

Stone Fox Study Guide

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner

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Plot Summary

"Stone Fox," a Harper Trophy book by John Reynolds Gardiner, opens with a ten year old boy, Willy, on a potato farm in Wyoming. Willy lives with his grandfather. They have a great relationship. Willy's grandfather is always playing pranks on him. One morning, Willy's grandfather is lying in bed, unable to wake up. At first Willy thinks he's just playing a prank, but he quickly realizes that his grandfather is sick. He runs to Doc Smith to get help.

Doc Smith returns to the farm to check on his grandfather. She determines that he's physically healthy, but something has sapped his will to live. She recommends that Willy live with her and let someone else take care of his grandfather as he likely won't last much longer. Willy refuses, determined to take care of his grandfather and find out why he won't get up.

Willy believes that he was just too stressed about the upcoming harvest. They had gone broke the year before, but this harvest was going to be their biggest. With the help of his loyal dog, Searchlight, they're able to harvest all of the potatoes and get them sold. Despite that, Willy's grandfather continues to remain in bed. Willy develops a basic form of communication with him though, so he can at least ask him yes and no questions.

After returning home one day, Willy finds a tax collector named Clifford Snyder waiting for him. Clifford is there to collect taxes that Willy's grandfather owes. It turns out that he owes five hundred dollars, something that Willy can't afford as he only has fifty dollars in his savings account. Everyone tells Willy that he should just sell the farm as the taxman will likely take it anyway.

Willy is determined not to give up though. He discovers that there is a dog racing contest coming up that has a 500 dollar reward. He and Searchlight enter the contest. Everyone thinks he's going to lose because he is up against the legendary Native American racer, Stone Fox. Stone Fox is famous for having never lost a race before.

The day of the race comes, and Willy ends up in a fast lead. He's able to use his lighter weight and the fact that he has only a single dog to his advantage. Willy takes a shortcut across the frozen lake, which gives him a significant lead. While he's racing, he sees that his grandfather has gotten out of bed to watch the race. Willy is elated, but Stone Fox quickly catches up to him.

The two race neck and neck. Near the finish line, Searchlight suddenly collapses as her heart gives out. To Willy's horror, she has passed away. Stone Fox refuses to win the race though. He draws a rifle and threatens any of the riders that try to approach the finish line. Willy carries Searchlight across the finish line, mournfully winning the race.



Chapters 1-2

Summary

Chapter One

The protagonist, a young boy named Willy, lives on a potato farm in Wyoming with his grandfather and their dog, Searchlight. The two have a very positive relationship, with Willy's grandfather playing harmless tricks on Willy to keep him amused. This morning, Willy's grandfather doesn't wake up. At first he thinks it's just another trick, but it soon becomes apparent something is wrong. Willy runs down to get Doc Smith who agrees to take a look at his grandfather. The two return, and Doc Smith informs Willy that his grandfather is still alive and perfectly fine. Something has caused him to lose the will to wake up, but Willy has no idea of what it could be.

Chapter Two

Doc Smith tries to convince Willy to give up on his grandfather because he has not shown any signs of getting better after ten days. Willy refuses to give up though. He keeps taking care of his grandfather and discovers that he can communicate with very basic hand movements. He and Willy establish a very basic "yes and no" system of conversation. Willy finds out that his grandfather has no money left. He believes that this is why his grandfather is so distressed. A determined Willy and Searchlight manage to harvest the potatoes and get them sold, but his grandfather does not improve.

Analysis

Chapter One

The readers are given their first look at the main character, Willy, who lives with his grandfather. It is easy to see the closeness of their relationship. Although a lot is left unknown about Willy, readers learn that he doesn't seem to have any other family in his life.

The plot of the book is established once Doc Smith diagnoses his grandfather, setting Willy on the path to discovering exactly what could be causing him not to get up anymore. The older nature of the setting is hinted at as well, since characters are still traveling on horseback and not with cars.

Chapter Two

The strength of Willy's relationship with his grandfather is further reinforced by the fact that he refuses to give up on him, even when Doc Smith believes he's about to die. Not only that, but Willy manages to find a way to communicate with him. Both Willy and his dog Searchlight show their determination by harvesting the potatoes all by themselves,



even though it proves to be a challenging task. Willy's grandfather shows his affection for Willy when he keeps insisting that Willy doesn't spend his college money to get help for the farm.

Discussion Question 1

What evidence tells the reader that this story is set in the past?

Discussion Question 2

What is most likely upsetting Willy's grandfather to the point of making him ill?

Discussion Question 3

What is Willy's relationship like with his Grandfather?

Vocabulary

Hitched, coop, preceded, insisted, irrigation, harvest, mended, pleaded.



Chapters 3-4

Summary

Chapter Three

Willy continues to take care of his grandfather while still attending school. Every day, Searchlight is there waiting for him. Whenever the two have free time to themselves, they go sledding. One evening, when Willy and Searchlight are returning from one of their sledding trips, they find there's an unknown horse and rider waiting for them at the farm.

Chapter Four

Willy goes to speak with the stranger, who turns out to be a tax collector by the name of Clifford Snyder. Clifford is there because it turns out that Willy's grandfather hasn't been paying taxes. Willy collects letters he found earlier, realizing that they are tax forms. They owe five hundred dollars, and Clifford threatens to take the farm away if they can't pay.

Analysis

Chapter Three

Willy's intelligence and curiosity are shown at the start of the chapter. He frustrates his teacher by constantly asking so many questions, but his grandfather constantly encourages this behavior. The bond between Willy and Searchlight is also highlighted, and it's clear that Willy sees Searchlight as being more than just a dog. The two act almost as brothers instead of master and pet.

Chapter Four

Clifford starts to address some of the class issues that have been hinted at in the previous chapter. Willy's grandfather doesn't like city slickers because they act like they are better than country farmers. Clifford seems to share the same view about the farmers, even remarking that they aren't any better than he is. Willy discovers the true reason behind his grandfather becoming depressed when Clifford reveals that he hasn't been paying taxes on the farm.

Discussion Question 1

What particular actions taken by Searchlight show the relationship between Willy and his dog?



Discussion Question 2

What are Willy's Grandfather's views toward outsiders, in particular 'city slickers'?

Discussion Question 3

What was the most likely reason that Grandpa didn't tell Willy about the tax and money situations?

Vocabulary

Brim, mush, outskirts, loomed, gully, tremendous, twang, ricocheting, snarled, droopy.



Chapters 5-6

Summary

Chapter Five

Willy is determined to come up with five hundred dollars to keep the farm. He goes to the bank to apply for a loan. The bank will not lend him that much money because they know he won't be able to pay it back. He talks to his teacher and anyone else who will listen but every person tells him to sell the farm. At the general store, Willy sees a poster advertising a five hundred dollar reward for a dogsled competition. Elated, Willy decides that he and Searchlight can enter and win the contest to save the farm.

Chapter Six

Willy has to take out all of the money he has saved up to pay the entrance fee for the race. The mayor warns him that he isn't going to be able to win because the Native American racer, Stone Fox, has decided to enter. Stone Fox is famous for having never lost a race. Willy finds out that Stone Fox came from a peaceful tribe that had all their land stolen from them. He has entered racing to win enough money to buy back the land that was taken.

Analysis

Chapter Five

Willy refuses to give up, even when everyone else is telling him to sell the farm. His determination ends up winning out when he discovers the dogsled contest. Willy's grandfather starts to descend further into his sickness, unable to do little more than twitch his fingers at Willy whenever he asks questions.

Chapter Six

Willy meets Stone Fox, the racer who will prove to be his greatest adversary. Stone Fox is portrayed in a sympathetic light. His character continues the theme of class diversity. His tribe was looked down upon by people that considered themselves better. Those people took the tribe's land. Because of that, Stone Fox has refused to speak to any white man again.

Discussion Question 1

Compare Stone Fox to Willy.



Discussion Question 2

What set of circumstances lead Willy to decide to enter the dogsled competition?

Discussion Question 3

What causes the internal conflict for Willy when he learns of Stone Fox's reason for wanting to win?

Vocabulary

Bobbled, represented, varied, amateurs, strutted, moccasins, cunning, blurted.



Chapters 7-8

Summary

Chapter Seven

Willy has to go and get more medicine for his grandfather. While he's in town, he ends up running into the dogs that Stone Fox races with. Stone Fox initially attacks him, but Willy makes it clear that he wasn't there to sabotage them. Willy confesses that he wishes Stone Fox could win too, but he explains that Willy has to win in order to save his farm.

Chapter Eight

Willy does his best to hide his injured eye from his grandfather when he is feeding him. Willy heads down to the race course. Everyone has gathered to watch the race. Willy notes that the papers all said Stone Fox was going to win, and nobody had bet on him and Searchlight. Willy greets Stone Fox before the race begins, but Stone Fox continues to ignore him.

Analysis

Chapter Seven

Willy shows his sympathetic side when he speaks to Stone Fox. Even though the two should be enemies because they are racing each other, Willy wishes that Stone Fox could win because he knows how important it is for Stone Fox to be able to get his tribe's land back. Willy makes a point of explaining that he's just trying to keep his own land from being taken. This is something that Stone Fox can certainly understand.

Chapter Eight

Willy's kindness continues to shine through as he discusses how he could never be a hunter. He killed an animal once when he was younger, an act that still haunts him to this day. Willy continues to be respectful toward Stone Fox. Unlike the rest of the town, he treats him as an equal instead of someone to be gawked at.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Willy treat Stone Fox differently than the rest of the town?



Discussion Question 2

Why is Willy kind to Stone Fox, even when Stone Fox isn't kind to him?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Willy hide his black eye from his grandfather?

Vocabulary

Beamed, treacherous, heap, deserted, investigate, swollen, jagged, abrupt, contestants, tension.



Chapters 9-10

Summary

Chapter Nine

The race begins and Willy is off to a great start. Because of his size and the fact that he only has one dog he's able to maneuver around the course much easier than everyone else. Willy takes a shortcut across the frozen lake, something no other rider wants to risk because of their weight. When Willy passes by the farm house he sees his Grandfather sitting up in the bed watching him. Willy is elated, but to his horror Stone Fox has started to pick up speed. Before he knows it, Willy is racing neck and neck with Stone Fox.

Chapter Ten

Willy and Stone Fox continue to race one another, neck in neck. Right before they are able to reach the finish line, Searchlight has a heart attack and abruptly dies. Stone Fox stops the race. He stands up to the other riders that are approaching, finally speaking for the first time. He says if anyone of them try and pass, he'll shoot them. Willy mournfully carries Searchlight across the finish line, ending the book.

Analysis

Chapter Nine

Willy once again shows off his cleverness as he is able to maneuver his sled around the other riders, gaining a huge advantage. He's able to cut across the frozen lake. Willy's grandfather awakens, which shows the faith that he has in Willy, even though the odds were constantly against him.

Chapter Ten

Stone Fox shows how much he's changed in the short time that he's known Willy. Normally, he would never help a white man. However, when he sees Searchlight collapse, he goes over to check on her instead of winning the race. Stone Fox recognizes that Willy is in the race to avoid the same thing that happened to Stone Fox's tribe. He stands up to the other racers, speaking for the very first time in acknowledgement of his respect toward Willy. He threatens to shoot any racers who try to pass by him. This allows Willy to win the race.

Discussion Question 1

What action taken by Stone Fox shows his true character, in Chapter 10?



Discussion Question 2

What gives Willy the advantage in the race?

Discussion Question 3

Aside from winning, what else did Willy gain from the race?

Vocabulary

Pursuit, disqualified, permitted, shrieked, forged, tumbled.



Characters

Willy

Willy is one of the protagonists of the book. He's a ten year old child who has lost both parents. He lives on the potato farm with his grandfather and their dog, Searchlight. Willy is shown to be very intelligent and curious throughout the book. His teachers are often frustrated with the number of questions that he asks during school, but his grandfather encourages this behavior. Throughout the book, Willy shows his determination. He refuses to give up, even when everyone else in the town tells him that it's hopeless.

Willy is also a very empathetic character. He clearly feels for Stone Fox when he finds out why he's racing. He always treats Stone Fox as an equal. He even laments that he isn't able to share the winnings with Stone Fox.

Willy's Grandfather

Willy's grandfather spends the majority of the book sick in bed. Despite that, he's still a very important character. Willy often has flashbacks to things that his grandfather had told him. It's clear that his grandfather cares a great deal for Willy. He encourages Willy to get an education and to keep asking questions. He's also very protective of Willy, trying to hide the fact that they're in danger of losing the farm until he gets sick. When he was healthy, he loved to play little tricks on Willy to keep the both of them entertained.

Searchlight

Searchlight is Willy's ten year old dog. The two have been together for as far back as he can remember. Searchlight is incredibly loyal to both Willy and his grandfather. Whenever she thinks they're being threatened she's quick to jump to their defense. Searchlight is just as determined as Willy. When they race, she gives everything that she can to try and ensure that Willy is able to win. She even sacrifices her life.

Doc Smith

Doc Smith is an older, kindly woman that helps Willy. While she does try to discourage Willy from taking care of the farm and racing, it's only because she's genuinely concerned for him and just wants to ensure that he's taken care of. She's always there whenever Willy needs help, rushing right to the farm when he explains that his grandfather had fallen ill.



Clifford Snyder

Clifford Snyder is the main antagonist of the book. He's a tax collector that shows up on Willy's farm looking to collect five hundred dollars. He seems completely indifferent to the fact that Willy's grandfather is sick.

Stone Fox

Stone Fox is a Native American who belongs to a peaceful tribe. His land was forcefully taken by the white man, so he refuses to speak a word to them. He's considered to be a legend among the other racers because he has never lost a race. He uses all of the money that he gets from racing to buy back the land that was stolen from him. He initially appears as a cold, uncaring character. However, he shows sympathy toward Willy. At the end of the book, he refuses to win the race and speaks for the first time to ward off any of the other racers who might try to take advantage of Searchlight's passing to win the race for themselves.



Symbols and Symbolism

Strongbox/letters

At the very start of the book, Willy discovers the strong box when he is looking for something that might hint at why his grandfather is sick. The strongbox is hidden away underneath the floorboard. It contains the records of how much his grandfather owes in taxes. The strongbox and records inside the box represent the hidden shame that Willy's grandfather feels, as it makes him feel like a failure that he can't provide for Willy and take care of the farm himself.

Willy's Savings

Several times throughout the course of the story Willy refers to the fifty dollars he has saved for college. For Willy, this represents his hope. At first, the money is for the education he wants to get in the future. Then, he uses it to enter the race, determined that he'll be able to win and collect the prize of five hundred dollars at the end.

Sled

When Willy first goes sledding with Searchlight, he talks about how important their sled is to them. To Willy and Searchlight, the sled allows them to go anywhere. Willy is someone who has spent most of his life on the farm. While he is happy, he's also fascinated by the world around him. To Willy, the sled represents freedom and his desire to explore.

Prize Money

To Willy, the prize money is about more than just monetary value. Throughout the course of the book, everyone is saying that Willy isn't going to be able to save the farm or his grandfather. They want him to just give up, but he's determined to keep fighting and find a way to save both his grandfather and the farm. To him, the prize money is the end result of his determination. It represents the belief that if you're willing to work for what you want, you'll find a way to succeed.

Stone Fox's Speech

Throughout the course of the book, Stone Fox only speaks one time. His silence represents the injustice that he and his people have experienced. He refuses to speak because he feels as if no one has ever shown him respect. So, why should he speak? During the book, Willy tries to befriend Stone Fox. He is the only person that treats him

with respect. Finally, at the end of the book Stone Fox speaks. His speaking represents the respect that Willy has earned from him.



Settings

Jackson

Jackson is the town where Willy and his grandfather live. Willy attends school there, and he frequently goes to the general shop. Willy is very familiar with the town, and he's able to put that knowledge to use during the race.

Doc Smith's Home

Willy goes to Doc Smith several times throughout the book. When his grandfather first gets sick, he goes to the doctor for help. He returns often to get advice on what he should do to help his grandfather and the farm.

Bank

Willy initially goes to the bank when he is looking for a loan to pay taxes. When that fails, he returns to the bank to take out his savings so that he can afford to enter the dogsled race.

Willy's Farm

The potato farm is where the majority of the story takes place. Willy has spent his childhood on the farm with his grandfather and Searchlight.



Themes and Motifs

Persistence Pays Off

Willy mentions to Doc Smith that the previous year he and his grandfather had gone broke. Despite that, they were able to pull in a big enough harvest to make it through the next year. This year, they've worked to make the biggest harvest yet. Both Willy and his grandfather are determined to work hard to succeed. When Willy finds out how much his grandfather owes, he refuses to give up. Characters are constantly telling Willy that he won't be able to save the farm or his grandfather, and he should just give up. Even his grandfather seems to have become worn down by the burden of taxes near the end of the book.

Willy refuses to give up, remembering what his grandfather said about hard work paying off before he got sick. Willy is determined to find a way. Even when he must race against the legendary Stone Fox, he doesn't give up. Searchlight shows exactly how far her determination could take her. Even though she lost her life, Searchlight's determination allowed Willy to win the race and save his grandfather and the farm.

Fairness

Willy tries to be respectful toward everyone he meets, no matter who they are or where they come from. Throughout the course of the book though, many characters seem to look down on one another. Even Willy's grandfather seems to have a bias against people from the city. He refers to them as city slickers and implies that they don't do real work. Clifford Synder seems to hold the opposite view. He looks down on Willy's grandfather.

Stone Fox exemplifies fairness. His people were treated cruelly, having their land stolen from them. As such, Stone Fox refuses to speak to any white man, whether or not they had anything to do with his land being stolen. Willy treats him with respect, which finally causes Stone Fox to break his silence at the end of the book. Not only does he speak in Willy's defense, but he lets Willy win the race.

Doing the Right Thing

When Willy first hears about taxes, he doesn't understand why they have to pay them. Doc Smith explains that taxes are necessary because it gives the state money. Willy protests that the state should just farm like he does to make their money, but Doc Smith points out that the state is too busy doing other things to farm. Willy is still confused by this, but Doc Smith explains that the state must help everyone who lives there. Willy tries to argue that he and his grandfather are able to take care of themselves, but Doc Smith points out that even hard workers can get sick, just like his grandfather. Willy eventually relents and realizes that even though he doesn't like them, he must pay the



taxes. At the same time, Willy recognizes that Clifford Synder doesn't care about what's right and is just being driven by greed.

Stone Fox undergoes a similar lesson. He races because he wants to get money to win his land back. At first, he seems determined to beat Willy no matter the cost. When he learns why Willy is racing he recognizes that Willy is just trying to protect his land, exactly like his tribe was doing. Stone Fox knows that Willy needs the money more and can see how hard he's working to get it. He's willing to give up the race so that Willy is able to get the money he and his grandfather need. Stone Fox knows that it isn't right for someone to have their land taken away from them.



Styles

Point of View

Stone Fox is told in the past tense from the third person perspective. The narrator seems to be speaking directly to the audience, almost treating the story as though it were a legend that was being passed down directly to the reader. The narrator focuses entirely on Willy throughout the story and never gives any insight into what the other characters might be thinking or feeling.

Language and Meaning

Stone Fox is written in simple language, making the story seem like it could be passed down verbally with ease. The language also helps to convey the setting. While the year that the story takes place is not given, the audience is aware that it happened in the past by the way the characters travel and how they treat the value of money.

Structure

Time is something that is very loosely played with in the narrative, again giving it the feel that it is a legend that's being passed down from the narrator. Willy frequently jumps ahead in time, going from taking care of his grandfather to harvesting potatoes to attending school.

Once Willy finds out about the race, the story jumps to the final evening before the race. From time to time, Willy will refer to a piece of advice that his grandfather had given him, drawing upon that as motivation to keep working to save his grandfather and the farm.



Quotes

Like the time Grandfather dressed up as the scarecrow out in the garden. It took little Willy an hour to catch on. Boy, did they laugh. Grandfather laughed so hard he cried.

-- Narrator (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 3)

Importance: The relationship between Willy and his grandfather is a driving force throughout the book. This quote shows how much the two care for each other, which is important since Willy's grandfather spends the majority of the book in bed and never really gets the chance to interact with Willy.

No money for anything else, for that matter. Little Willy had had no idea they were broke. Everything they had needed since Grandfather took sick little Willy had gotten at Lester's General Store on credit against this year's crop. No wonder Grandfather was so concerned. No wonder he had gotten sick.

-- Narrator (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 16)

Importance: When Willy's grandfather gets sick, he has no idea about what could possibly be causing it. When he starts to investigate further, he finds out that his grandfather had run out of money, which caused him so much stress that he got sick.

A friend of Grandfather's offered to help, but little Willy said no. "Don't accept help unless you can pay for it," Grandfather had always said. "Especially from friends.

-- Grandfather (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 18)

Importance: Willy is constantly getting advice from his grandfather. One of the main pieces of advice he focuses on is how he needs to work hard to get what he wants. Willy isn't the type of person to just accept help because he knows that he needs to earn things for himself.

He liked school. However, his teacher, Miss Williams, had told Grandfather once, "Far as I'm concerned, that boy of yours just asks too many questions." Grandfather had just laughed and said, "How's he gonna learn if he don't ask?"

-- Narrator (Chapter 3 paragraph Page 23)

Importance: Not only does this highlight the fact that Willy is always trying to learn, but it also acts as another example of how supportive his grandfather was toward him.

Little Willy had never heard a voice like that before. Not on this farm. He couldn't move. But Searchlight sure could. The owner of the voice barely had time to step back into the house and close the door. Searchlight barked and snarled and jumped at the closed door.

-- Narrator (Chapter 4 paragraph Page 31)

Importance: Searchlight is arguably the most loyal and protective character throughout



the book. Anytime that she feels Willy or his grandfather is being threatened she's there to jump to their defense.

You're no better than other folks," Clifford Snyder began as he lit up a long, thin cigar and blew smoke toward the ceiling. "And anyway, it's the law. Plain and simple.

-- Clifford (Chapter 4 paragraph Page 33)

Importance: Characters from the city seem to constantly be at odds with the farmers. His attitude toward Willy's sick grandfather shows that he looks down on him. Clifford seems to delight in getting the chance to, in his eyes, knock the family down a peg.

As little Willy walked out of the bank with his head down, Searchlight greeted him by placing two muddy paws on his chest. Little Willy smiled and grabbed Searchlight around the neck and squeezed her as hard as he could. "We'll do it, girl. You and me. We'll find the way.

-- Narrator (Chapter 5 paragraph Page 41)

Importance: Searchlight continues to show her support toward Willy. No matter what happens and what he goes through, she's there for him.

It was true Stone Fox had never lost a race. But little Willy wasn't worried. He had made up his mind to win. And nothing was going to stop him. Not even Stone Fox.

-- Narrator (Chapter 6 paragraph Page 53)

Importance: Willy is determined not to let anything get in the way. He truly believes that as long as he works hard and refuses to give up he'll be able to win, no matter what the challenge.

Little Willy backed over to the barn door, still holding his eye. "I'm sorry we both can't win," he said.

-- Little Willy (Chapter 7 paragraph Page 60)

Importance: Despite being a very fierce competitor, Willy is still sympathetic. When he finds out why Stone Fox is racing, he genuinely feels bad and wishes that they both could win the race. This kindness is ultimately what helps Stone Fox realize that not all white men are bad.

Little Willy did not have to slow down as the other racers did. With only one dog and a small sled, he was able to take the sharp turns at full speed without risk of sliding off the road or losing control.

-- Narrator (Chapter 9 paragraph Page 70)

Importance: Part of why Willy is able to pull ahead so fast in the race is because he is able to maneuver around all of the other races, and because he knows the terrain so well. He and Searchlight might be racing alone, but their skill and determination more than make up for that, allowing Willy to see the course in a completely different way.



No one spoke. No one moved. All eyes were on the Indian, the one called Stone Fox, the one who had never lost a race, and who now had another victory within his grasp. But Stone Fox did nothing. He just stood there. Like a mountain.

-- Narrator (Chapter 10 paragraph Page 80)

Importance: Up until now, Stone Fox hasn't shown any reaction to the other racers. When he sees how far Willy and Searchlight are willing to go for each other, he finally reacts. Stone Fox refuses to steal victory away from Willy. He's even willing to stand up for him and make sure that no other racer is able to take Willy and Searchlight's victory.

As they approached the farmhouse, little Willy thought he saw someone in Grandfather's bedroom window. It was difficult to see with only one good eye. The someone was a man. With a full beard. It couldn't be. But it was! It was Grandfather! Grandfather was sitting up in bed. He was looking out the window. Little Willy was so excited he couldn't think straight. He started to stop the sled, but Grandfather indicated no, waving him on.

-- Narrator (Chapter 9 paragraph Page 71)

Importance: Willy's grandfather's recovery is a huge source of inspiration for Willy. In his eyes, it justifies everything that he has done up until this point. His grandfather was able to get over his sickness and once again show his support for Willy.