

Hoppergrass Discussion Questions

1. Compare and contrast the movie **Cool Hand Luke** with **Hoppergrass**.
2. Many of the young men in the story have nicknames. What purpose do the names serve? Do you have any nicknames? Do you like them? If you could choose your own nickname, what would it be?
3. Bowser tells stories and story time becomes very important. Why? What purpose do the stories serve?
4. This book takes place in 1969. What clues do you get to the time setting? How would the story change if it took place in 2009?
5. On page 40 Bowser talks about the world being made for "normal people." Do you agree? Give examples of why or why not.
6. Nose catches a Hoppergrass and keeps it for a day and then sets it free. **Hoppergrass** is the title of the book. What do you think the title of the book means?
7. On page 96 Bowser says, "Shorty Nub is lying." Lying about what and how does Bowser know he is lying?
8. Why does Bowser think it is so important to "tell the story true."?
9. Currently there is a controversy over whether teens should be tried as juveniles or adults. Write a paper defending your opinion. Check the website <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/juvenile/>
10. Where do you think Nose or Bowser will be in five or ten years? Write a brief afterward for the story, with your predictions.

Discussion questions prepared by Patti Tjomsland, Library Media Specialist.