This packet contains samples from our complete teaching unit for *Flush*. The table of contents in this sample packet will allow you to preview the activities and lessons available in our complete unit, which includes handouts for each chapter, tests, and more. Download your complete teaching unit for *Flush* now, and use these standards-based lesson ideas and handouts year after year.

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# Flush Teaching Unit

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This sample packet includes free lessons for chapters 1-7 and the first test!
**FLUSH**
**CHAPTER 1**

Name _________________________ Date_______________

**Comprehension:**
1. Why is Noah’s Dad in jail?
2. Who owns the Coral Queen?
3. How did Noah’s parents meet?
4. Who is Abbey?
5. What does Noah’s dad think Dusty Muleman has been doing illegally?

**Point of View**
The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. This point of view provides the reader with the advantage of really getting to know the character who is narrating. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used.

What point of view is used in *Flush*? ______________________________

Who is telling the story? _______________________________________

What are some things that we have already learned that we may not have learned if another point of view were used?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

If it were told from a different character’s point of view, what are some things that we may know about that we do not know about now?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

**Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences**
Describe the relationship between Noah and Abbey.

_______________________________________________________________________

Describe the relationship between Noah, Abbey and their father.

_______________________________________________________________________

“It’s not his heart I’m worried about, it’s his brain,” she said. What does Noah’s sister mean by this statement? What can the reader infer about her relationship with her father at this point in the novel?

_______________________________________________________________________
Comprehension:
1. Who is Jasper Muleman, Jr.?
2. Describe Lice Peeking.
3. What did Lice Peeking steal from Mr. Muleman?
4. What does Noah and his father want from Lice Peeking?
5. Why was Noah’s mother chopping onions?

Direct & Indirect Characterization
1. **DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character’s personality and tells what the character is like.
2. **INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character’s thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

Fill in the blanks on the following charts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lice Peeking’s Traits</th>
<th>Evidence (Quote from the book)</th>
<th>Type of characterization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unkempt, dirty</td>
<td>...Dad said everyone had called him Lice, for obvious reasons, since elementary school. It didn’t look like his bathing habits had improved much since then.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“What do I care about baby sea turtles? I got my own daily survival to worry about.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jasper’s Traits</th>
<th>Evidence (Quote from the book)</th>
<th>Type of characterization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>He was a well-known jerk.</td>
<td>Direct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

*He told Dad and the other guides that he’d inherited some money from a rich uncle who’d died in an elephant stampede in Africa. I remember Mom’s eyes narrowing when Dad told us the story— it was the same look I got whenever I tell her I’m done with my homework and she knows better.* (Page 15)

What can you infer from this passage?

*There, lying open on the bed, was my mother’s suitcase. Not her vacation suitcase, either, but the big plaid one.* (Page 23)

What can you infer from this passage?
**FLUSH**  
**CHAPTER 3**

Name ______________________ Date_______________

**Comprehension:**
1. Who are Thom and Rado?
2. What did Shelly bury with the shovel?

**Figurative Language** - Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, idiom, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Chapter three of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

**Idiom** - an expression that means something totally different than what it says.

Page 25 - “Tell her to **hang in there**, Noah.”
What does the underlined idiom mean? _______________________________________

**Simile** - compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Page 27 - I've always **like** watching the sky drop down like a foamy purple curtain when a **summer storm rumbles across Florida Bay**.
What two things are being compared with this simile? _______________ and _______________
Why is this simile effective?_________________________________________________

Find a simile on page 31. ____________________________________________________

**Metaphor** - compares two things by calling one thing another.

Page 34 - Shelly thumped him with both heels and said, “Get up, you sorry sack of beans, before I park that slimy aquarium on your head.”
Underline the metaphor.
What is being compared with this metaphor? _____________________________________

**Personification** - nonhumans are given human traits or attributes

Page 28 - ...when a summer storm rumbles across Florida Bay. **If you're on the ocean side of the islands, it can sneak up on you from behind, which happens a lot to tourists.**
What is being personified in this sentence?_____________________________________
Write this sentence without personification.______________________________________________________________________
Which is better, your new sentence or the sentence with personification?_______________

**Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences**

Sometimes, late in the afternoon, my father would take me and Abbey out fishing. Even if the snappers weren't biting, we'd stay until sunset, hoping to see the green flash on the horizon. The flash was kind of a legend in the Keys-some people believed in it and some didn't. Dad claimed that he'd actually seen it once, on a cruise to Fort Jefferson. **For our fishing expeditions, either Abbey or I always brought a camera, just in case. We had a stack of pretty sunset pictures, but no green flash.**

**What can you conclude about this “green flash”?** What do you think it is? __________

Do some online research on the green flash of the Florida Keys. Write a brief summary of your findings.
Name ______________________ ________________
Date_______________

Comprehension:
1. How did Bull get his nickname?
2. What did Jasper do to Noah after he hit him?
3. What did Noah do to Jasper after Bull and Jasper left?
4. What happened to Jasper’s johnboat?
5. Why is Abbey crying at the end of this chapter?

Developing Realistic Characters
When writing a narrative, it is important that your characters seem believable and realistic. One way to do this is through dialogue. Another way is through their mannerisms, and yet another way is through descriptions. Carl Hiaasen does a stupendous job making his characters realistic. Complete the following chart by looking back through chapter four at these characters. Examine what these characters say, their mannerisms, and Carl Hiaasen’s descriptions to complete this analysis. The first one has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Author’s words that make this character seem real</th>
<th>Characterization created by…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Shine</td>
<td>He looked mopey and gray, and his eyelids drooped. Abbey said he reminded her of Eeyore from Winnie-the-Pooh.</td>
<td>Description, simile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles Umlatt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion:
"Too many people these days, they just turn their backs or close their eyes, pretending everything is wonderful in the world." (page 47).

What do you think about this statement? Is it true? Do you think there should be more people like Noah’s father? Could you be like Noah’s father?

What do you predict will happen in the next chapter?
Name _________________________ Date_______________

**Comprehension:**

1. Why wouldn’t the deputy allow Noah in to visit his father?
2. What did Lice Peeking do to Jasper Jr.?
3. What did Noah and Abbey witness as they hid and watched the workers on the *Coral Queen*?
4. What happened to Abbey at the end of this chapter?

**Descriptions and Imagery:**

*Imagery – Language that creates a sensory impression within the reader’s mind.*

- Throughout this chapter and the entire novel, Carl Hiaasen uses imagery to help the readers feel like they are there. He describes the characters so that the reader has a complete picture of what the person is like. Read the following two passages and underline the words that allow you to “see” Lice Peeking.

  > He was lounging on the front stoop, sucking on a cigarette. His hair was wet and tangly, and his shirt was damp. I couldn’t tell whether he’d taken a shower or sprayed himself down with a garden hose.

  > Lice Peeking scratched his chin, which was raw and peeling. “Where’s your house at?” he asked.

**You Try It!**

Let’s create a character. We have no idea what Lice Peeking’s mother is like, but let’s use our imagination. Write a short paragraph in which you describe Lice Peeking’s mom. Have her doing something (anything -like planting flowers or chasing a mouse with a broom) as you describe her. Like Carl Hiaasen, weave imagery and descriptions of her into your short passage. You could tell how she smells, (Remember, Shelley smells like tangerines.) have her speak, (Dialogue can reveal a lot about a person.) and describe her so that the reader has a picture of her in his/her mind.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

**Discuss:**

Why should authors use imagery?

**Predict:** What do you think is about to happen to Abbey?
**FLUSH**
**CHAPTER 6**

Name ________________________  Date________________

**Comprehension:**
1. What did Abbey do to the stranger who had her by the neck?
2. Why didn't Lice Peeking show up at Noah's house to get the skiff?
3. Who is going to help Noah?

**Bias**

Bias is a one-sided judgment either for or against a particular person, position, or thing. In order to locate bias, one must look at word choice and the exclusion and inclusion of particular information. Headline news articles should not be biased, neither should news reported on television. However, sometimes bias is still evident. Look at the following passages from page 62.

*Miles Umlatt described my father as "passionate about the environment" but also "volatile and impulsive."*

Are these statements biased? Is it a one-sided view, or does it show both sides of Paine Underwood?

"Half the article is Dusty Muleman saying Dad's a liar and a crackpot," I said.
"Dusty plays golf every Sunday with the newspaper's publisher," my mother said.
Do these statements show that the article was biased? How?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

**Writing Assignment**

Write the newspaper article about Paine Underwood. Choose whether you want to write a biased version of the story or an unbiased version. Remember, to be unbiased, it should stick to the facts and not give any one-sided opinions or judgments.

**Local Cabbie Defends Sinking of Casino Boat**

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
FLUSH
CHAPTER 7

Name _________________________ Date_________________

Comprehension:
1. What did Noah and Abbey do to the television, and why did they do it?

2. What did Noah find out about the sewage tank?

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. Read the following paragraph.

I'd been rummaging through the wheelhouse, hunting for any scrap of evidence that might help Dad - a note in the crew's log, an order in Dusty's handwriting to dump the tanks, whatever - when a mullet boat rumbled into the basin. A man in rubber boots rose in the bow and started tossing a cast net. The noise woke up the bald guy, who got out of the car and stretched his arms and lit up a cigarette.

Now I was stuck. There was no way to leave the Coral Queen without being spotted under the dock lights. I could see Dusty's goon guy sitting on the hood of his station wagon, the tip of the cigarette glowing orange whenever he took a drag.

On tiptoes I made my way down a stairwell to the second casino deck, which, like the others, was enclosed to keep out the rain. I snooped around until I found a rack of poker chips that the crew had forgotten to lock away. I carried the rack up toward the front of the boat and opened one of the side windows. I waited there until the mullet netter motored out of the basin and the marina was quiet.

Then I reached out the window and dropped the poker chips. They made a very impressive racket...He was bounding up the aft stairs as I was sneaking down the forward stairs. When I heard his heavy footsteps on the deck above me, I hustled to the stern, stepped lightly onto the gangplank, and then bolted for cover.

The action in this chapter is not written like the passage below, and thankfully so! If it were, it would lack suspense. Complete the following chart to figure out what the author did to create suspense.

I'd been rummaging through the wheelhouse, hunting for any scrap of evidence that might help Dad - a note in the crew's log, an order in Dusty's handwriting to dump the tanks, whatever - when a mullet boat rumbled into the basin. A man got out, and woke up the bald guy. I snuck down the stairwell, threw some poker chips down and bolted for cover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions before Noah runs for cover</th>
<th>How this adds suspense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. What point of view is used in this novel?
   a. First person – Noah’s point of view
   b. First person – Abbey’s point of view
   c. Third person limited to Noah
   d. Third person omniscient

2. Where is Noah’s father at this point in the plot?
   a. gone to war
   b. on a casino boat
   c. in jail
   d. in a courtroom

3. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
   a. simile
   b. metaphor
   c. idiom
   d. personification

4. Which of the following best describes Noah’s relationship with Abbey?
   a. They get along well.
   b. They fight all of the time.
   c. Abbey is jealous of the attention that Noah gets.
   d. They are always competing with one another.

5. Which of the following is part of the setting of this story?
   a. Florida in the winter time
   b. Florida in the summer time
   c. Mississippi in the spring time
   d. North Carolina in the summer time

6. What is the Coral Queen?
   a. a cruise liner
   b. a hotel
   c. a gambling boat
   d. a tree house

7. “You listen here,” Lice Peeking said. “What do I care about baby sea turtles? I got my own daily survival to worry about.” From this passage, the reader can infer that Lice is not too worried about the environment and saving animals. Is direct or indirect characterization used to help us conclude this?
   a. direct      b. indirect      c. both      d. neither
8. Which of the following best describes Noah's feelings toward his dad?
   a. anger and resentment
   b. pride and concern
   c. embarrassment
   d. uncaring

"Tell her to hang in there, Noah."

9. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
   a. idiom
   b. metaphor
   c. personification
   d. simile

10. What did Lice Peeking agree to take from Noah's father for his statements about Muleman's dumping sewage into the water?
    a. his truck
    b. his skiff
    c. $12,000
    d. a pack of cigarettes

The perfume that Shelly had on was making me dizzy. It smelled like a bag of tangerines.

11. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence, and what does it create?
    a. metaphor which creates imagery
    b. personification which creates direct characterization
    c. idiom which creates symbolism
    d. simile which creates imagery

"Politicians, dictators, kings, phony-baloney preachers - most of 'em are men, and most of 'em lie like rugs," she said. "Don't you dare grow up to be like that."

12. Which of the following most likely states Shelly's bias of men?
    a. She knows there is some good in every man.
    b. She thinks most men are no good.
    c. She knows that only her man is bad.
    d. She thinks women are much smarter than men.

13. How did Bull get his nickname?
    a. He is as big as a bull.
    b. You can't believe a word that he says.
    c. He has an earring in his nose.
    d. He is extremely strong.

The reporter's name was Miles Umlatt. He was thin and blotchy and his nose was scuffed up like an old shoe.

14. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
    a. idiom
    b. metaphor
    c. personification
    d. simile

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# Flush

## Answer Key

### Test Chapters 1-7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- The Man Who Loved Clowns
- Maniac Magee
- Number the Stars
- The Outsiders
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