

## **Afterward Helpful List**

### **Figurative Language -**

- "...the Grand Rapids train station cut back to two redcaps..." (pg. 238)
- "By day he wore many different hats...chauffeur, boat captain, and truck painter." (pg. 239)

## **Chapter 1 Helpful List**

### **Similes –**

- “High-heeled shoes sounding like little fire crackers on the floor.” (pg.1)
- “Jerry looked like they were going to dip him into a pot of boiling milk.” (pg.3)
- “I felt like I was waling in my sleep.” (pg.3)

### **Figurative Language-**

- “You’d have to be as stupid as a lamp post.” (pg.5)

## Chapter 2 Helpful List

### Similes –

- “he was sounding like a horse that had been run to hard in the winter” (pg. 10)
- “Todd was a puffy, rich old mama’s boy who wore a robe and slippers he could hit like a mule and it wasn’t to long before I’d decided enough was enough.” (pg.13)
- “These Amoses might look like a bunch of cream puffs but if she was anything like Todd I bet she could pack a real wallop.” (pg. 17)
- “Shucks, going back to the Home was just what I wanted to do, but I was being just like Brer Rabbit in one of those books mama used to read me at night...” (pg.17)
- “The last kid who got put in there got stung so bad he was swole up as big as a whale when we got him out in the morning.” (pg. 18)
- “like a turtle in a shell” (pg. 10)
- “I’ll be getting in touch with the Home and, much as a bad penny, you shall be returning to them.” (pg.15)

### Figurative Language-

- “I put my head down and started shooting apologies out like John Dillinger shoots out bullets” (pg. 16-17)
- “...I know a lot of times your brain might want to be brave but your mouth might let some real chicken sounding stuff fall out of it.” (pg. 20)

### References to animals -

- “I fell on the floor and pulled my knees up to my chest and crossed my arms in front of my head like a turtle in a shell.” (pg.10)
- “He started huffing and puffing with his eyes bucking out of his head and his chest going up and down so that it looked like some kind of big animal was inside of him trying to bust out” (pg.10)

- “sounding like a horse that had been run too hard in the winter.” (pg.10)
- “hit like a mule” (pg.13)
- “Yeah, Buddy, keep a sharp eye out for the vampire bats in the shed.” (pg.18)
- “Oh, and watch out for those spiders and centipedes, Buddy. The last kid who got put in there got stung so bad he was swole up as big as a whale when we got him out in the morning.” (pg.18)

**References to using all five senses to make writing come to life -**

- “Todd’s next punch...could get under it.” (pg. 9-10)
- “He started huffing...to bust out.” (pg.10)
- “The whole room smelled...eyeball.” (pg. 12)
- “A sticky...sheet on it.” (pg.14)
- “A chain rattled...gray would have.” (pg. 19)

**References to good decisions or possible situations where good decisions should be made -**

- “was only the beginning of a whole long list of bad things that were about to happen to me.” (pg.9)
- “It’s not that you are being a quitter, it’s just that you’ve got the sense to know when enough is enough.”
- “I started scooching toward the bed hoping I could get under it.” (pg.10)
- “Number 3 of Bud Caldwell’s Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself.” (pg.11)
- “so I don’t make the same mistakes more than seven or eight times.”
- “I’d apologize.” (pg.16)
- “I squeezed my tongue between my teeth to hold it still.” (pg.19)
- “There was a whole different, scarier kind of dark in the shed.

- “I didn’t let Mr. Amos know I’d seen it, but it did make me get a lot calmer.”
- “loudest click I’d ever heard.” (pg.20)

**Slang Terms -**

- Scooching - (pg.10) - moving on your belly, thighs, and forearms toward a location
- Coldcocked - (pg.13) - knocked out cold

### Chapter 3 Helpful List

#### Similes –

- “... it sounded like the five other breathers in the shed had left.” (pg. 21)
- “...little curly yellow strips like that stuff rich people throw on New Year’s Eve.”  
(pg. 25)
- “...like I was going to hit a four hundred foot home run.” (pg. 26)
- “...his heart would be just as good as a silver bullet.” (pg. 27)
- “It sounded like I’d turned on a buzz saw in the shed.” (pg. 28)
- “...I put my hand out like Paul Robeson running down the football field.” (pg. 29)
- “Maybe this was why the other kid that they’d found in here had been as big as a whale.” (pg. 28)

## **Chapter 4 Helpful List**

### **Similes -**

- Bud was crouched down like a cat burglar. (pg.31)
- He was quick as a rabbit in grabbing his suitcase. (pg.31)
- Todd was lying in his bed like he was ready for the graveyard. (p.34)
- Todd's bed stayed as dry as a desert. (pg.34)
- Bud was on the run like Public Enemy Number One. (pg.35)

### **Imagery/Descriptions -**

- The window slid open with just a couple of squeaks. (pg.31)
- Bud's heart started jumping around in my stomach. (pg.32)
- He felt how solid the smooth brown wood was against his shoulder. (pg.32)
- He could smell the gray metal of the barrel and gun oil Mr. Amos used on it.  
(pg.32)
- Todd's face twitched like his eyes were going to come open. (pg.32)

### **Slang Terms -**

- Shucks - (pg.32) - a term signifying disgust or disdain for a situation.
- Doggone - (pg.32) - a word used before an adjective to emphasize it.
- In a flash - (pg.33) - a phrase that means very quickly
- Easy as anything - (pg.34) - a phrase indicating that a task is easily accomplished
- On the lam - (pg. 35) - meaning on the run, or acting as a runaway

## **Chapter 5 Helpful List**

### **Similes –**

- “looking like she had rocks in her jaw” (pg.39)

### **Figurative Language -**

- “...I tried tugging at the bars but they were the real McCoy, solid steel” (pg.37)
- “laughed you out of town” (pg.40)
- “alive with germs” (pg.40)

## **Chapter 6 Helpful List**

### **Similes -**

- “When we finally got around the last corner and could see the door and folks going in it seemed like a bubble busted and people started laughing and talking.” (pg.49)

### **Slang Terms -**

- Shucks - (pg.46) - Used to express mild disappointment, disgust, or annoyance.
- Doggone - (pg.47) - confounded
- Crapper - (pg.48) - bathroom
- Lickin - (pg.48) - to be hit or beat
- Writ - (pg.50) - to write a letter or letters

## **Chapter 7 Helpful List**

### **Similes -**

- “The air in the library isn’t like the air anywhere else, first it’s always cooler than the air outside, it feels like you’re walking into a cellar on a hot July day, even if you have to walk up a bunch of stairs to get into it.” (pg. 53)
- “Then their mouths come open and their heads start bouncing up and down like they’re bobbing in a big tub of water for apples and before you know it...” (pg. 54)
- “Something like hearing that your grandmother got her whole body pulled through the wringer in a washing machine, or something like hearing about a horse that slipping on the ice and landing on some kid you went to school with.” (pg. 56)

### **Figurative Language –**

- “Kicking the bucket” (pg. 56)
- “Biting the dust” (pg. 56)
- “One door opening to the next one closing” (pg. 59)

### **Slang terms -**

- Doggone - (pg. 55) - confounded
- Gotta - (pg. 55) - got to
- Shucks - (pg. 57) - something useless or worthless

## **Chapter 8 Helpful List**

### **Similes -**

- “Trapped as a roach under a dishrag” (pg.61)
- “...it was coughing like it was a half-dead little animal.” (pg. 65)
- “Poor kids on the road all alone are like dust in the wind” (pg. 73)
- “We stuck like that for a hot second...” (pg.75)
- “...the moon like a big egg yolk...” (pg.75)
- “...over the crick like the big egg moon...” (pg.76)
- “...someone who doesn’t know who their family is, is like dust blowing around in a storm....” (pg. 78)
- “...making it look like a gigantic black genie...” (pg. 82)
- “...sounding like a bunch of Commies...” (pg.83)
- “But it was like a miracle....” (pg.84)
- “I started running again but it felt like my legs were gone.” (pg.84)

### **Figurative Language -**

- “... being on the road ain’t fit for a dog...” (pg.74)
- “...a little dimple jumped up in her brown cheek.” (pg.74)
- “...I’d ever busted slob with a real live girl.” (pg.76)
- “... been chunked in the head with a rock.” (pg.77)
- “... so it could catch some of the light from the big fire.” (pg.79)
- “...the fire was just a pile of glowing sticks.” (pg.81)
- “The crowd that was tearing through the woods.” (pg.81)
- “Everybody froze...” (pg.83)
- “You lily-livered rats” (pg.83)

- "...my suitcase came flying out of the door." (pg.84)
- "...tried to catch my breath." (pg.85)
- "... you yellow-belly lowlifes..." (pg.86)

**Slang Terms -**

- On the lam- (pg. 61) - sudden or hurried escape especially from the law
- Riding the rails- (pg. 62) - Traveling on trains
- Hop a train- (pg. 62) - Getting on a train and riding for free
- The mission- (pg. 62) - Food shelter, where homeless people can eat for free
- We're all in the same boat- (pg. 68) - Everyone is going through the same difficulties

## **Chapter 9 Helpful List**

### **Figurative language –**

- “I’ll bet you’ve been dying to know...” (pg. 90)
- “...that little seed of a idea started growing.” (pg 94)
- “It dug its roots in deep and started spreading out...” (pg. 94)

### **Metaphor-**

- “That little idea had gone and sneaked itself into being a mighty maple...” (pg. 94)

### **Alliteration -**

- “...woop, zoop, sloop...” (pg. 92)

### **Similes -**

- “That was like the seed falling out of a tree and getting planted.” (pg. 92)
- “...all these things I have in my suitcase and treat them like they were treasures...” (pg. 94)

### **Slang Terms –**

- Ain’t - (pg 92) - a term meaning not
- Rememory – (pg. 93) - memory

## **Chapter 10 Helpful List**

### **Similes**

- “It was like one of those days that it’s raining on one side of the street and not on the other.” (pg. 96)
- “Instead of being tagged and called “it” like the way human beans play the game...” (pg. 97)
- “...put on a black hat like the kind the police or some army men wear.” (pg. 98)
- “...talked sideways out of my mouth like one of those ventriloquists.” (pg. 101)
- “I walked right up to the man like I was hypnotized.” (pg. 102)
- “He said that like it was the most unbelievable thing in the world, like you’d need to put six exclamation points after it.” (pg. 105)
- “...I would’ve run like the devil was chasing me.” (pg. 106)

### **Figurative Language-**

- “bounced over the top of the hill.” (pg. 98)
- “...don’t belt it all down on the first pull.” (pg. 104)
- “My heart started jumping around in my stomach.” (pg. 106)

### **Onomatopoeia -**

- “...and I could hear the engine of the car grumbling, it was saying, wugga, wugga wugga, wugga” (p. 100). This is also an example of personification!

### **Slang Terms -**

- Doggone - (pg. 100) means confounded

## **Chapter 11 Helpful List**

### **Similies**

- “...it looked like some kind of magical fog...” (pg. 114)
- “...it looks more like red stew.” (pg. 114)
- “...I felt like I was at the bottome of a well that someone had filled with tons of thick chocolate pudding.” (pg. 116)
- “...skinny as a rail.” (pg. 117)
- “...like a rock for a good long time.” (pg. 119)
- “...I’ve got a head shaped like a peanut.” (pg. 119)
- “Boy look like one of Georege Washington Carver’s experiments sprouted legs and run off.” (pg. 119)

### **Slang Terms –**

- Pop (pg.112) - a carbonated, flavored, and sweetened soft drink
- Sirs (pg.113) - respectful or formal term of address used to a man

## **Chapter 12 Helpful List**

### **Similes –**

- “...they were just like those Royal Canadian Mountain Police...” (pg. 132)
- “A union is like a family...” (pg. 136)
- “...was as long as a big boat.” (pg. 140)

### **Euphemism –**

- “...not the easiest man in the world...” (pg. 143)

### **Slang Terms -**

- Sit-down strike - (pg.139) – a strike during which workers occupies their place of employment and refuse to work or allow others to work until the strike is settled
- Mellowed - (pg.143) – to become detached from worry, strife, stress, etc.; relax
- Copper - (pg.137) – a police officer

## Chapter 13 Helpful List

### Metaphors-

- “He pointed to a long, skinny, black suitcase that had a leather handle on top of it and said, ‘And be careful, that’s my bread and butter in there.’” (p. 154)

### Similes-

- “Was your momma as old as sand when she had you?” (p.158)
- “The Dusky Devastators got as quiet as some mice with bedroom slippers.” (p. 159).

### Onomatopoeia-

- “...the keys *cling-clang-clinging* up against the metal dashboard” (p. 159)

### Slang Terms-

- “What in Sam Hill...” (p. 150) a phrase emphasizing confusion when asking a question
- Shucks (p. 150) a word showing disdain for a situation
- butterfingers (p. 154) slippery fingers that might drop something
- Busted a gut (p. 155) laughed loudly
- “lay off the kid’s chops” (p. 157) leave him alone; don’t nag him
- “let’s go stuff our craws” (p. 160) go eat

## **Chapter 14 Helpful List**

### **Similes –**

- “...put the napkin over my head like it was a little blanket...” (pg. 173)
- “...with my ear mashed up against her chest it felt like all my bones and muscles quit doing their jobs, it felt like something as big as a steam locomotive engine was chug-chug-chugging right past my ear.” (pg. 173)

## **Chapter 15 Helpful List**

### **Euphemism -**

- "I don't know why grown folks can't say someone is dead, they think it's a lot easier to say gone." (pg.178)

### **Similes -**

- "The door banged open and Herman E. Calloway stood there huffing and puffing like the big bad wolf, only with his belly it looked like he'd already eaten the three little pigs." (pg. 179)
- "I was sleeping like a dead man." (pg. 183)

## Chapter 16 Helpful List

### Similes -

- “I had to fight like a tiger to wake up the next morning.” (pg.184)
- “Sleeping with two sheets puts you out like a baby that’s been rode around in an automobile.” (pg. 185)
- “I’d slept as long as those rich folks in the moving pictures.” (pg. 187)

### Figurative Language

- “So that’s how that cookie’s going to crumble.” (pg. 185)
- “Well, I’m glad to hear it that means I didn’t go digging around in the basement for nothing.” (pg. 186)
- “I guess it would’ve been hard sleeping with them flashing lights up at you, she must have to keep them closed up in a box that the sparkles can’t get out of.” (pg. 187)
- “Were you’re ears burning last night, Bud?” (pg. 188)
- “A gigantic smile split my face in half.” (pg.189)
- “I had to check your pulse to make sure you were still alive!” (pg. 189)
- “Before that grin gets stuck on your face...” (pg. 189)
- “He can use some young, wiry hands to help him around.” (pg. 190)
- “Lord knows Mr. Calloway is going to give it a test.” (pg. 190)
- “Our schedule’s pretty heavy for the next couple of months.” (pg. 190-191)
- “I tried to tie down my smile.” (pg. 195)
- “The floor’s open for names for the newest member of the band...” (pg. 195)
- “I couldn’t tie the smile down anymore, ...” (pg. 196)
- “You nailed him!” (pg. 196)

### Slang Terms -

- Cop a squat - (pg. 188) – have a seat

## Chapter 17 Helpful List

### Similes -

- "...work me like a dog..." (pg. 199)
- "The Thug was brushing his sticks across the round gold metal thing next to his drums and making it sound like a soft rain was commencing to fall on someone's tin roof." (pg. 200)
- "Then Dirty Deed started making the piano sound like it was a kind of drum...it sounded like big, bright drops of water splashing up and over, over and up." (pg. 200)
- "He put his ax in his mouth and blew, but instead of the horn making music it seemed like Steady made it talk." (pg. 200)
- "Every time he patted the strings it seemed like something wide and heavy was walking by slow and easy. Or it seemed like he was thunder..." (pg. 201)
- "...Dirty Deed would make the piano sound like water hitting big rocks..." (pg. 202)
- "...the giant fiddle pound out a soft steady beat, like someone's heart turned way up loud." (pg. 202)
- "...like the storm had gone and blowed itself over in the next county." (pg. 203)

### Metaphors -

- "It was a piece of cake!" (pg. 199)
- "...Steady Eddie would make the saxophone sing and talk and dance..." (pg. 202)
- "...she was the sun busting through thick, gray clouds." (pg. 202)
- "...Mr. Jimmy's trumpet would come in and put his two cents' worth in, then it would fade away." (pg. 203)
- "All the other instruments took turns trying to interrupt the conversation..." (pg.203)

## **Chapter 18 Helpful List**

### **Slang Terms -**

- Eighty-eights - (p. 205) - A slang term for the piano. A piano has eighty-eight keys.
- Dutch - (p. 205) - A white person.
- Doggone - (p. 208) - An expression of regret like darn or dang.

## **Chapter 19 Helpful List**

### **Alliteration -**

- “woop zoop sloop” (pg. 217)

### **Slang Terms -**

- Resprung - (pg. 229) - added new springs to finger keys
- Repadded - (pg. 229) - put new pads on the finger keys