

Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

Chapters 1-5 Activities



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Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Teaching Unit
Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

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Hoot Teaching Unit

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This packet contains the highlighted pages FREE! To receive all of the handouts, activities, and tests listed in this table of contents, you can buy our [complete teaching unit for Hoot](#). Enjoy the free lessons!

Hoot

Pre-reading Activities

Name _____

Date _____

Anticipation Guide

Read each of the following statements. Place a T beside the statements that you think are true and an F beside statements that you think are false.

If you know something is going to happen to the environment that you know is wrong, you should do something to keep it from happening. _____

It is okay to lie if your fib helps a good cause. _____

You should always stand up to bullies. _____

There is nothing I can do to help an animal or plant that is in danger of becoming extinct. _____

Writing Response

In *Hoot*, one person leaves his family and lives alone in the outdoors. Think about what it would be like to be homeless and on your own without anyone to care for you. What would you need to survive? What traits do you have that may help you survive or not survive? Complete the following chart with things that you would need to live on your own and a list of words that describe your personality. Then, write a paragraph telling whether or not you think you could make it.

Things I would need	My personality traits

Hoot

Chapter 1

Conflict, Point of View, and Irony

Name _____

Date _____

Conflict

There are two plots that are emerging in this chapter. One plot involves Roy, and the other plot involves Officer David Delinko. Use the following chart to summarize the complications that arise in chapter one for each character.

Character's Name	Conflict	Type of Conflict
Roy		
Officer Delinko		

Point of View

Though it is only the first chapter, the reader can already tell the point of view that is used in this novel. Complete the following chart on point of view.

Point of view used in this book	Evidence that proves I am right on the point of view	Advantages of this point of view

Irony

Verbal irony involves a contrast between what is said or written and what is meant. Example: if you call a really tall person, "Shorty".

Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Example: A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.

Dramatic irony occurs when the audience or the reader knows something a character does not know. Example: The reader knows who the criminal is, but the characters do not know.

1. Why is Curly's name an example of verbal irony?

2. It is ironic that Garrett's mother is a guidance counselor at Trace Middle. What type of irony is this?

Hoot
Chapter 2
Examine Word Choice

Name _____

Date _____

Carl Hiaasen’s word choice is nothing short of excellent in this novel. Let’s take a look at it in chapter two.

Complete the following chart by looking at each provided page and finding words, phrases, or sentences that paint a picture in your mind, linger in your memory, or that you think are just “cool ways to say something”.

Page Number	Word, Phrase, or Sentence	Why I like it
14		
15		
16		
17		

Turn to page 21. Find the fifth paragraph that begins with *He had missed his morning classes....* Finally, list the words and phrases from the paragraph that help create imagery.

Write a paragraph about another school meal using your own descriptive words, phrases, and strong verbs.

Hoot
Chapter 3
Suspense and Tone

Name _____

Date _____

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. Read the following paragraph.

*Officer Delinko asked, “Can I check out your latrines?”
“Sure, but there ain’t much to wreck on a port-a-potty,” Officer Delinko went in, shined his flashlight into the toilet hole and saw alligators!*

The action in this chapter is not written like the above passage, and thankfully so! If it were, it would lack suspense. Complete the following chart to figure out what the author did to create suspense.

Actions before alligators are revealed to the reader	How this adds suspense

Tone

Roy’s mother said that the tone of Roy’s letter was “forceful”. What other words could you say describe the tone of this letter? Rewrite the letter using another tone. You could use an angry tone, a sarcastic tone, an apologetic tone, or one of your choosing.

Dear Dana,

Hoot
Chapter 4
Beatrice and her Barbecue Sandwich
Voice

Name _____

Date _____

Go back and read the episode when Roy confronts Beatrice in the lunchroom. Pay attention to what happens to her barbecue sandwich. Write down in order what happens to the sandwich.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Who could this sandwich symbolize? How does the description of the sandwich add to the tone?

What is Voice?

Voice is the “energy” of a piece of writing. It is what makes a story or other piece of writing fun to read. It is what makes the reader laugh out loud, smile to him/herself, or want to cry. Voice creates a response in the reader. This novel is full of voice, and that is evident every time you laugh out loud or smile to yourself. Go back and choose your favorite parts of the book so far. Most likely, these passages contain voice.

My favorite passages:

Page _____
Page _____

One way to create voice in narrative writing is through characters. Carl Hiaasen brings each of his characters to life by giving them voice. Each character has his/her own distinct personality, and we are able to reveal their personalities largely because of what they say. Read the following statement made in this chapter by Dana’s mother. After reading this, what can you infer about Mrs. Matherson?

Dana’s shoulders stiffened. His mother clucked in amusement. “You gotta be kiddin’! This little twerp is the one who messed up your face?”

Inference about Mrs. Matherson _____

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Chapter 5

Vivid Descriptions / Imagery

Name _____

Date _____

There are certainly vivid descriptions in this book, and Roy's encounter with the snakes is no exception to Carl Hiaasen's creative imagery. Reread the passage on page 51 that begins with *They had broad...* paying attention to the descriptive words.

Write a poem about snakes taking some of the descriptive language that Hiaasen used. Here is a list of words and phrases from the passage you may want to consider using:

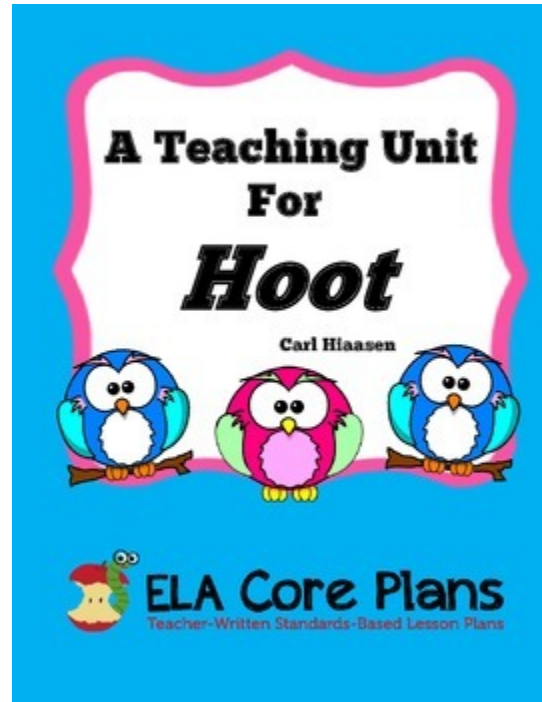
broad triangular heads
muck-colored
ominously plump.
highly poisonous.
no rattles
stubby tails
dipped in blue and silver sparkles
fat reptiles untangled themselves
tongues flicking
coiled sluggishly

Your poem does not need to rhyme. Your poem can be about the snakes that Roy encounters or just about snakes in general.

Roy's encounter with these snakes causes him to have a flashback. Reread the episode when Roy has this flashback. Why does the author choose to tell us this story? What do we learn about Roy from the flashback?

Make a list of any words or phrases used in the flashback that create imagery in the passage.

We hope you enjoyed these FREE handouts for *Hoot*.
Click the picture below to download our entire teaching unit for this novel and receive all of the lessons, handouts, and complete tests listed in the table of contents. Answer keys are also provided in the full unit. You only buy it once, but you can use it for years to come!



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