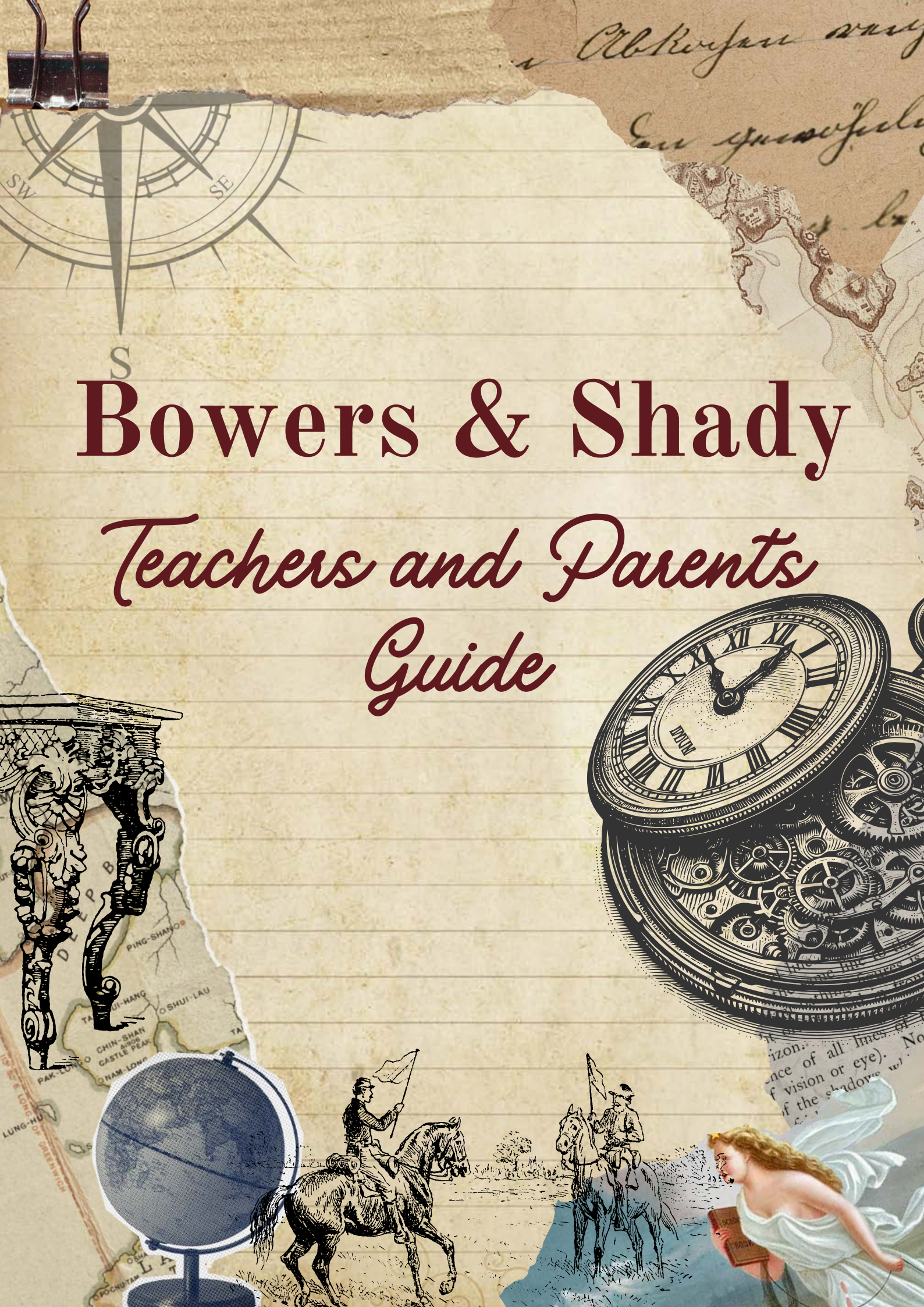




Bowers & Shady

Teachers and Parents

Guide

To the tireless parent and the intrepid educator...

This readers guide is a gift for all to enjoy. It is a promise of deeper meaning, activities for your growing reader, lessons you can trust, and adventures if you dare to seek them.

I hope you enjoy the activites within this downloadble. It is my gift to you. Thank you for choosing to be apart of these stories.

From my heart to yours -

Warmly,

Margaret Dardess

N° 1686/12



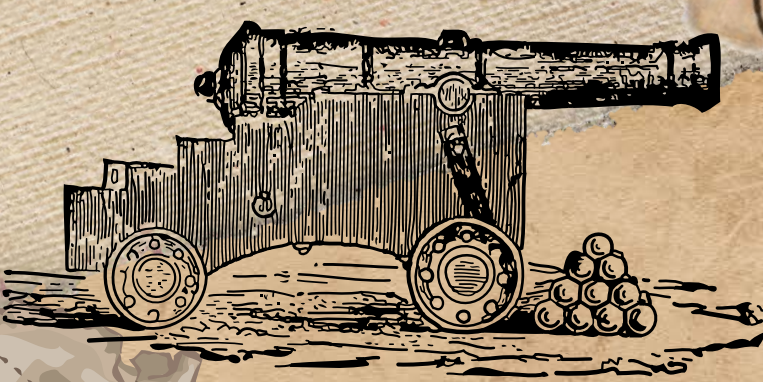


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ABOUT BOWERS AND SHADY

Bowers Jamison, age thirteen, is on a mission. He must get back a stolen gold pocket watch or lose his family's farm. The watch was a gift to his father for saving his colonel's life during the Civil War. The colonel promised it would bring good fortune. "But if the watch falls into the wrong hands, no good will come of it for anybody."

The family's previously hard scrabble farm blooms into prosperity until Bowers' ne'er-do-well uncle, Dan Foley steals the watch and takes off in search of gold in Colorado. The crops fail, Bowers' father dies, and the bank threatens to foreclose on the farm. And Bowers blames himself. He should never have told his uncle about the watch.

Heartsick at having to leave his mother and sister alone, he follows Foley to Colorado. On the way, he helps a ten-year-old orphaned Irish girl, named Shady, escape from Old Scratch, a Fagan-like crook who forced her into a life of pickpocketing. Shady and Bowers make a deal. She will help Bowers' search for the watch, and he will help her escape from Old Scratch.

The two make a formidable pair. Together they learn the true value of friendship while they negotiate a wild frontier town, elude Old Scratch, and stymie two Wells Fargo bank robbers who are counting on the watch to help them get away.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND for BOWERS AND SHADY

In 1858, ten years before Bowers and Shady arrive in Green Valley, the discovery of gold near present-day Denver drew thousands of people to present-day Colorado. More discoveries of gold the following year, including deposits near Black Hawk brought even more people in hopes of striking it rich. The current towns of Denver, Boulder, Black Hawk and Central City were all founded during the Colorado Gold Rush. The gold rush caught the attention of the United States Congress, leading to the creation of the Colorado Territory in 1861.

Initially, prospectors collected gold in streams using a pans, a method known as panning for gold. The gold itself was called placer gold. But the “easy gold” soon ran out.

When the early Gold Rush prospectors could no longer find gold in the streams, many, known as “go-backers” went home. Others stayed to look for gold underground. They didn’t think much about safety. They removed nature’s underground supports and replaced them with mine shafts built of timber. Over time, miners had to go deeper and deeper to find gold and to rely on smelters to extract the gold ore from rock. The smelting process released impurities such as lead and arsenic through smokestacks contaminating the surrounding environments.

As mining became increasingly costly, Most small operators were forced to close down, often leaving behind an underground maze of shafts and tunnels that sometimes collapsed. Only the large-scale miners and smelters remained,

By 1868 when Bowers and Shady would have reached the Colorado Territory, the area around Central City and Black Hawk (called Green Valley in the story), were suffering from an economic downturn. Hard times lasted until the early 1870s when railroads connected the area with other parts of the country and brought people, goods and equipment from the east and facilitated the shipment from the mines and smelters to other parts of the country.

GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARTER AND WHY?**
- 2) IF YOU COULD SPEND TIME WITH ANY CHARACTER WHICH ONE WOULD YOU PICK?**
- 3) WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD ASK THEM?**
- 4) WHAT WERE YOUR FAVORITE SCENES?**
- 5) WHAT DOES THE NOVEL TELL US ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A FRIEND WHEN A FRIEND NEEDS HELP?**
- 6) BOWERS AND SHADY ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER. HOW DID THEIR INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS LEAD TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE STORY?**
- 7) WHAT DID BOWERS LEARN FROM THE MAGIC WATCH AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**
- 8) IF YOU COULD TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO THE PERIOD RIGHT AFTER THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WHEN BOWERS AND SHADY TAKES PLACE, HOW WOULD YOUR SURROUNDING BE DIFFERENT FROM TODAY.**
- 9) IF BOWERS HAD A CELL PHONE OR AN IPHONE WOULD THE STORY BE DIFFERENT, AND IF SO, HOW?**

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS BY CHAPTERS

Chapter One

- **Why is Bowers going to Colorado?**
- **How does he feel about leaving home?**

Chapter Two

- **Why is it important to Bowers that he find the watch?**
- **What does Shady want?**
- **Why does he help Shady?**

Chapter Three

- **How are Bowers and Shady different from each other?**
- **Why doesn't the conductor throw the kids off the train?**

Chapter Four

- **What is Bowers' first impression of Poker Annie, and how does that change?**
- **Who does Bowers blame for the disappearance of the watch?**
- **Does Shady believe that the watch is magic?**

Chapter Five

- **How do Bowers' feelings for his father's influence his choices?**

Chapter Six

- **What is the pact that Shady and Bowers make on the way to Denver?**
- **Why does Shady give a dime to a boy who tried to rob her?**
- **How does Bowers explain the boy's actions to himself?**

Chapter Seven

- **Why do Shady's efforts to help Bowers make him angry?**

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS BY CHAPTERS

Chapter Eight

- Why does Shady stay with Bowers after the crooks steal their money?
- How is Green Valley different from what Shady expected?
- Why does Bowers decide to let Boru come along?

Chapter Nine

- Why is the freight office robbery a sore subject with the marshal?

Chapter Ten

- Why is Cora Smith called the Angel of the Rockies?

Chapter Eleven

- Why does Bowers ignore the marshal's advice?
- Does Bower believe Willie Tucker?

Chapter Twelve

- How do Boru and Bowers save each other?

Chapter Thirteen

- What does Bowers learn from his visit to the pawnshop?

Chapter Fourteen

- What does Shady learn about herself when she tries to celebrate Halloween?

Chapter Fifteen

- Why does Myrtle Gates believe in Bowers' uncle?
- What does Bowers make of Myrtle's story about her lilacs?

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS BY CHAPTERS

Chapter Sixteen

- Why does Bowers feel betrayed by Shady?
- What makes him continue to search for his uncle?

Chapter Seventeen

- Why does Bowers decide to help Shady?

Chapter Eighteen

- Why does Shady agree to go with Old Scratch?

Chapter Nineteen

- What does Bowers learn about his uncle's whereabouts?
- Why do Bowers and Jake agree to help each other?
- What have Bowers and Shady learned about friendship?

Chapter Twenty

- How has Cora's opinion of Shady changed since the Halloween Celebration?
- Why does the Judge believe Shady?

Chapter Twenty-one

- Why is Bowers reluctant to borrow money from Cora?
- What makes him overcome his reluctance?

Chapter Twenty-two

- What does Bowers dream mean to him?
- What choice does Bowers make after he sees his uncle?

Chapter Twenty-three

- Why does Bowers go after his uncle when catching him seems hopeless?
- Why does Shady join him?

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS BY CHAPTERS

Chapter Twenty-four

- How does Boru help the kids find the cave?

Chapter Twenty-five

- Is Bowers tempted to turn back?

Chapter Twenty-six

- How did a memory from the past help Bowers overcome a seemingly hopeless situation?

Chapter Twenty-seven

- When do Bowers and Shady realize that someone they thought was a friend is their enemy
- What choice does Bowers make and why?

Chapter Twenty-eight

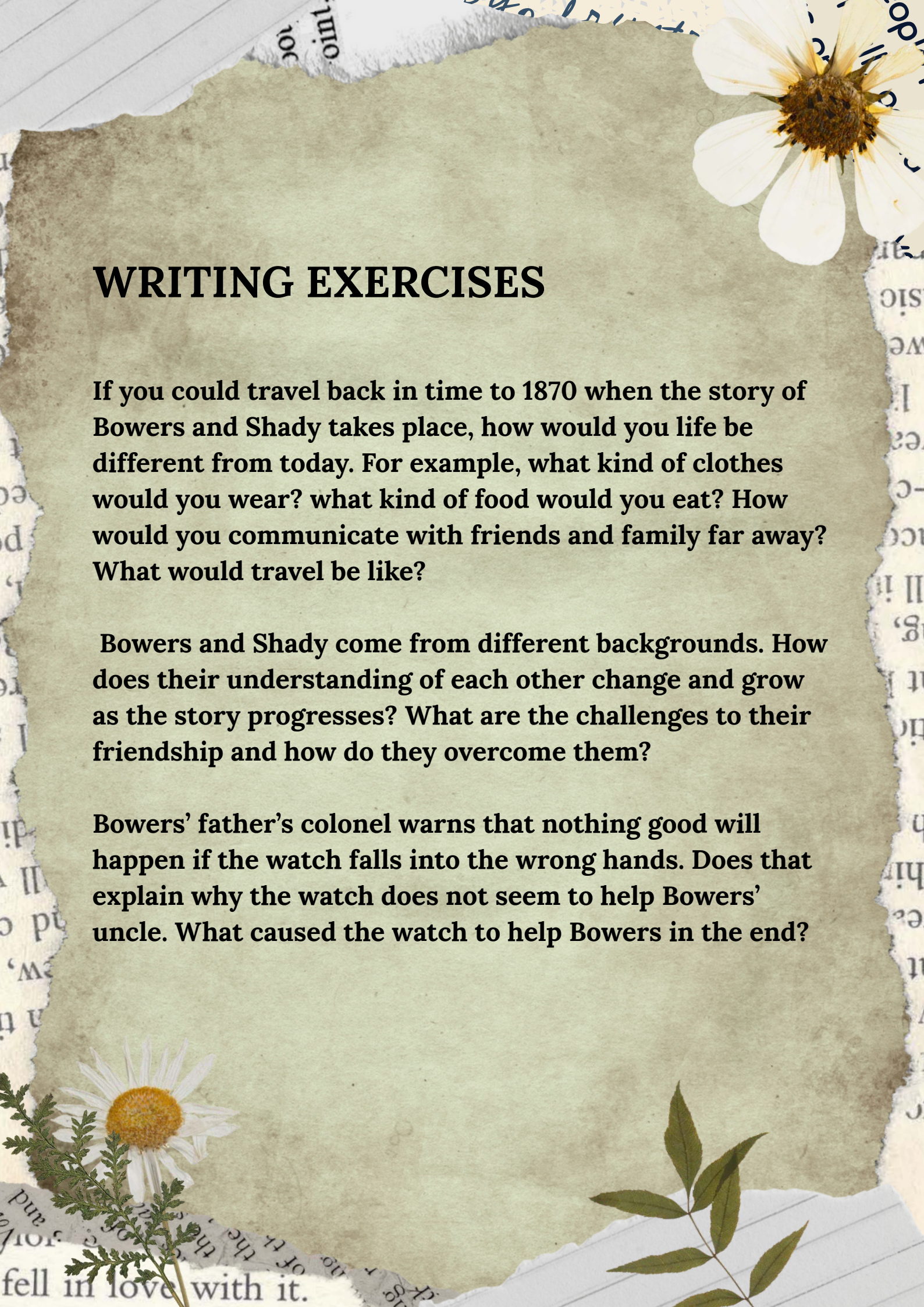
- How does the watch help Bowers?

Chapter Twenty-nine

- How has Bowers come to understand the significance of the watch?
- What do Shady's thoughts about the reward money tell us about her and how she has changed?

Chapter Thirty

- Why does Shady decide to stay with Cora?
- Do you think Bowers will return to Green Valley one day?



WRITING EXERCISES

If you could travel back in time to 1870 when the story of Bowers and Shady takes place, how would your life be different from today. For example, what kind of clothes would you wear? what kind of food would you eat? How would you communicate with friends and family far away? What would travel be like?

Bowers and Shady come from different backgrounds. How does their understanding of each other change and grow as the story progresses? What are the challenges to their friendship and how do they overcome them?

Bowers' father's colonel warns that nothing good will happen if the watch falls into the wrong hands. Does that explain why the watch does not seem to help Bowers' uncle. What caused the watch to help Bowers in the end?

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR READERS

Plan a field Trip to a Cave

The final chapters of Bowers and Shady take place in a cave in Colorado. A fun activity for children reading the book could be a field trip to a cave. The following references contain important and entertaining information about caves and cave conservation to review when planning a trip.

The National Park Service is an important source of information about caves.

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is an organization formed in 1941 to advance the exploration, conservation, study, and understanding of caves in the United States.

Local chapters, known as grottos provide information about caves by geographical location. The grottos also provide a way to meet cavers, learn caving skills, and learn about upcoming trips.

Plan your trip at <https://caves.org/>



