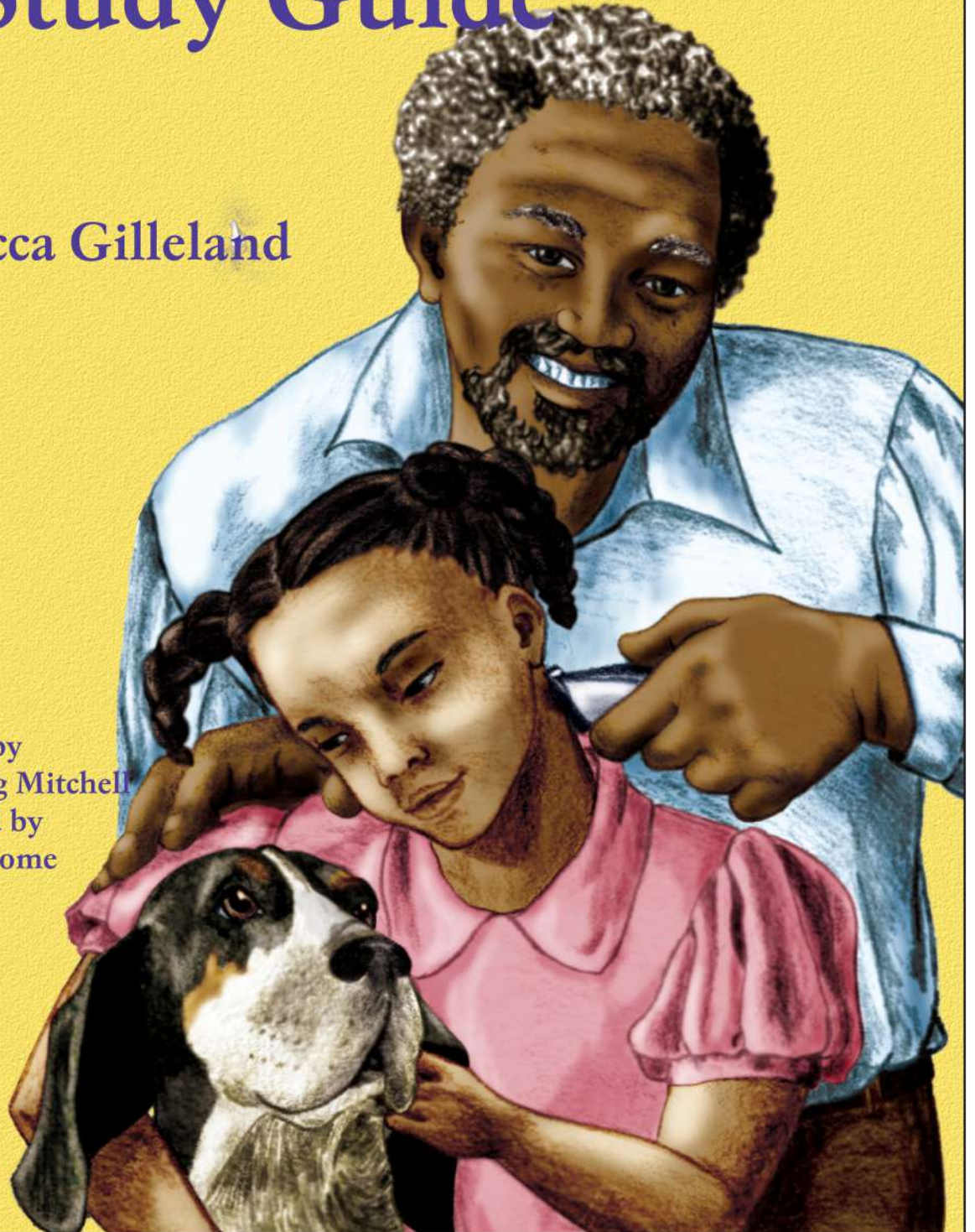




Uncle Jed's Barbershop Study Guide

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For the novel by
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and illustrated by
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Synopsis

Uncle Jedidiah is Sarah Jean's favorite relative. He visits once a week to cut her daddy's and granddaddy's hair. He also pretends to cut Sarah's hair, putting good smelling lotion on the back of her neck. Uncle Jed has a dream that he shares with Sarah—Uncle Jed wants to open his own barbershop. Living in the South in the 1920s, this dream is regarded as impossible by his friends and relatives. Poor sharecroppers don't open their own businesses. Despite setbacks—little Sarah's sickness, from which only an expensive operation can save her, and the banks failing in the Great Depression just when he'd saved enough money—Uncle Jed never gives up. His admirable character and hard work to achieve his dream can inspire all of us to dream a dream—and then to work for it.

Looking at the Story

1. Since Sarah isn't allowed to have a haircut, what does Uncle Jed do for her?

2. What is Uncle Jed's dream?

3. What steps is Uncle Jed taking to achieve his dream?

Dig Deeper

1. What does it mean to be joyful or cheerful?

2. Does Uncle Jed show this character trait? How can you tell?

3. Read the following verse. What does it teach us?

Romans 12:12: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

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Dig Deeper

1. Answers will vary. Being positive, thankful, and happy in all circumstances.
2. Answers may vary. Uncle Jed is joyful. He is almost always smiling and ready to greet others happily. He likes to visit and talk to people.
3. This verse tells us to be happy, hopeful, and patient when things are tough, and it reminds us to pray faithfully.
4. Answers will vary. Uncle Jed saved patiently, remained joyful and patient when he spent the money on Sarah's operation, and saved patiently again when he lost all the money in the bank.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.
7. God plans good things for us to give us hope and a future. Answers will vary. Remembering that God plans good things for us and wants to give us hope can help us get through sad times and troubles.
8. They had to wait in a separate room because they were not white. This was not fair. Reasons may vary.
9. The Bible tells us that we are all equal in Christ, no matter who or what we are.
10. Answers will vary.

Optional:

- 2.a. God promised Jacob that He would make him a great nation. He would give him the land he was on, He would make his descendants so many they would be like the dust, and He would bless the world through him.
- b. Jacob loved Rachel. His goal was to marry her.
- c. Jacob agreed to work for Laban for seven years so he could marry Rachel.
- d. Laban tricked Jacob. Laban gave Leah to Jacob to marry instead of Rachel.
- e. Jacob had to work another seven years to have Rachel as his wife; so he had to work 14 years total.
- f. Yes, Jacob got to marry Rachel.
- g. This goes beyond the account given here: God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and he became the father of the 12 men who started the 12 tribes of Israel. From Jacob and his sons came all the people of Israel, who we now call Jews. The Jewish people have existed for over 4,000 years, and they now live in Israel and all over the world. And God really did bless the world through Jacob: not only did he father the people of Israel, but Jesus Christ, the son of God, was a Jewish man, a descendant of Jacob. God gave Jacob all the things He promised him.
- h. Like Jacob, Uncle Jed worked hard for his goals, and even when things happened that seemed to mess up his goal, he kept working for it. In the end, they both got what they worked for.

Mystery Words Fun

1. hitched; 2. Depression; 3. unconscious; 4. bundled; 5. separate; 6. delayed; 7. stations; 8. segregation; 9. disappointed;
10. customers; 11. YOUR DREAMS