

# RUBY HOLLER

## By Sharon Creech

### CHARACTERS & PLACES:

- **Dallas Carter:** Twin brother of Florida. They were 13 years old & the oldest at Boxton Creek Home for Children.
- **Florida Carter:** Twin sister of Dallas. They were 13 years old & the oldest at Boxton Creek Home for Children.
- **Boxton:** A tired town and neglected place. Old homes, shacks, small stores & buildings all having seen better days.
- **Boxton Creek Home for Children:** The orphanage where Dallas & Florida were. There were 13 children ranging from 6 – 13 years of age.
- **Mr. & Mrs. Trepid:** Managed the Boxton Creek Home for Children.
- **Morgan** (aka Chief Gopher): Assistant to Mr. & Mrs. Trepid.
- **Ruby Holler:** a lush green valley 20 miles from Boxton.
- **Tiller & Sairy Morey:** older couple who took Dallas & Florida in. They lived in Ruby Holler.
- **“Z”:** Neighbor to Tiller & Sairy in Ruby Holler & gopher for Mr. Trepid.
- **The Hoppers:** The family Dallas & Florida went when they were 5 years old. Florida broke the jar of quarters after finding Dallas playing with it; she then seized the jar from Mr. Hopper when he grabbed it from Dallas. They returned them to Boxton & said, “They weren’t ready for children.”
- **The Cranbeps:** They had a daughter, Gigi, who used to go in at night & spit on them & tugged at Florida’s hair so hard pieces came out. Florida then snuck into Gigi’s room & pulled all the hair out of her dolls head.
- **The Burgerton’s:** They were 8 years old who made them sleep on their stomachs & would flip them in the night. They had 3 sons who threw rocks through the garage window & blamed Dallas. Set fire to the neighbor’s playhouse & blamed Florida. Dallas & Florida gathered ants, (7) spiders, (2) garter snakes & a frog and deposited them in the boys’ bed.
- **The Dreeps:** Locked them in the basement at night and made them dig a well. Florida & Dallas ran away.
- **Thinking Corner:** The corner of the basement at the Boxton Creek Home for Children used for punishment.

## QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Tiller & Sairy take Florida & Dallas in? *They wanted companions on their vacations. (Sairy was going to go hiking & find the "Rock bird" in Kangadoon. Tiller was going to go canoeing down the river to Ruabago.)*
2. In what book was the Rock Bird the desired discovery?
3. In what book was the Ruabago River part of their vacation adventure?
4. What did Dallas call the loft at the Morey home where they slept? *"A tree house with beds."*
5. What did Florida find when they first arrived at the Morey home that she wanted to take care of but, then brought back terrible memories? *A robin's egg.*
6. What did Dallas notice when looking at the pictures hanging in the Morey home? *That the father & son resembled each other & that the boy will know how he is going to look when he gets older. He wondered what he would look like.*
7. How much did Tiller offer Florida per hour for helping him fix up the canoe? *\$5.00 per hour though when Florida was asked how much, she felt she should be paid, she said .50¢.*
8. Name a meal Dallas & Florida had at Ruby Holler. *"Get Used to Kid's" stew, chicken & dumplings, spaghetti, mash potatoes & gravy, pancakes & "Welcome Home" bacon.*
9. What did Tiller & Sairy make with the wood around Ruby Holler? *They carved figurines. Sairy carved birds & Tiller carved boats. They sold their carvings.*
10. How were Florida & Dallas planning to escape the Boxtton Creek home for Children and think about at the Morey's? *The night train.*
11. Dallas thought he was helping out Tiller. What did he do? *He chopped down Tiller's favorite maple tree that he had planted when their children left home.*
12. How did Dallas & Florida "improve" the barn? *The chopped a "window" on the side of the barn to get some light in there because Tiller complained about it being dark.*
13. What is the name of the boy who died at the Boxtton Creek Home for Children? *Joey.*
14. How did he die? *He had a high fever & the Trepid's didn't call the doctor.*
15. Why did Dallas think he died? *Dallas felt Joey died because of something he did while he was watching/caring for him in the middle of the night..*
16. In what book did "understone funds" exist?
17. What is the "Understone Fund?" *The secret place where Tiller & Sairy "buried" their money in the hills of Ruby Holler. Tiller & Sairy did not know each other's hiding spot until Sairy gave Tiller a map on his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday & Tiller gave a map to Sairy on her 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*
18. How did Tiller & Sairy give each other their vacation as a present? *They used the other's "understone fund." Sairy used Tiller to pay for what she needed & Tiller used Sairy for the items he would need.*
19. When did the Trepid's say Dallas & Florida's birthday was? *March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day they arrived at Boxtton Creek Home for children*
20. When did Dallas & Florida say their birthday was? *July 29<sup>th</sup>*

21. In what city did Sairy go to college? *New York City*
22. How did Tiller get her to return to Ruby Holler? *He sent her a post card each week for 6 months describing how the trees were changing colors, the snow, etc.*
23. When did Sairy return to Ruby Holler? *In the spring when Tiller told her the purple crocuses were springing up along the creek & she was tired of the city's noises & smells*
24. What woke Florida & Dallas on their "Trial of Camping Gear?" *Bacon frying.*
25. What was Mrs. Trepid's first reaction when Dallas & Florida were left on their steps? *She wanted to keep them for herself.*
26. Why did she tell Mr. Trepid to "file the forms?" *She couldn't handle their hollering & squirming.*
27. How did Florida & Dallas get their names? *They were lying on top of brochures that lined a box. Florida was on top of the one "Fly to Florida" & Dallas was on the "Destination Dallas." Their last name came from the side of the box, "Carter's Produce."*
28. Between Florida & Dallas, which was the "squirmy one" & which was the "dreamier one?" *Florida was squirmy & Dallas was dreamy.*
29. In what book did only 2 houses exist in the valley? *Ruby Holler.*
30. Who was the Morey's neighbor? *"Z"*
31. What is on Tiller & Sairy's dresser? *The "perfect" piece of wood that they both had gone for to carve. Tiller let Sairy take it, then Sairy gave it to Tiller and they both realized they could not bring themselves to carve it in case their "perfect" item didn't "come out of the wood." They would feel to badly the other did have the piece. So they set it on their dresser & it has been there ever since.*
32. What (2) animals were often part of Florida's dreams? *Lizards & rats.*
33. What did Dallas & Sairy forget on their trip? *A compass & the canteen.*
34. Why was "Hidden River" called that? *Because it was not on any map & Tiller & his father found it.*
35. In what book did they forget to wear life jackets while canoeing down a river?
36. Why did Dallas & Sairy go looking for a phone on their hiking trip? *Because Dallas had a strong feeling Florida was in trouble.*
37. What was Tiller caught under? *The canoe.*
38. Where did they find a phone? Who did they call? *Up the river at a farm. They called "Z" to come & get them.*
39. Who was Dallas & Florida's "real" father? *"Z"*
40. In what book did Florida float on a log raft? *Ruby Holler*
41. How did Florida save Tiller? *She tied a rope around the tree & grabbed his arm as he was going down the river.*
42. In what book did the "Mackalack River" exist in? *Ruby Holler.*
43. Why was Tiller in the hospital? *He had a heart attack while he was in the river.*
44. What was "Z" doing for Mr. Trepid? *Creating a map of Ruby Holler for Mr. Trepid so he could find Tiller & Sairy's understone funds.*

45. Name 1 thing that was buried in the “understone funds” Mr. Trepid found: *“Be-kind-to-orphans brownies, (3) lizards, mashed berries, poison ivy, a mousetrap, stinging nettles, thumbtacks, a dead mouse & a bag of fake jewel’s Z bought for \$1.99.”*
46. Where were the Trepid’s going to go with “the land investments?” *To an island.*
47. What did Mr. Trepid want to buy with his “investment money?” *A red Cadillac convertible and a \$9,000 watch.*
48. What did Mrs. Trepid want to buy with the “investment money?” *A ruby & opal necklace costing \$18,000.*
49. In what book did they make a “Mission Accomplished Cake?” *Ruby Holler.*
50. Why did Dallas & Florida attempt to leave Ruby Holler? *Once because they thought they were bad & the other because Sairy & Tiller’s children didn’t think they could handle Dallas & Florida.*
51. In what book did a “Soggy Heart” exist? *Ruby Holler. It was how Tiller felt when Florida rescued him from the river.*