



Hoot

by Carl Hiaasen

Hoot is a funny and fast-paced middle grade novel with multiple characters and storylines to follow. Younger kids will likely need to read the book with an adult to keep track of its subplots, but older kids can read it independently. Get the most out of your book club discussion of *Hoot* with these prompts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the beginning of the book, Roy misses Montana. Have you ever moved to a new place? What was the most challenging thing about it? How did you adjust to your new surroundings?
2. Beatrice and Mullet Fingers have a very different family than Roy. Do you think the characters' home lives affected their approach to the Mother Paula's problem?
3. Is Roy correct in thinking that the Environmental Impact Statement was lost on purpose? What should Mother Paula's have done instead?
4. Mullet Fingers trespasses, pulls pranks, and vandalizes property in order to postpone the land development. Are his tactics effective? What would you do differently?
5. Roy's mother says, "Sometimes you're going to be 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 best judgment." When was Roy faced with a decision like this? Have you ever been faced with a decision where there wasn't a clear right and wrong?
6. Do you think Roy handles the bullies he encounters the right way? What could he do differently? What do you think you should do if you're being bullied?
7. Do you think Roy's first impression of Beatrice is accurate? How do first impressions change over time?
8. Why is protecting the land so important to the characters? What can you do to protect your local environment?
9. At the end of the book, Curly goes to the empty lot to watch the owls with Roy's family and Officer Delinko. Do you think Curly is a bad person or a good person? Why do you think he hired attack dogs to guard the property and denied the existence of the burrowing owls? What would you have done if you were Curly?
10. By the end of *Hoot*, Roy is starting to feel better about living in Florida and doesn't miss Montana as much. Why do you think he changed his mind?