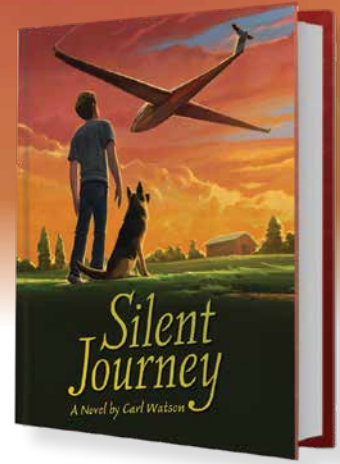


Silent Journey

by Carl Watson



Discussion Guide

1. What are some of the challenges Scott faces as a deaf person? How does he handle them?
2. In what ways does Scott use his deafness as an advantage?
3. Scott moves often to live with different relatives. What do you think that's like for him? What are some of the good and bad things about living in different places?
4. Why does Scott refer to his grandmother as The Ark?
5. Why were Scott and Runt drawn to each other? What is so special about their relationship?
6. What made The Ark decide to send Scott to California to live with Uncle Todd? What do you think is the real reason she wanted him to go?
7. After Scott moves to California, he thinks about Rustie and how she is a true friend. What are the qualities that make someone a true friend?
8. Why did Uncle Todd keep his heart condition a secret from his friends and Scott? Do you think that was the right thing to do? Why or why not?
9. How do you think Uncle Todd's heart condition helps him relate to Scott?
10. Were you surprised to learn that Uncle Todd is Scott's biological father? How do you think Scott felt when he figured it out? Do you think it will change Scott's relationship with his dad?
11. Scott is able to hear again at the end of the book. Why do you think the author made that happen?
12. What do you think is next for Scott and his dad? Do you think they should move back to Texas, or stay in California? Why or why not?



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About Carl Watson

A former educator, Carl Watson has taught Language Arts classes in both elementary and junior high schools. He is a graduate of North Texas State University and Texas Wesleyan University (ME). After being instrumental in writing a Leadership Training manual for the Boy Scouts of America, he assisted in writing a syllabus for Social Studies in the Fort Worth Public School System. His work has appeared in several children's magazines and in church school stories for the Methodist Publishing House, *Child Life*, and in *True West Magazine*.

His first novel, *Kid Clay – A Cowboy's Life on the Range*, (Argus Publishing, 2017) is a historical, western, adventure novel for middle graders based on his grandfather's memoirs describing experiences as a teen cowboy during the time of the National Cattle Trail from 1880 to 1887.

About the Book

Silent Journey, is an inspirational drama about a deaf fourteen-year-old boy and his dog who dreams of a day when he and his father can have a home of their own. Following an accident that took his mother's life eight years before, Scott became deaf. His father, now a single parent, has a job that often takes him out of the country, leaving Scott to stay with one relative after another.

They move to Kansas and live with his grandmother whom Scott calls 'THE ARK' (he read his dad's lips when he said she was the matriarch — May-tree-ark — of the family).

On the day they arrived, the first thing he noticed was an abandoned German shepherd at the house across the street. A lover of all things in nature, Scott determinedly cares for the dog he finds out is named Runt whose owner was a trucker who passed away and left the dog behind.

Blessed with being an accomplished gymnast, and even though he signs and reads lips, Scott's biggest challenge is convincing others he is just as able in doing *all* things as those in the hearing world.



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