What is the name of the school that Nick and Marta attend?
Truman School (p. 1)

Who is the kid in Nick’s class who always thinks he knows the answers to questions but never does?
Graham (pg. 1)

What is odd about Mrs. Starch’s chin?
On her chin is a crimson mark in the shape of an anvil (pg. 2)

What is Mrs. Starch’s school wardrobe?
Polyester pants suit in one of four faded pastel colors, and drab brown flats (p. 2)

What is the shape of the mark on Mrs. Starch’s chin?
An anvil (p. 2)

What happened that caused the kids to change Duane the Dweeb’s nickname? What was his new nickname and why did the kids choose it?
He grew 5 inches and gained thirty pounds, and from then on everyone called him Smoke because some kids thought he was a pyro. (p. 4)

What science subject did Mrs. Starch ask Smoke about?
The Calvin Cycle (p. 4)

What nickname did Smoke used to have before he grew?
Duane the Dweeb (p. 4)

What is Duane’s punishment for not reading Chapter 8 in his biology class?
A five hundred word, humorous essay about pimples (pg. 7)

What does Duane do when Mrs. Starch points her pencil in his face?
He chomps the pencil in half (pg. 10)

What is Nick’s mom’s profession?
Guard at the Collier County Jail (p. 13)

What is Nick’s father’s occupation?
Captain in the 53rd Infantry Brigade of the Florida Army National Guard (pg. 13, 37)

How does Nick’s family usually communicate with his father while he is deployed?
By email (pg. 13)

What are three reasons that Nick was sent to a private school?
Smaller classes; better teachers; low freak factor (p. 14)

What is Smoke’s real name?
Duane Scrod (p. 14)
What is the name of the headmaster of the Truman School?
Dr. Dressler (pg. 15)

What did Smoke’s dad do to get him sent to jail and why did he do it?
He burnt down a Chevy dealership because his car (Tahoe) blew a transmission (p. 14)

How did Smoke get accepted into Truman School?
The school received a large cash donation from his wealthy Grandmother, who was also paying his tuition (p. 19).

What vehicles can be found on Smoke’s front yard?
Pick-up truck, motorcycle, ATV, minivan, SUV/Tahoe (p. 19)

What type of pet does Duane Scrod Sr. have?
A macaw (pg. 20)

Smoke’s dad feels his son has an iron stomach because, as a kid, he used to eat what?
Rocks, oyster shells, lug nuts, piano wire (p. 21)

What is Duane Scrod Sr.’s macaw named?
Nadine (pg. 23)

What three languages does Nadine speak?
German (pg. 23) French (pg. 80) and English (pg. 254)

With what three things did Mrs. Stack tell the students to lather up before they got on the bus?
Sunblock, bug juice, & lip balm (p. 24)

What is Nick and Marta’s assignment during their field trip?
To keep a list of everything they see – insects, mammals, birds, trees for a lab grade (pg. 25)

What is the emergency signal for the field trip?
A portable boat horn (pg. 25)

What does Mrs. Starch’s license plate say?
“Save the Manatee” (p. 26)

What does Nick bring with him on the field trip?
A video camera (pg. 27)

Why didn’t Marta want to pick a ghost orchid to bring home to her mother?
It was against the law and she could go to jail. (p. 27)

Whose team was Nick and Marta on for the field trip?
Mr. Neal (p. 30)

Why did the classes have to leave the field trip early?
There was a small wildfire (p. 35)

When the classes were leaving swamp, why did Mrs. Starch go back?
Libby dropped her medicine/inhaler (p. 35)

Why is the field trip cut short?
A small wildfire springs up on the far edge of the swamp (pg. 35)

What three teachers are on the field trip?
Mrs. Starch, Mr. Neal and Miss Moffitt (pg. 35)

Why does Mrs. Starch stay behind after the field trip is evacuated from the swamp?
To recover Libby Marshall’s inhaler that she dropped (pg. 35)

What is the nickname of Nick’s fathers Brigade?
The Gator Brigade (pg. 37)

What does Nick think he captured on video camera?
A panther (pg. 38)

Why does Nick’s mom point out his video is not of a panther?
The “panther” is wearing a belt (pg. 40)

What type of car does Mrs. Starch drive?
A blue Prius (pg. 42)

What does Jason Marshall, Libby’s dad, do for a living?
He is a detective for the Collier County Sheriff’s Office (p. 43)

What is Mrs. Starch’s first name?
Bunny (pg. 44)

Why does the Marshall’s dog, Sam, start barking loudly in the middle of the night?
He saw someone in the yard dropping off Libby’s asthma inhaler? (pg. 48)

What did the Truman School used to be called?
Trapwick Academy (p. 49)

Who is the Truman School named after?
President Harry S. Truman (p. 50)

Why did the Trapwick Academy change its name?
The name Trapwick kept popping up in the newspapers because the three Trapwick children had become its most embarrassing advertisements.
• The eldest, Vincent, embezzled millions of dollars from his father’s bank.
• Sandra Sue on three occasions drank too much beer and drove her golf cart off the Naples Pier.
• The youngest, Iggy, was ripping off Social Security checks from old folks living in the chain of shabby nursing homes that he owned. (p. 50)

What did Libby’s dog find that makes her believe Mrs. Starch escaped from Black Vine Swamp?
Her inhaler (p. 55)
How many times had Mrs. Starch missed school before the field trip? 
One day in eighteen years because of a car accident (pg. 57)

Why do the other students think Duane earned the nickname of Smoke? 
Because he is a pyromaniac (pg. 61)

What does the deputy tell Nick about the wildfire that happened in Black Vine Swamp? 
That it was really arson/a controlled burn (p. 61)

When Smoke was younger, what two things did he burn down? 
Construction trailer; Billboard (p. 62)

What other arsons were Duane implicated in? 
A construction trailer burning down and he torched a billboard on the interstate (pg. 62)

What is Mrs. Starch’s address? 
777 West Buzzard Boulevard (pg. 66)

When Dr. Dressler goes to Mrs. Starch’s house, what does he discover on her porch? 
A stuffed rat (p. 68)

What is the name and significance of the stuffed brown rat on Mrs. Starch’s porch? 
It’s named after a former student of hers, Chelsea Evered (pg. 68)

In the letter Dr. Dressler found in Mrs. Starch’s mailbox, what reason was given for leave of absence request? 
A sudden family emergency (p. 70)

What did Mrs. Starch put for her next of kin in her all of her records? 
None (p. 71)

What does Dr. Dressler find odd about Mrs. Starch requesting a leave of absence because of a family emergency? 
She has no family (pg. 71)

After the police interviews at the school, Nick and Marta went to Nick’s house to look at the video he took during the field trip to the Black Vine Swamp. Later, what did they see on the way to pick up milk at the Circle K that was later discovered as being related to Mrs. Starch’s disappearance. 
They saw a blue Prius like Mrs. Starch’s that also had the same kind of license plate as her car – “Save the manatees”. (p. 74)

Who was Millicent Winship? How many homes did she own and where were they located? What was unique about the location of each? 
She was Duane’s grandmother. 
She had five homes - in California, New York, Arizona, South Carolina & Florida. They were all located on championship golf courses. (p. 76)

What is Smoke’s Grandmother’s name? 
Millicent Winship (p. 76)

What happened to Smoke’s mom?
She moved to Paris and opened a cheese shop (p. 76)

What did Smoke’s dad do for a living before his wife ran off?
He owned an antique piano shop (p. 80)

What hospital is Nick’s father taken to when he gets home from Iraq?
The Walter Reed Army Medical Center (pg. 82)

What injury did Nick’s father sustain in Iraq?
He lost his right arm and most of his shoulder when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Humvee (pg. 83)

What sport had Nick’s dad played and for what team?
Baseball; Baltimore Orioles farm system (p. 84)

What did the fire department find near the scene of the fire?
A ballpoint pen with “Red Diamond Energy” printed on it (p. 89)

What was written on the ballpoint pen that was found near the scene of the fire?
Red Diamond Energy (p. 89)

Who is the president of Red Diamond Energy Corp.?
Drake McBride (p. 91)

Who does Drake McBride try to dress and talk like?
A Texan (p. 92)

What is Jimmy Lee Bayliss always eating?
Tums (pg. 92)

What does Nick do to understand his father’s injury?
Ties his right arm behind his back with an Ace bandage and becomes a lefty (pg. 94-5)

What does Nick do to himself once he and his Mom get back home from visiting his dad?
He tapes his right arm to his back (p. 94-95)

What was the first obstacle Nick had to overcome being left-handed?
Opening his backpack (p. 96)

Who is the substitute that first takes over Mrs. Starch’s class?
Dr. Wendell Waxmo (pg. 98)

What does Wendell Waxmo always teach on Mondays?
Page 117 (pg. 101)

What does Wendell Waxmo make a student do if they don’t have the correct answer?
Sing a lullaby in front of the class (pg. 102)
What is the title of Smoke’s acne essay?
The Curse of the Persistent Pimple (p. 104)

When Smoke walks in the classroom on the first day of having Dr. Waxmo as a substitute, what three things does he do that shocks the class?
He is dressed in uniform; he sat down and got out a pencil and paper to take notes; he apologized for insulting Dr. Waxmo (p. 103, 105, 106)

Why did Dr. Dressler hire Dr. Waxmo to be Mrs. Starch’s sub?
He was hoping that once Mrs. Starch found out who was teaching her class, she would terminate her leave of absence and rush back to rescue her students (p. 107)

What did Smoke tell the detective he was doing during the field trip?
Snook fishin’ down at Marco (p. 109)

How did Marta first realize that the blue Prius she and Nick had seen actually was Mrs. Starch’s?
She saw it flying out of a parking lot with Smoke in the passenger seat in his Truman jacket (p. 117)

Which section is Red Diamond Energy allowed to dig and which section are they illegally digging? (Be specific)
Legal: section 21; illegal: section 22 (p. 121)

How did Drake McBride avoid taking Melton up in his helicopter?
He told him there were strict FAA rules against getting on a chopper if you’re not wearing clothes. (p. 124)

What does Smoke want to study in college?
Environmental science (p. 126)

What movie did Nick tell Marta’s mom they were seeing when they, in fact, were going to go to Mrs. Starch’s house?
Spider-Man VII: Revenge of the Web Slinger (p. 129)

How far away is Mrs. Starch’s house from the mall Nick and Marta were dropped off at?
2.4 miles (p. 129)

How did Nick and Marta figure out that Mrs. Starch hadn’t been to her house in a long time?
She was a notorious neat freak and her porch looked untouched by a broom or mop (p. 133)

How do Nick and Marta get inside Mrs. Starch’s house?
With a key they find under a large clay pot (p. 134)

What does Mrs. Starch have on display in her house that freaks Marta out?
Taxidermied (stuffed) endangered animals (p. 136-137)

What is the name of the man that finds Nick and Marta at Mrs. Starch’s house?
Twilly Spree (p. 143)

How does Twilly say he is related to Mrs. Starch?
Nephew (p. 143)

What was Drake McBride’s scheme for making millions?
The U.S. government had announced a plan to buy up the drilling rights for oil and natural gas beneath the Big Cypress Preserve. If the Red Diamond Energy Corporation found any oil at all, Uncle Sam would pay them not to pump it. (p.150)

When did the name Trapwick come up the second time?
Jimmy Lee Bayliss bought Section 21, the Trapwick parcel, from Vincent Trapwick, Jr. who was selling everything he owned to pay for his lawyers for the embezzlement trial. (p.150)

What is the Red Diamond Energy Corporation doing in Black Vine Swamp?
Illegally drilling for oil in Section 22, then running the pipe through the part of the swamp they own, Section 21, so that the US government will pay them money for their drilling rights to protect the Everglades (pg. 151)

What grade did Dr. Waxmo give Smoke for his pimple essay?
D+ (p. 162)

How does Twilly have the money to finance his missions?
His grandfather died and her inherited $5 million from him (pg. 164)

Who sent Nick a letter at school in a lavender envelope?
Mrs. Starch (p. 168)

Why did Dr. Waxmo really leave the Truman school and what excuse did he give Dr. Dressler?
Actual reason: He was threatened by Twilly to leave the school (p. 180-181); Excuse given: Burmese jungle rot (p. 196)

Why does Wendell Waxmo stop subbing for Mrs. Starch?
Twilly pays him a visit and threatens him (pg. 181)

What does Duane Scrod Sr. do to unwanted visitors?
Grabs their lips with a pair of pliers (pg. 182)

What does Jimmy Lee Bayliss steal from the Scrod’s house?
Duane’s camo-patterned book bag (pg. 185)

When Smoke borrowed Nick’s biology book, what reason did he give for needing it?
He had to study for the exam (p. 193)

What fictional illness does Wendell Waxmo call in sick with?
Burmese jungle rot (pg. 196)
Why did Jimmy Lee Bayliss start the fire at the Black Vine Swamp?
To keep the field trip visitors away from Section 22 (pg. 199)

What does Duane borrow from Nick?
His biology book (pg. 203)

What book does Nick check out because of Twilly?
The Monkey Wrench Gang by Edward Abbey (pg. 203)

What does Jimmy Lee Bayliss plant at the site of the arson to place suspicion on Duane?
Duane’s book bag with a butane torch inside (pg. 207)

What did the fire investigator find in Smoke’s backpack?
Schoolbooks, pencils, a calculator and a small, butane torch (p. 207)

What evidence did Twilly first discover that indicated the panther was still in the area?
Its poop (p. 211)

What two things did Smoke tell Nick while he was running from being arrested?
That is biology book was in his locker and the combination was 5-3-5; he didn’t do the fire, he was innocent (p. 216)

Why does the Red Diamond Energy Corporation want to get rid of the panthers?
Because of the Endangered Species Act, if even scat or a paw print were found, the government would step in to supervise or stop the oil-drilling operation to protect the species (pg. 241)

When Twilly returns to camp in the swamp, what is the agreed upon signal when he whistles?
No response (p. 247)

What does Mrs. Starch threaten to do if either Nick or Marta tells anyone about the baby panther?
She’ll lose all respect for them (p. 251)

Why didn’t the board expel Duane Scrod Jr. from school?
Dr. Dressler pointed out that his grandmother donated a large amount of money to Truman every year, so they decided to temporarily suspend him. (p.253)

What is the baby panther’s name?
Squirt because he pees so much (pg. 259)

What is Mrs. Starch, Duane and Twilly hiding in their tent?
A baby panther (pg. 260)

What does Twilly wear around his neck?
Buzzard Beaks (pg. 263)

How old is the panther cub?
A few weeks (p. 264)

What are Mrs. Starch and Twilly feeding the cub and where do they get it?
A special formula prepared by Twilly’s friend from the Metrozoo (p. 264)

Mrs. Stark took her first leave of absence from the Truman school in how many years? Eighteen (p. 267)

What two things does Mrs. Starch say that she and Smoke have in common? They both love the wilderness (p. 268); they both know what it’s like to be abandoned (p. 269)

What happened to Mrs. Starch’s husband? He moved to Plano, Texas (p. 269)

How did Mrs. Starch get the scar on her chin? She tried to put an osprey chick back in its nest after it had fallen. The nest was high on a utility pole and she fell while climbing down and cut her chin on a broken glass soda bottle (pg. 271)

What two things does Mrs. Starch tell Nick that they need for the present situation in Black Vine Swamp? A strong heart and two good arms (p. 274)

Why did Mrs. Starch ask Nick to take off that sling? She told him that for what lay ahead, each of them would need a strong heart and two good arms. They needed 100 percent of him, and his Dad would understand. (p.274)

What did Twilly do with all of the pink flags that marked the pipeline path from section 22 to 21? He had them spell out the word SCAT (p. 277)

What does Twilly say is Smoke’s special talent? He is a born tracker (p. 282)

What was on the billboard that Smoke burned down when he was younger? An ad for American Airlines’ winter special for a Miami to Paris flight for $395.00 (p. 282)

Who is Hayduke? The fictional leader of the Monkey Wrench Gang (pg. 284)

How many panther cubs did Twilly find? Two, but the second one didn’t make it through the first night (pg. 286)

What is the bloodhound’s name that Drake McBride hires? Horace (pg. 290)

How did Detective Jason Marshall find the tapes of Jimmy Lee Bayliss buying the butane torches? He knew that the brand of torch found in Duane’s bag was called the Ultra Igniter, and the company’s website provided a list showing three retail outlets in the area that sold its products. He went to the only one was open that day and viewed the surveillance film. He found the only two sales – one on the day before the fire and the second only three days previous. The same guy had purchased them both – not Duane. (p.301-302)

Why did Duane really set fire to the interstate billboard?
It was advertising an airline’s flights to Paris and he was upset about his mother leaving his family to live in Paris (pg. 303)

Why does Smoke want to be called “Smoke?”
It sounds a lot cooler than Duane (p. 304)

Who is the babysitter that comes to watch Nick after his parents have to go back to the hospital?
Peyton Lynch (306)

How much money was the dog handler asking for the loss of this dog Horace? How did he manage to get even more, and what was the final amount?
He was asking for $2,000. The amount was changed to $5,000 after the handler told Drake McBride that he had seen Red Diamond Energy Corporation gear in Section 22, the one owned by the state of Florida and that he might relate that information. (p. 310-311)

Who was Special Agent Conway?
He worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They had received report of a panther sighting. (p. 319)

What name was given to the game warden as to who saw the panther?
George W. Hayduke (p. 321)

How does Jason Marshall realize that Duane was framed for the arson?
He obtains videotapes from store security cameras showing that Jimmy Lee Bayliss, not Duane, purchased two butane torches around the time of the arson (pg. 324-5)

What is Duane Scrod Sr.’s new job?
Piano teacher (pg. 326)

How did Smoke know that the mother panther was close and the kitten should be set down?
He found fresh pee on a resurrection fern (p. 329)

Who gets shot in the Black Vine Swamp?
Mrs. Starch, in the leg (pg. 337)

Who does Horace “capture” in the Black Vine Swamp?
Drake McBride (pg. 345)

Why was Smoke put in the county juvenile hall?
For fleeing from the police (p. 351)

How did Graham surprise Mrs. Starch and the rest of the class on Mrs. Starch’s first day back at school?
As always, he excitedly waved his hand to answer the question, only this time he knew the entire answer and received a “well done” from Mrs. Starch. (p. 353)

What grade did Mrs. Starch give Smoke for his pimple essay and why didn’t he get higher?
A-; he misspelled “endocrine” (p. 355)

How does Nick break his arm in the Black Vine Swamp?
Climbing up a tree to reunite the baby panther with his mother (pg. 359)
What job did Smoke’s dad get?
Piano teacher (p. 362)

What present does Twilly send Nick after their adventure in the Black Vine Swamp?
The book Hayduke Lives! by Edward Abbey (pg. 367)

What did the surgeon’s from Walter Reed give Nick’s dad?
An artificial arm with a bionic hand called the i-LIMB (p. 368)

What does Twilly do to try to sabotage the Red Diamond Energy Corporation?
Catches one of their workers, stripped off the man’s clothes and ties him to a tree trunk (pg. 165);
Send the company’s iron pipes on a freighter to Haiti to bring water to farmers’ fields (pg. 165)
Catches Melton again and spray paints him orange and ties him to the hood of his truck (pg. 240)
Rearranges the pink flags marking the future path of the illegal pipeline to spell “Scat” (pg. 277)

What pages did Wendell Waxmo, the substitute teacher for Mrs. Starch, teach on Monday, Thursday and Friday?  
Monday–117 (p. 101), Thursday–329 (p. 155), Friday–263 (p. 197)

Who was Melton and what happened to him?
He worked for the Red Diamond Energy Corporation. The first time Twilly found him he glued him to a Cyprus tree
with no clothes on, where he was bitten by bull ants. (p.119)
The second time he sprayed-painted him blaze orange from head to toe and tied him to the hood of his truck buck
necked. (p.240)

Who was Torkelson? How did he manage to put all of the clues together?
• He was the fire investigator for the Collier County Fire Department. (p.153)
• He was the one who found Jimmy Lee Bayliss’s pen about a hundred and fifty yards from where the fire
flashed up and kept it for evidence. (p.154)
• Jimmy Lee Bayliss was the person who “found” Duane’s backpack near the fire site and led Torkelson to it.
(p.206)
• He viewed the tapes from the hardware store and recognized Jimmy Lee Bayliss as the buyer of the butane
torches (p.324).

Who supposedly supplied the report of the panther sighting? Who really made the report?
What is the significance of that name?
The report came from a citizen, George W. Hayduke, who had supposedly seen a panther in the area and had also
supplied GPS waypoint. Hayduke was the name of the main character in the book by Edward Abbey about The
Monkey Wrench Gang that Twilly (the person who actually made the report) had mentioned to Nick & Marta when
he found them at Mrs. Starch’s house. (p.144 & 236)

WHERE

Where is the biology class going on a field trip?
Black Vine Swamp (pg. 12)

Where is Nick’s father stationed at the beginning of the book?
Anbar province of Iraq (pg. 13)

Where did Smoke’s Grandmother take him and his dad to eat?
The Silver Dolphin (p. 125)
Where did Nick and Marta have Marta’s mom drop them off when they were going to sneak to Mrs. Starch’s house?
The mall (p. 129)

Where do Nick and Marta go when they pretend to go see a movie at the theater?
To Mrs. Starch’s house (pg. 129)

Where do Nick and Marta hide when someone arrives at Mrs. Starch’s house?
An antique chest (p. 138) OR a steamer trunk (p. 139)

Where did Jimmy Lee Bayliss tell Smoke’s dad he was from?
The Tax Collector’s office (p. 182)