

**Discussion questions for *the Hoarders***  
**By Jean Stringam**

- Do you think that having a food hoard is something for all children to consider, or only children in an unstable family situation like Cheyenne and Joaquin?
- How does Cheyenne's concept of family and his position within it change and develop?
- Do you think Lola's feelings of inadequacy as a mother is a complete or a partial explanation for her choice to leave her boys in Aunt Mandy's care?
- Dogs are mentioned in various ways in the story. How do they help our understanding of the characters associated with them?
- In what ways do Cheyenne's preconceptions about Dead Uncle Dick influence the information he hears about him?
- What do the initials LKC mean to Cheyenne and why does he feel so private about them?

**For those who like to do some research:**

- Imagine you have to be without basic supplies for a given length of time, say three days to a week. What quantities and kinds of foods and materials would it take for you to stay healthy?
- Now calculate the weight and volume of those goods to determine whether you could cram into one backpack that you could carry by yourself?
- Some social scientists have identified a pattern found in certain children from difficult backgrounds who are able to succeed despite the slim odds. They call it the Resilient Child syndrome. What aspects of this pattern do Cheyenne & Joaquin exhibit?