

Souder
William H. Armstrong

Characters:

father – A tall black sharecropper. Is arrested for stealing pork sausages and ham to feed his hungry family.

mother – The sharecropper's wife. Helps to support the family by selling walnut kernels and doing other people's laundry. Would sometimes sing and tell her children stories she had heard at the meetin' house.

boy – The family's oldest son. Likes to go hunting with his father and Souder. Wants to learn to read.

three small children – the youngest children of the family – none as high as the cabin's door latch

Souder – The family's coon dog – had a voice louder than any other dog's in the whole countryside. Is shot by the sheriff's deputy

The Sheriff and two deputies - Arrest the father for stealing

A big red-faced man – a mean jailer who destroys the Christmas cake that the mother has the boy bring to his father

guard – wounds the boy with a piece of iron as he's watching a group of convicts work

teacher – tends the boy's wounds and takes him in for the night. Invites him to enroll in his school and live with him and do his chores.

Questions:

1. Where did the father get Souder? He came to him in the road when he was only a pup.

2. Why was Sounder appropriately named? Because his voice was louder than any other dog's in the whole countryside.
3. What kind of dog was Sounder? A mixture of Georgia redbone hound and bulldog.
4. What animals did Sounder and his master hunt? Possum and raccoon
5. What did the father say that animals like to do when it is windy? Stay in their dens
6. What did the family have to eat because of the poor harvest and hunting season? corn mush
7. What did the mother do most nights? Pick walnut kernels out of their shells
8. For how much did the mother sell the walnuts? Fifteen cents a pound
9. How often did the mother wash the boy's pillowcase and sheet? Every week
10. Where did Sounder sleep? Under the porch
11. What was cooking on the stove the morning after the father had gone out alone? Pork sausage and ham
12. What did mother always do when she was worried? Hum
13. What did mother use to patch father's overalls? Gray and white ticking
14. What did the boy wish he knew how to do? Read
15. Who came to the family's cabin on the third day after the boy had awakened to the smell of ham bone and pork sausage? The sheriff and two deputies.
16. Why did the three white men come to the cabin? To arrest the father for stealing the ham and sausages.
17. What did the men say they found on the door hook of the smokehouse? Threads of torn cloth from father's overalls.
18. What happened to Sounder as he raced after the wagon in which his master was being taken away? The deputy shot him
19. What did the boy find in the road where Sounder had been shot? Half of Sounder's ear.
20. What was the boy planning to do with Sounder's ear? put it under his pillow
21. What did mother do with what was left of the pork sausage and ham? Returned it
22. What did Sounder do after he was shot? He disappeared
23. Where did mother think Sounder had gone? Into the woods to heal his wounds with oak leaf acid.

24. On what errand did the mother send the boy? To take a cake to his father in jail.
25. On what day did the boy go to visit his father? Christmas
26. What did the red-faced man do to the cake? He squeezed it and broke it into crumbs
27. What instructions had the mother given the boy for his visit with his father? "Act perkish and don't grieve your father"
28. What did father want mother to do? He wanted her not to send the boy anymore.
29. Who came home the day after the boy visited his father in jail? Sounder
30. In addition to his injuries, how was Sounder different when he returned? He no longer barked
31. Where was the father sent after his trial? hard labor
32. What did the boy begin doing in autumn after work in the fields was finished? Going to look for his father.
33. What did the boy watch convicts doing through a tall fence? Whitewashing stones
34. Why was the boy watching the convicts? to see if one of them was his father
35. What did the man guarding the convicts do to the boy? He threw a piece of iron at him and crushed his fingers
36. What did the boy take from a trash barrel in a strange and lonely town? a book
37. What caused the commotion in the school yard? The dogs that had followed children to school began chasing a pig that had wandered by
38. Who was the lean, elderly man with snow white hair? A teacher
40. How did the teacher help the boy? He washed and bandaged his hand and let him stay the night
41. What about the teacher's house surprised the boy? Two lamps burning in the same room and the numerous books
42. What did the teacher want the boy to do? Come back and go to school, live in his cabin and do his chores
43. What made Sounder begin barking again? His master's return
44. What had happened to the father while he was doing hard labor? He was caught in a dynamite blast in the prison quarry and half of his body was crushed under limestone
45. How did father die? Leaning against a tree deep in the pine woods.
46. How did the boy find his father? Sounder led him there

47. What did Sounder do when it was time for him to die? He crawled under the cabin.

In What Book....

Was a coon dog's voice louder than any other dog's in the whole countryside?

Was a man arrested for stealing ham and pork sausages?

Did a woman sell the kernels she had picked from walnuts?

Did a boy feel scared when he passed houses with curtains in the windows?

Did a woman bake a Christmas cake for her son to take to her husband in prison?

Did a dog come home after being gone for almost two months?

Did a son search road camps, prison farms and stone quarries for his father?

Did a road camp guard crush a boy's fingers with a piece of iron?

Did a crippled man sit on the porch with his injured dog?

Did a boy move away from home and live with a teacher so that he could go to school?

Did a man go out to the woods to die?

Did a dog crawl under the cabin to die?