

# Teacher's Study Guide for The Blizzard by Marty Martins

## Pre-reading vocabulary assignment:

As you read, find the following words or phrases in the story, indicate on which page they appear, and define the underlined word.

1. an orotund whisper
2. isinglass window
3. the bruin
4. pique in her voice

List four examples of alliteration and the page on which each appears.

## Internet Research - Homework:

Some kids at the fair were wearing 4-H caps or FFA jackets. What does 4-H and FFA stand for? Describe something about each group.

What do muskrats look like? How big to they get? What do they eat?

In Chapter 6, the author describes an overhanging tree root that protects the muskrats from raptors. What are raptors? What kind of raptors would you expect to find in northern Illinois?

Describe the difference between a fisher and a marten. What do they have in common?

## Reading Comprehension:

Before Tommy hits Melanie, did you have any hint that Tommy might have a violent background? Give at least three examples.

Do you think parents should trust a 17-year-old boy (or girl) with his/her own rifle? Would where they live affect your decision? What facts did the author provide that Chet was careful with firearms?

Chet's mother is surprised at how well she is treated after she gets to the jail. How do you think that came about?

During the discussion at the school lockers, why did Mary Frances refer to Kandy as "Tigger?"

Why do you think Chet's face was "totally free of any evidence of being in a fight?" What clue appeared in the Prologue?

To what was Melanie referring when she e-mailed Chet with NOW YOU HAVE TWO and her phone number?

**Discussion:**

Do you know anyone whose parent(s) served overseas in the Armed Forces? What do you think that would be like? (*Encourage students who might have personal experiences with a parent who served.*)

Have you ever been to a county or state fair? Have you walked through the display booths in the exhibit halls? What booth or product stood out. Did you go on any rides? Which was your favorite? Did you play any games? Did you ever win a prize?

How well do you think the author captured the sights, sounds, and smells of the fair? What would you include to make the description better?

Without mentioning any names, do you know anyone who was the victim of dating violence? (*Teachers, do not ask about students' personal experience in front of others.*) Do you think boys can be the victims of dating violence as well as girls?

Chet's problems got worse after he was an adult. When is your birthday? Will you turn 18 before you graduate? What additional responsibilities will you have after you turn 18?

When Chet said, "Sometimes guys have to fight the battles for those who can't," to whom do you think he was referring? Explore all possibilities.