

# **“HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS”**

By Thomas Rockwell

## **QUESTIONS**

- 1. What were Alan, Billy, Tom & Joe discussing that lead up to the bet?**
- 2. What does Billy have to do to win the bet?**
- 3. What was the bet?**
- 4. What will Billy do if he wins the bet?**
- 5. Why does Billy get mad before eating the 1<sup>st</sup> worm?**
- 6. What does Billy do after he eats the first worm? How do the other boys respond?**
- 7. How does Tom do to help Billy eat the worms?**
- 8. What problem does Alan & Joe confront Billy with in Chapter 10?**
- 9. Despite the problem, what leads Billy to eat the 5<sup>th</sup> worm?**
- 10. In Ch. 14, Billy has a dream. Describe the dream.**
- 11. After he awakens, Billy realizes something he had not before. What was it?**
- 12. This realization leads to another problem. What does Billy do? What do his parents do?**
- 13. What does Billy know that helped him gulp the worm “triumphantly?”**
- 14. Explain Alan & Joe’s 2<sup>nd</sup> scheme to prevent Billy from winning the bet.**
- 15. What causes Billy to be suspicious of the 9<sup>th</sup> worm?**
- 16. What happens when Alan & Joe fink to Billy’s Mom about what Billy has been eating? What do Alan & Joe ask Mrs. Forrester to do?**
- 17. Describe the next scheme Alan & Joe come up with to trick Billy.**
- 18. What does Billy do?**
- 19. What does Mr. Phelps’ do when he finds out what Alan had done to Billy?**
- 20. What happens to cause the “Peace Treaty” & the results?**
- 21. Billy thinks he has won the bet after he eats the 15<sup>th</sup> worm. What happened to Billy to make him realize something was very wrong? What had Alan & Tom done?**
- 22. Why does Alan charge Billy just before he eats the 15<sup>th</sup> worm? What do Alan & Joe do with Billy?**
- 23. What event occurs to prevent Billy from eating the final worm?**
- 24. Describe how Billy gets the final worm.**
- 25. What unexpected event occurs in the final chapter? What happens with Alan?**

## **VOCABULARY**

- Furtively**
- Grimacing**
- Disdainfully**
- Dredge**

- |                |               |                |           |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| • Schemer      | • Keel        | • Virtuous     | • Cistern |
| • Piccalilli   | • Sullen      | • Nonchalantly | • Trudge  |
| • Obsequiously | • Indignant   | • Secrete      | • Feebly  |
| • Quavering    | • Discernible | • Grimacing    | •         |
| Fulmar         |               |                |           |
| • Bleat        | • Treacle     | • Distressing  | •         |
| Glowered       |               |                |           |
| • Chaff        | • Deracinate  | • Defrauding   | •         |
| Scrutinized    |               |                |           |
| • Gaggles      | • Glowered    | • Chaffy       | •         |
| Clambered      |               |                |           |

## ANSWERS

1. They were discussing why Tom did not meet with the others the night before. He was punished because he would not eat salmon casserole. This leads the boys to discuss that one bite of anything cannot hurt you, including a worm.
2. Billy has to eat 15 worms in 15 days to win.
3. The bet was Alan would pay Billy \$50 if he ate 15 worms in 15 days.
4. He will buy a minibike.
5. Billy gets angry because the worm is so big.
6. Billy acts as if he were crazy. This scares the other boys.
7. Tom decides to fry it like fish in batter & sings a song about fish & minibikes.
8. Alan & Joe try to convince Billy that eating worms can be unhealthy.
9. Billy does not want to lose. Alan & Joe think he is going to quit.
10. He is in a crowded butcher shop & picks up his order of 10 black worms the size of snakes. Then he goes to Longchamps restaurant in Time Square and the waiter removes cover of his dinner & it is a large black worm. He eats & eats and the worm stays the same. Then he feels something at his ankles...2 large worms.
11. Billy realizes that maybe Alan & Joe were telling the truth, that worms really are harmful if eaten.
12. Billy has terrible pain in his stomach. He goes to his parents to tell them what he has been eating. His father calls poison control & finds out that there are no ill effects from eating worms.
13. Billy knows that eating a worm will not hurt him. He has confidence.
14. Alan & Joe's glue 2 worms together.
15. It is so long. He scrapes the cornmeal off to find the glue.
16. Billy's Mom is upset that he is still eating worms but, knows that they cannot harm him. They ask Mrs. Forrester to feed the worms to Billy while they are gone on a trip. She is ready to help Billy out & looks for new recipes to cook the worms for Billy

17. Alan & Joe decide to take Billy to a baseball game & feed him all kinds of junk food so, he will be too stuffed & tired to remember the worm.
18. Billy realizes he was tricked while getting ready for bed. He wakes up Tom & his brother, Pete & they find a worm for Billy to eat. They set off a loud horn & announce to the neighbors by Alan & Joe's house that he was eating the 13<sup>th</sup> worm before midnight.
19. He was upset with Alan. He has Alan & Joe go to each neighbor & apologize for being awoken.
20. They boys get into a bad physical fight & are scratched & bruised as a result. The boys agree to make up & get ice cream.
21. Billy burps up beans, not worms. Alan & Joe had made the worm out of beans.
22. Alan is desperate to prevent Billy from winning the bet. In a last effort, he tackles him & they throw him into the cistern.
23. Billy is locked in the cistern. His dad discovers him & sends him to his room with no questions or discussion about it. Mr. Forrester has had it.
24. Pete, Tom's younger brother, brings the worm in a basket & throws it up into Billy's opened window.
25. Billy eats worms all the time & loves them. Alan has to work at the store to repay the money.

## VOCABULARY

- **Furtively**: shifty, sly
- **Schemer**: someone who is planning to do something; an underhand or secret plot.
- **Piccalilli**: a spicy relish of chopped & pickled vegetables
  
- **Obsequiously**: Slavishly submissive of or suitable to a servant or slave.
  
- **Quavering**: to tremble, as from emotion or weakness; to speak in a tremulous voice.
  
- **Bleat**: the cry of a goat or sheep or a sound similar to this.
  
- **Chaff**: grain husks after being separated from the seed in threshing; Something trivial or worthless.
- **Gaggles**: A flock of geese. A cluster or group.
- **Grimacing**: a facial expression of pin, disapproval or disgust.
- **Keel**: main structural member of a ship or aircraft. To fall over suddenly; to faint.
- **Sullen**: Ill-humored & surly; morose. Gloomy or melancholy.
- **Indignant**: Marked by or filled with indignation (anger aroused by injustice or unworthiness).
- **Discernible**: to perceive (something hidden or obscure); detect. To perceive as separate & distinct; discriminate.

- **Treacle**: cloying (to sicken or disgust with too much of something good, rich or sweet) sentiment.
- **Deracinate**: uproot.
- **Glowered**: to look or stare with sullen annoyance or anger; sullen brooding look indicative of annoyance or anger.
- **Disdainfully**: to take away the color; to wet, dye; stain or dishonor.
- **Virtuous**: potent; having or exhibiting virtue. Morally excellent; righteous.
- **Nonchalantly**: having an air of easy unconcern or indifference.
- **Secrete**: to form & give off; to deposit or conceal in a hiding place. To appropriate secretly.
- **Grimacing**: a facial expression of disgust or disapproval.
- **Distressing**: to subject to great strain or difficulties; seizure & detention of goods of another as pledge or to obtain satisfaction of a claim by the sale of the goods seized. A pain or suffering affecting the body.
- **Defrauding**: to deprive of something by deception or fraud.
- **Chaffy**: the seed covering & other debris separated from the seed in threshing grain; something comparatively worthless.
- **Dredge**: to dig, gather or pull out with a dredge (often used with up); to deepen; to bring to light by deep searching.
- **Cistern**: an artificial reservoir for storing liquids/water; an often underground tank for storing.
- **Trudge**: to march or walk steadily & laboriously; to trudge along or over; a long tiring walk.
- **Feebly**: a marked lacking in strength; indicating weakness; deficient in qualities or resources.
- **Fulmar**: an arctic seabird closely related to the petrels; related to birds of southern seas.
- **Glowered**: to look or stare with sullen annoyance or anger.
- **Scrutinized**: to look at or over carefully; critically. Stresses close attention to minute details.
- **Clambered**: to climb awkwardly (as by scrambling).