



Activity One

Watch the turtle. He only moves forward by sticking his neck out. —Lou Gerstner

As the author mentions in Chapter 2, **Loggerhead Turtles** are a threatened species. Untended fishing gear is responsible for many loggerhead deaths.



The loggerhead is a marine reptile found in various parts of the world, including the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. It can grow quite large; an adult male sometimes weighing up to 300 pounds (135 kg).

Turtles are a fascinating creature, especially the loggerhead, who spends virtually all of its life in the ocean.

The author of ***The View From Saturday*** is very informative when delivering facts to the reader about this reptile. Now it's your opportunity to learn more about the loggerhead turtle on your own. Using resources in your school library or the Internet, investigate this creature and write a short report detailing at least a dozen interesting facts about it. You may wish to include such categories as diet, habitat, enemies, size, lifespan, etc. To make it even more interesting, include a sketch of the loggerhead turtle as part of your report.

Turtle Soup *By MARILYN CHIN*

**You go home one evening tired from work,
and your mother boils you turtle soup.
Twelve hours hunched over the hearth
(who knows what else is in that cauldron).**



Activity Two

Casting Director

- **This activity can be done with students working in small groups.**

Imagine you are the casting director for a movie company planning to do a film version of this novel. You are to cast all of the major roles for the movie and must choose one of the following two scenarios.

- a)** For the list of characters in the box below, choose an appropriate Hollywood actor to fill each role and write a brief explanation as to why you chose this particular actor.

OR

- b)** For the list of characters below, choose an appropriate person from your own class or school to fill each role and write a brief explanation as to why you chose this particular person. For this assignment, you might choose fellow students (including yourself), teachers, principal, custodian, etc.

Roles

- Mrs. Olinski
- Ethan
- Nadia
- Noah
- Julian
- Mr. Singh
- Margaret
- Hamilton Knapp
- Homer Fairbain
- _____
- _____



Activity Three

Compare New York State with Florida

The setting of the novel features two primary states — Florida and New York. Both of these locations have many similarities, but perhaps even more interesting differences. For example, the average daily temperature in Orlando, Florida during the month of January is 70°F, while in Albany, New York, it is 31°F. Many New Yorkers (like the grandparents of three of *The Souls*), in fact spend their winters in Florida.

Your task is to create a **comparison framework** (see an example in the insert below), comparing six important criteria between these two states. Your criteria might include:

- geography
- vegetation
- animal life
- climate
- popular pastimes
- agriculture

Criteria	Florida	New York
1. Annual Precipitation		

Your report should also include a paragraph summarizing the key differences between these two locations.

NAME: _____



Activity Four

Jewish Dishes

Sha! a shanda far die kinder

The Souls have one Jewish member and one half-Jewish member. When visiting their grandparents in Florida, for instance, Noah, Ethan and Nadia come face-to-face with Yiddish terms, culture, religion and even kosher delicatessens. **Kosher** food is food which adheres to Jewish law. Meat from a pig or rabbit, for instance is not considered kosher.

Many Jewish foods, on the other hand, are not necessarily “kosher” foods.

People who have visited Israel or the house of a Jewish friend (who is a gifted cook) can testify to their many more traditional, delicious meals.

Some of these includes such dishes as

- ~ Apfelstrudel
- ~ Baba Ganoush
- ~ Challah
- ~ Blintz
- ~ Farfel
- ~ Hamantaschen
- ~ Hanukkah Gelt
- ~ Sufganiya
- ~ Knishe

Using research from your school library or the Internet, prepare a meal of traditional Jewish dishes. Be sure the meal has at least five courses: an entree, a bread, prepared vegetable, dessert, drink, and one additional item of your choice. Be sure to describe each item and include pictures if desired.

Do vegetarians eat animal crackers? —*Author Unknown*

A bagel is a doughnut with the sin removed. —*George Rosenbaum*

A nickel will get you on the subway, but garlic will get you a seat. —*Old New York Proverb*

After dinner sit a while, and after supper walk a mile. —*English Saying*

NAME: _____



Activity Five

An Alternate Ending

- **This activity can be done individually or in small groups.**

One of the decisions Mrs. Olinski agonizes over is who to include as a fourth member of her team. For awhile she considers including Hamilton Knapp, then finally decides on Julian.

What, though, if Mrs. Olinski had chosen Ham to round out her team? What would have been the result? Would he have surprised his teacher (and the other members of the team) and been a roaring success, or would he have crashed and burned and ruined it for everyone else (as suggested by Mr. Singh)?

Although we will never know the answers to these questions, you will be given the opportunity of putting your imagination to work in coming up with what might have happened if the author's imagination had worked its way in an entirely different direction.

If working with a group, brainstorm possible alternative endings to the novel. Remember to consider all of the principal characters. From your list of ideas, choose one ending to present to the class. Write a detailed synopsis of your alternate conclusion presenting as much detail as possible. After presenting it to the class, you may wish to get their input as to additional changes that might be made to further improve your alternate ending.

Have fun!



Activity Six

Put it on Film

- **To be done in groups of four or more.**
- **Video equipment is necessary.**

One of the fascinating things about putting book to film is in the many different interpretations of a scene which are possible. To illustrate this you may wish to check out a number of student-made clips of scenes from novels which are posted on *YouTube*.

The task of your production team is to recreate a particular scene from this novel. Choose your scene carefully. Factors to consider:

- **length** (2–3 minutes — 2–3 pages is advised)
- **number of characters** (i.e. some scenes might be impractical because of the number of people involved)
- **setting** (i.e. a scene on the school bus might be impractical because of the setting)
- **dialogue** (i.e. too much can be difficult to memorize for the actors; too little might make the scene a bit boring)

Your task is to create a short scene from the novel and present it to the class on film. A script must be written before filming; roles assigned; rehearsals scheduled. You may wish to present the film in Readers Theater format.

Be sure that when you are presenting your finished project to the class that it is your best effort. Don't be afraid to do multiple takes until most of the rough edges are removed.

Have fun!