Dear incoming 4th graders: Please complete this novel study as you read *Crenshaw* over the summer. You will be expected to hand it in on the first day of school.

Happy reading! 😊
Chapter 1

1. What was one weird thing Jackson noticed about the surfboarding cat?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. What mistake did Crenshaw make?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What happened because of his mistake?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. Describe Crenshaw.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. What do you think Crenshaw looked like while surfing?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. Why did Jackson shiver?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 2

What has Jackson always liked? List three facts Jackson likes.
1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________

What does Jackson want to be? ________________________________

What kind of service did Jackson and Marisol start? ________________________________

How many mosquitoes can a bat eat in an hour? ________________________________

What did Jackson do when his parents took him to see the Easter Bunny?
______________________________________________________________

Do you agree with Jackson when he says he “realized people don’t always like to hear the
truth”? Why or why not? _______________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Chapter 3

What did Jackson’s dad wonder? ________________________________

What did Jackson’s mom wonder? ________________________________
Chapter 4

Who is Robin? _______________________________________________________________

What is Cerealball? ____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think Jackson and Robin are hungry? _________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Robin loves _________________________________________________________________

How do you play Cerealball? ____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What’s the trick of the game? ___________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

When did Crenshaw show up? _________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did Jackson find instead of cereal?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Who is Aretha? __________________________________________________________________

Why didn’t Jackson tell his parents he saw Crenshaw? _______________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 5

When did Jackson first meet Crenshaw? ________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

What was he doing when Jackson first saw him? ________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

What did he ask Jackson? ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Chapter 6

Why did Jackson choose the name Crenshaw? __________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

What was Jackson named after? _______________________________________ 

_____________________________________________________________________

Why did Jackson like the name Crenshaw? _____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Chapter 7

What happened to Jackson when he was four? _________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

What did Jackson do when his sister first came home from the hospital?

_____________________________________________________________________

What did Jackson remember thinking? _________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
Chapter 8

What was not going to be sold at the garage sale?

Why were Jackson's parents having a garage sale?

What were Jackson's mom's keepsakes?

What is Robin's favorite book about?

What was Jackson's favorite book when he was little?

What are some magic things?
1.
2.
3.

Chapter 9

Why do you think Jackson's parents were always looking on the bright side?

When Jackson’s dad was younger he found out he had a __________________ called
__________________________________________________________.
Why are Jackson’s parents struggling to pay the rent and other bills?

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 10

What are three things Jackson is thinking of putting in his keepsakes bag?

1. _______________________________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________________________

What are some things you would put in your keepsake bag? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What are four things Jackson observed?

1. _______________________________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________________________
4. _______________________________________________________________________

What job did Jackson’s mom have before? ______________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Why did Jackson think the pool water was always warm? _________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 11

Why are Jackson’s parents fighting? ________________________________________
Chapter 12
What was Crenshaw doing when Jackson opened the door? ________________________________

Chapter 13
Crenshaw asked Jackson if he had any __________________________________________

Why did Aretha want to get into the bathroom? ________________________________

When did Jackson invent Crenshaw? ______________________________________
Illustrate the scene with Jackson in the bathroom, and Crenshaw taking a bubble bath.

Chapter 14

What kind of towel did Jackson pass to Crenshaw? __________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

What are the little prickers on a cat’s tongue called?

_____________________________________________________________________________

What do humans laugh with? _________________________________________________________

What do dogs laugh with? ___________________________________________________________

What did Jackson tell Crenshaw to pretend to be if anyone spotted him?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 15

Who did Jackson tell Robin he was talking to? _________________________________________
Why was Robin having trouble sleeping?

______________________________________________________________

Crenshaw

Part 1

What did Robin want Jackson to do for her?

_____________________________________________________________________

What do you think Jackson “really needs to do” at the end of the chapter?

_____________________________________________________________________

Chapter 16

Why can’t Crenshaw leave when Jackson tells him to?

_____________________________________________________________________

What did Crenshaw smell like? (3 things)

_____________________________________________________________________

Who did Crenshaw say made the rules?

_____________________________________________________________________

What does Crenshaw tell Jackson he must do?

_____________________________________________________________________

Chapter 17

Why did Robin say she didn’t need an imaginary friend?

_____________________________________________________________________

Where was Robin worried about going back to?

_____________________________________________________________________

Crenshaw

Part 2

What did say Jackson to make Robin feel better? ________________________________

Chapter 18

How did Jackson’s mom say money problems snuck up on you?

First,

__________________________________________________________________________

Then,

__________________________________________________________________________

Then,

__________________________________________________________________________

Last,

__________________________________________________________________________

What was all Jackson remembered thinking? ________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 19

When did they move out of their house? ________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

What odd thing did Jackson notice? ________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

What did the bumper sticker say? ________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
Make a prediction about what you think is about to change. __________________________

Chapter 20

How did Jackson know something was really wrong? ____________________________

Who was one of his parent’s favorite singers? _________________________________
Part 3

What is a blues song? ____________________________________________________________

“Jiving” means _________________________________________________________________

What does Jackson’s dad say when he asks, “Do kids always have to love their mom and dad?”

_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 21

What will you have problems with if you ever live in your car? ______________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did Jackson feel like when he crawled inside his box? __________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What’s one reason Jackson said they were lucky? _________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Jackson’s dad said that they weren’t homeless, but what? _________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 22

What did the man in park show Jackson and his family? _____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did the manager at Denny’s give the family? _________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 23

How long had they been living in their van when Jackson’s mom’s wallet was stolen?

Were animals allowed at the homeless shelters? Y/N

Who is Mr. Vandermeer?

What was he training his rats to do?

What did the police officer give Jackson to give to his dad?

Why did the police officer tell him to wait to give it to his dad?

Chapter 24

Why did the family go to the Social Services office?

Where did Jackson’s dad go put in job applications?

Why do you think Jackson’s dad does not want to go to the shelter or the food bank?

What is penmanship?
What did his dad’s sign say? 

Chapter 25

Why did Jackson’s dad say his mom couldn’t go with him at the corner?

Why did his dad go to play his guitar on the busy corner?

How much money did his dad earn?

What did Jackson’s sign for his dad say?

When are the three times Jackson’s mom saw his dad cry?

1. 

2. 

3. 

Do you think Jackson’s dad was crying when he got out of the car?
Chapter 26

Jackson’s mom said that exaggerating is not the same as lying as long as it’s
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

How much money did his dad collect this time on the corner? ______________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What did his dad get other than money? ______________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Who does Jackson think his dad should take with him next time? ________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What theme (s) do you recognize in the story so far? Explain your answer (s).
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 27

What’s for dinner at the beginning of the chapter? _____________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What was Jackson tired of? _________________________________________________
Chapter 28
How long did they live in their minivan?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Where did the family move?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 29
Where did Crenshaw usually ride?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 30
What did everybody say happened to their imaginary friends?

_____________________________________________________________________________

What happened the day Crenshaw left?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Why did the fourth and fifth graders laugh at Jackson?

_____________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 31
What percent of six and seven year olds had imaginary friends?
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 32
What did Jackson think Crenshaw’s return meant for his family? ______________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
Why did Jackson want to get Ms. Leach for fifth grade? ______________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
What did Jackson’s principal mean when he called him an “old soul”?                
_____________________________________________________________________________
How did Jackson get rid of the raccoon? ___________________________________________
Chapter 33

What was dad making for breakfast? _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What did it mean when dad used his cane? __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Who did dad sell the TV to? _____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What are some things Jackson’s dad said they could do instead of watching TV? ___
_____________________________________________________________________________

Why hadn’t dad seen Dawan or Ryan much during the summer? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What word was spelled out in the middle of Jackson’s plate? ________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 34

What is Jackson not a big fan of? _________________________________________________

What’s great about the Civic Center? _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Why wouldn’t you want to live in Alaska if you were hungry? ________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Why did the school stop having summer school? _________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
Part 3

Where did Jackson and his dad go to watch the game?

Who did Jackson see on his TV?

What was Crenshaw doing?

Who won the game? What was the score?

Chapter 35

What bag of dog food did dad tell Jackson to get for Aretha?

Why did Jackson think the sparkly pet collars were a waste of money?

Why do you think Jackson was babbling to the store clerk?

Chapter 36

What did Jackson shoplift for Robin from Safeway grocery?

Why did Jackson not feel guilty about what he had done?
What did Jackson think was his punishment for stealing the baby food?

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Do you think Jackson should have taken the food from the store? Explain.

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 37

Why did Jackson think Aretha was not interested in the cookie?

_____________________________________________________________________________

What was Aretha clutching in her teeth?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Name three things Aretha buried.
1. _________________________________________________________________________
2. _________________________________________________________________________
3. _________________________________________________________________________

In first grade, what did Marisol wear to school everyday?

_____________________________________________________________________________

How much did Marisol try to pay Jackson for the statue of Crenshaw?

_____________________________________________________________________________

Why did Marisol tell Jackson he couldn’t move?

_____________________________________________________________________________
Who is Paula?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What does Marisol think the statue’s name should be? ____________________________

Chapter 38
Do you think there was a logical explanation for Marisol knowing Crenshaw’s name? Why or why not? ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 39
What did Jackson’s mom bring him every night? _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

How do you think Jackson’s parents feel about having to sell Jackson’s and Robin’s things? Explain. ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Do you think Jackson is a grateful child? Explain. ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think Jackson threw his mug against the wall? ______________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 40
What’s something dogs can do with their amazing senses? ______________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 41

Illustrate what Jackson saw when he woke up.

Chapter 42

What is selling your stuff at a yard sale like?

What was Jackson’s main job?

Why did the kids tell their dad he couldn’t sell his guitar?

Chapter 43

What did the note the landlord gave the family mean?

What did Jackson do when he ran to his room?
Crenshaw

Part 3

Why do you think he did that? __________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

What does Jackson think is surprising? __________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 44

What are the Gouchers’ dachshunds’ names? ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

What was Jackson going to tell Marisol about leaving? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think Jackson told Marisol everything? _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 45

What are two things Marisol doesn’t know?
1. ________________________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________________________

Marisol tells Jackson to enjoy the ______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Marisol said her and Jackson would always be __________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 46

Why did Crenshaw like the night? _____________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
What did Jackson almost forget while outside with Crenshaw? ______________________________

What are butterfly poseurs? __________________________________________________________

Why is Crenshaw bigger now? __________________________________________________________

Why does Crenshaw like water? __________________________________________________________

Why does Crenshaw like to eat mosquitos? _________________________________________________

Jackson was surprised who had an imaginary friend? _________________________________________

Who’s Finian? _______________________________________________________________________

Where does Crenshaw go when he’s not with Jackson? _______________________________________

A good cat fact to know is __________________________________________________________________

Chapter 47

What do vampire bats do when they get back to the cave? _________________________________

Chapter 48
Part 3

What was Jackson’s bad dream about? _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What did Jackson think he had to do? _____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Why did Jackson put $10 in an envelope? __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 49

Why do you think Jackson crumbled up his note? __________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 50

Why is Jackson so upset with his parents? __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Do you think Jackson is justified in feeling the way he feels? Explain.
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What did Jackson want his parents to do for him from now on? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 51

Where were the purple jelly beans from? __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
Part 3

What job did Jackson’s dad get? ________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 52

Imaginary friends often appear at what time? ________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did Crenshaw say about imaginary friends? ______________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
In chapter 32, Jackson laid on his bed and thought about all the things he would miss about his apartment. If you were in Jackson’s position, what would you miss the most about your home?
Describe Jackson using the character web on the next page.
Crenshaw

What was your favorite part of the story? Why? ________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

I would recommend this story to a friend because ________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

I would rate this book:

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐