

- Summary of This Is Jody's Fawn
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Summary of This Is Jody's Fawn

This story, written by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, narrates the experience of a boy named Jody whose father, Penny, is bitten by a rattlesnake. To save his father, Penny kills a doe and uses its heart and liver to draw out the poison. Jody becomes concerned about the orphaned fawn left behind and decides to find and raise it. The story follows Jody's journey to find the fawn, his emotional connection with the young deer, and his efforts to care for it.

Key Elements

- **Setting:** The story is set in a natural environment with forests and clearings.
- **Characters:** Jody (the boy), Penny (Jody's father), Mill-wheel (a helper), and the fawn.
- **Plot:** Jody's father is saved from a snakebite using a home remedy involving a doe's organs. Jody then seeks to rescue the orphaned fawn.

Textual Evidence

"Pa says it would be ungrateful to leave it to starve." This line shows the moral responsibility Jody and his father feel towards the fawn.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who was bitten by the rattlesnake?
- What did Penny use to draw out the poison?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Why does Jody want to bring the fawn home?
- Describe how Jody found the fawn.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the significance of the fawn in the story.
- How does the story portray the bond between humans and nature?

Answer Key

- Penny, Jody's father, was bitten by the rattlesnake.
- Penny used the heart and liver of the doe to draw out the poison.
- Jody wants to bring the fawn home because it is orphaned and might starve without its mother.
- Jody found the fawn by following the place where his father was bitten and searching the clearing carefully.
- The fawn symbolizes innocence and the connection between humans and animals, highlighting care and responsibility.
- The story shows humans' empathy and respect for nature through Jody's determination to save and nurture the fawn.

Quick Reference

- Author: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- Main Characters: Jody, Penny, Mill-wheel, the fawn
- Theme: Compassion, responsibility, human-nature relationship

Glossary

- **Drift back to:** To go back to a previous thought.
- **Dilated:** Enlarged or expanded.
- **A close shave:** A narrow escape from danger.
- **Kept your head:** Stayed calm in a difficult situation.
- **Hemmed in:** Caught in a situation where one cannot say no.
- **Acorns:** Small brown nuts from oak trees.
- **Sidled back:** Walked back quietly, trying not to be noticed.
- **Every which way:** In different directions.
- **Buzzard:** A large bird that eats dead animals.
- **Adjacent:** Nearby.
- **Parted:** Moved or pushed aside.
- **Quivering:** Shaking slightly.
- **Delirious:** Extremely excited or overwhelmed.
- **Convulsion:** A sudden shiver or spasm.
- **A china deer:** A fragile clay deer figurine.
- **Sleek:** Smooth and shiny.
- **Hoist:** To lift up higher.
- **Light-headed:** Unable to think clearly.
- **Romp:** To play energetically.
- **Alarm:** To frighten.
- **Balked:** Was unwilling to do something.

Character Sketch of Jody

Jody is a compassionate and responsible young boy who shows maturity beyond his years. He is deeply concerned about the orphaned fawn and is determined to care for it despite the challenges. His actions demonstrate kindness, courage, and a strong sense of duty towards both his family and nature.

Key Traits

- **Compassionate:** Shows empathy for the fawn's plight.
- **Responsible:** Takes initiative to care for the fawn.
- **Brave:** Ventures into the forest alone to find the fawn.
- **Patient:** Gently feeds and comforts the fawn.

Textual Evidence

"I'm a big boy now and don't need to drink milk. Why don't I go and see if I can find the fawn?" This shows Jody's readiness to take responsibility.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What does Jody want to do for the fawn?

Level 2 – Moderate

- How does Jody show his care for the fawn?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss how Jody's character reflects the theme of responsibility in the story.

Answer Key

- Jody wants to find and raise the orphaned fawn.
- He gently carries the fawn, feeds it milk, and protects it from harm.
- Jody's actions demonstrate that responsibility involves caring for others, including animals, and facing challenges bravely.

Quick Reference

- Jody: Compassionate, responsible, brave, patient

Glossary

- **Hemmed in:** Caught in a situation where one cannot say no.
- **Obligated:** Grateful or indebted.

Themes in This Is Jody's Fawn

The story explores several important themes that are relevant to students and readers.

Key Themes

- **Compassion and Kindness:** Jody's care for the orphaned fawn shows empathy and kindness towards animals.
- **Responsibility:** The story highlights the importance of taking responsibility for others, especially those who are vulnerable.
- **Human-Nature Relationship:** It emphasizes the connection between humans and the natural world, showing respect and care.
- **Bravery and Maturity:** Jody's courage in facing the forest and his maturity in handling the situation are central to the story.

Textual Evidence

"Pa says it would be ungrateful to leave it to starve." This line reflects the theme of responsibility and compassion.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What is one main theme of the story?

Level 2 – Moderate

- How does the story show the relationship between humans and nature?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain how bravery is portrayed through Jody's actions.

Answer Key

- Compassion and kindness is a main theme.
- The story shows humans caring for animals and respecting nature.
- Jody's willingness to enter the forest alone and care for the fawn shows his bravery.

Quick Reference

- Themes: Compassion, responsibility, human-nature bond, bravery

Glossary

- **Ungrateful:** Not showing thanks or appreciation.

Literary Devices in This Is Jody's Fawn

The author uses several literary devices to enhance the story and convey its themes effectively.

Key Devices

- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions of the forest, the fawn, and the characters' emotions help readers visualize the scenes.
- **Symbolism:** The fawn symbolizes innocence and the bond between humans and nature.
- **Dialogue:** Conversations between Jody and his parents reveal character traits and advance the plot.
- **Personification:** The fawn's actions and expressions are described in a way that gives it human-like qualities, enhancing emotional connection.

Examples

"Its skin was very soft. It was sleek and clean and had a sweet scent of grass." This imagery helps readers imagine the fawn's delicate nature.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Identify one example of imagery from the story.

Level 2 – Moderate

- What does the fawn symbolize in the story?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain how dialogue helps develop the characters in the story.

Answer Key

- Example of imagery: Description of the fawn's soft skin and sweet scent.
- The fawn symbolizes innocence and the connection between humans and nature.
- Dialogue reveals Jody's maturity and his parents' concern, helping readers understand their relationships.

Quick Reference

- Literary Devices: Imagery, symbolism, dialogue, personification

Glossary

- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.
- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to represent ideas.
- **Personification:** Giving human qualities to non-human things.