

Montana 1948: Questions 3 (Part 2 Montana 1948) (5 pages)  
pages 57-76

Answer the following questions from this set of questions. (The others will be used in discussion and may pertain to questions on the follow-up test.) Answer these: 2, 7, 8, 17, 21, 25, 27, 31, 36, 43. Three will be scored. Follow directions for Questions 1—typed and double spaced. Attach the rubric.

1. Who is Ollie Young Bear? What are 3 of his accomplishments? How do these accomplishments set him apart from other Indians?
2. How do the Indians feel about Ollie? Why do you think they feel this way?
3. On page 60, David says, “As long as this business was going on with his brother, my father had no use for a son.” What does this tell us about David’s relationship with his dad? How has it changed since the beginning of the novel?
4. Why might Wes promise to take the family to Yellowstone?
5. On page 71, David thinks: “Tell Grandfather. Tell him, and he’ll take care of everything. He’ll grab Uncle Frank by the shoulders and shake him so hard his bones will clatter like castanets. He’ll shake him up and shout in Frank’s face that he’d better straighten up and fly right or there’ll be hell to pay. And because it’s grandfather, that will be the end of it.”

What does the remark tell us about David’s confidence in his grandfather’s authority? What does it say about David’s belief in his father? Does he think his grandfather will take sides with his father or with his uncle in this matter?

7. What does Grandfather reveal about Uncle Frank?

8. What does Grandfather say on the train ride home after Frank and Gloria's wedding? What does this tell you about his loyalty to his family and to the law?

pages 76-102 (Part 2 of Novel, continued)

8. Describe David's grandmother. Why do you think she married David's grandfather?

9. Throughout the novel, David feels many different emotions regarding Uncle Frank. What are two of these emotions, and why do they change?

10. Why did David feel such a strong need to kill something? What did he kill?

11. On page 82, David sees his father and uncle talking. What's the first strange thing he notices? What might be the meaning of this?

12. What did Frank promise Wes he'd do to settle the situation with the native women? Why does Wes think that's enough? How does Gail feel about it?

13. What caused Marie's death, according to Frank? Does David believe him? What do you think caused Marie's sudden death?

14. On page 93, Len, who was a deputy under both David's father and grandfather, tells what it means "to be a peace officer in Montana." What does it mean? Does Wes follow this definition?

15. What did David feel on the day that Marie died? Why did he feel this way?

16. What did David tell his father that he saw? Why does Wes ask David questions about it?

17. Who else might have seen Uncle Frank? Why does this bother Wes?
18. What vision did David have about the local Indians. Provide at least 5 details. What do you think it means? What does it foreshadow (look up this word if it is unfamiliar to you)?

pages 105-125 (Part 3 of the Novel)

19. How does Wes “build a case”? Why does he use this method?
20. Why do you think Uncle Frank is so cheerful? Is his reaction ironic (look up “irony” if you don’t know this word)?
21. Why did Wes lock Frank in the basement? Why did he pick the basement? What would you have done if you were Wes?
22. On page 112, David’s mother wants for Gloria to be told immediately what has happened. Why this sudden interest in Gloria and her “rights”? How does this add another complication to the characters’ struggle to do what’s right?
23. Who is David supposed to go to in case of trouble? What type of trouble might happen?
24. Why does Grandfather think he can tell Wes what to do? Do you think he respects Wes?
25. On page 121, David says that he is listening to the whole conversation through the heating ducts. He has a realization – what is it? How does he react?
26. On page 122, Grandfather says, “My God. My God, boy. Stop this now. Stop this before I have to.” What do you think Grandfather would do?

27. Describe the scene David sees in the kitchen. What are his parents doing? Why is this scene so important to David?

pages 125-151 (Part 3 of the Novel, continued)

28. What is the benefit of being a Hayden in Bentrock? How does the situation with Uncle Frank change that?

29. Describe Miss Schott. What is her connection to David? What does her odd behavior tell us about Bentrock? Who are two other people with strange habits?

30. What does David begin to wonder about some of the women he encounters on his trip to the store?

31. David's mother must protect her home from Dale Paris and his group. How does she handle the situation?

32. On page 143, what does Gail tell Wes to do with Frank? Why has her opinion changed? If you were her, what would you have said in this situation?

pages 151-162 (Part 3 of the Novel continued)

33. In your opinion, why has Frank confessed at this time? What is his motive? Has he underestimated his brother, or has he estimated correctly?

34. Who were the Highdog Brothers? Why were they chasing Wes and Cordell? What did Frank do to them? Why did Wes tell this story to David?

35. What did Wes find in the basement?

36. Opinion: What is Uncle Frank's motive for committing suicide? Does it make sense to you? Does it change your opinion of Uncle Frank?

37. How did Uncle Frank's suicide solve all the family's problems? Tell each situation it solves.

38. What did David feel towards Uncle Frank when it was over? Why do you think he felt that way?

pages 165-175, Epilogue

39. What is an "Epilogue"? What do you think it adds to this book? Would the book be better or worse without it?

40. How did the family decide to explain Frank's death?

41. Who would be the next sheriff of Bentrock, since Wes would not run again? What does that say about the town and Grandfather Hayden's place in it?

42. Why did David jump out of the car and run back to the house?

43. What does David grow up and become? Why does he choose this profession? How is it ironic?

44. What is the family's last link to Montana? What happened to everyone else?

45. What is David's fondest memory of Marie? Why?

46 Think about the final scene of this novel: why is it significant that it happens on Thanksgiving?

47. Who is Betsy? What does she say that makes Wes so angry? Why does he feel angry?