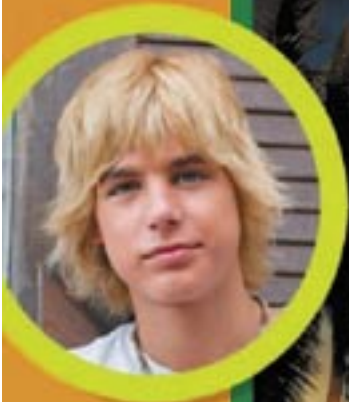


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BASED ON THE BESTSELLING NOVEL

HOOT



ACTIVITY BOOK

Based on the Bestselling Novel by Carl Hiaasen

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Hardcover (ISBN: 0-375-82183-3) • Paperback (ISBN: 0-375-82916-4)



WALDEN MEDIA



NEW LINE CINEMA

A Time Warner Company

Read This First!

You've grown up watching movies. You've seen them in theaters, in classrooms, in your living room, and maybe even in your family's car. You've memorized the lines of your favorite films. You dressed up as movie characters for Halloween. There's no doubt about it, movies are a big part of your life!

But you might not have ever seen a movie in the way you're gonna see *Hoot*!

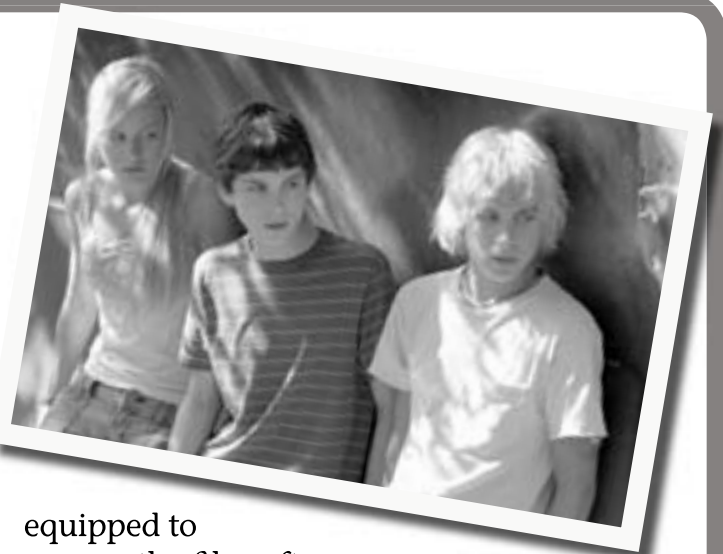
Hoot won't require you to wear 3-D glasses, or blow out your eardrums with massive explosions – those aren't what make this movie so cool. What will make seeing *Hoot* a new experience for you is...

...your brain.

When you see *Hoot*, you'll use your brain instead of just your eyes and ears. You see – movies are more than what you see on the screen and hear through the sound system. Movies have *messages* – ideas and viewpoints that they want you to understand and experience. Now that you're old enough to figure these things out for yourself, you'll start noticing the messages in movies more and more.

That's where this booklet comes in.

When you do the activities included here, you'll know what to look for in the movie, and you'll be better



equipped to process the film after seeing it. You'll go see *Hoot* with some insider info that will help you recognize the messages in the film. This material is kind of like one of those "secret decoder rings" you played with as a young kid – but more fun!

When you use your brain while watching a movie, you get a whole lot more out of the experience. Using your brain while watching a movie is like raising your hands in the air while riding a gnarly rollercoaster. The experience and thrills go to a whole new level!

So, plan on going to see *Hoot* with some friends. Before you go, read through this booklet and do the different activities. You'll have more fun if you do the activities with a couple of friends. Or even better – make your parent's wonder what's gone wrong with you by asking them to go through these activities with you!

You'll have a blast!



Do These Before Seeing *Hoot*!

These three activities will prepare you to get the most out of watching the movie!

The New Kid

You've seen them. Maybe you've actually been one of them – more than once. There's something about them that immediately clues you in on their newness. Maybe it's something about the way that they dress. Or those scared, where-do-I-find-my-next-class looks on their faces. Whatever it is, you can usually spot a New Kid from across the campus.

The real problem faced by a new kid isn't finding the right classroom. It's find-

ing friends. Kids at your age have pretty much grouped themselves into friend clusters. Some people call them *cliques* (pronounced "clicks"). You can almost chart the cliques in your school by identifying where the different groups sit at lunchtime. In fact, that's your first activity in preparation of seeing *Hoot* – chart where the different friendship clusters sit during lunch at your school. In this photo, draw your cafeteria or lunch area, and label which cliques sit where.



Now read these Scripture passages (quoted from The Message paraphrase of the Bible) and answer the questions:

Romans 12:16 – *Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.*

Philippians 2:3-4 – *Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourself long enough to lend a helping hand.*

- What makes befriending “nobodies” and new kids difficult? _____

- This seems to be a big deal to God. Why do you think the Bible is so clear about reaching out to kids who don't have any friends? _____

- What will you do the next time you're going to lunch and you notice one of those left out kids at your school? _____

Caring for Creation

One of the awesome responsibilities that God has given us is to take care of what He's made. Amazingly enough, God handed the keys of Earth to us – people – and gave us the job of making His creation work. Here's how The Message paraphrase puts it:

Genesis 1:27-28 – *God created human beings; He created them godlike, reflecting His nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”*



Unfortunately, people haven't done a great job of fulfilling God's blessing. Every day we lose more forest, animal species, and other resources that Earth has – all because we forgot that our job is to manage and care for creation. Instead, people have focused on making "progress" – building cities, making money, or even just wanting nice things.

Don't get the wrong idea – that's not all bad. The problem comes when "making progress" becomes more important

than "caring for creation." We need to manage and care for God's creation so that we can continue to make progress – and that generations to come can do the same.

Before you go to see *Hoot*, make a list of what you see in your town that shows how people have not cared for God's creation. Your list can include such things as "trash in the creek bed," "big trees cut down for strip mall," "weeds growing in playground," and so on.



Make a Difference

A lot of kids your age don't realize how effective they can be in making a difference around them. "I'm just a kid," they think. "I can't drive – all I have is my bike/skateboard," they explain. But when you see *Hoot*, you'll see three kids who prove that people your age CAN make a difference. And, they do it with ultimate coolness!

The key is to realize what you have as a kid that adults often can't offer. Here are a few "for instances" of what someone your age can use that adults usually can't:

- *Energy*. You have more energy than a vanload of adults. You can channel that energy in a bunch of creative ways to make a difference in your world.
- *Creativity*. Adults are often stuck in a "we've always done it this way" mode. You, on the other hand, can think of LOADS of different ways to accomplish a goal.

- *Courage*. As a kid, you don't worry about losing your job or making the boss mad at you. Therefore, you can do things that no adult would dare attempt.

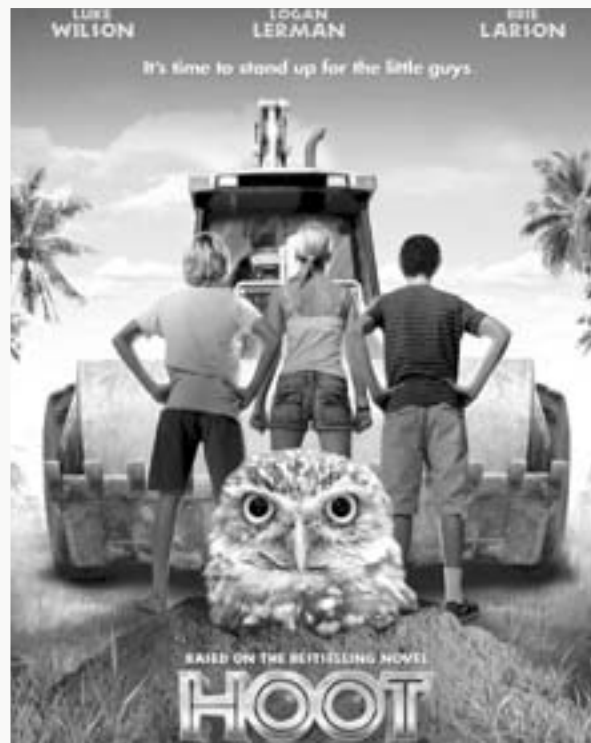
The Bible has a cool verse that's just for you. It's **1 Timothy 4:12**, and The Message paraphrase puts it this way:

Don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity.

That's saying a lot!

Think through how you can use your youthfulness to make a difference by answering these questions:

- How could what you SAY make a difference?
- The way you act – your "demeanor" – says a lot about who you are, what you're like, and what you think is important. What do you think your "demeanor" is saying?



- When this verse mentions “love” it does not mean gooshy feelings but “sacrifice for the benefit of others.” Think over your past couple of days and identify when and what you have sacrificed for the benefit of others.
- When you try to do something that is impossible unless God helps, that’s living by faith. How have you shown your faith recently?
- When a person does what is right even though nobody may notice, that’s

integrity. In *Hoot* you’ll see several examples of integrity, but right now you should think of a couple of incidents when you could have done the wrong thing and gotten away with it, but instead did the right thing. Write out those situations here: _____



Do These After Seeing *Hoot*!

Don't do these three activities until you've seen the film – they won't make much sense before watching *Hoot*, and you don't wanna spoil anything!

Dealing With Bullies

Every school has them, and they scare a lot of kids. *Hoot* actually showed THREE bullies. Who were they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

You probably got Dana Matherson right off the bat. He's a hulking monster who greets his new schoolmate by painfully sinking his fingers into Roy's temples and smashing his face against the school bus window. In an odd way, Roy is indebted to Dana. You see, if Dana hadn't dug his thumbs into Roy's neck and scrunched his face against the glass, he would never have spotted the barefoot running boy.

You might have even figured out that Beatrice Leep is the toughest kid at school – able to out-bully even Dana.

What you might not have guessed is that "Mother Paula's" regional manager, Mr. Muckle, is a bully too. He bullies Curly (the construction foreman) and Kimberly (the "Mother Paula" actress) in a similar

way that Dana bullies Roy. Even adults have to deal with bullies!

Jesus had some good advice about how to handle these kinds of people. He said, *"Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."* (Matthew 5:39)

On the next page is a list of what you can do to follow Jesus' instruction and neutralize the threat of a bully. After each item on the list, finish the sentence or answer the question.



- **Make Friends.** *Treat the bully as a friend instead of an enemy.*

How did Roy attempt to befriend Dana? _____

- **Use Humor.** *Turn a threatening or scary situation into a funny one. Let insults go – without fighting back.*

Imagine that a bully at school just swiped your lunch, and dares you to do something about it. You look at him and say, “ _____

 _____.”

- **Walk Away.** *Don’t get into it – just walk away. The winner of the fight is the one who avoids it.*

If you’re a guy, walking away goes against all of your “manly” instincts. Girls, too, don’t want to be seen as

weak or afraid. Finish this sentence:
 “I’ll walk away from a bully, and walk towards _____

 _____.”

- **Scream/Yell.** *A powerful shout can end conflict before it starts. Call the proper authority to help you.*

Who can you turn to at school to help you avoid being the victim of a bully?

- **Reason with the Bully.** *Use the most powerful tool you have – your brain.*

Roy was really good at using this method. Describe how: _____

HOOT



Crossing The Line

Roy was faced with a dilemma. He had stumbled onto a serious situation at the construction site, and wanted to do something to help save the owls. However, Roy's dad explained that the construction project was approved and legal.

"But that doesn't mean it's *right!*" was Roy's reply.

Mullet Fingers had a different piece of advice: "You've gotta start thinking like an outlaw!"

So, what can YOU do when faced with doing something that is good, but isn't condoned by others? How do you "cross the line" and make a difference, without becoming a true "outlaw"? CAN you really create change in your world?

A similar situation happened way back at the beginning of Christianity. Peter and boys were telling everyone about Jesus – which really ticked off the ruling religious elite, who had previously ordered Peter and his guys to not talk about Jesus. When Peter and the others continued to tell people about Jesus, they were arrested and thrown in jail. But during the night an angel let them escape, and the next day they were back at it – telling anyone who would listen about Jesus.

By now the ruling religious dudes were fit to be tied. They had Peter and his cohorts hauled in. This is what the Bible says happened next (Acts 5:28-29)...

The Chief Priest said, "Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name?"



And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man."

Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Whoa! That took some guts!

Think through this issue a little deeper by answering these five thought-provoking questions:

- When is going against the rules okay?

- How can you tell you're not just doing what "feels" right? _____

- When is going against the rules NOT an okay thing to do? _____

- Roy's mother advised, "You're going to be faced with



situations where the line isn't clear between what's right and what's wrong. Your heart will tell you to do one thing, and your brain will tell you to do something different. In the end, all that's left is to look at both sides and go with your best judgment." How does this advice relate to Mullet Fingers' actions? _____

- Give an example of when you defied what was expected in order to do a greater good.



Getting Involved

When Roy's family moved to Florida, Roy didn't plan on getting involved with a pair of step-siblings from a dysfunctional family. He wasn't looking for a cause to champion. He certainly didn't envision running from a policeman, or creating an elaborate ruse so his new friend could be treated by a doctor.

Roy just wanted to melt into the crowd at his new school – to not be noticed, and to try to avoid trouble.

But Roy's curiosity led him to a deep friendship with Mullet Fingers and Beatrice. Together, the three of them stalled the construction project, uncovered wrongdoing by the restaurant developers (who conveniently "lost" the environment report page about the Burrowing Owls), and saved some endangered species.

Who are your two best friends? What can the three of you do together to make your neighborhood, school, church, or town a better place for all of God's creatures to live in?

Here's a project for you and your friends to do that might get you started:

1. *Do some research* and discover what needs exist in your community. You might have "vernal pools" that need protecting. You might discover that people dump oil, paint and other harmful chemicals into the storm drains in your neighborhood – drains that feed into local creeks and rivers, polluting them. You might find out that your local businesses and residents need encouragement to recycle more. With your two friends, research and identify ONE project that you can do to make a difference and care for God's creation.



2. *Get it in writing.* Make sure you have your facts straight about the situation you want to highlight. Then, write a persuasive letter or essay – for your school newspaper, the editor of your local paper, or the appropriate government official. Explain why this issue is important to you and to your readers. Make specific suggestions about ways to address this problem.



3. *Get more people involved.* Create a petition – a legal document used to communicate “the will of the people” to elected officials. A petition includes a brief summary of an issue and tells the position that a person is taking by signing the petition. Gather as many signatures as you can, and send you petition papers to your elected officials.

4. *Take action!* Sometimes, you just have to DO something about a situation – lawfully, of course. The action you take will be determined by the kind of project you’ve undertaken.

Remember, we have been given the responsibility to take care of what God has created. Every living thing is here for a purpose. You’ll be doing God’s work when you help make a difference in the environment where you live!

Here’s a Bible verse, 2 Corinthians 9:2, that will encourage you as you get involved in your community –

I know you’re on board and ready to go. I’ve been bragging about you all through Macedonia province, telling them, “Achaia province has been ready to go on this since last year.” Your enthusiasm by now has spread to most of them.

You probably noticed that Paul was bragging about the people of Achaia, telling of their enthusiastic willingness to help – so that they encouraged others to get involved. You can be just like those people! Your youthful enthusiasm will be infectious, and you’ll be amazed at what God will do through you.

Thanks for getting involved! You CAN make a difference, and be the kind of risk-taking, creation-caring, line-crossing person that God needs in today’s world!

