

October Sky: Part 1 Study Guide

Chp. 1: "Coalwood" - Main Events and Characters

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Chp. 2: "Sputnik" - Main Events and Characters

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Chp. 3: "Mom" - Main Events and Characters

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Chp. 4: "The Football Fathers" - Main Events and Characters

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Chp. 5: "Quentin" - Main Events and Characters

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Chp. 6: "Mr. Bykovski" - Main Events and Characters

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Thematic Examples

Perseverance • _____ • _____ • _____	It takes a community to raise a child. • _____ • _____ • _____
Romance and Loss • _____ • _____ • _____	Father-Son Confrontation • _____ • _____ • _____
Anti-Intellectualism • _____ • _____ • _____	

October Sky by Homer Hickam

Vocabulary – Part 1

Chapter 1

Sonorous: full, deep, or rich sound

Deference: courteous regard or respect

Denomination: a branch of a church (e.g. Baptist, Catholic, etc.)

Tantalizingly: something that provokes or arouses expectation, interest, or desire, especially that which remains unobtainable or beyond one's reach

Expansive: characterized by a free and generous nature

Chapter 2

Paregoric: medicine that soothes or lessens pain

Decorum: good taste in behavior, speech, dress, etc.

Switchback: a road or railroad following a winding or zigzag course up a steep grade

Precipitously: excessive disregard; recklessly

Proclivity: a natural tendency in human nature; inclination

Mortified: feeling shame or humiliation

Abject: extremely bad

Inexorable: unrelenting; inflexible; without end

Ineffectually: not producing a desired effect

Chapter 3

Duress: coercion or compulsion

Dissemble: to conceal under a false appearance

Chapter 4

Chided: scolded; blamed

Unbidden: not commanded; uninvited

Entity: a thing that has real or individual existence

Unassailable: not to be criticized or tampered with; untouchable; holy

Lucrative: producing wealth or profit; profitable

Surreptitiously: in a secret, stealthy way

Chapter 5

Expound: to set forth point by point

Insidious: characterized by treachery or slyness

Demure: using shyness or modesty in order to attract masculine interest

Gouged: defrauded; swindled

Cohesiveness: the state of unity; sticking together

Defunct: no longer living or operating

Chapter 6

Nefarious: very wicked; villainous

Chagrined: sorrowful; gloomy; disappointed

Cupidity: strong desire, especially for wealth

Insatiable: constantly wanting more; never satisfied

Prodigious: remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree; awesome