STUDY GUIDE FOR "ANTLERS" BY RICK BASS

JOURNAL WRITE: Draft the opening scene with Halloween as a background component. Take advantage of any element of the season that fits your purpose and have fun.

1. Analyze the lead of this story. What does Bass establish in the opening paragraph? Be specific.

2. Describe the narrator. Is he a reliable narrator? Why or why not? (Try to explore both sides of this issue.)

3. Describe Randy’s main character traits. What makes him different than everyone else?

4. Describe Suzie’s main character traits. What makes her appealing to the other characters? Is she a reliable judge of character? Explain.

5. On another sheet of paper, chart this plot noting sections of mounting conflict and moments of suspense.

Creative Writing: Short Story
Pomerantz
6. Which moments of this story are most suspenseful. Why? (Hint: Check the writing techniques and elements Bass uses leading up to these most suspenseful parts.)

7. What is the most important line of the entire story? Why?

8. Discuss how the setting influences our understanding of the story. Think of time, region, season as well as the actual places where the story takes places.


10. What do the antlers symbolize?