

Howliday Inn



By

James Howe

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

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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

Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one chapter of *Howliday Inn* and is comprised of four distinct sections:

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 mystery stories, breeds of dogs, werewolves, loyalty and friendship.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Identification of root words
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Listing compound words
8. Identifying parts of speech
9. Identify *personification*.

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

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

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Create a poem
6. Write about personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Chart
9. Complete a KWS Chart
10. Create a friendly letter.

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Harold and Chester could hardly believe it. The Monroe family was going on vacation without them! Bunnacula, the family rabbit, would be boarded with a neighbor. But they, the family's loyal dog and cat, were to stay with strangers at Chateau Bow-Wow...

No sooner had Harold and Chester settled into their bungalows than Louise, a French poodle involved in a messy love triangle, disappeared. Chester believed the six other guests were capable of anything--even murder. Would you trust a pair of dachshunds who howled at the moon and were rumored to be part werewolf? Or crazy Lyle, a cat convinced he was a secret agent?

All Harold and Chester knew was that in spite of themselves they had entered the crime detection business and neither foul play nor foul weather would stop them from finding out whodunit! [Courtesy of the Publisher.]

Author Biography James Howe

James Howe (born August 2, 1946) is the American author of over 80 popular books, including the *Bunnacula* series. In 2007, James Howe was the recipient of *The E.B. White Read Aloud Award For Picture Books* for his book *Houndsley and Catina*, illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay, and published by Candlewick Press in Somerville, Massachusetts.



Biography courtesy of Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Howe

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Name:

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

There are two significant characters featured in this novel, Harold, the dog, and Chester the cat. What might be the advantage of having more than one **protagonists** in a story? What might be a disadvantage to this strategy?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

blissful	hyperventilate	boarded	meditate
dank	compelled	subsided	dire

1. After a few stressful minutes, the noise from the neighbor's yard finally _____.
2. Chester immediately began to _____ when told he must get into the car.
3. The dungeon was a most dreary and _____ place.
4. It might help if you were to _____ for a few moments on the meaning of cooperation.
5. We spent a _____ afternoon enjoying our time together as a family.
6. Chester and Harold were to be _____ at the Chateau Bow-Wow kennels.
7. The army platoon found themselves in the most _____ of circumstances.
8. The students felt _____ to join the team after listening to the coach's speech.

Questions



1. What is the **setting** of the story at the beginning of Chapter One?

2. Who do you think was more gullible, Chester or Harold? Please support your answer with proof from the story.

3. Why wasn't the family able to take Chester and Harold on vacation this time?

4. What was Harold's main concern with being left behind?

5. Bunnacula was going to stay next door at home of Professor _____.

6. Give one example of humor from this chapter.

7. Describe Chester's view of what it was like to be boarded.

8. When Harold and Chester are discussing what is involved in being boarded, Chester remarks that he has read Charles Dickens. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, see if you can discover what Chester meant by this remark.

9. How might it be said that Chester *creates a crisis* in this chapter?

10. At one point Harold states, *it was hard for me at that moment to picture anyone stranger than Chester*. What might make Harold think this? Give an example.

11. How was Harold lured into the car? What consequence did this have later on?

12. **Foreshadowing** is defined as *an indication of what is to come in a story*. Reread the last three paragraphs in this chapter and find what might be an example of foreshadowing in this section.

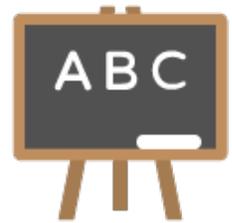
Language Activities



A. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. How are Harold and Chester personified in this novel?

As you continue to read through the novel be on the lookout for other examples of this literary device. If you should find one, come back to this question and enter it below.

B. Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here is such an example from Chapter One: ... Toby told me that ...



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

An angry cat.	
The squeal of brakes.	
Your choice.	

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 **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



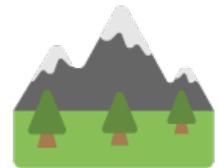
a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters. All of the words in the left-hand column can be found in the first chapter of *Howliday Inn*.

Word	Anagram	Clue
several		Makes known.
shared		A famous reindeer.
outside		Tiresome.
wonder		A distressing experience.
point		Patchy colored horse.
words		An ancient weapon.
silent		Christmas tree decoration.

D. Cliffhanger

Chapter One contains an important literary device called a **cliffhanger**. A cliffhanger usually occurs at the end of a chapter when the author leaves the reader in suspense. How is this true in Chapter One? Why do you think the author ended the chapter this way?



E. 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?



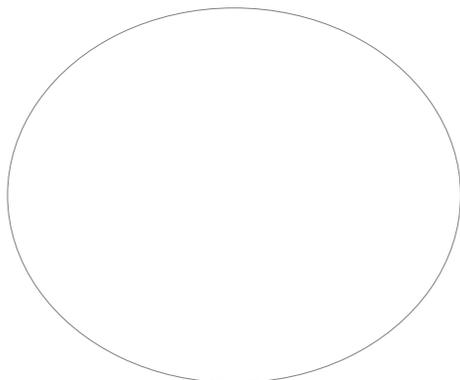
WHAT?



WHEN?



WHERE?



WHY?



HOW?

F. An Acrostic Poem

There are many forms of poetry available to the aspiring poet other than the rhyming poem. An ACROSTIC poem is one example. In an acrostic poem the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. The word often is the subject of the poem. Here is an example written by the acclaimed poet, Atrocious Halitosis:

The Firefly

Freaky-looking
Itches me when I touch
Restless at night
Early or late
Fearless
Little
Yellowfly



The Acrostic Poem

Now create your own Acrostic Poem on a subject featured in this novel. Your poem must have at least four lines (and doesn't need to rhyme).

Title: _____

Extension Activity

A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words



Use the three boxes to describe and illustrate the beginning, middle and end of the first chapter.

Beginning Picture:	Beginning:
Middle Picture:	Middle:
Concluding Picture:	Concluding: