

Trouble on the St. Johns River

By Jane R. Wood

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

How do you feel on the last day of school?

Why was Bobby's grandfather explaining what he was doing when he was checking out the fishing poles?

Why does Bobby get the "evil eye" from his grandmother?

Do you ever get the "evil eye" from someone? Who and why?

Chapter 2

Why is Joey concerned about being a freshman during the next school year?

Why did Bobby feel they had to "do something" about what they saw at the pond?

What caused the fish kill in their fishing pond?

Chapter 3

What did their grandmother suggest they do during their summer vacation?

Why is Bobby skeptical of her suggestion?

What does Katy want to see?

Chapter 4

In Joey's research on the Internet, what does he learn about manatees?

Why is it against the law to feed manatees?

Chapter 5

What is a Research Reserve, and why do we have them?

Why do builders sometimes have restrictions on where and when they can build?

Who is the grandfather talking about when he says, "We've just got to figure out ways to live together...?"

Chapter 6

Why were some of the Anastasia Sea Mice tagged with earrings?

Do you know of other animals that get tagged?

Why should people near the beach not leave their lights on during the nesting season for sea turtles?

What do the volunteers on the sea turtle patrols do?

Chapter 7

What was Bobby looking at through the telescope?

Why do you think the Education Center at the Guana Research Reserve created a scavenger hunt for kids?

Chapter 8

Why was Joey nervous about Barby's possible visit? Do you ever feel the same way?

Why do the right whales come to the coast of Florida in the winter months?

Chapter 9

Why was the lady taking water samples at the County Dock?

What was the Green Monster? What caused it?

Why do you think Bobby thought it was "the best fishing trip ever"?

Chapter 10

What do you think changed Bobby's attitude about wanting to read the displays at the Museum of Science and History?

What is a Riverkeeper?

Chapter 11

What is a backyard Wildlife Habitat?

How do you adopt a manatee?

Chapter 12

Why did Katy want to contribute only part of her money in her piggy bank to adopt a manatee?

What does the grandfather suggest as a way to drum up business for their car wash?

Do you think that's a good idea?

Chapter 13

Why is it important to have trees and shrubs in a Wildlife Habitat?

What is a compost pile?

Chapter 14

What does "being green" mean?

List several ways that households can "go green".

Chapter 15

Why was Joey surprised to see Barby?

What did Barby think about the reason for having the lemonade stand and car wash?

Chapter 16

What do you think the picture on page 84 is?

What are some of the things that can be seen at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center?

How many sea turtle hatchlings survive to become mature adults? Why so few?

Chapter 17

What are some of the dangers for sea turtles?

What are some things that people can do to protect sea turtles?

Chapter 18

Why does Bobby want to fish at the end of the dock?

What's Bobby's plan to stop the bullies from harassing the manatee?

Chapter 19

How do Joey's feelings change during the encounter with the bullies?

How do the brothers feel when it's over?

Chapter 20

What did the kids learn about the quality of the water on the Family River Ride on the St. Johns River?

What is the source of many of the pollutants in the river? (Where do they come from?)

What does Barby tell Joey to do?

Chapter 21

Why do the kids decide to print a flier, and who will they give it to?

If you were to create a flier of dos and don'ts, what would you put in it?

Chapter 22

What does the *Do Not Feed the Algae* sign mean?

Chapter 23

What did the TV reporter think of the Johnson kids?

Chapter 24

What does Barby plan to do with the flier?

What does Barby's mother suggest to the Johnson family?

How does Joey feel at the end of the story about kids making a difference? Do you agree with him?