



# Mrs. Rios' Kidblog

*Shiloh*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, is a heartwarming story about a boy's love for a dog and the lengths he is willing to go to make the dog his own. The main character in the story is an 11 year-old boy named Marty. Marty loves animals so much he makes a point of counting how many he sees on his walks in the woods and is careful to only shoot his rifle at inanimate objects. Just the thought of an animal suffering is enough to make him lose his appetite when his father brings home a rabbit for dinner. The story takes place in a very rural town in the West Virginian foothills. Most of the people who live there are relatively poor, but they all look out for each other and there is a nice sense of community. The problem in this story is that Marty has found a dog that he is sure is being abused or neglected by his owner, Judd Travers. Marty wants more than anything to take care of Shiloh and keep him safe from his mean owner, but Marty's father believes that Judd has the right to take care of Shiloh in anyway that he wants because Shiloh belongs to him. One day, Shiloh shows up outside of Marty's house when no one else is around. Marty makes a big decision that will affect almost everyone in the small town where he lives, including the little dog that he wants to save. I loved reading *Shiloh*. The author used very descriptive language and wrote convincingly from the perspective of an eleven year-old boy. I felt like I was in Marty's head for most of the story. I also loved the way that the author kept me in suspense. Each chapter would end with something that made me want to turn the page to find out what would happen next. I was constantly worried about Marty or Shiloh. I give this story a 9 out of 10. I wouldn't have minded a little bit more action, but overall, I thought *Shiloh* was a wonderful story with a great message.

Marty changes his perspective **over time** as he learns more about Judd and his terrible past. Although he doesn't agree with the way Judd treats his dogs, Marty understands that there are things from Judd's past that have formed his personality.



Judd changes over time from a sneaky, lying man who can't be trusted to keep his end of a bargain, into someone who respects Marty's hard work ethic and desire to earn Shiloh as his own. Judd becomes a little bit more empathetic, the longer he spends with Marty and sees things from Marty's perspective.



**Marty's Takeaway**

"...and I'm thinking how nothing is as simple as you guess-not **right or wrong**, not Judd Travers, not even me **or** this dog I got here. But the **good** part is I saved **Shiloh** and opened my eyes some. Now that ain't **bad** for eleven."



**The Theme of Shiloh is Right vs. Wrong.** The author wants us to know that sometimes it isn't easy to tell what is right and what is wrong. Marty had to follow his heart and do his best to figure out what was right. He learned many lessons, but in the end, he held up his end of a bargain with Judd Travers and found a way to make Shiloh his own.