Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Filor/Ms. Lachman English 10

*Out of the Dust* Reading Guide

Directions: Write down the main events from each season (section).

1. Winter 1934 (pp. 3-33)

* Billie Jo is a 13 year old tomboy who loves piano.
* Her friend’s family moves to CA to find work but can’t.
* Billie has to return Mr. Hardley’s overpayment in change because Ma is honest.
* Ma is pregnant and Billie and her dad try not to upset her.
* There’s a big dust storm and Daddy tries to protect the wheat.

1. Spring 1934 (pp. 37-51)

* Billie Jo has to take a test in a dust storm.
* The money they lost when the banks crashed will come back to them, and they will be able to afford a doctor.
* Ma and Pa (Polly and Bayard) fight over diversification.
* The apple trees lose most of their apples.
* Billie will spend the summer traveling and playing music with Arley and Vera Wanderdale and the Black Mesa Boys.

1. Summer 1934 (pp. 55-84)

* Billie Jo’s family helps a young man looking for work.
* Billie Jo burns her mom accidentally and herself trying to help her mom.
* Billie Jo’s hands are burnt badly and she can’t play the piano.
* The grasshoppers eat the apples and Ma dies giving birth to Franklin. Franklin dies too.
* Billie Jo and her dad’s relationship is tense and awkward.

1. Autumn 1934 (pp. 87-95)

* Her father gets a job digging for Wireless Towers.
* It rains a bit and it snows a bit.
* Billie Jo feels self-conscious about the scars on her hands.
* Billie Jo plays the piano poorly for the dance revue. She feels like Mad Dog is the only one that doesn’t look at her strangely.
* Billie Jo feels a longing to see things and travel when she sees the art show.

1. Winter 1935 (pp. 99-149)

* Billie Jo and her dad have a difficult time communicating.
* A family comes to the school to stay awhile since the mother is about to have a baby. She is sad to see them go, especially the baby.
* Billie Jo wins third place in a competition.
* Bayard starts going to night school and meets women.
* Billie Jo gets stuck in a dust storm and her father goes out after her. She worries he won’t make it back, but he does.

1. Spring 1935 (pp. 153-189)

* Billie Jo fears her father has skin cancer and he refuses to go to the doctor.
* Billie Jo’s aunt sends a letter asking her to come live with her.
* Billie Jo and her dad get stuck in a dust storm going to a funeral and a family opens its doors to the funeral procession.
* Billie Jo walks off the stage during graduation because she can’t play the piano.
* Billie Jo has a crush on Mad Dog but is jealous of him that he sings on the radio.

1. Summer 1935 (pp. 193-206)

* Billie Jo runs away from home and jumps a train.
* She meets a hobo on the train. She unburdens her soul to him, but he steals her biscuits on her birthday.
* Billie Jo returns home realizing you can’t run away from yourself.
* She forgives her dad and herself.
* Her father agrees to see Doc Rice and tells her his pond is successful.

1. Autumn 1935 (pp. 209-227)

* Billie Jo’s dad finally sees the doctor who removes the cancer spots. He recommends that Billie Jo use her hands to help them heal.
* Bayard has started seeing a woman named Louise. He reveals he never wanted Billie Jo to move in with Aunt Ellis.
* At first Billie Jo is not ready to accept Louise into her life, but she gradually comes to like her.
* Billie Jo has a lot to be thankful for at Thanksgiving. She has started playing the piano again.
* Billie Jo is looking forward to when her father and Louise will be married.