

A Study Guide prepared by IYC Tutor Byron Eden

Lost and Found

By Anne Schraff

January 21, 2012

As you read this book, Lost and Found, please make a list of all words that are used in the book that you do not know the meaning of. Bring your list to class each week, along with your copy of the book and this study guide, and we will resolve vocabulary words that you find. Two of the central characters in this book are Darcy Wills and Hakeem Randall, both of whom play major roles in other Bluford Series books, A Matter of Trust, and Blood is Thicker. If you are drawn to either Darcy or Hakeem and their stories, you may want to consider also reading A Matter of Trust, and Blood is Thicker.

CHAPTER 1

1. (p.2) What kind of relationship exists between Darcy Wills and her sister, Jamee?
2. (p.2-3) What do we know about Darcy's mom?
3. (p.4-6) At school, Darcy is working on a science project involving tidal pools. The biology teacher, Ms. Reed, is assigning the class to work in teams. What are the advantages and disadvantages of assigning class projects in teams, rather than grading on individual effort?
4. (p.7) Darcy is paired up with Tarah Carson, someone Darcy does not like, based on her appearance, and the persons she hangs around with. Darcy's Aunt Charlotte would refer to someone like Tarah as "low class". "Those were people who were loud and rude. They drank too much, used drugs, got into fights and ruined the neighborhood. They yelled ugly insults at people, even at their friends. Darcy did not actually know that Tarah did anything like this personally, but she seemed like the type who did". What is the definition of the word prejudice?
5. (p.8) Darcy suggests that they switch partners. "A big smile spread slowly over Tarah's face. 'Nah, I think I'm gonna enjoy this. You're always sittin' here like a princess collecting your A's. Now you gotta work with a regular person, so you better loosen up, girl!'" (p.9) "'You think you're better than me, don't you?' Tarah suddenly growled. 'You don't have to say it, girl, It's in your eyes. You think I'm a low-life and you're something special. Well, I got more friends than you got fingers and toes together. You got no friends, and everybody laughs at you behind your back. Know what the word on you is? Darcy Wills give you the chills'" (p.10) "A terrible thought clawed at Darcy. Maybe she was the loser, not Tarah. Tarah was always hanging with a bunch of kids, laughing and joking. She would go down the hall to the lockers and greetings would come from everywhere. 'Hey, Tarah! What's up, Tar? See ya at lunch, girl'. When Darcy went to the lockers there was dead silence". What is the difference between success and popularity? Are all popular people successful? Are all successful people popular?
6. (p.11-14) What relationship does Darcy have with her grandmother? How does that compare with her sister Jamee's relationship to their grandmother?

CHAPTER 2

1. (p.18) In Darcy's opinion, what is it that made her sister Jamee change, "to have angry, sad moods, to be cynical."?
2. (p.20) When Darcy met up with Tarah in biology class they were actually civil with each other. "Tarah was silent for a moment, as if she was surprised at how honest Darcy was being". Darcy shared family information that she had never shared with anyone. Is it possible that Darcy realizes that perhaps Tarah is not as bad as she first assumed?
3. For lunch Darcy met her friend, Brisana. (p.23) What does Darcy realize about her friendship with Brisana, and their attitude towards others?
4. (p.23-24) Darcy goes to the school library, and overhears Bobby Wallace and his friends talking about a 14 year old girl who stole a CD for him simply because he asked for it. (p.26-28) Who does it turn out to be, that is stealing things for Bobby Wallace?

CHAPTER 3

1. (p.31) Grandma is getting quite senile, but she vividly recalls memories from years ago when Darcy's father would take the family hiking. What is your favorite vivid memory of your youth?
2. (p.34) After breakfast Darcy looks in the bedroom of her sister, Jamee, in an attempt to determine the source of the breaking glass she had heard the night before. What did Darcy find in Jamee's trash can?
3. (p.35-38) Darcy rides to the tide pools with Tarah and Cooper. What was it like riding together?
4. (p.40-42) While at the tide pool Cooper dropped a water bug down Darcy's back. What effect did that incident have on the relationship between Darcy and Cooper/Tarah?
5. (p.42-43) This chapter ends with Darcy waiting to catch a bus ride home. Why was she taking a bus home after riding to the tide pools with Tarah and Cooper? "Darcy had been sitting on the bus bench for ten minutes when she noticed an old silver Toyota parked under a tree down the street." Who do you think was in the Toyota, and why was the driver watching Darcy?

CHAPTER 4

1. This chapter begins where the previous chapter left off. (p.44) "What an awful day it had turned out to be". (p.45) The next day Darcy and her mom and sister went to Aunt Charlotte's house for dinner. How did that dinner turn out? What was Aunt Charlotte like? (p.48) What happened between Jamee and Aunt Charlotte?
2. (p.53) While walking to school Monday morning Darcy asks her best friend Brisana what she should do about the problem with her lab partner Tarah, and her

- boyfriend, Cooper. What suggestions did Brisana offer? “If you lie down with dogs, you’ll get up with fleas”. What does that statement mean?
3. (p.55) What does Darcy see while walking to school with Brisana?
 4. (p.56) When Darcy arrived at school and sat down in her first class she noticed a small note taped to her desk. (p.57) What did the note say? Who do you think sent her the note? Could it have been from the person in the silver Toyota?

CHAPTER 5

1. (p.58) How did the meeting between Darcy and Tarah go, after the problems on Saturday at the tide pool?
2. (p.62) After Darcy finishes a conversation with her mom, and her mom leaves for work, there is a phone call. “Was someone she knew trying to scare her? The same person who wrote that awful note?” Who called, and what was said?
3. (p.63-64) When Jamee gets home what does Darcy see? (p.65) “Did Bobby Wallace hit you?” Have you ever had someone you loved or cared about, who was hit by someone else? How did that make you feel?
4. (p.66) Darcy sees the silver Toyota parked across the street. Could it be Bobby Wallace?
5. (p.67) Darcy calls the police about the Toyota. Who was the man in the Toyota?
6. (p.70) “The more she looked, the more Darcy saw something familiar in the man’s face. ‘It’s him. It’s my father’, she whispered”. (p.71) What does Darcy ask the police officer to do about her father’s return?
7. (p.72) “Jamee stared through the window. ‘That lump in the car? That fat guy? That’s not my father. That’s not Daddy...’ Jamee caught her breath, and her gasp ended in a sob. ‘Is it?’”. Has anyone ever reentered your life after a long absence? How did you feel?

CHAPTER 6

1. After telling Darcy and Jamee’s father to leave the area, the police officer returned. Why?
2. (p.74-75) What are Darcy’s strongest memories of time spent with her father? “‘Yeah’, Jamee said. ‘I think being there in the mountains was the last time I was really happy’. She shook herself, as if to chase away the memories. ‘Why’d he have to come back like that—like a stranger in the night?’” When was the last time that you were really happy?
3. (p.76) “‘I don’t ever want to see him in my entire life’, Jamee asserted with sudden unexpected passion. ‘I hate him. I wish he was dead. I wish we had gotten his death notice’.” Have you ever hated someone with the same passion demonstrated here by Jamee toward her father? Do these feelings remain just as strong after time passes? Why do some people hold grudges?
4. While walking to school the next day there was a red Nissan parked near the school. (p.80) “Instantly the red Nissan sprang to life and blocked her path. Bobby Wallace leaned out the window. ‘Wanna talk to you, girl’ he barked.

- (p.81) “‘Get your hands off me!’ Darcy screamed as loud as she could.” What prevented Bobby Wallace from hitting Darcy like he had threatened?
5. (p.83) “A number of kids had seen what happened in front of school, and by afternoon Bobby and his friend were disciplined. How did the principal punish Bobby Wallace?”

CHAPTER 7

1. (p.86) What happens when Brisana asks Darcy to join her for lunch today?
2. While eating lunch instead with Tarah and Cooper, Darcy has an opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of other students that she did not know. One of them (p.87-88) was a boy that played a guitar. Who is this boy that Darcy is interested in?
3. While sitting with Tarah after school, Darcy tells her about how her father has just reentered their lives, after a five year absence. (p.91) “Darcy could not believe how much of herself she was revealing to a girl she hardly knew. It was one thing gossiping about another girl’s father being a drunk, or somebody’s sister getting pregnant. But now Darcy was admitting that there was a large, dark secret in her own family, that Dad had ripped a hole so big and deep that maybe her own little sister was being pulled into its terrible darkness”. Have you ever shared deep personal information with someone that you did not know very well? How does talking about your life’s problems make you feel?
4. (p.92) What suggestion does Tarah offer to Darcy, concerning her feelings toward her father?
5. (p.94) “Tarah’s hug was more comforting than Darcy ever imagined. It was as if she had left a small part of her sorrow with someone else, and now what was remaining would be easier to carry”. Have you ever received a hug from someone and had similar feelings that part of your problems in life had been lifted from you, and were now being shared by the other person?
6. (p.97) On Saturday Cooper drove to the tidal pool once again, with Tarah and Darcy. But who else joined them on this trip?

CHAPTER 8

1. Darcy shares with her mom the fact that she had met a boy, Hakeem, that she really liked, and that he had asked her to go with him to a concert on Friday night. (p.104) “Hakeem looked directly at Darcy. ‘You know, I never thought you would be so nice. I feel good with you, Darcy. I feel comfortable. I don’t feel comfortable right away with many people. I mean you seemed stuck up when I didn’t know you. But I guess you’re just like me – just shy”. Have there ever been times in your life when your first impression of someone turned out to be wrong?
2. When Darcy returns home from the concert she is told by her mom that Jamee was not home, as she was spending the night with a friend, Alisha. (p.105) This didn’t make sense to Darcy because “Jamee and Alisha had a falling out weeks ago when Jamee began hanging out with Bobby Wallace”.

3. (p.106) Darcy called Alisha's home and confirmed that Jamee was not there, and that Alisha was at her father's for the weekend. Darcy then went into Jamee's locked bedroom. What did Darcy find?
4. Darcy calls her mother at work to report that Jamee has run away. A missing-person report was filed with the police. The next afternoon Tarah, Cooper and Hakeem join Darcy in a search for Jamee. All of the usual places a teen would go were searched with no luck in finding Jamee. (p.112) One boy suggested that they search in the canyon. What was it like in the canyon?

CHAPTER 9

1. After unsuccessfully searching the canyon for Jamee, the group returns to Darcy's house. The silver Toyota is parked across the street. Darcy's dad reported that he had been contacted by the police, and told that his daughter Jamee had run away. This was the first conversation that Darcy had had with her father in over five years. Hakeem agreed to accompany Darcy as she accompanied her father at a local diner for some conversation about Jamee. (p.119) "She cried so much when you left, and she kept on crying because it was a wound that wouldn't heal' Darcy went on, finding comfort in his obvious misery. She wanted to somehow pile all her own pain on this man's soul, crushing him with the burden, and then be free of it herself". What is the biggest fear that Mr. Wills has?
2. Darcy later tells her mom about the conversation with her dad. (p.123) "I'm glad he thinks he caused Jamee to run away, because he did, in a way. I'm glad he's suffering. He deserves it." "Oh, baby, don't let the anger eat you alive' Mom cautioned. 'I asked him why he left us' Darcy said. 'I imagine he gave you an earful' Mom sighed. 'He says he's sorry and he wishes he could take five years back. He even said he's here for me, whatever that means'." Has there ever been a time in your life when you wish you could have a "do-over", a chance to turn back the hands of time, and do something differently?

CHAPTER 10

1. By Sunday afternoon things were looking very desperate in the effort to find Jamee. (p.127) The rambling conversations with grandma provided a significant clue as to where Jamee might be. What clue did grandma provide?
2. Based on the theory that Jamee might have gone back to the mountains where she had been so happy in the past, Darcy calls Tarah to ask if she will stay with grandma, and have Cooper drive her to the mountains to see if that might be possible. She then called her father to tell him what she was considering doing. What did her father tell her?
3. Darcy, Cooper and Mr. Wills drove to the mountains, and walked around yelling for Jamee. (p.130) Mr. Wills "spun around with surprising grace for such a big man and began scrambling up a nearby slope. Carl Wills let out a loud shout 'Jamee!' And then, there he was, staggering back down the slope, the cold wet, unconscious girl in his arms. Jamee's limp arms drooped as if she were more

- dead than alive”. How did Jamee’s dad know where the exact spot was, to look for his daughter?
4. (p.133) Darcy remembered Tarah’s words, “Sometimes good people do rotten things. Then they realize the mistakes they’ve made and turn their lives around... You can’t give up on people... God don’t give up on us, no matter what we do. So where we get off givin’ up on each other?” Are there people in your life who have not given up on you, despite the mistakes that you’ve made in your life?

What did you think of this book, and why?

ALTERNATIVE ENDING

I usually end my reading study guides by giving an opportunity to do some creative writing. I am going to ask you to pretend that this book ended with Chapter 9, and you get to write whatever ending you would like. Write an alternative ending that is different from how the author ended this story. Please remember that there is no right or wrong ending, you can write whatever you wish. Be creative. Have fun. When you are finished I will show you an alternative ending that I wrote.

ALTERNATIVE ENDING TO

Lost and Found

By:

ALTERNATIVE ENDING TO

Lost and Found

By IYC tutor Byron Eden

Darcy and her mom sat in their kitchen talking about what had led up to Jamee's decision to run away. No one knew for certain who was to blame. They were in agreement that having Jamee's dad suddenly returning after being gone for five years may have played a part in this situation, but deep down, only Jamee knew the real reason for her disappearance.

As they sat there talking quietly, there was suddenly a loud pounding on their door. Startled, both Darcy and her mom jumped in fright. Who could possibly be pounding on their door at this hour of the night? Darcy looked out the window and saw the silver Toyota on the street. Darcy crept slowly and quietly toward the door, while mom picked up the phone and dialed 911.

Darcy spoke through the locked door, asking her father what he wanted and why he was here at this time of night. "**Open Up!**" and "**Let me in!**" were the only responses that they could hear, and clearly understand. As Darcy stalled for time she thought that she could hear her father saying that he thinks he knows where Jamee is. Could this be? Finally, in a very loud and clear voice, Mr. Wills said "Please call the police, and let me come in to share with you what I have learned". The faint sound of a police siren could be heard nearing. After a few more moments of tortuous stalling, they could see the police car pull up in front, with an officer rushing up the stairs.

Darcy's mom opened the door at the same time that the officer arrived at their doorway. "What is going on here?" the officer demanded to know, in a booming voice. Mr. Wills could hardly control his emotion as he started to blurt out the facts as he knew them, even if they were not necessarily in the right order. "After finishing speaking with you Darcy I had a chance to talk further with your friend Hakeem. By the way, he is quite a fine young gentleman. Hakeem was telling me all about the many ways in which you had tried to find Jamee. One of the things that he mentioned was that you had placed a phone call to Bobby Wallace's house, and learned from his mother that Bobby was with his grandparents in Arizona. Well, ever since I was told not to bother you and your family any longer, I have been true to my word, and have stayed away. But no one ever said that I couldn't look into those people that have reasons to hurt either of my little girls. I had heard about the way that Bobby Wallace had used Jamee to steal things for him, and how he had hit her when she broke up with him. Hakeem also told me that if it weren't for the quickness and strength of your friend Cooper, Bobby Wallace also would have hit you too, Darcy".

"Yeah, all of that is true," replied Darcy, "but how does any of this help us find Jamee?" "Well, since I can't keep tabs on my girls, I decided to keep a close watch on Bobby Wallace's house. All I ever saw was a red Nissan, but no sign of Bobby. Then Hakeem told me that Bobby was in a red Nissan when he confronted you, and tried to hit you. When I was just over there I took a slow walk past their house and noticed that the garbage cans were out for tomorrow's collection. One of the things that was out for collection was a small suitcase, nothing like a suitcase that a big guy like Bobby Wallace would own. And it just doesn't make sense that whenever anyone arrives at the home;

they always go in the back entrance. And now I am told that Bobby isn't even supposed to be here, because he is in Arizona. None of this adds up!

The police officer interrupted to say, "You raise some good observations, but it doesn't prove anything". "But I think that we at least have enough reason to justify going over to have a talk with whoever it is that is at Bobby Wallace's house.

Darcy's mom said that she would stay and look after grandma, but she quietly asked Mr. Wills if he would be willing to accompany Darcy and the police officer as they went over to the Wallace residence.

As the squad car approached Bobby Wallace's house the officer could see someone coming from around the back of the house, accompanied by much smaller person. The officer turned on his overhead flood lights and emergency lights. The man immediately took off running, and everyone could hear Jamee yell with all of her strength "Darcy, Help Me!" As the police officer chased down Bobby, Darcy and Mr. Mills sprang from the squad car and hugged Jamee. "How did you get here?" demanded Darcy.

"It's a long story", said Jamee. "But Bobby met me at school the other day and said that he would help me go anywhere that I wanted to go, and that all I had to do is pack a few things, and we would be on our way. He brought me here, and has kept me tied up in his basement all this time. He wouldn't let me go, and said that he was finally going to show me what it is like to really suffer.

Darcy could hear that several police cars were fast approaching the area with sirens blaring. It was enough noise to wake the dead. Mr. Wills reached out, and picked up Jamee with his big strong arms. "I just thank God that my princess is alive and well".

Darcy commented aloud, to no one in particular, "I'm just thankful that we are together again as a family, doing what is best for each other".