

Sample Pages from

***Objective Tests  
and Answer Keys  
for***

# ***Out of the Dust***

By Karen Hesse

***1998 Newbery Medal Winner***



**A Teaching Pack**

by Margaret Whisnant

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# Out of the Dust

By Karen Hesse

Winter 1934

*Beginning: August 1920    Rabbit Battles    Losing Livie    Me and Mad Dog*  
*Permission to Play    On Stage*

**Pages 3-14**



Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Billie Jo was born (A) in a local hospital, (B) in a cabin on her grandfather's Texas farm, (C) at home on the kitchen floor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Billie Jo's daddy (A) wanted a boy, (B) worked in a factory, (C) refused to have anything to do with her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following was **not** true of Billie Jo's appearance? She (A) was redheaded, long legged, and freckle-faced, (B) looked like her father, (C) was short and blonde.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Billie Jo had a fondness for apples and a hunger (A) to see far away places, (B) to learn everything in books, (C) for playing fierce piano.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Billie Jo didn't like it much when her Daddy (A) said she was just like a boy, (B) put her on the tractor, (C) made her do housework.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Although she had tried, Billie Jo's mother had (A) not been able to find work, (B) not been able to get it right when it came to having other babies, (C) not been able to regain her health since Billie Jo's birth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Billie Jo's grandfather died from (A) a bad heart, (B) a cancer that ate up most of his skin, (C) a lung disease caused by breathing dust.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Billie Jo's Aunt Ellis was (A) living in Oklahoma, (B) fourteen years older than her daddy, (C) even meaner than Great-uncle Floyd.

# Out of the Dust

By Karen Hesse

*Birthday for FDR*   *Not Too Much to Ask*   *Mr. Hardly's Money Handling*  
*Fifty Miles South of Home*   *Rules of Dining*   *Breaking Drought*  
*Dazzled*   *Debts*   *Fowl as Maggoty Stew*   *State Tests*   *Fields of Flashing Light*  
**Pages 15-35**

Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Billie Jo played so well at the Palace Theater, Arley asked her to perform at the birthday ball to honor President Roosevelt.



\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Other than the two places she had already performed, Billie Jo had no more offers to play piano.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Because the family crops had been good for the past few years, Billie Jo's mother made a generous donation when the committee came asking.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ma sent Billie Jo to Hardly's store with fifty cents in her pocket to buy supplies for making Daddy's birthday cake.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Mr. Hardly was a pleasant, honest, and generous man.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The attic of Hardly's store filled with dust and collapsed under the weight.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Billie Jo thought about the secondhand sheets of music she could have bought with the four cents in change Ma made her return to Mr. Hardly.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Fifty miles south in Amarillo, wind blew windows in, destroyed signs, and tore wheat out of the ground.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Billie Jo's family had to set the table with plates and glasses turned upside down and cover the silverware with a napkin to keep them from being covered in dust.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Billie Joe got word that Livie Killian's family had found work and were doing much better.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. It frightened Billie Jo to think what it would be like without a place to live and something to eat.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. After seventy days of wind and dust, a little rain came.

# Out of the Dust

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## Spring 1934

*Tested by Dust Banks Apple Blossoms World War What I Don't Know*  
*Beat Wheat Give Up on Wheat Apples Dust and Rain*  
*Harvest On the Road with Arley*

Pages 37-51

a dust storm  
the banks  
wheat  
the piano  
Daddy  
in dimes

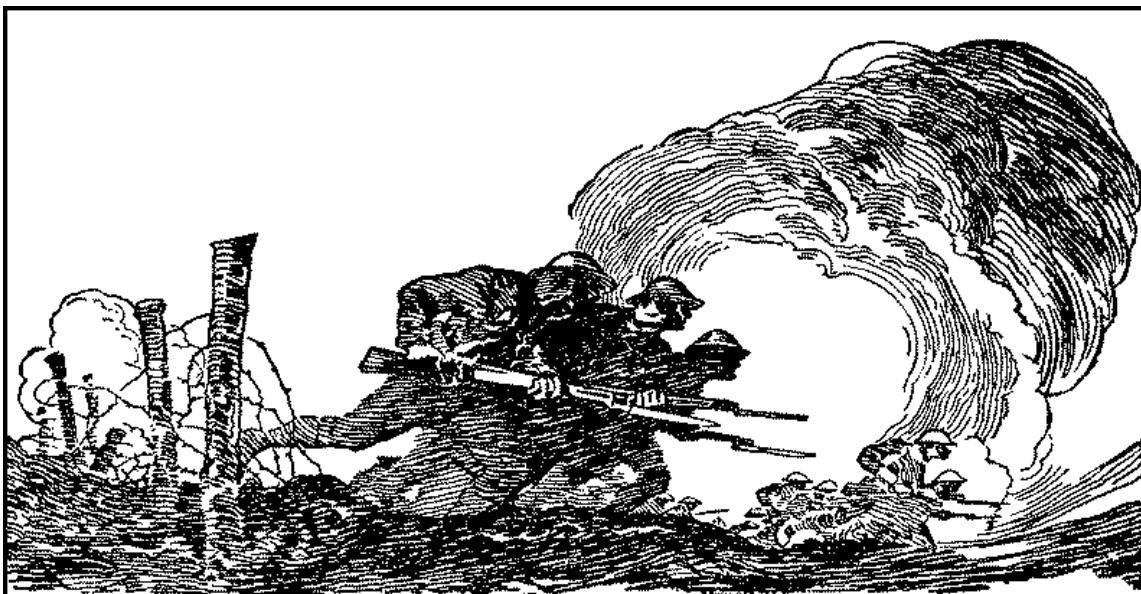
a pond  
apple trees  
*Madame Butterfly*  
Billie Jo  
*baby*

apples  
five bushels  
seventy-three cents  
Arley Wanderdale  
their future

Black Mesa Boys  
school  
on the road  
Ma  
poppies

From the list above, choose the name, word, or phrase that matches each of the clues below and write it in the blank. All answers will be used at least **once**. **Some** answers will be used more than **once**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Billie Jo stood under the two of them and let a blizzard of flower petals fall into her hair.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Thanks to him, Billie Jo earned a little money for the family by playing the piano.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. County Agent Dewey predicated that soon there wouldn't be enough of this left for seed to plant the crop next fall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. He fought in the Great War off in France when he was just seventeen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Daddy made Ma's temper boil by refusing to plant crops other than this one.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When she performed, Billie Jo played a set of songs with this word in it.

# Out of the Dust

By Karen Hesse

## Summer 1934

*Hope in a Drizzle*   *Dionne Quintuplets*   *Wild Boy of the Road*  
*The Accident*   *Burns*   *Nightmare*   *A Tent of Pain*  
*Drinking*   *Devoured*

**Pages 55-69**



Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Did Daddy talk about rain more than anyone else in the family?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the quarter inch drizzle came down, did Billie Jo see Ma standing in the rain striped with mud?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Did Ma cry at the thought of having five babies at once like the lady in Canada?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When the boy came by the house asking for food, did Billie Jo think about Livie Killian and her brother?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Was the sixteen-year-old boy's walk to California something unusual?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Did Billie Jo think that some day she would walk to California?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Had Daddy put the pail of kerosene next to the stove?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Did the pail of kerosene catch on fire when Ma mistook it for water and tried to make coffee with it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Was Ma burned when the rope of fire rose from the stove to the pail of kerosene?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. As the pail of kerosene sat flaming inside the house, did Ma run, screaming for Daddy, out the porch door?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Was Billie Jo aware that Ma was running back toward the house when she grabbed the burning pail and threw it out the door?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Did Billie Jo try to help Ma and the baby by beating out the flames with her hands?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. In Billie Jo's dream, did the piano ruin under a mound of dust?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. When Billie Jo awoke, were her hands swollen, dripping lumps that stung with pain?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Was Ma so badly burned that Billie Jo couldn't look at her?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Did Ma lie, without making a sound, under a sheet tent that Daddy had made?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. As Ma lay disfigured and in pain, did Daddy use the money she had hidden to get good and drunk?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Was the descending cloud that Billie Jo saw a small rain cloud?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Did grasshoppers destroy Ma's apple trees?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Did Ma die giving birth to Billie Jo's brother?



# Out of the Dust

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## Whole Book Test

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Billie Jo's story took place between the winters of (A) 1924 and 1925, (B) 1934 and 1935, (C) 1944 and 1945.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Billie Jo got her name (A) from her grandmother back east, (B) because her father wanted a boy, (C) from her Aunt Ellis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following was not part of Billie Jo's appearance? She was (A) fragile and pale, (B) red-headed, (C) long legged.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The summer her brother was born, Billie Jo was nearly (A) twelve years old, (B) thirteen years old, (C) fourteen years old.