

2005

Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.

SUMMARY:

Twelve-year-old Roy Eberhardt and his family have moved to Florida, where he's the new kid again. When the school bully smashes Roy's face against the school bus window, he sees a strange barefoot boy streaking by and he follows. The boy is on a mission to save some burrowing owls from being bulldozed to make way for Mother Paula's Pancake House. Roy and Beatrice, the boy's stepsister, decide to help. From the alligators in the port-o-potties to cottonmouth snakes with sparkly tails, the trio will go to just about any lengths to keep Mother Paula's Pancake House from destroying the owls' habitat.

QUESTIONS:

Compare the motives of Garrett, Roy and Beatrice at the protest.

Give examples of when this quote has been true. "Sometimes you're faced with situations where the line isn't clear between what's right and what's wrong. Your heart will tell you to do one thing, and your brain will tell you to do something different. In the end, all that's left is to look at both sides and go with your judgment."

Why does Roy decide to join "Mullet Fingers" to save the owls?

Dana is arrested for a crime he did not commit. Is this just? Why or why not?

What do you think happens to Napoleon Bridges after he breaks out of juvenile detention?

Why is it important to "Mullet Fingers" to have wild places? Does Roy feel the same way?

Why doesn't Dana stop bullying Roy when Roy speaks to him?

JOURNAL STARTER:

_____ from *Hoot* would make a good friend because.....

ACTIVITIES:

Map the route from Montana to Florida.

Make a travel poster advertising the state of Florida.

Research burrowing owls and mullets.

Write a Reader's Theatre script to re-enact the scene with the protesters and Mother Paula.

Make your own protest signs.

Write a report for the evening news about the protest. Include dialogue for the anchorperson and for an "on-location" reporter.

Write a letter for Office Delinko's file from Roy's dad or from the captain.
Research a local endangered animal. Why is it endangered? What can you do to protect it?
Research your city or town's zoning laws.

INTEREST LEVELS: Grades 5-8

BOOK TALK:

Begin reading Chapter One and finish after reading the fifth paragraph which ends: "...strange, indeed, on a school day." Thus begins an adventure for Roy. He has just moved to Florida and is trying to fit in, but who is this boy and why is he running? What does Beatrice Leep know about him, and what is going on at the site of the new Mother Paula's Pancake House? Read *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen to learn the answers.

READ-ALIKES:

George, Jean Craighead. *The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo*. HarperCollins, 1992
Kehret, Peg. *Don't Tell Anyone*. Puffin, 2001.
Klass, David. *California Blue*. Scholastic, 1994.
Mowat, Farley. *Owls in the Family*. Little, Brown, 1961.
Smith, Roland. *Jaguar*. Hyperion, 1997

RELATED WEB SITES:

Carl Hiaasen: Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.carlhiaasen.com/faq/faq-hoot.shtml>
Hoot Discussion Questions: <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=7859>
Hoot Educator's Guide:
[www.walden.com/walden/pdf/get_document.php?doc_id=Hoot EdGuide](http://www.walden.com/walden/pdf/get_document.php?doc_id=Hoot_EdGuide)
Teacher's Guide:
<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375821813&view=tg>
William Allen White Children's Book Award:
<http://waw.emporia.edu/curriculumguides/cg04-05.htm#hoot>

OTHER RECOGNITION:

Newbery Honor Book, 2003
Winner of a Children's Choice Award in each of the following states:
Connecticut, 2006; Minnesota, 2006; Pennsylvania, 2004; Wisconsin, 2007.

MOVIE TIE-IN: *Hoot*. New Line Cinema, 2006. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0453494>