

## Significance of sunlight

The following are all quotations about sunlight from the novel but the order of them is muddled. Try to re-arrange the quotations so that they are in the right order and then see if you can identify which chapter each of the quotations is from. Plot the quotations on the sunlight graph and then discuss whether you think the time of day has any significance or symbolism; do you, for example, think that tension is greater at the beginning or end of the day in the novel?

'Only the tops of the Gabilan mountains flamed with the light of the sun that had gone from the valley.'

'At about ten o'clock in the morning the sun threw a bright dust-laden bar through one of the side windows, and in and out of the beam flies shot like rushing stars.'

'Now the light was lifting as the sun went down, and the sun streaks climbed up the wall and fell over the feeding racks and heads of the horses.'

'Already the sun had left the valley to go climbing up the slopes of the Gabilan mountains, and the hilltops were rosy in the sun.'

'Only the topmost ridges were in the sun now. The shadow in the valley was blue and soft.'

'At the windows the light of the evening still made the window squares bright.'

'The sun streaks were high on the wall by now, and the light was growing soft in the barn.'

'The light climbed on out of the valley, and as it went, the tops of the mountains seemed to blaze with increasing brightness.'

'The afternoon sun sliced in through the cracks of the barn walls and lay in bright lines on the hay.'

'Both men glanced up, for the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off.'

'It was almost dark outside now.'

'Although there was evening brightness showing through the windows of the bunk house, inside it was dusk.'

**The Answers**

'Only the tops of the Gabilan mountains flamed with the light of the sun that had gone from the valley.'

Chapter 1, p.25

'At about ten o'clock in the morning the sun threw a bright dust-laden bar through one of the side windows, and in and out of the beam flies shot like rushing stars.'

Chapter 2, p.38

'Both men glanced up, for the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off.'

Chapter 2, p.53

'Although there was evening brightness showing through the windows of the bunk house, inside it was dusk.'

Chapter 3, p.64

'At the windows the light of the evening still made the window squares bright.'

Chapter 3, p.66

'It was almost dark outside now.'

Chapter 3, p.69

'The afternoon sun sliced in through the cracks of the barn walls and lay in bright lines on the hay.'

Chapter 5, p.120

'Now the light was lifting as the sun went down, and the sun streaks climbed up the wall and fell over the feeding racks and heads of the horses.'

Chapter 5, p.125

'The sun streaks were high on the wall by now, and the light was growing soft in the barn.'

Chapter 5, p.128

'Already the sun had left the valley to go climbing up the slopes of the Gabilan mountains, and the hilltops were rosy in the sun.'

Chapter 6, p.140

'The light climbed on out of the valley, and as it went, the tops of the mountains seemed to blaze with increasing brightness.'

Chapter 6, p.141

'Only the topmost ridges were in the sun now. The shadow in the valley was blue and soft.'

Chapter 6, p.144

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