



**Incoming Grade 8 Summer Reading Guide  
HOMECOMING by Cynthia Voigt**

**Use this to prepare for your exam in the fall.**

**Ms. Stafford**

**Please answer the following questions based on the chapters of the story.**

**Chapter 1**

1. What was unusual about the car trip that Momma made with her children?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Before the car trip, how had Momma's behavior been odd?

---

---

---

---

---

3. Why did Dicey not go to the police for help?

---

---

---

---

---

4. Why did Dicey choose to go to Aunt Cilla's house?

---

---

---

---

---

5. Why did the security guard allow Dicey to make her call?

---

---

---

---

**Chapter 2 & 3**

1. What did the children decide to do?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why were the children hesitant to leave the car?

---

---

---

---

---

3. On the children's long walk the first day, what problems did they face?

---

---

---

---

---

4. What were the main problems the children faced each day? What solutions did Dicey find?

---

---

---

---

---

5. Why did James begin each day with the words, "It's still true"?

---

---

---

---

---

6. Why did singing improve the children's spirits?

---

---

---

---

---

---

7. Why did Dicey make up the story about their mother and father's wedding?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Homecoming**  
**Home Is ...**

What does home mean to you? Prepare a brief written description or definition in a few sentences.

---

---

---

---

---

---

Write one word that for you would follow the phrase:

**Home Is** \_\_\_\_\_

Pretend that you are the Tillerman children. Which word would each child use to finish the phrase and why?

**Dacey**

Home Is \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

**James**

Home Is \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Maybeth** Home Is \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Sammy** Home Is \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Homecoming  
Novel Analysis**

**Elements of the Novel**

1. Who is the protagonist – the main character – in the novel?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of person is the protagonist?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What evidence in the novel leads me to this opinion of the protagonist?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What challenge/conflict does the protagonist encounter? [Desire + Obstacle = Conflict]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Plot: How is the conflict resolved? (Strategies used? External events?)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What other important characters are involved in the conflict? (Antagonist? Foil? Other?)

---

---

7. What is the setting of this novel? (time, place, climate, social customs/beliefs)

---

8. Point of View: Who tells the story – one of the characters or an outside observer?

---

9. Plot: What event do I consider to be the climax of the novel? Why?

---

---

10. How would I describe the mood? How does the author establish that mood?

---

---

11. State the theme/central idea/lesson of this novel.

---

---

12. Is there a sentence or short passage that states or strongly implies the theme? If so, what is it?

---

---

