**4/24/2017**

**Summary**

**The Little Man’s Country—Boy Ready**

Reuben sneaks off to meet Davy again, and Davy brings him to his hideout to meet Jape Waltzer and Sara, a young servant girl. Jape is an intense and severe man, and Reuben is afraid of him. Waltzer explains how he met Davy and decided to save him from the police. Waltzer prods Reuben with uncomfortable questions, and he takes offense when Reuben prays to God for the meal they are about to eat. Reuben has a heavy asthma attack while there, and Waltzer scolds Reuben for simply not breathing properly, showing little concern for Reuben’s medical condition. Jeremiah wants to begin courting Roxanna, so he moves out of the house and into the Airstream trailer “for honor.” Reuben visits Davy again, but the stress of keeping Davy’s whereabouts a secret begins to overwhelm Reuben and he worries about the lack of miracles the family has experienced since living with Roxanna. Martin Andreeson visits again and says he has a lead on where Davy might be hiding. Reuben tells Davy and Waltzer about this news but later regrets it when Andreeson goes missing. Reuben realizes that he may have caused Andreeson’s demise, and he tells his father everything he knows about Jape Waltzer and Davy.

**Vocabulary**

1. **Skittish**
2. **Rapscallion**
3. **Congenial**
4. **Impertinence**
5. **Phosphor**
6. **Transfixed**
7. **Abstaining**
8. **Intrepid**
9. **Contagion**
10. **Piquancy**
11. **Beguiling**
12. **Peaked**
13. **Formenting**
14. **Stratifying**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **When Davy takes Reuben to see Jape Waltzer, what request does Davy make? How does Reuben feel about this request? What might this request foreshadow?**
2. **Analyze Waltzer’s interrogation of Reuben and his treatment of Sara.**
3. **How did Jape Waltzer and Davy meet? Why is Waltzer suspicious about Reuben’s presence?**
4. **What does Waltzer think of Reuben’s asthma? What does Waltzer promise as Reuben leaves to return to Roxanna’s house? What does this say about Waltzer’s character?**
5. **Explain how the story of Sunny Sundown’s descent “into the best of misunderstood outlaws” (p. 241) resembles the plight of the Land family. Which member of the family does Sunny resemble the most, and why?**
6. **How does Roxanna and Jeremiah’s relationship change, and why does he decide to move out to the Airstream trailer? How do Reuben and Swede feel about this development?**
7. **How does Reuben feel about his “sustained deception,” and why? What does he imagine will come from his continued visits with Davy and Waltzer?**
8. **Describe the relationship between Sara and Waltzer. How do you think Davy feels about her?**
9. **Analyze Reuben’s realization of Davy’s feelings about Jape Waltzer. What explanation does Davy offer about his relationship with Waltzer?**
10. **What does Swede say about Sunny Sundown’s fate, and how might it relate to their lives? Why is this no consolation to Reuben?**
11. **What news does Reuben share with Waltzer, and how does Waltzer react after hearing this news. How does Reuben feel when Andreeson disappears?**