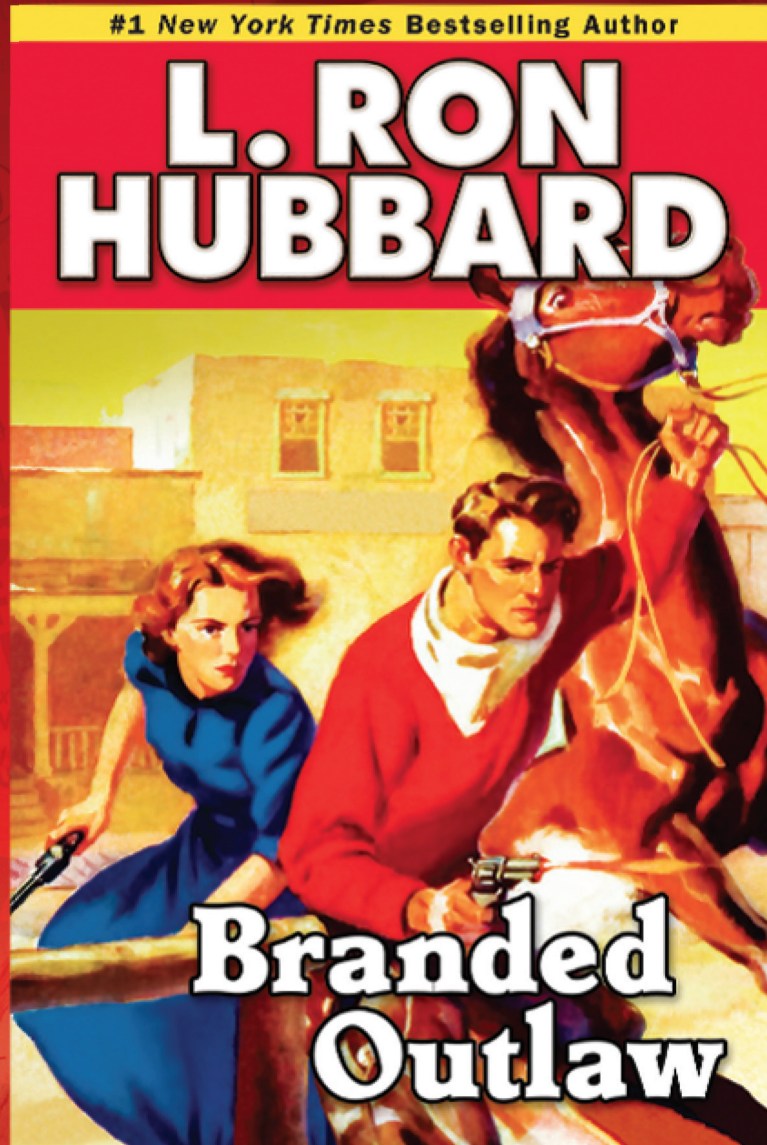




STORIES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE WHERE ADVENTURE COMES TO LIFE



LESSON PLAN FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

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About L. Ron Hubbard



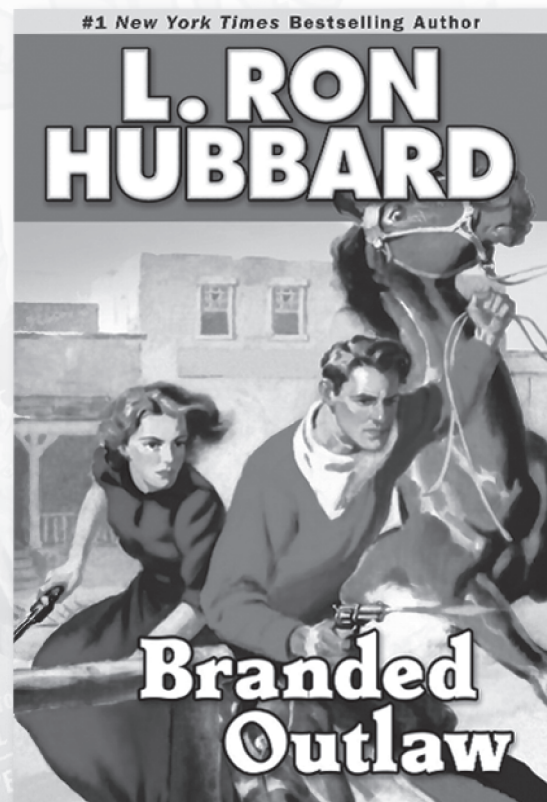
With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 280 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

About *Branded Outlaw*

Branded Outlaw:

(ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 1938
ISSUE OF *FIVE-NOVELS MONTHLY*)

Lee Weston is blamed for rustling cattle, which he's almost lynched for. But nothing will stop him from finding his father's killer...until he's framed for shooting the father of the only girl he's ever looked at more than once and now the whole town is after him!



Branded Outlaw **Activity Guide Contents**

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• Quiz

For this section circle the correct answers to fill in the blanks.



1. MAIN IDEA

What is the main idea of the story?

- A man finds himself accused of crimes, and has to fight for his life and to clear his name.
- Life as a cattle rancher is always dangerous and exciting.
- A sheriff finds that his job is harder than he thought it would be.
- The Wild West wasn't as wild as the stories make it seem.

2. SEQUENCE

What belongs in the middle?

- a) Lee Weston kills a man in a gunfight.
 - b) _____
 - c) Harvey Dodge rides to the cabin to get Ellen to come home.
- Lee's father is killed.
 - Ellen hides Lee at the cabin and nurses his gunshot wound.
 - Harvey Dodge is shot in the back by Ace Doherty.
 - Harvey Dodge offers a reward for Lee's capture.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

The group of men start breaking in the door of the jail, so _____

- the sheriff and Lee hold them off in a huge gunfight.
- they capture Lee and plan to lynch him the next day.
- the sheriff runs and leaves Lee to fend for himself.
- Sheriff Randall lets Lee go out the back so he won't be lynched without a trial.

• Quiz

4. CAUSE AND EFFECT

With his father dead and Ellen against him, Lee feels he has nothing left, so _____

- he decides to go to the Triple D and try to convince Ellen he is innocent.
- he decides he might as well actually be an outlaw and joins Doherty's gang.
- he gives up and goes back to town to see if they actually will hang him.
- he goes back to the cabin and decides to try to shoot it out with the men.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

Harvey Dodge is a _____, so he owns a large spread and lots of cattle.

- rancher
- Mexican
- gunslinger
- sheriff

6. CONTEXT CLUES

Lee Weston is a fast and accurate shot, so _____

- he wants to become the sheriff.
- he is known as a gunslinger.
- he can steal all the cattle he wants.
- he can play cards as well as Doherty.

7. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

Why do you think Lee got the name of "Suicide Weston"?

- He's always getting into battles that he can't win.
- Every town he goes to turns against him and tries to lynch him.
- Lee is such an accurate shot that going up against him is suicide.
- Everyone knows going against Harvey Dodge is suicide.

• Quiz

8. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

How do you think Harvey Dodge will feel about his daughter and Lee after the book ends?

- It is hard for him to take at first, but he comes to see that Lee was innocent all along.
- He always liked Lee, so he throws a big engagement party.
- He still wants to lynch Lee and so sends a posse after him anyway.
- It is impossible for him to forgive anyone, so he forbids Ellen to see him again.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

When Lee goes to the Triple D ranch, he hopes to get _____

- guns, ammunition, blankets and food.
- Ellen's agreement to marry him.
- a proper apology from Harvey Dodge.
- a good night's sleep.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

A quirt is _____

- a funny facial expression.
- a riding whip of braided leather.
- an unusual character trait.
- a type of grain fed to horses.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

Lee Weston had returned from _____ after receiving the letter from his father.

- a vacation
- Mexico
- New York
- Wyoming

• Quiz

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

The name of Lee Weston's father's ranch was _____

- the Lightning W.
- the OK Corral.
- the Weston ranch.
- the Old Homestead.

13. FACTS AND DETAILS

The stolen cattle were being moved to _____

- California.
- another man's ranch.
- Mexico.
- the East Coast.

14. FACTS AND DETAILS

Lee was able to find the old cabin easily because _____

- he knew the terrain well from riding over it so often as a child.
- he had a natural instinct for direction.
- he had an old map his father had left him.
- he had been taught to track by Indians.

15. FACTS AND DETAILS

A puncher is _____

- someone who frequently uses a punching bag.
- a man who is good in a fistfight.
- a person who makes a lot of jokes.
- a hired hand who tends the cattle on horseback.

• Characters

CHARACTERS

WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS, AND BE SURE TO EXPLAIN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS TO THE OTHER CHARACTERS.

LEE WESTON

HARVEY DODGE

ELLEN DODGE

ACE DOHERTY

• Summary/SBQ

SUMMARY

Write a summary of the book on a separate piece of paper. You may prepare for an oral summary if you prefer.

SBQ (STORY-BASED QUESTIONS)

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. Why does Lee Weston immediately suspect Harvey Dodge when he finds his father dead?
2. When Lee first comes to Pecos, how does the gunfight in which he kills a man start?
3. Why does Harvey Dodge himself ride up to the cabin to bring his daughter home?
4. How does Lee escape from the cabin once Dodge discovers him there?
5. How does the story of Lee's shootout become so out of proportion to the truth?
6. What happens while Lee is cooking the deer he shot?
7. Why does Lee come down from his hiding place in the livery stable?
8. What does Lee do when the bandit, *don Jose*, captures Ellen?

• Story-Based Discussion

SBD (STORY-BASED DISCUSSION)

While you are reading the book, find the answers to the following questions. You don't have to write down the answers.

1. What advice does Sheriff Tate Randall give Lee when he first comes into town looking for Harvey Dodge?
2. How is Lee Weston tricked into trusting the five men who find him at his campfire cooking venison?
3. Why does Lee decide to stay in town after Sheriff Randall releases him from the jail?

SAW (STORY-APPLIED WRITING)

Pick one topic below and write a complete response.

1. Write the next chapter of the book, explaining what happens to Lee Weston.
2. Compare and contrast Lee Weston with a character you have read about in another book.
3. Choose a few scenes from the book and rewrite them from Harvey Dodge's perspective.

• Find the Meaning

For the following section circle the correct answers.

1. *plumbed* means

- ate fruit
- stirred up
- became angry
- examined closely

2. *rotund* means

- dignified
- plump or fat
- smart
- gracious

3. *gnaw* means

- cry out
- trouble or worry
- sicken
- tighten

4. *braggart* means

- someone who dislikes people
- a person with poor eyesight
- a boy who lies
- a person who brags

5. *atone* means

- to want badly
- to make musical sounds
- to remember
- to make up for

6. *strife* means

- a quarrel or struggle
- sunrise
- unhappiness
- upright

7. *disdain* means

- contentment
- thick stew
- foggy weather
- contempt; scorn

8. *part and parcel* means

- birthday gifts
- an essential part
- a piece of land
- wrapped nicely

9. *tortuous* means

- unhealthy
- full of emotion
- like a turtle
- full of twists and turns

10. *stigma* means

- a mark of disgrace
- soft, black cloth
- a drawing pencil
- a flowering plant

• Complete the Sentences

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. The country has been troubled by so much _____ that it is on the verge of economic collapse.

- rotund
- gnaw
- tortuous
- strife

2. I am sorry to see that he has become such a _____ that he only talks about himself.

- part and parcel
- plumbed
- braggart
- disdain

3. Courage is _____ of being a good soldier.

- part and parcel
- rotund
- atone
- stigma

4. He felt a need to find something he could do to _____ for such a bad mistake.

- plumbed
- strife
- gnaw
- atone

5. She _____ the possibilities and decided to go left.

- stigma
- disdain
- braggart
- plumbed

• Complete the Sentences

6. Something was beginning to _____ at her, but she could not figure out what it was.

- rotund
- strife
- gnaw
- braggart

7. I cannot believe he would speak to me with such _____

- gnaw.
- disdain.
- part and parcel.
- atone.

8. The roads in the mountains are so _____ that driving them can be quite dangerous.

- strife
- stigma
- tortuous
- plumbed

9. Despite being quite _____, his well-cut suit made him look dignified and impressive.

- tortuous
- braggart
- disdain
- rotund

10. I am concerned that he may never lose the _____ of having committed a crime.

- stigma
- plumbed
- atone
- gnaw

• Quiz: Answers



1. MAIN IDEA

- A man finds himself accused of crimes, and has to fight for his life and to clear his name.

2. SEQUENCE

- Ellen hides Lee at the cabin and nurses his gunshot wound.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- Sheriff Randall lets Lee go out the back so he won't be lynched without a trial.

4. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- he decides to go to the Triple D and try to convince Ellen he is innocent.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

- rancher

6. CONTEXT CLUES

- he is known as a gunslinger.

7. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- Lee is such an accurate shot that going up against him is suicide.

8. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- It is hard for him to take at first, but he comes to see that Lee was innocent all along.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

- guns, ammunition, blankets and food.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

- a riding whip of braided leather.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Wyoming

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

- the Lightning W.

13. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Mexico.

14. FACTS AND DETAILS

- he knew the terrain well from riding over it so often as a child.

15. FACTS AND DETAILS

- a hired hand who tends the cattle on horseback.

• Characters: Answers

LEE WESTON

Lee Weston, also known as Suicide Weston, is the son of a cattle rancher who has been killed. Lee has returned from Wyoming and finding his father dead, is out to find the killer he thinks to be Harvey Dodge, an old rival of his father. Lee is shot in a gunfight and secretly nursed back to health by Dodge's daughter, Ellen. But he is discovered by Dodge and has to run and fight for his life, as the entire town has been turned against him and even Ellen believes he may be guilty. The sheriff gives him a chance by letting him out of the jail and Lee vows to find the real outlaw so he can be brought to justice. With almost no hope, Lee manages to use his wits to outsmart the real bandits and prove his innocence.

HARVEY DODGE

Harvey Dodge is the man mentioned by Lee's father as a raider and so Lee's first suspect when he finds his father dead. Dodge has recently moved into the area and bought the largest spread in the valley. Dodge is also the father of the girl who helps Lee after he has been shot and harbors him until her father arrives unexpectedly and sees that Lee is there. Dodge is sure that Lee is responsible for many of the crimes that are being committed in the area and offers a reward for his capture. He is eventually shot by the real outlaw, but survives the shooting.

ELLEN DODGE

Ellen Dodge is the daughter of Harvey Dodge. She happens to be at a cabin in the mountains when Lee first escapes after being shot in a gunfight. She nurses him back to health and hides him from the posse that comes looking for him. She believes him to be innocent until her father is shot and Lee appears to have been the shooter. When she is taken captive by the band of outlaws that has been terrorizing the valley, Lee makes a daring plan for escape and nearly loses his own life in freeing her.

ACE DOHERTY

Ace Doherty is a gambler and as it turns out, the true villain of the story. He has formed a band of outlaws from the scum that have moved into the area to steal cattle and move them to Mexico. It is Doherty who captures Lee and then shoots Harvey Dodge in the back when Dodge refuses to pay the reward money since Lee has escaped again. His men capture Ellen and Lee Weston is forced to think quickly to come up with a plan to save her while showing Doherty to be the outlaw he really is.

• Story-Based Questions: Answers

SBQ (STORY-BASED QUESTIONS)

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. Why does Lee Weston immediately suspect Harvey Dodge when he finds his father dead?
His father had sent a letter in which he mentioned Dodge as being a raider.
2. When Lee first comes to Pecos, how does the gunfight in which he kills a man start?
The man acts as if he will tell Lee where Harvey Dodge is but pulls his guns and fires instead.
3. Why does Harvey Dodge himself ride up to the cabin to bring his daughter home?
The men he has sent could not convince her to come home and he is worried for her safety.
4. How does Lee escape from the cabin once Dodge discovers him there?
Lee has his gun under the blanket and makes Dodge drop his own gun while he gets away.
5. How does the story of Lee's shootout become so out of proportion to the truth?
There was so little news in the small town that the story became more and more exaggerated as it was passed around.
6. What happens while Lee is cooking the deer he shot?
A band of outlaws, headed by Doherty, captures him.
7. Why does Lee come down from his hiding place in the livery stable?
He sees Doherty shoot Dodge in the back and comes down to try and catch him.
8. What does Lee do when the bandit, *don Jose*, captures Ellen?
He pretends he has joined the band of outlaws and is helping take Ellen against her will.

• **SBD/Find the Meaning: Answers**

SBD (STORY-BASED DISCUSSION)

While you are reading the book, find the answers to the following questions. You don't have to write down the answers.

1. What advice does Sheriff Tate Randall give Lee when he first comes into town looking for Harvey Dodge?

To use his head and let the law do the finding and shooting.

2. How is Lee Weston tricked into trusting the five men who find him at his campfire cooking venison?

One of them recognizes him as Suicide Weston and acts so happy and honored to see him that he is thrown off guard.

3. Why does Lee decide to stay in town after Sheriff Randall releases him from the jail?

He realizes that the men will not expect him to be there and they will head out into the hills to find him.

FIND THE MEANING

1. *plumbed* means examined closely
2. *rotund* means plump or fat
3. *gnaw* means trouble or worry
4. *braggart* means a person who brags
5. *atone* means to make up for
6. *strife* means a quarrel or struggle
7. *disdain* means contempt; scorn
8. *part and parcel* means an essential part
9. *tortuous* means full of twists and turns
10. *stigma* means a mark of disgrace

• Complete the Sentences: Answers

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. The country has been troubled by so much *strife* that it is on the verge of economic collapse.
2. I am sorry to see that he has become such a *braggart* that he only talks about himself.
3. Courage is *part and parcel* of being a good soldier.
4. He felt a need to find something he could do to *atone* for such a bad mistake.
5. She *plumbed* the possibilities and decided to go left.
6. Something was beginning to *gnaw* at her, but she could not figure out what it was.
7. I cannot believe he would speak to me with such *disdain*.
8. The roads in the mountains are so *tortuous* that driving them can be quite dangerous.
9. Despite being quite *rotund*, his well-cut suit made him look dignified and impressive.
10. I am concerned that he may never lose the *stigma* of having committed a crime.

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