

Discussion questions for the novel: *Field of Dead Horses*

Please feel free to print and handout.

-Spoiler Alert- If you haven't finished the novel, the questions below will spoil the ending.

1. Think about the title. What did you expect when starting the book? How do you feel about the title once you read the story?
2. When you discovered what the *Field of Dead Horses* was when Paper Pilot was buried, what did you think?
3. Who was your favorite character and why?
4. Do you consider Ellie a strong woman? Why or why not?
5. Paul makes it clear through his actions that he is mad at the world. However, he does a few things that shows he still has kindness in his heart. What do you remember about Paul that led you to believe that he still cared about those around him?
6. Georgetown is a real town and much of what existed in 1939 was mentioned in the book. What did you take away from reading about the small town life that people lived back then? Would you give up your smartphone and modern conveniences to live the way they did in Georgetown in 1939?
7. What characteristics do you like about Booley and have you ever heard any of his sayings?
8. When Paul interferes with Joe and his situation at school, do you think Paul did a good thing and did it change Joe's life?
9. Did you learn anything about horse training or find it interesting?
10. What is your favorite part of the story? What did you like most about it?
11. What are your thoughts on the note that Paul left for Elliott?
12. How many people's lives were impacted by Paul's actions?
13. Paul murdered a man to help others – do you agree with his actions?
14. While many readers guess the ending before it is revealed, many are shocked to know where Mayor Evans is buried. What did you feel when Elliott looks at the name on the fence and realizes the mayor's fate?
15. What do you think about the albino coyote and what did it add to the story?

A few facts: Elliott was named after the lead character in the movie E.T. and the name of the character "Paul" came from the late actor Paul Newman. In the novel, Paul Chapel is a mix between Paul Newman and Clint Eastwood. The book is inspired by *The Andy Griffith Show*, the song *The Night The Lights Went Out in Georgia* and the book *A Painted House* by John Grisham. Nick Allen Brown was rejected over 220 times before this novel was published.