

# Touching Spirit Bear Chapter Reviews

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*Grief Is the Thing with Feathers* Turtleback  
In his Nautilus Award-winning classic *Touching Spirit Bear*, author Ben Mikaelson delivers a powerful coming-of-age story of a boy who must overcome the effects that violence has had on his life. After severely injuring Peter Driscall in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given another option: attend Circle Justice, an alternative program that sends juvenile offenders to a remote Alaskan Island to focus on changing their ways. Desperate to avoid prison, Cole fakes humility and agrees to go. While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his own anger cause him to examine his actions and seek redemption—from the spirit bear that attacked him, from his victims, and, most importantly, from himself. Ben Mikaelson paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. *Touching Spirit Bear* is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy, or lead to healing. A strong choice for independent reading, sharing in the classroom, homeschooling, and book groups.

Batman Harper Collins  
"The 17 year-old Kotoko has a unique situation. When she was a child, she was kidnapped by spirits called yokai, and returned missing one leg and one eye. Since then, she has been able to communicate with other worldly forces, both benevolent and dangerous"--Page 4 of cover.  
*Touching Spirit Bear* Novel Units Student Packet Kodansha Comics  
In 1922, at the age of two, Petey's distraught parents commit him to the state's insane asylum, unaware that their son is actually suffering from severe cerebral palsy. Bound by his wheelchair and struggling to communicate with the people around him, Petey finds a way to remain kind and generous despite the horrific conditions in his new "home." Through the decades, he befriends several caretakers but is heartbroken when each eventually leaves him. Determined not to be hurt again, he vows to no longer let hope of lifelong friends and family torment him. That changes after he is moved into a nursing home and meets a young teen named Trevor Ladd; he sees something in the boy and decides to risk friendship one last time. Trevor, new to town and a bit of a loner, is at first weary of the old man in the wheelchair. But after hearing more of his story, Trevor learns that there is much more to Petey

than meets the eye. Petey is a touching story of friendship, discovery, and the uplifting power of the human spirit.  
Stories of Word Origins Hyperion  
Twelve-year-old Koby, who has lost a foot in an accident, sees a chance to prove her self-reliance to her parents when she tries to rescue two stranded pilot whales near her home in the Florida Keys.  
*Stupid Fast Yearling*  
Gary Paulsen has owned dozens of unforgettable and amazing dogs, and here are his favorites--one to a chapter. Among them are Snowball, the puppy he owned as a boy in the Philippines; Ike, his mysterious hunting companion; Electric Fred and his best friend, Pig; Dirk, the grim protector; and Josh, one of the remarkable border collies working on Paulsen's ranch today. *My Life in Dog Years* is a book for every dog lover and every Paulsen fan--a perfect combination that shows vividly the joy and wisdom that come from growing up with man's best friend.  
*Tree Girl* Candlewick Press  
In the aftermath of a crisis that threatens the safety of all shadow children -- illegal third-borns in a society that allows only two children per family -- Trey's friends expect him to take charge -- a function he doesn't want or think he can do. Trey's new role leads him to travel with Luke Garner's brother, Mark, to Population Police headquarters. There he impersonates an officer to try to rescue Luke, who has been taken prisoner. The nonstop adventure puts all three boys in danger and risks exposing the underground movement to help all shadow children. In this, the fifth book in the *Shadow Children* series, Margaret Peterson Haddix returns to the futuristic setting and compelling characters she created in *Among the Hidden*. With an adrenaline-fueled plot and surprising twists, Haddix has again crafted a story that is suspenseful until the last page.  
*Incident at Hawk's Hill* Pan  
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was an American novelist known for works blending satire, black comedy, and science fiction including *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Cat's Cradle*, and *Breakfast of Champions*. He was known for his humanist beliefs as well as being honorary president of the American Humanist Association.  
*Free Market Dogs* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform  
After their parents' death in an automobile accident, two teenage brothers are sent to Colorado to live with an estranged uncle, owner of a white-water rafting business.  
*My Life in Dog Years* Dc Comics  
They call Gabriela Tree Girl. Gabi climbs trees to be within reach of the eagles and watch the sun rise into an empty sky. She is at home among the outstretched branches of the Guatemalan forests. Then one day from the safety of a tree, Gabi witnesses the sights and sounds of an unspeakable massacre. She vows to be Tree Girl no more and joins the hordes of refugees struggling to reach the Mexican border. She has lost her whole family; her entire village has been wiped out. Yet she clings to the hope that she will be reunited with her youngest sister, Alicia. Over dangerous miles and months of hunger and thirst, Gabriela's search for Alicia and for a safe haven becomes a search for self. Having turned her back on her own identity, can she hope to claim a new life? Ages 12+  
Touching Spirit Bear Random House Books for Young Readers

What has changed in the last twenty-five years in the relationship of Poles with their dogs? How have the free market and capitalism influenced Poland and the human-canine bond there? Are dogs "property," "friends," or "members of the family" in post-communist Poland? *Free Market Dogs*, edited by Michał Piotr Pręgowski and Justyna Włodarczyk, examines the interactions and relationships of dogs and humans in contemporary Polish culture and society, and explores how Poland's intense exposure to Western—and particularly American—cultural patterns influenced the status of dogs after restoration of democracy in 1989. This book discusses topics such as the emergence of pet cemeteries, dog memoirs, and presidential dogs in Poland; the growing popularity of dog sports and the feminization of said sports; the philosophical and ideological changes in dog training caused by exposure to state-of-the-art methods from American books and videos; dogs in contemporary Polish art; and the specificity and growing pains of local pet-facilitated therapy. *Free Market Dogs* was written by researchers and practitioners whose academic background includes sociology, anthropology, pedagogy, cultural studies, and literary studies, and whose practical experience involves either training dogs or working with them. Based on thorough research and personal expertise, this is a great book for anyone interested in human-canine relationships—and their similarities and differences—around the world.

*Ghost of Spirit Bear* Scholastic Inc.

When thirteen-year-old Josh runs away to the mountains of Montana with an orphaned bear cub destined for laboratory testing, they both must fight for their lives in a sudden snowstorm.

*The Oxford English Dictionary* Graywolf Press

Welcome to the Puppy Place - where every puppy finds a home. Goldie's a gorgeous golden retriever pup ... but she doesn't know how to behave like a good dog yet. Will Jack and Lizzie be able to help her?

*Vocabulary Energizers* Harper Collins

Six-year-old Ben is very small for his age, and gets along better with animals than people. One June day in 1870, Ben wanders away from his home on Hawk's Hill and disappears into the waving prairie grass. This is the story of how a shy, lonely boy survives for months in the wilds and forges a bond with a female badger. ALA Notable Book. Newbery Honor Book.

*Rough Waters* Simon and Schuster

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, 11-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan. By a Newbery Medal-winning author.

A Teachers' Resource for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education in Alberta Scholastic Inc.

As traditional Aboriginal justice concepts move to the forefront of public consciousness, Ben Mikaelson's *Touching Spirit Bear* offers a timely account of a troubled 15-year-old-boy who finds himself banished by a sentencing circle to a remote Alaskan island. Created for use with *Touching Spirit Bear*, this novel study examines sentencing circles, traditional Aboriginal justice, and the youth Criminal Justice Act.

A Novel Sourcebooks, Inc.

Essentially a complete teacher's manual for the novel, this LitPlan Teacher Pack includes lesson plans and reproducible resource materials for *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikalesen. It includes: Daily Lessons, Short answer study questions, Multiple choice quiz questions, Vocabulary worksheets for each reading assignment, 3 detailed writing assignments, Individual and group activities, Critical thinking discussion questions, 5 unit tests (2 short answer, 2 multiple choice, 1 advanced), Evaluation forms, Review puzzles & games, Bulletin board ideas, Reproducible student materials, and more!

*Touching Spirit Bear* Novel Units, Incorporated

Gecko doesn't want to go back to Juvenile Detention, but trouble somehow always finds him... Graham "Gecko" Fosse drove the getaway car for a robbery he didn't even know was going down. But that doesn't keep him out of Juvie — the worst place he has ever been. It's a place where its inmates, some convicted teenage killers, could easily write an encyclopedia on how to inflict pain. Thankfully, do-gooder Douglas Healy shows up, giving Gecko a chance to swap the slammer for a halfway house lived in by two other young criminals. There are just three crucial conditions — the three boys must stay in school and out of trouble, all while staying on Social Services' good side. Or else it's back to Juvie for all of them. But Terence seems bent on getting himself into trouble — the boys catch him sneaking down the fire escape, off to pull another heist. If only their fight hadn't gotten physical and Healy hadn't wound up in the hospital with amnesia. If only Gecko wasn't falling for a girl whose dad's best friend was the Deputy Police chief. And that's just the beginning of their problems. One thing's for certain: if the boys are found out, their second chance will be their last...

*The Classic Memoirs of a Yorkshire Country Vet* Random House Digital, Inc.

Thirteen-year-old Ricky, The Mexican American son of a former Drug Enforcement Agency man, tries to avenge his mother's murder by crossing over into Mexico to steal a high-tech radar plane from drug smugglers.

*The Puppy Place #1: Goldie* Bantam

The #1 bestselling chapter book series of all time celebrates 25 years with new covers and a new, easy-to-use numbering system! Three ...two...one...BLAST OFF! The Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie off to the moon—and the future. Their mission? To find the last "M" thing that will free Morgan from the spell. Can they do it before the air in their oxygen tank runs out? Will the mysterious moon man help them? And why is Peanut the mouse acting so strange? Did you know that there 's a Magic Tree House book for every kid? Magic Tree House: Adventures with Jack and Annie, perfect for readers who are just beginning chapter books Merlin Missions: More challenging adventures for the experienced reader Super Edition: A longer and more dangerous adventure Fact Trackers: Nonfiction companions to your favorite Magic Tree House adventures

LitPlan Teacher Pack Perfection Learning

A reimagining of Batman's beginnings sheds new light on how Bruce Wayne became the Dark Knight, as he seeks revenge on his parents' killers.