

Flush



By

Carl Hiassen

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

Flush

By Carl Hiaasen



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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit novelstudies.org.

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Suggestions and Expectations

This 72 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one or two chapters of *Flush* and is comprised of five different activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

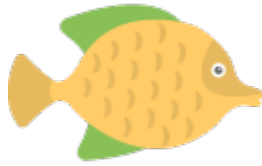
Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include the protection of the environment, Florida marine life (i.e. loggerhead turtles, snappers, etc.), family relationships, anger-management, bullying, personal responsibilities.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Use of singular/plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Determining alphabetical order
11. Identification of root words
12. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
4. Identify the climax/cliffhanger.
5. Five W's Chart

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists/antagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

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Synopsis

Bestselling novelist Carl Hiaasen is back with another hysterical mystery adventure for young readers, set in the Florida Keys.

Noah's dad has a little problem with anger control. He tried to stop the *Coral Queen* casino boat's illegal dumping . . . by sinking the boat. But his bold protest fizzles: within days the casino is back in business, and Noah's dad is behind bars and out of action.

Now Noah is determined to succeed where his father failed. But even though pumping raw sewage into the waters of the Florida Keys is both gross and against the law, turns out it's near impossible to catch the flusher—especially when he's already bamboozled the prosecutors, the local press, and even the Coast Guard.

But Noah's got a few allies. There's his little sister, Abbey, an unreformed childhood biter; Lice Peeking, a half-soused ex-mate of the *Coral Queen* who is willing to testify . . . for a price; and Shelly, a bighearted bartender with even bigger biceps. [The Publisher]

Author Biography

Carl Hiaasen

Carl Hiaasen was born and raised in Florida, where he still lives with his family. A graduate of the University of Florida, he wrote for *The Miami Herald* as an investigative reporter. For his journalism and commentary, Hiaasen has received numerous honors. In the early 1980s, he began writing novels with his good friend and a distinguished journalist, the late William D. Montalbano. Together they produced three mystery thrillers - ***Powder Burn*, *Trap Line* and *A Death in China*** - which borrowed heavily from their own reporting experiences.

Tourist Season, published in 1986, was Hiaasen's first solo novel. Since then, Hiaasen has published ***Skin Tight*, *Native Tongue*** and eight national bestsellers - ***Strip Tease*, *Stormy Weather*, *Lucky You*, *Sick Puppy*, *Basket Case*, *Skinny Dip*, *Nature Girl*** and, most recently, ***Star Island***. Hiaasen made his children's book debut with ***Hoot*** (2002), which was awarded a Newbery Honor and spent more than two years on the New York Times bestseller lists. For young readers he went on to write ***Flush*** (2005), ***Scat*** (2009) and ***Chomp*** (2012). The film version of ***Hoot*** was released in 2006.



Flush



By Carl Hiaasen

Name: _____

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The main protagonist of *Flush* is a very likeable boy, Noah, who lives in southern Florida. Think back on some of your favorite characters from novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting and memorable protagonist?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

tendency	appendix	understatement	interfering	insist
bilge	inflatable	skiff	impressive	stable

1. The ship captain told us to clean the _____ from the decks.
2. It was an _____ to say Ali was the greatest boxer of his generation.
3. The doctor said that my grandfather's condition was _____.
4. Jeremy has the unfortunate _____ of speaking out in class.
5. Mr. Carmen didn't mean to be _____ when he made that suggestion.
6. I must _____ that you all leave your cell phones at the door.
7. When I complained about a pain in my side, my mother knew it was my _____.
8. The only lifeboat to be found aboard was an _____ raft.
9. The home run that Jenna hit was most _____.
10. See if you can rent a _____ for us to go fishing in.

Questions



1. How did the dad's attitude about his "crime" compare with the son's?

2. Describe the setting as Chapter One begins.

3. Noah's dad didn't want to be bailed out of jail. T or F

4. Noah's dad didn't want a lawyer to be brought in on the case. T or F

5. Explain why Noah's dad sunk Dusty Muleman's boat.

b. According to Noah, why was what Muleman did especially dangerous?

6. Abbey was _____ years younger than Noah.

7. Noah's mom and dad (Mr. and Mrs. Underwood) were quite different in personality. In the chart below write one thing which would describe something about each of their personalities.

Mr. Underwood	
Mrs. Underwood	

8. Why were Mr. Underwood's actions unpopular with the local ship captains?

Language Activities



A. The Florida Keys

A year after Noah's parents married they moved to the Florida Keys. The Keys begin at the southeastern tip of Florida, about 15 miles (24 km) south of Miami, and extend in an arc southwest to Key West, the westernmost of the inhabited islands. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, investigate additional facts about this fascinating area of the United States. Below record four facts from your research.



1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

B. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter One is “. . . you’ve got to see me locked up like an axe murderer.”

What is the dad comparing himself to in this example?

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Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your imagination:

a) the sound of a motorcycle at a race

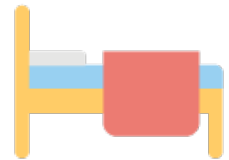
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b) the hoot of a barn owl

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C. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) Read the clue in the right-hand column.

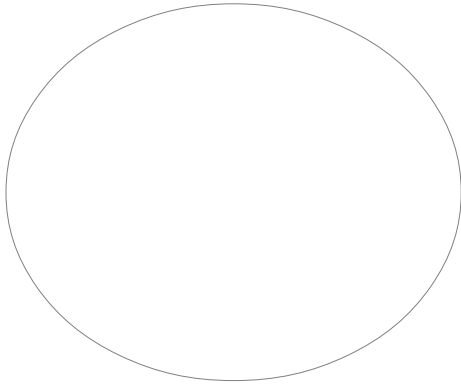
b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Each of the words in the left-hand column are found in the first chapter of our novel.

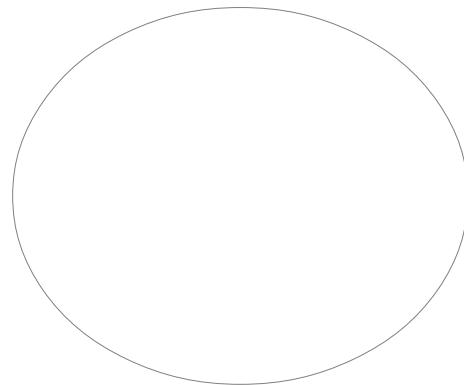
Word	Anagram	Clue
times		Objects.
years		State once more.
keeps		Sly looks.
smart		Small stores.
later		<i>On the ball.</i>
smiled		Lead astray

D. 5 Ws and an H.

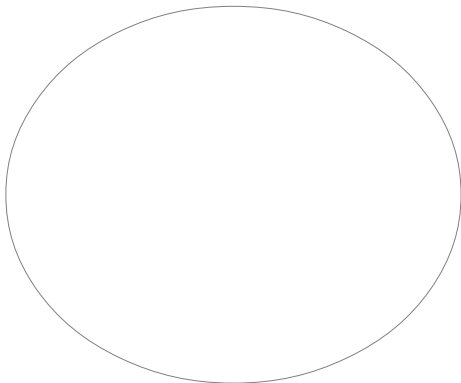
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



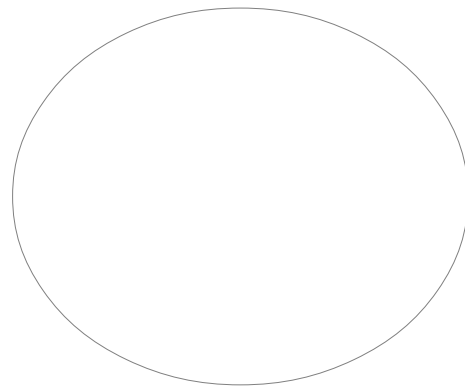
WHO?



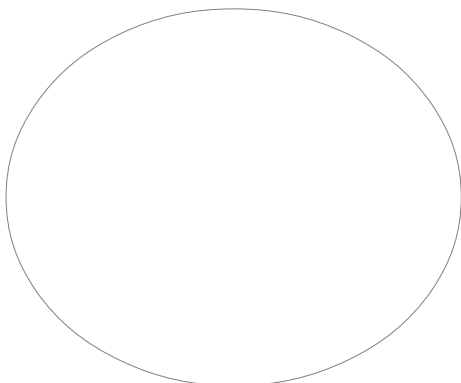
WHAT?



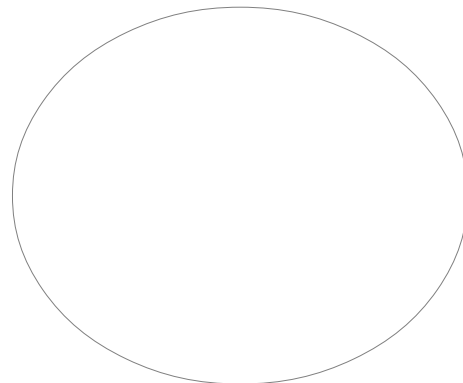
WHEN?



WHERE?



WHY?



HOW?

Extension Activities



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene - or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of *Flush*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6