



**Required**  
**Summer Reading Project**  
**for**  
**Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**on**  
***The Red Pony***

## SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *The Red Pony*

Complete the study guide questions on loose leaf paper and file in a binder. Write the answer in two or three complete sentences. Questions are in the order of the book. This work should be completed by the Friday of the first week that we return to school.

### I. The Gift

1. Identify Billy Buck, Carl Tiflin, Jody Tiffin.
2. What did Mr. Tiflin and Billy do in Salinas?
3. What did Jody do on his way to school?
4. What chores did Mrs. Tiflin have to remind Jody to do?
5. What was the gift, the surprise Mr. Tiflin and Billy had for Jody?
6. What name did Jody give the red pony?
7. What was the reaction of the six boys to Jody now that he had a pony?
8. Why did Mrs. Tiflin feel "a curious pride rise up in her"?
9. How did Jody change after he got the pony?
10. Describe y's relationship with Jody.
11. How did Jody know the red pony was a good horse?
12. "Billy looked away... He had no right to be fallible and he knew it." Explain.
13. What happened to the red pony?
14. What did Jody do to the buzzard? Why?
15. How did Mr. Tiflin react to Jody when he found him with the pony and buzzard? How did Billy react?

### II. The Great Mountains

1. What kinds of things did Jody do at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Why were the mountains "dear to him, and terrible"?
3. Who visited the Tiflin farm and why did he come?
4. What was Mr. Tiflin's reaction to the man? Jody's?
5. Identify Easter.
6. In the conversation about Easter and the old man, what comparison did Mr. Tiflin make?
7. "Carl was afraid he might relent and let the old man stay, and so he continued to remind himself that this couldn't be." What do we learn about Mr. Tiflin's character through this passage? What kind of a man is he?
8. What happened to Gitano and Easter?

### **III. The Promise**

1. In the spring, who marched home from school with Jody?
2. What did Jody do on the way home from school?
3. What deal does Jody make with his father?
4. How does the new responsibility affect Jody?
5. "And he [Billy] walked away from Jody and went into the saddle-room beside the barn, for his feelings were hurt." Why were his feelings hurt? Where was Jody's special place, his "center-point"?
6. What place was "repulsive" to Jody?
7. What did Jody decide to name the colt?
8. What kinds of daydreams did Jody have about the colt?
9. What was "the promise"?
10. What happened to Nellie?
11. "He tried to be glad because of the colt, but the bloody face, and the haunted, tired eyes of Billy Buck hung in the air ahead of him." What do we learn about Jody from this passage?

### **IV. The Leader of the People**

1. Who was The Leader of the People?
2. What's Mr. Tiflin's attitude towards Grandfather? Jody's? Billy's?
3. What is Jody looking forward to doing with Grandfather?
4. What does Grandfather overhear?
5. Why does Jody decide to kill the mice another day?
6. What does Grandfather mean when he says "Westering has died out of the people"?
7. What does Mrs. Tiflin realize about Jody when he asks for only one lemon?