mortification  
"Child of the Plains"

Define:

Rising action  
Climax  
Rite of passage

Answer the following questions on your notebook paper.

From "Through the Tunnel":

What attracts Jerry to the rocky bay?

What details from the story show Jerry's mixed feelings about leaving his mother and heading to the rocky bay?

Why does Jerry's mother buy the goggles immediately for Jerry?

List the events that happen between the time Jerry sees the boys swim through the tunnel and the time when Jerry is lying on the diving rock at the top of pg. 98.

Summarize what Jerry does to train for swimming through the tunnel.

Identify three things that happen to Jerry during his trip through the tunnel.

Explain why Jerry's swim through the tunnel could be considered a rite of passage.

From "The First Appendectomy":

Identify three things Dr. Nolen does to prepare for the operation.

How does Dr. Nolen handle making the incision?

How would you describe Dr. Walter's attitude during the operation?

Do you think Dr. Walters does the right thing by letting Dr. Nolen continue having difficulty with the surgery? Why or why not?

Identify three pieces of rising action (beginning with the first incision) and the climax of this account.

Explain whether you think the surgery was a success or not. Use specific examples in your answer.

From "Plainswoman":

Identify three differences between New England and the Great Plains according to this story.

Explain why cattle are so important to the people of the plains. Why did Nora have such a difficult time understanding this?

Describe the way Nora felt just before she helped Pleny with his finger.

Explain how Nora's attitude toward her pregnancy shows that she is becoming accustomed to life on the Great Plains.

Describe how Pleny's finger became infected with the mortification.