**A Day No Pigs Would Die Information**

Characterization:

Robert Peck- Dynamic and Round

Robert is round because I know he followed the Shaker religion, lived in the small farm town of Learning, Vermont, and had a caring personality. I know he had a caring personality because he took great care of Pinky and helped Apron give birth when it was not expected of him. Robert is dynamic because at the beginning of the book he looked up to his father to be in charge of the farm and to provide for his family. At the end of the novel, Robert was in charge of the farm and had to provide for his family.

Haven Peck- Static and Round

Haven is round because I know that he killed pigs for a living, valued education, and he was a very religious man who followed the book of Shaker. Haven desperately wanted to learn to read and write, he admitted to Robert he could not vote because he was illiterate. He encouraged his son to continue his education and stressed the importance of reading. At the end of the novel, Robert found a piece of paper his dad was practicing writing his name.  Haven followed the book of Shaker; he did not own frills, lived simply, and believed in hard work. Haven is static because both at the beginning at end of the novel he worked hard, loved his family, and was a devout Shaker man.

Mr. Tanner- Static and Flat

Mr. Tanner was the most successful farmer in his hometown of Learning, Vermont. He took pride in his work and had a huge red barn with many animals. He was generous, when he found out that Robert helped his cow deliver, he graciously convinced Mr. Peck to allow Robert to accept his pig. Mr. Tanner took Robert to the Rutland fair and helped Robert deal with his father’s death. Mr. Tanner is static because throughout the book, he was always ready to lend a helping hand and was a great neighbor to the Pecks.  At the end of the novel, Mr. Tanner told Robert to call him Ben since he was the new man of the house.

Themes:

One theme found in the novel is acceptance. Robert had to accept that Pinky was barren and that in order to survive he needed to butcher her. Robert also had to accept that after his father died, he was the man of the house and needed to provide for his family.

Another theme found in the novel is death. After fighting the weasel, Hussy was mercifully shot after being in a horrendous shape. Additionally, Pinky was butchered when there was not enough food left for the Pecks. Finally, Mr. Peck died after being sick for a long time.

Motifs:

A motif throughout the novel is education. Robert’s father told him that his mission was to finish school and he could have a job that was “better than a farmer”. Robert’s father told Robert he was unable to vote because he was illiterate. Additionally, Robert’s Aunt Matty tried tutoring Robert in English.

Another example of a motif found in the novel is good neighborliness. Robert was a good neighbor when he helped Apron deliver her two calves. Furthermore, Mr. Tanner took Robert with him to the Rutland fair to give him the chance to show Pinky. Finally, Mr. Tanner told Robert if he needed any assistance with the farm to just ask him.

A final example of a motif present in the novel is live simply. Robert wanted to go to see a baseball game, but his father said it was against the book of Shaker. Robert wanted to own a bicycle but it was considered a frill so he was not allowed to have one. Finally, Robert wanted to have a store bought coat like his friend, but his father said that his mother would make him one instead.

Symbols/Symbolism:

One symbol found in the novel is Haven’s tools. They symbolized his hard work and dedication to provide for his family. Robert realized how much his father loved and cared for him and his mother by looking at the tools.

An example of symbolism is Robert butchering Pinky. Butchering Pinky symbolized the death of Robert’s childhood because he realized he needed to do whatever he was necessary to survive.

Tone:

The tone of the story is often sad and solemn. The death of Pinky, Hussy, and Haven Peck give the novel a depressing flow. There are also additional sad moments when Pinky breeds Sampson and when Robert realized how badly his father wanted to learn to read and write. Even though the novel is full of many depressing scenes, there are some happy and funny moments in the novel. When Robert got Pinky and when Pinky won the blue ribbon added some happier scenes to the novel.

Mood:

I had mixed feeling while reading the novel. After reading the sections where Aunt Matty tried to tutor Robert and witnessing Robert’s friendship with Pinky grow I felt happy and cheerful. However, the death of Pinky, Hussy, and Haven all made me angry and upset. Overall, I think the mood is both cheerful and somber at different parts of the novel.