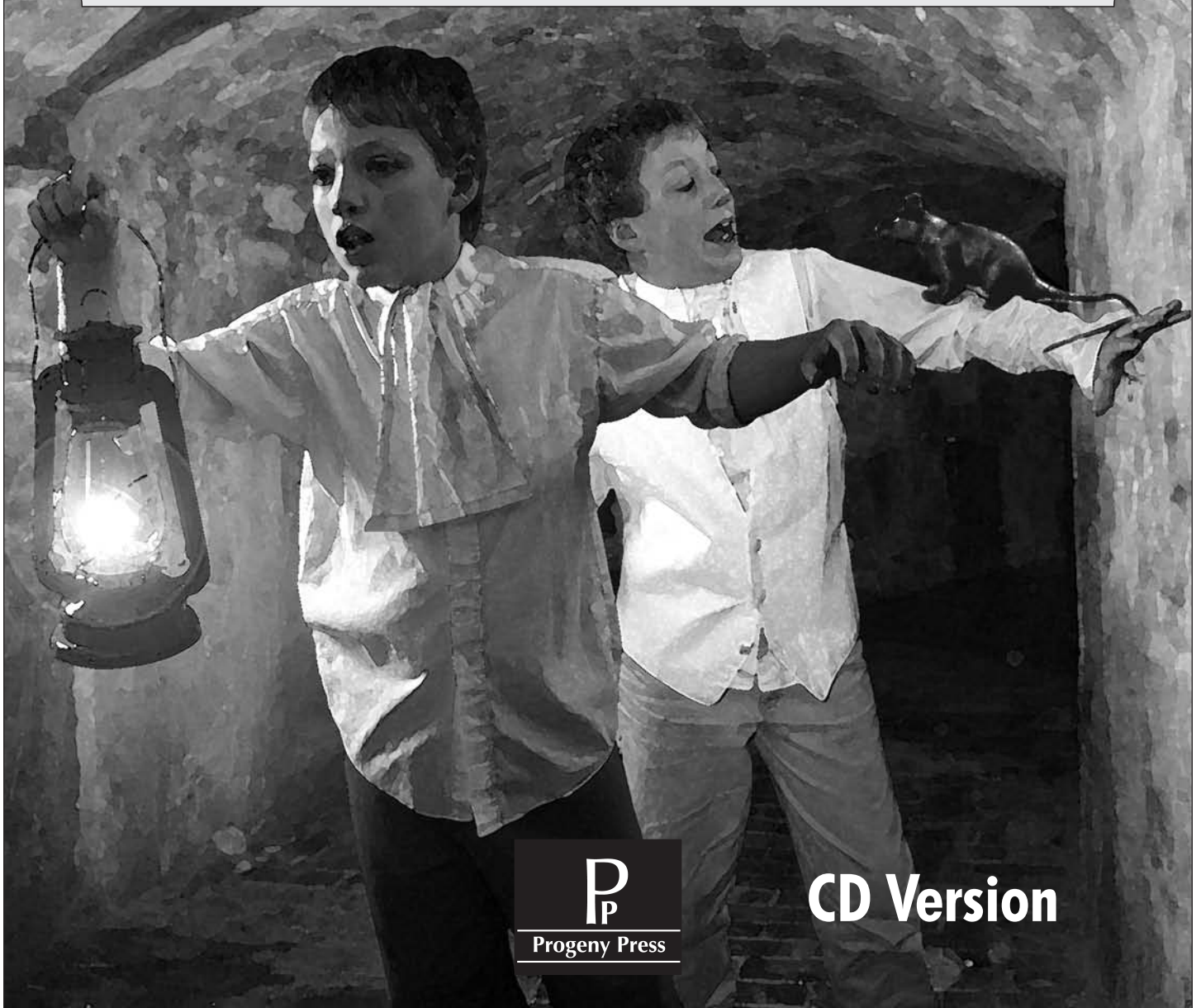


the whipping boy study guide

by **Rebecca Gilleland**

For the novel by **Sid Fleischman**



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Progeny Press

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The Whipping Boy Study Guide
A Progeny Press Study Guide
by Rebecca A. Gilleland
edited by Michael S. Gilleland
cover design by Nathan D. Gilleland

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PO Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 978-1-58609-328-0 Book
978-1-58609-276-4 CD
978-1-58609-419-5 Set

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Synopsis

When the prince is a brat and you aren't supposed to punish him, what is a king to do?

Call the whipping boy! He takes the whippings the prince's guardians aren't allowed to give to "Prince Brat"!

This high-paced story begins with the prince making trouble—again. Jemmy, the whipping boy, is called for and receives the prince's punishment—again. This becomes the pattern: The prince refuses to learn his school lessons and Jemmy gets punished. The prince pulls a prank, and Jemmy gets punished. But Jemmy figures as long as he is there, he might as well learn proper manners and how to read and write, even if the prince won't.

Then, one fateful day, the prince decides to run away and needs someone to carry his basket. Jemmy is drafted and their adventures begin. They are captured by thieves who plan to ransom the prince. Grasping the chance to escape, Jemmy runs, the Prince follows, and a grand chase is begun.

A chase that will change both of them, forever.

Chapters 13–16

Vocabulary:

Define the underlined word as it is used in the sentence from the book, and then use it in a new sentence.

1. Jemmy turned to the right and beat his way back into the foliage.

Definition:

Your sentence:

2. “I can’t have you sticking to me like a barnacle.”

Definition:

Your sentence:

3. The prince answered with a flash of resentment. “I might as well be stuffed and hung on the wall like a stag’s head—for all he notices me.” “You remind him enough, with all your pranks.”

Definition:

Your sentence:

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4. The tide was low and they traveled out of sight of the road, below a grassy embankment.

Definition:

Your sentence:

5. He'd dropped his load of driftwood and merely gazed at the receding coach.

Definition:

Your sentence:

6. "Greedy ain't our middle name. But you! Raising the ante to a great cartload!"

Definition:

Your sentence:

7. "Holler and cry out! I won't tell anyone!" But Prince Brat only girded himself for the next blow.

Definition:

Your sentence:

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Questions:

1. At the end of Chapter 13, why does the prince forgive Jemmy? How does Jemmy respond? Why?
2. When Jemmy mentions that the king must be worried, the prince answers resentfully. Look up and define *resentfully*. Why does Prince Brat feel resentful?
3. Why does Jemmy have the potato man stop to pick up the prince?
4. When Cutwater and Hold-Your-Nose Billy catch them, they whip the prince because they think he is the whipping boy. What does the prince do as he is whipped? What is Jemmy's reaction to the whipping?

Thinking About the Story:

5. At the end of Chapter 14, the prince tells Jemmy, "Maybe I'll never go back. This is the best time I ever had!" Why do you think the prince enjoyed their experiences so far? (Remember the reason the prince ran away in the first place.)

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6. Do you think Jemmy and the prince are becoming friends? List examples to support your answer.

7. Define *friendship* in your own words.

Digging Deeper:

8. Read Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:6, 27:9, and Ecclesiastes 4:10. These verses describe what a true friend is like. Paraphrase these verses (write them in your own words). What are the most important qualities of a friend?

9. Why wouldn't the prince yell when he was whipped? Would yelling really have mattered?

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Practical Application:

List at least three ways you can be a better friend. Be specific. What can you do or say that would make you a better friend?

Optional Activities:

1. **Point of View:** The *point of view* of a novel is the perspective from which a story is told. *First-person narrative* means the story is told from the point of view of one of the characters, as if that character were telling the story, and facts and feelings are limited to that character's knowledge. *Third-person narrative* is told from an objective viewpoint. Third-person narrative can be *limited*, telling only of the actions, thoughts, and feelings of one or a few characters, or *omniscient* (all-knowing), telling what several or all characters are thinking and feeling. *The Whipping Boy* is told from a limited, third-person narrative point of view; we see things in the story mostly as if we were standing next to Jemmy and can tell what he is thinking, but not what other people are thinking.

Look at Chapters 14, 15, and 16. Rewrite one of the chapters in first-person narrative from the prince's point of view—as if you were the prince telling someone the story. What was the prince thinking and doing?

2. Draw or paint a picture of Betsy and Petunia or a picture of the prince and Jemmy inside the potato coach.

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13. These verses tell us we are supposed to treat others as we want them to treat us. It does not matter if they are nice to us or not, we are to treat them well. The prince doesn't treat anyone as he expects them to treat him. He expects total obedience and honor, but he treats everyone else as if they are there just to serve him. He doesn't listen to or honor anyone.

Chapters 5–8

Vocabulary:

1. d, 2. f, 3. a, 4. e, 5. h, 6. g, 7. b, 8. c.

Questions:

1. Answers will vary, but may mention that he is inexperienced, he has been protected from consequences all his life and therefore sees no need to consider his actions, he is proud and cannot imagine people not doing what he says.
2. "Scribblement" is handwriting, and the prince ends up in trouble and unable to prove who he is because he can't read or write, though Jemmy can.
3. Possible answers include: Billy—big, evil-smelling, garlicky, raw-faced, red-eyebrowed, yellow-toothed. Cutwater—rattle-boned, bone thin, flea-ridden, bony, hollow-cheeked, big nosed. Accept other reasonable answers.
4. Answers may vary, but it seems to be pride in sounding dangerous.

Thinking About the Story:

5. At first, the outlaws only wanted to take the boys' horse and food, and they were going to let the boys go. Once the outlaws realize they have the prince, they won't let him go.
6. Students' speculation will vary. It should contain the idea that Jemmy will take the prince's place to protect the prince or give a chance to escape.
7. Answers will vary. Note that there is a difference between saying someone *is* a fool and saying someone has *acted* foolishly. The prince has acted foolishly.
8. That which follows something on which it depends; a result; an effect; the outcome or fruit of ones' actions. Something that happens because of something else.

Dig Deeper:

9. A fool will ignore his parents' discipline and not learn from it; a fool will bring grief to others, and no joy to his/her father. Answers will vary.
10. Answers will vary. Some mention should be made of wisdom coming from God, seeking his word, and obeying him.

Chapters 9–12

Vocabulary:

1. parley, 2. contrary, 3. contemplated, 4. insolent, 5. leery, 6. pretense, 7. ration, 8. smirk, 9. blanched, 10. fathom

Questions:

1. He writes a ransom note and tries to convince Billy and Cutwater to send the whipping boy back to the palace with the note and his crown to prove its validity.
2. The prince realizes that he might have to take a whipping himself.
3. Arrogance is a feeling of superiority and an overbearing manner. Answers may vary. This does seem to describe the prince's actions.
4. He talks Billy and Cutwater into using the prince's horse to carry the message. The horse will return to the castle.

Thinking About the Story:

5. Answers may vary. This was actually quite clever on Billy's part. If Jemmy had written something other than what he had said, he wouldn't be able to recite it backwards very well. He certainly could not have done it twice and gotten it the same!
6. He thinks that his father won't miss him, and if he does he can just wait. Answers will vary. The king probably will miss the prince, but the rest of the prince's answer seems to show that Prince Brat does not care very much about other people's feelings.
7. Jemmy fears the king will punish him when the note is received because the king will believe that Jemmy is trying to get the ransom gold for himself. The prince offers Jemmy protection from the king. The prince might have offered to protect Jemmy because the prince is growing in character and growing fond of Jemmy as a friend or because he thinks he still needs Jemmy's help.