



## **Hoot**

by Carl Hiaasen

2005 Rebecca Caudill Young  
Readers' Book Award Nominee;  
2003 Newbery Honor Book

### **Recommended Ages:**

10 and up

**Summary:** Roy Eberhardt has just moved to Florida and is hating every minute of it—until he sees the running boy. Roy has spotted him a couple of times, running away from the school bus, with no backpack, no books, and no shoes. Who is he? And why is he running?

**Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert!** Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. Roy is unhappy about moving to Florida and starting at a new school. Have you ever moved or changed schools before? How did you feel?
2. Do you know any bullies like Dana Matherson? What is the best way to deal with a bully? What makes someone become a bully?
3. How is Roy's family different than Beatrice and Mullet Fingers's family?
4. Mullet Fingers sets out to sabotage Mother Paula's building project because he wants to save the owls. Are there any situations you feel strongly about that would make you act like Mullet Fingers?
5. After Roy gives his own name when taking Mullet Fingers to the hospital, his mother tells him, "Honey, sometimes you're going to be faced with situations where the line isn't clear between what's right and what's wrong. Your heart will tell you to do one thing, and your brain will tell you to do something different. In the end, all that's left is to look at both sides and go with your best judgment." Do you think Roy did the right thing by giving his name at the hospital? Have you ever been in a situation like Roy's mother describes? What did you do?
6. This book is set in Florida. Did you feel like you got a good feel for what Florida is like by reading *Hoot*?
7. Why did Mother Paula's Pancakes "lose" the Environmental Impact Statement? What do you think they could have done instead?
8. There is a lot of humor in this book. Find one of the parts you thought was funny and share it with the group.
9. Who are you most like in the book and why?

**Snack Ideas:** Pancakes like Mother Paula's.

*Adapted from Multnomah County Library.*