

Notes From the Midnight Driver

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TABLE of CONTENTS

Teachers Resources:

Introduction	2
Suggestions for Using the Unit	2
Suggestions for Evaluation	3
Objectives and Skills	4
Student Tracking Sheets	5
Rubric for Evaluation	7
Evaluation Sheets	8
Venn Diagram	11
Plot Synopsis	12

Work Sheets:

Vocabulary Lists and Comprehension Questions	13
True or False Question Sheets	23

Activity Cards:

All About Words	34
Grammar & Punctuation	38
Creative Writing	46
Elements of the Novel	50
Integrated Activities	55

Answer Key	59
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III. *Plan B to Laurie Meets Sol* (Pages 54 to 73)

A. Vocabulary

technical gestured stipulated unreceptive assurance demented
potential vicious legendary tension bantering
conspiratorial gullible

B. Read *Plan B to Laurie Meets Sol*.

C. Understanding the Novel

1. What does Alex do to give himself the encouragement needed to return to Mr. Lewis' room for a second visit?
2. What happened during Alex's second visit?
3. Alex did not want Laurie to meet Sol. What did Laurie do to make the meeting possible?
4. What did Alex expect to happen when Laurie and Sol met for the first time? What actually happened?
5. Sol tricked Laurie into doing several things for him. How did he do this? What did Laurie do for Sol?

D. Thinking About the Novel

1. Read the letter that Alex wrote to Judge Trent on November 10 again.
Is Alex justified in complaining?
How would you respond to the letter if you were Judge Trent?
2. Laurie and Alex have been friends for many years.
What does each of them gain from this friendship?
Write a definition for friendship.
How would you define the friendship between Alex and Laurie?
3. Why did Alex expect Laurie and Sol to fight?
Why do you think this did not happen?

TRUE or FALSE?

II. *My Day in Court to Solomon* (Pages 29 to 53)

Read each statement, then decide if it is True or False.

1. Alex avoided his father's telephone calls. _____
2. Laurie and Alex were spending a lot of time together. _____
3. Alex had planned an exciting jump from the roof using his skateboard. _____
4. Laurie thought the jump was too dangerous. _____
5. Alex was not worried about his court appearance. _____
6. The court room was not what Alex expected. _____
7. The adults in the courtroom appeared to know each other. _____
8. Alex did not have a proper trial. _____
9. The judge decided it would be better if Alex did one hundred hours of community service rather than going to jail. _____
10. Alex understood why there was going to be a delay in his getting a driving licence. _____
11. Alex was to spend time visiting Solomon Lewis in a nursing home. _____
12. Alex was happy with his human service assignment. _____
13. Solomon Lewis made Alex feel welcome. _____
14. Alex did not understand some of the Yiddish words Simon used. _____
15. Alex thought he could help Mr. Lewis. _____
16. Alex felt unable to help Mr. Lewis. _____
17. Alex asked for a different assignment from Judge Trent. _____
18. The judge refused to change Alex's assignment. _____

Grammar and Punctuation

Activity 5

Adjective and adverb phrases often begin with a preposition and end with a noun.

An adjective phrase, like an adjective, modifies a noun.

Example: The boy, with the guitar, is Alex Gregory

An adverb phrase, like an adverb, modifies a verb.

It tells where, when, how and why.

Examples: Alex drove across the lawn and into the laurel bush. (tells where)

Mr. Lewis laughed without restraint at his joke. (tells how)

Alex's lessons took place in Mr. Lewis's room every week.

(tells where and when)

- A. Make a list of fifteen prepositions.
- B. Find six sentences in the novel that contain adjective phrases.
Rewrite the sentences, underlining the adjective phrases.
- C. Find eight sentences in the novel that contain adverb phrases.
Rewrite the sentences, underlining the adverb phrases.
Does the phrase tell why, when, where or how about the verb it modifies.
- D. Using some of the prepositions from your list write five sentences containing adjective phrases.
Underline the adjective phrases.
- E. Using some of the prepositions from your list write six sentences containing adverb phrases.
Make sure you use a variety of adverb phrases. They should not all be phrases that tell the same thing: how, when, why or where.
Underline the phrases and indicate whether they tell how, why, when or where about the verb.
- F. Write three sentences containing both adjective and adverb phrases.
Underline the phrases and indicate whether they are adverb or adjective phrases.

Creative Writing
Activity 7

When a new book is published it is reviewed by critics.

The critics give their opinion and tell what they liked and disliked about the book, and comment on such things as writing style, plot and characterization.

They also suggest the type of reader who would enjoy the book.

Pretend you are a critic and write a review of *Notes From the Midnight Driver*.

Remember to justify your opinions by giving your reasons for your comments

Creative Writing
Activity 8

At the end of the novel Alex writes a final letter to Judge Trent and mentions some of his plans for the future.

What do you think will happen to Alex in the future?

Will he go to college? Will he continue to play the guitar?

What do you think he will be doing in ten years time?

Write a brief epilog to the novel telling about Alex's future.

Elements of the Novel

Activity 6

Point of View

A novel is a work of fiction, but an author often expresses his own feelings and opinions in the plot. This is called the *point of view*.

Why did the author write this novel?

Although it is a work of fiction, the author wants his readers to learn something as they read.

What does he want them to learn and understand?

Do you feel he is successful in this? Why or why not?

Elements of the Novel

Activity 7

Conflict is an important literary device used in a novel.

There are three kinds of conflict:

- 1) Man against nature
- 2) Man against man
- 3) Man against himself.

Find and list examples of each kind of conflict that are used in this novel. Present your findings in the form of a chart.