

## **About the Author Helpful List**

### **1. Coretta Scott King Award Winners**

To see the Coretta Scott King Award winners, click on the following link:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/corettascottkingbookawards/winnersa/cskawardwinners.htm> it will show you the 2005 winners also you can click on this link:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/corettascottkingbookawards/winnersa/pastwinnersa/cskpastwinners.htm> to see the winners for previous years.

### **2. John Newberry Award Winners**

To see the John Newberry Award winners, click on the following link:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/newberymedal.htm>. To see the past winners, click on the following link:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/newberywinnere/medalwinners.htm>.

## Chapter 1 Helpful Lists

### Similes -

- “..your breath kind of hung frozen in the air like a hunk of smoke...” (p.1)
- “...the furnace was banging and sounding like it was about to blow up but it still felt like Jack Frost has moved in with us.” (p.1)
- “...the boy had a head shaped just like a hambone, had more knots and bumps on his head than a dinosaur.” (p.4)
- “...being in Flint is like living in an igloo.” (p.5)
- He was as stuck as a fly on sand paper. (p.13)
- This is just like that horrible story Kenny read me about that guy Nar-sissy... (p.15)
- I bet his lips looked like a giant rubber band... (p.18)
- Byron’s lips made a sound like a giant piece of paper being ripped in half! (p.18)

### Metaphors -

- “..that snake in the grass...” (p.6)
- “..scab of ice...” (p.7)

### Slang Terms -

- Slob- (p.1)-spit/mucus
- Folks- (p.5)-slang name for “people”
- “square”- (p.8)-nickname for someone who follows the rules
- Punk- (p.9)-a slang term meaning someone who lets himself be abused
- ‘member-a shortened version of the word remember. (p.11)
- a-comin’-a slang term meaning coming or approaching . (p.11)
- he-uh’-a southern style of the word here. (p.14)

- y'all-a popular southern phrase meaning you all. (p.14)

### **Hyperboles -**

- “zillion degrees below zero” (p.1)
- “..called the landlord for the hundredth time” (p.6)
- Him and Buphead just about died laughing... (p.11)
- I nearly broke my neck trying into the house to rescue Byron. (p.13)
- You could cut Byron’s head off and he probably wouldn’t cry. (p.13)
- I wondered if we’d be driving around in the summer with a skeleton dangling... (p.15)
- About a million degrees below zero... (p.17)
- I bet Byron’s lips stretched a mile before they finally let go of that mirror. (p.18)

## **Chapter 2 Helpful Lists**

### **Similes –**

- “...all the kids had their faces twisted up or were looking at me like I was a six-legged dog.” (p.22)
- “It’s a crying shame, takin’ him around like a circus freak.” (p.25)
- “You ain’t cockeyed no more, your eyes is straight as an arrow!” (p. 26)

### **Figurative Language –**

- “Larry Dunn was the king of kindergarten through fourth grade where I went to school at Clark Elementary” (p.20)
- “Larry was the king of Clark ...but Byron was a god.” (p.20)
- “...Miss Henry and the other teachers were smiling a mile a minute” (p.22)
- “The Langston Hughes book jumped from my hand...” (p.23)
- “His eyes locked on mine and I felt things inside start melting inside of me.” (p.24)
- “And Byron Watson, if you are incapable of taking some of the fire out of your eyes I assure you I will find a way to assist you.” (p.24)

### **Chapter 3 Helpful Lists**

#### **Similes-**

- The new kid pointed at the squirrel like his finger was a gun (p. 35).
- Cody pointed his finger like it was a gun (p. 36).
- When it got two steps past them it started shaking and twitching and fell over on its side, dead as a donut (p. 39).

#### **Metaphors-**

- I knew this was a worm with a hook on it, but I bit anyway (p. 40).

## **Chapter 4 Helpful List**

### **Slang Terms-**

- Pomade- (p.48)- Hair grease used on African American hair
- Folks- (p.54)- a term used describing people in general
- Maytag- (p.57) - The thrashing a cap receives in a recirculation hole. Feeling is similar to that of jumping into your washing machine and turning it on spin
- Lemme- (p.59)- a term used for let me have something
- Ain't- (p.59)- a term meaning not

## **Chapter 5 Helpful Lists**

### **Figurative Language**

- “...Joetta turned on the tears...” (p.64)
- “...she knew something was fishy...” (p.66)
- “...he was scared to death...” (p. 67)
- “...get through that rock head of his...” (p.72)
- “...scrunched up her face like she was eating something sour...” (p.72)

### **Similes**

- “...hit the door with her shoulder like Eliot Ness...” (p.66)
- “...looked like one of those ballerinas that dance...” (p.67)
- “...hand around his throat like it was a baseball bat...” (p.67)
- “...spread her arms out to the side like a traffic cop...” (p.70)

## **Chapter 6 Helpful Lists**

### **Similes –**

- “Byron’s faced jumped like a bell went off in his head.” (p.76)
- “It went by me like a little flying saucer.” (p.80)
- “He dropped out of the tree like a superhero.” (p.80)
- “Dead as a donut.” (p. 83)

### **Oxymoron –**

- “loudest quiet” (p.75)

### **Slang Terms –**

- Whacking (p. 76) – Chopping
- Blanged (p.80) – Combination of blasted and danged found at [usingenglish.com](http://usingenglish.com)
- Smack-jab (p.83) – Directly or right on
- Hot second (p.83) – quick or short period of time

## **Chapter 7 Helpful Lists**

### **Metaphors-**

- “Both Momma and me smelled a rat”. (pg.86)
- “...every other punk Chihuahua in America, climbing out of the woodwork to try and get a bite out of me.” (pg.92)

### **Similes-**

- “This looked like the Indians circling the wagons again...” (pg. 88)
- “...wobbling like my knees were made out of Jell-o ...”(p.94)

### **Inferential Language-**

- “...you are now at your Daddy’s mercy.” (pg. 87)
- “...you think I care what them squares say?” (pg. 91)
- “There is a surprise that one of your little darlings has for you, though.” (pg. 93)
- “...I can show you better than I can tell you.” (pg.94)
- “Dad’s voice was real calm and that was scarier than if he had been yelling.” (pg. 95)

## **Chapter 8 Helpful Lists**

### **Similes-**

- "...otherwise the barber talks about you like a dog after you leave." (pg. 105)
- "It still looks like a turd on wheels, but I gotta admit, it looks like a polished turd." (pg. 100)

### **Metaphor-**

- "...special something that sets it apart from all the other buckets of bolts on the road..." (pg. 101)

## **Chapter 9 Helpful Lists**

### **Similes-**

- "...beating his hand up and down like it was a drum" (p.121)
- "black as the ace of spades" (p 135)

### **Slang Terms-**

- Wunnerful- (p 126) wonderful
- Coop- (p 130) house
- Sho-nuff- (p 134) sure enough
- Gonna- (p 134) going to
- Blanged- (p 134) confounded
- 'ol- (p 134) old
- Momma- (p 136) mother

## **Chapter 10 Helpful List**

### **Similes**

- “...this baby’s sound as a dollar.” (p.143)
- ...the Brown Bomber must look like a bug lying on its back with four skinny brown legs kicking and twitching to put it back on its feet (p.148)
- “...looked like someone had crumpled up a pitch-black blanket...” (p.145)
- “...like there had been a star explosion...” (p.145)
- “...like a deformed, evil, one-armed space robot.” (p.145)
- “...like you’re running your fingers through silk.” (p.147)

### **Metaphor**

- “...we’ve got our fingers in God’s beard...” (p.147)

## **Chapter 11 Helpful List**

### **Similies -**

- “sleeping like a little herd of angels” (p. 152)
- “popping up like prairie dogs” (p. 154)

### **Metaphors –**

- “I’ma let the cat out of the bag” (p. 152)
- “she was off to the races with her tears” (p. 157)

## **Chapter 12 Helpful List**

### **Similes**

- “Birmingham was like an oven.” (p.162)\
- “Sounded like the wicked witch of the West”- (p 165)
- “...like she was dropping a bomb on Grandma Sands...”(p 167)

## Chapter 13 Helpful Lists

### Similes -

- P.169- "...pointing to the right looked like it had been on the post for a million years..."
- P.172/73- "the water didn't even look like it was moving, but like it was breathing ..."
- P.174- "...tried to grab a couple but they kept slipping away like they were covered with soap..."
- P.175- "I knew I was as dead as a donut"

### Onomatopoeia-

- P.174/175- "Zoom" and "Boom"
- P.178- "Pull-whisshh-stop, pull-whisshh-stop", "whisshh"

**Dynamic character-** A character that changes throughout the story

**Static character-** A character that stays the same throughout the story

**Conflict-** Kenny is trapped in the whirlpool.

**Resolution-** Byron helps Kenny out of the whirlpool.

**Winnie the Pooh-** A Disney character, a bear, that is lovable and goes on adventures with a boy names Christopher Robin.

**Collier's Landing-** A swimming place in Birmingham, Alabama that Kenny goes to and gets sucked in by a whirlpool.

## Chapter 14 Helpful List

### Similes

- “shook one time like something given it a hard snatch it by the roots” p. 181
- “sound like a faroff thunder storm” p. 181
- “looked like a bell went off in his head” p. 182
- “seemed like every animal and bird...stopped making noise” p. 182
- “looked like someone set off a people magnet” p.184
- “over and over like a real nut” p. 184
- “around like a tornado” p. 184
- “hands looked like a little flock of brown sparrows” p. 186
- “ripped like it was made out of paper” p. 186
- “hot as a furnace” p. 190
- “boo-hooing like a real idiot” p. 190

## Chapter 15 Helpful Lists

### Slang

- curveballs - (pg. 202) means things that are unexpected or designed to trick or deceive
- bruh - (pg. 203) slang for brother

### Grammatical Errors

- wanna - (pg. 196) means *want to*
- ain't - (first seen on pg. 197) a grammatically incorrect contraction for *are not*
- gonna - (pg. 197) means *going to*
- I'ma - (pg. 201) means *I am going to*
- Outta - (pg. 202) means *out of*
- hadn'ta - (pg. 202) a grammatically incorrect contraction for *had not*
- She'da - (pg. 202) a grammatically incorrect contraction for *she would have*

### Idioms

- “check you out later” (pg. 198)
- “on the blink” (pg. 203)
- “keep on steppin’” (pg. 203)

### Double Negatives

- *ain't never* (pg. 200)
- *ain't nothing* (pg. 200)
- *ain't got nothing* (pg. 200)
- *ain't no* (pg. 201)

- *ain't no genies...* (pg. 202)
- *ain't got no* (pg. 203)
- *ain't no way* (pg. 204)

## Epilogue Helpful List

### Slang Terms –

“Coloreds” – a word referring to people of color

### Notable People (also included in background information section)

(retrieved from: wikipedia.com)

**Thurgood Marshall** - (July 2, 1908 – January 24, 1993) was an American jurist and the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 2, 1908. His original name was Thoroughgood but he shortened it to Thurgood in second grade. His father, William Marshall, instilled in him an appreciation for the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law. Additionally, as a child, he was punished for his school misbehavior by being forced to read the Constitution, which he later said piqued his interest in the document. Marshall was the grandson of a slave.

**John Lewis** - (born February 21, 1940) is an American politician and was an important leader in the American Civil Rights Movement. He was president of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and led the struggle to end segregation. Lewis, a member of the Democratic Party, has represented the 5th District of Georgia (map) in the United States House of Representatives since 1987. The district encompasses almost all of Atlanta.

**Ralph Abernathy** - (March 11, 1926 – April 17, 1990) was an American civil rights leader. Abernathy was born in Linden, Alabama, on March 11, 1926. His involvement in political activism began in college while he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, when he led demonstrations protesting the lack of heat and hot water in his dormitory and the dreadful food served in the cafeteria. He became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. While living in Montgomery he formed a close and enduring partnership with Dr. Martin Luther King. In 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, Abernathy and King organized the bus boycott in Montgomery. After a year of the boycott, it finally ended when the United States Supreme Court affirmed the U.S. District Court's ruling that segregation on buses was unconstitutional. Abernathy was Martin Luther King's Number Two in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, holding the official title of Secretary-Treasurer. Abernathy was with Martin Luther King in Memphis when King was assassinated; in fact, they shared Room 307 at the Lorraine Motel the night before. Abernathy assumed the presidency of the SCLC after King's death.

**Medgar Evers** - (July 2, 1925 – June 12, 1963) was an African American civil rights activist from Mississippi. Evers applied to the then-segregated University of Mississippi Law School in February 1954. When his application was rejected, Evers became the focus of an NAACP campaign to desegregate the school, a case aided by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* 347 US 483 that segregation was unconstitutional. In December of that year, Evers became the NAACP's first field officer in Mississippi. After moving to Jackson, he was involved in a boycott campaign against white merchants and was instrumental in eventually desegregating the University of Mississippi when that institution was finally forced to enroll James Meredith in 1962.

**Fannie Lou Hamer** - (born Fannie Lou Townsend on October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977) was an American voting rights activist and civil rights leader. She was instrumental in organizing Mississippi's "Freedom Summer" for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and later became the Vice-Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, attending the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in that capacity. Her plain-spoken manner and fervent belief in the Biblical righteousness of her cause gained her a reputation as an electrifying speaker and constant champion of civil rights.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** - (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was the most famous leader of the American civil rights movement, a political activist, and a Southern Baptist minister. Considered a peacemaker throughout the world for his promotion of nonviolence and equal treatment for different races, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. On April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Jimmy Carter in 1977, the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004, and in 1986, Martin Luther King Day was established in his honor. Considered by many as one of the greatest public speakers in U.S. history, Dr. King often called for personal responsibility in fostering world peace. King's most influential and well-known public address is the "I Have A Dream" speech, delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley** - were dressed in their "Youth Sunday" best, ready to lead the 11:00 adult service at the church, which since its construction in 1911 had served as the center of life for Birmingham's African American community. Only a few minutes before the explosion, they had been together in the basement women's room, excitedly talking about their first days at school. The bombing came without warning.