

QUICK CARD: “THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF”



<i>Reference</i>	<p>“The Ransom of Red Chief.” O.Henry. (1907) ISBN-10: 0895987554 ISBN-13: 978-0895987556</p>
<i>Plot</i>	<p>Two outlaws, Sam and Bill, decide to kidnap the son of a prominent citizen to make some extra cash. They find they have gotten more than they bargained for when the boy turns out to be a wild and violent hooligan. After their lives are put on the line several times by the boy’s mischief, they find their offer to return the boy for \$1500 has been rejected. As a counter proposal the father offers to take Red Chief back if Sam and Bill pay him \$250. Pushed to the edge of his sanity, Bill persuades Sam to accept the offer and heads for the hills as quickly as he can.</p>
<i>Setting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A town called Summit, which is “flat as a flannel-cake” • The country: the pace of life is slow and easy going • Down South in Alabama • Turn of the 20th century: a time where the fastest transportation is a buggy and the fastest communication the post
<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam (the narrator)/ “Snake-eye the Spy • Bill Driscoll/ “Old Hank the Trapper” • Johnny/ “Red Chief” • Ebenezer Dorset, Johnny’s father
<i>Conflict</i>	<p>Man vs. Man: Sam and Bill vs. Johnny’s father, Sam and Bill vs. Johnny</p>
<i>Theme</i>	<p>The unbridled imagination and shenanigans of children. The difficulties of parenting.</p>
<i>Literary Devices</i>	<p>Verbal Irony Dramatic Irony Hyperbole Humor Short Story (originally published in the Saturday Evening Post)</p>