

The Education of Little Tree
Study Guide
Chapter 1

1. Identify and describe the following characters:
 - A. Wales

 - B. Granma

 - C. Little Tree

2. Who is the narrator? Is he/she first or third person?

3. What is the setting (time and place)?

4. Why does Little Tree come to live with his grandparents?

5. Why does the bus driver turn around to the crowd in the bus, raise his right hand, and say "How"?

6. What did Little Tree misunderstand when he described the sick lady on the bus? Why did she yell "Wa...hooo!" with her hand over her mouth?

7. Describe the cabin.

8. Define the following Cherokee terms:
 - A. Lay-nah

 - B. Awi usd

 - C. Min-e-lee

 - D. Kagu

9. When the story begins, how old is Little Tree? How does this influence our (the reader's) knowledge of what is happening?

10. What is dramatic irony? Give an example from this chapter.

11. What does Granma say about Granpa speaking so little?

12. Who gets his way wordlessly?

13. How are the characters (in #11 and #12) linked by the author?
14. What is Granma's song about?
15. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?
16. What lesson is taught in this chapter? Who is/are the teacher(s)? Who is/are the student(s)?

Chapter 2

1. What is "The Way" What does this mean?
2. What are some of the ideas Granpa teaches Little Tree in this chapter?
3. When Little Tree says, "And I knew right then, that me and Granpa had us an understanding that most folks didn't know," what did he mean?
4. What does Granma make for Little Tree?
5. Define the following Cherokee Terms:
 - A. Mon-o-lah
 - B. Pa-Koh
 - C. Tal-con
 - D. Ti-bi
 - E. Tel-qui
6. Where does Granpa take Little Tree? What do they bring home?
7. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?

8. What lesson is taught in this chapter? Who is/are the teacher(s)? Who is/are the student(s)?

Chapter 3

1. What does the family do on Saturday and Sunday nights?

2. How does Granma find her reading material?

3. What is "the law"?

4. What are Granpa's feelings for "the law" and his great disappointment with George Washington?

5. What was Little Tree's assignment each week from Granma?

6. Who is one of Granma's favorite authors?

7. Who do Granpa and Little Tree get a ride from? Why does Granpa agree to it?

8. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?

9. What lesson is taught in this chapter? Who is/are the teacher(s)? Who is/are the student(s)?

Chapter 4

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. What does Granpa take Little Tree to do?
3. What are the two reasons Granpa keeps his hounds?
4. Why do the animals of the forest respect Granpa?
5. Who is Ol' Slick?
6. Why does Granpa go fox hunting? How many fox had he killed?
7. Who are Ol' Maud and Ringer?

Chapter 5

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. What does the lady in the car want? Why does she get so mad?
3. What does the lady call Little Tree and Granpa? What do they misunderstand?
4. What does Granpa tell Little Tree about being spoken to?
5. Why has Granpa "never been to Chattanooga; ain't goin' neither"?
6. What is Granpa's philosophy on words?
7. What does "kin" mean? (As in "I kin ye")
8. What did Granma and Granpa think about the relationship between love and understanding?
9. Who is Bonnie Bee?
10. Who is 'Coon Jack?

Chapter 6

1. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?
2. What do Granma and Granpa tell Little Tree about the past?
3. What historical event (involving the Cherokee) do Granma and Granpa tell Little Tree?
4. The Cherokee would not ride in the wagons provided for them on their journey. What does it mean when Granpa says, "The land was stolen from him, his home; but the Cherokee would not let the wagons steal his soul"?
5. What is "The Nations"?
6. Who were Ethan and Red Wing? How did they meet?
7. What is the marriage stick?

Chapter 7

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. What did Granma do with the roots and herbs she collected?
3. How did Granpa and Little Tree prepare the fields to plant?
4. Who is Ol' Sam? What made it difficult for him to help plow the field?
5. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 8

1. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?
2. Who arrives for a visit? Describe this person.

3. What "scheme" has Pine Billy devised? What is its purpose?
4. What other way has he devised to make money if the above doesn't work out?
5. How does Pine Billy entertain the family?
6. Where is Little Tree's secret place?
7. Where does Granma believe Granpa's secret place is?
8. According to Granma, what are the "two mind"? Explain each.
9. Who are the "dead people"?
10. What story did Granma tell Little Tree about Brown Hawk? Why is it significant?
11. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 9

1. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?
2. What is a "public works" job? Why was Granpa opposed to them?
3. What are "barrel sniffers"?
4. What was Granpa's mark for his whiskey? What did it mean?
5. Describe the incident with the lawmen. How did Granpa and Little Tree escape?

6. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 10

1. What is the title of this chapter? What is *ironic* about the title?

2. Which hound died? How? What does Little Tree learn from this experience?

3. Describe Little Tree's experience with "the Christian." What does he say he's learned? What does he *really* learn?

4. Give at least three examples of irony in this chapter. Tell which type (dramatic, situational, or verbal) each example is.

Chapter 11

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?

2. What is ironic about Little Tree's new vocabulary word *abhor*? (Granpa's view is involved.)

3. What was "laying-by"?

4. What was old Man Barnett's trade? What did this mean?

5. What are "wares"? How did Granpa and Little Tree know if it was safe to deliver their wares?

6. Explain the situation with Mr. Jenkins and the sticks of "old" candy.

7. What is a sharecropper?

8. What did Little Tree give the little sharecropper girl? Where did he get it? Why wouldn't her father let her accept the gift?

9. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 12

1. What is the title of this chapter? How is it significant?

2. Describe Little Tree's experiences in/with nature in the first part of this chapter (through pg. 108). How does he feel? What is he learning?

3. What happens to Granpa? How is he saved?

4. What does Little Tree learn from this experience with Granpa?

Chapter 13

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?

2. What is a flashback? Why is this chapter an example?

3. When did the story of the farmer occur? What was Granpa's role in the story (What does he have to do with farmers?)

4. Who were the Regulators? What was their purpose?
5. What happens to the family in the story?
6. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 14

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. What is the meaning behind the word "Indian Giver," according to Granpa? What is the meaning behind the word "How!," according to Granpa?
3. Why did Mr. Slick and Mr. Chunk visit Granpa?
4. Why does Granma change the way she prepares the fish for Mr. Chunk and Mr. Slick? What is the outcome?
5. Give one example of irony in this chapter. Is it verbal, situational, or dramatic?
6. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 15

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. What is "The Nations?"
3. Describe Granpa, Granma, and Little Tree's appearances on Sundays. How are they different from other days?

4. Describe the Willow John.
5. What happened between Little Tree and Willow John at church?
6. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 16

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. What is a "hypocrite," and what are several examples of hypocrisy in this chapter?
3. What are Granpa's (and Little Tree's) feelings on organized religion?
4. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 17

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. Describe Mr. Wine.
3. What was the "big black box which said Kodak?" What specific things did Mr. Wine do with it?
4. What did Mr. Wine give Little Tree? Why was it so special?
5. Why did Mr. Wine light a candle?

6. Little Tree compares Mr. Wine's people (the Jews) to the Cherokee. What does Little Tree say?
7. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 18

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?
2. Describe the setting in this chapter. How does the setting affect the plot in this chapter?
3. Where do Little Tree and Granpa go after the man and woman visit? Why do they go there? What do they find out? What do they receive?
4. Why won't the lawyer, Mr. Taylor, help Granpa and Little Tree?
5. What is ironic about Granma "spilling sugar in practical everything she cooked?" What type of irony is this?
6. What is the Dog Star? How is it like the candle Mr. Wine burnt?
7. Compare the bus ride to the orphanage to the one in Chapter One.
8. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?

Chapter 19

1. What is the title of this chapter? Why is it significant?

2. Where does Little Tree go? Why?

3. Who is Wilburn? What role does he play in the story?

4. What are Wilburn's plans for his future after the orphanage?

5. What holiday does Little Tree experience during his stay at the orphanage? Describe his experience during this time.

6. Why does Little Tree get in trouble? What is his punishment? What does he find?

7. When he leaves, what does Little Tree leave behind and for whom?

Chapter 20

1. Explain the events surrounding Little Tree leaving the orphanage. Who was responsible for his freedom?

2. Why didn't Granpa tell Little Tree to leave the orphanage?

3. What does Little Tree throwing away his shoes symbolize?

4. Where does Little Tree go after returning home and being reunited with Granma? Why does he do this?

Chapter 21

1. List the order of the major events in this final chapter.

2. What is the title of the chapter? Why is it significant?

3. What lesson(s) does Little Tree learn in this chapter? Who/What is/are his teacher(s)?