

Midday Book Club



Study Questions for Romey's Place

Chapters 1-3:

1. Lowell and his father seem to have very different perspectives on their relationship. Do you think this difference of perspective can be seen in any of your relationships? Describe the relationship from your point of view and then from that of the other person.
2. What is the difference between Romey and his father's relationship and Lowell and his father. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each?
3. J.C. Schaap uses events to demonstrate relationships between his characters. Notice how the beginning chapters each use one event to reveal the family dynamics of the Prins and the Guttners as well as the friendship between Romey and Lowell.

Chapters 4-6:

4. Chapter 4 ("Red-Handed") is full of tension. Describe the conflicts Lowell is feeling, internally and with his parents.
5. What do you think of the way the church is involved with the boys' crimes? Do you think the pastor handled the situation well? How do you think the church would be involved today? Should it be?
6. Lowell is caught between his parents' faith (and standards and experience of life) and Romey—their worlds don't match up very well. How does one navigate these conflicts?

Chapters 7-9:

7. Why would Ginny carry on a relationship with the Toad? How do Lowell and Romey react differently, and why do you think they do so?
8. The situation with Peter's visit to Hattie and Cyril involves most of the other characters in the story in some way: Romey, Lowell, Lowell's mother, as well as Peter, Hattie and Cyril. With whom do you identify here, and why?
9. What does the play at home base and the ensuing conflict and resolution between Lowell and Romey tell the reader about their relationship? About the character of each?

Chapters 10-12:

10. Respond to the following quote: “We had a great time at camp, but in some ways it wasn’t all that different from getting a free weekend in the Ozarks on the condition that you sit still and listen to a good strong pitch from some flashy salespeople hawking time-share resort land” (168). How does this description of Bible camp compare with experiences you may have had with Christian youth camps?

11. What do you think of Lowell’s feelings (specifically, his struggle for truth) about speaking at the campfire?

12. What purpose do the “games” serve for the boys? For the story?

Chapters 13-15:

14. What do you think of the end of the chapter called “Scab”? Who is responsible for the way this situation turned out?

15. Lowell says that his father would have prayed differently if he had been with Cyril that night; what do you think he would have said?

Chapter 16: “Grace”

16. “What my own foolish soul has come to understand is that while my father taught me goodness, it was Romey who taught me grace” (288) Process that statement.

Wrapping Up the Book . . .

Is Romey’s Place a Christian book? Explain why you think it is or is not.