

# The Hundred Penny Box

## Sharon Bell Mathis

### Characters:

Michael- The main character. Protects Aunt Dew's hundred penny box.

Aunt Dew- (Dewbet Thomas) Michael's great- great aunt. Has a box with one hundred pennies in it, one for every year that she has lived.

John- Michael's father.

Ruth- Michael's mother.

Henry Thomas- Aunt Dew's late husband.

Henry Jr., Truke, Latt, Booker, Jay- Aunt Dew's sons.

Junie- Aunt Dew's oldest niece.

Big John- Junie's husband.

### Questions:

1. What is the weather in the beginning of the book? Rainy
2. What did Aunt Dew sometimes call Mike? John
3. Where was Aunt Dew before she moved in with Mike's family?  
Atlanta
4. Where did Mike's mother go to get ice cream? Mama Dee's
5. How old is Aunt Dew? 100 years old
6. What did Mike's dad call Aunt Dew? A hundred year old baby
7. How did Mike sometimes find his parents in the morning before they got up? Hugging each other
8. What on Mike's body were extremely large for a boy his age? His hands
9. Who wants to get rid of the hundred penny box? Mike's mom, Ruth
10. Where does Mike's mom say that she is going to throw the hundred penny box? In the furnace
11. Who wants to save the box more than anybody else? Michael
12. What color was Mike's record player? Blue
13. What did Mike's father get Aunt Dew? A Victrola
14. Why did Mike's mother throw Aunt Dew's Victrola out? It was broken
15. What did Mike want to do with the hundred penny box so momma wouldn't throw it out? Hide it
16. Who stopped Mike from hiding the hundred penny box? Aunt Dew
17. What was special about Dewbet and Henry's yard in Atlanta? It had the tallest pointiest trees
18. What year was Aunt Dew born? 1874
19. What else was significant about the year 1874? It was the reconstruction after the Civil War

20. How old was Aunt Dew when she had her twin boys? 27
21. What year did Aunt Dew have her twin boys? 1901
22. What year did Henry Thomas die? 1930
23. What great American tragedy was going on in 1930? The depression
24. What did Henry Thomas die of? Pneumonia
25. How many pennies did Henry Thomas put in the box? 56
26. What else did Aunt Dew do in 1930? Sewed a fancy dress for Rena Coles
27. How many bows did Rena Coles want on her dress? One hundred
28. What was Michael's mom making for dinner the day that Aunt Dew was telling Michael the stories about the pennies? Meat loaf
29. Why didn't Momma want Aunt Dew to go to sleep in her rocking chair? Last time she fell asleep in her rocking chair, she fell out and hurt herself
30. What sized bed do Mike's mother and father have? A king sized bed
31. Where did Mike want to hide the hundred penny box? In the furnace room
32. Why did Michael get mad at his mother while she was chopping celery? She made Aunt Dew cry
33. What special toy did Mike have when he was little? A teddy bear with a crooked head
34. Why does Aunt Dew say that she likes Mike's mother? Because "Dewbet Thomas like everybody"
35. What happened in 1931 to one of Aunt Dew's sons? Latt got married
36. What is Michael's last name? Jefferson
37. What is Michael's middle name? John
38. What color was Aunt Dew's barn in Atlanta? Red
39. What was Aunt Dew's answer to Mike's question, "How do you get to be a hundred years old"? "Well, first you have to have a hundred penny box."
40. What did Mike call Aunt Dew's song that started with the words, *Precious Lord*? The Long Song

### **In What Book...**

1. Did a woman make another woman cry?
2. Was a man an orphan when his great aunt took him in?
3. Did a woman have five sons?
4. Did a woman fall asleep in a rocking chair and hurt herself.
5. Did a woman have her first kids in 1901?
6. Was a woman born in 1874?
7. Did a boy used to have a teddy bear?