



Pigeon Feathers Movie Assignment

*Watch the movie **Pigeon Feathers**, based on a short story by John Updike.
After viewing, answer the questions below.*

1. At the beginning of the movie, David's grandmother says, "He knows we're back." And David responds, "Don't you think he knows I'm here?" Who are they talking about?
2. What does David read about Jesus in the H. G. Wells history book that shocks him?
3. What do the parents argue about at dinner?
4. What effect does dinner with his family seem to have on David?
5. After dinner, why is David upset with his dog?
6. What questions does David ask his grandmother?

7. How does David's fear concerning life, death, and the soul affect his feelings about his normal activities and everyday life?

8. What questions does David ask his pastor? How does the pastor respond? Is David satisfied with the answers?

9. What gifts does David receive for his birthday?

10. What chore does Mother ask him to accomplish with the gift she and Father gave David?

11. What truth and beauty does David see in the death of the pigeon?

12. What is the pivotal scene in the story?

13. What is the key symbol in the story?

14. What message do you think the author would like to get across to you through David's story?

15. In a coming-of-age story, the main character--typically a teenager--experiences inner changes as he or she moves from childhood to adulthood. How does *Pigeon Feathers* fit this genre? What other coming-of-age stories are you familiar with?

Journaling connection:

Can you identify in yourself an area where you've experienced inner growth? What sparked the change? Did anyone give you advice--good or bad? How do you see life or yourself or those around you differently from when you were a child?

***If you need to "prime the pump" for your teen ask . . . Are you more responsible? Better at understanding another's point of view? More able to set goals and reach them? More sure of your purpose in life? More able to imagine what other's may be going through? Do you think more like a grownup?



