

***Podkayne of Mars* Lesson Plans**

By
Robert James, Ph.D.

Introduction:

Podkayne of Mars is the last of the juveniles Robert Heinlein wrote from the late forties through the early sixties. The series is widely regarded as the finest science fiction ever written for young people; many, including Grandmaster Jack Williamson, believe them to be the best science fiction Robert Heinlein ever wrote. *Podkayne* is a unique juvenile, being the only one not written for Scribners; like *Starship Troopers*, it was published by Putnam. Heinlein had made a radical change in his career after being unceremoniously dropped by Scribners over *Starship Troopers* and its supposed unsuitability for the juvenile market. They were the publishers for much of his experimental fiction of the late fifties and early sixties, and he wrote *Podkayne*, as much as for any reason, as a thank you for serving him so well.

Podkayne is the only one of his juveniles to feature a girl, although not the first time he had written fiction for young girls. His Puddin' stories featured a curvy young girl, and are quite charming and nonconformist. Holly Jones from "The Menace from Earth" is also a direct ancestor. Arguments have raged over the years as to whether or not *Podkayne* should be read as a juvenile (I think it is), as well as over the controversial ending. Heinlein's original ending has Podkayne being killed because of the actions of her sociopathic little brother Clark (who is, in many ways, the point of the whole story: how do we raise children properly?). The Baen edition I have used for the lesson plans has the great feature of having both endings: the original one where Podkayne dies, and the one that was ultimately published, which has Podkayne surviving. The chance to read both, and to debate the merits of both, is a wonderful teaching tool.

We hope you find the following lesson plans helpful, and that you will choose *Podkayne of Mars* or another Heinlein work to use in your classrooms. We would like to hear from you about your own experiences using Heinlein's works. Please email us!

Edition Used:

As I've said above, the 1993 Baen edition is used because it has both endings.

Date of Publication:

Podkayne was published in 1963 for the Christmas trade; Heinlein finished the writing in May of 1962. The novel was serialized in *Worlds of If* from December 1962 through March 1963.

Chapter Summaries / Discussion Notes:

Each chapter will be summarized, and pertinent details and issues explicated. Any of the details might be turned into extra credit questions, which require the student to do research on the internet or in a library. Heinlein often inserted historical, scientific, and

literary references into his novels, as a way of gently urging the reader to explore these references. Vocabulary words which students may have difficulty with will be suggested, with particular attention paid to words Heinlein invented (which, unless we've adopted the word, won't be found in a dictionary).

I strongly urge that students learn vocabulary not by checking the dictionary, but by the following procedure: 1) say the word aloud (this begins to fix the word in long-term memory); 2) look for roots (Spanish speakers often have an advantage here, since the longer Latinate words in English often have a simple Spanish root, as in the word "facilitate"); 3) use context to make TWO guesses as to what the word means; 4) then, and only then, check the dictionary. Students need to be reminded to learn new vocabulary words, because they will often choose to simply skip the word they don't know, or in running to the dictionary, will fail to permanently learn the new word as they only place the definition into short-term memory. I require my students to learn at least seven new words a week; in this, Heinlein is very helpful, because he actually used a more sophisticated vocabulary in his juveniles than in his adult fiction. If teachers do not encourage students to acquire the new vocabulary, students often have a hard time with Heinlein's juveniles for precisely that reason: they are more difficult than today's more controlled, simplistic vocabulary in most young adult novels.

CHAPTER ONE

The novel opens with the kind of move typical to Heinlein: he inverts expectations and rapidly places us in a different time and place: "All my life I've wanted to go to Earth." Sense of wonder, indeed.

Earth is a nice place to visit, but nobody would want to live there...

Podkayne also doesn't believe Earth is where humans developed.

Podkayne lives on Mars; her goal is to travel widely in space. She is Podkayne Fries, nicknamed "Poddy." She is eight Martian years old, at nine, she could get married (there is a thing called limited marriage on Mars). Podkayne is writing these memoirs for when she is rich and famous, and is writing them in English, in Martian Oldscript, to hide them from anybody reading them. Her brother Clark is six Martian years old, or 11 in Terran years, and he is the problem (of the whole book, actually): "...there is no present indication that Clark ever intends to join the human race." He has an IQ of 160, while she has a 145 IQ (both are in the genius range).

Her ethnic background is mostly Swedish, with Polynesian and Asian mixed in. She is pretty, not beautiful. She used to wish she was male, for the career opportunities, but now she likes being female. She wants to be a pilot and a commander of space exploration.

Her mother is far more beautiful, and looks like a Valkyrie. She is a master engineer, and was in charge of rebuilding the Martian moons. The problem (as we will see over the course of the novel) is that she is rarely home, leaving Podkayne to raise her brother Clark. Over the course of the novel, it will develop that the issue of how to properly raise children is the central theme of the book (which along makes it different from the bildungsroman of most of the juveniles, the novel of education, unless we see Clark as the one who has to be educated). Heinlein was growing more and more concerned as the fifties wore on with the changes he saw in American society. *Have*

Spacesuit Will Travel is about education; *Podkayne* is about childrearing, and the responsibilities of adults. One could conceivably accuse Heinlein of sexism – I wouldn't – because the blame comes to be fully laid upon the mother in particular, but Heinlein is always promoting strong female characters, who are often smarter than the men, and in no way does Heinlein ever suggest that women don't have full and equal rights as human beings. But he is quite convinced that when one decides to have children, that responsibility comes before everything else. Lazarus Long makes the same decision, setting aside all other plans to raise the children right. Heinlein became convinced, in large part because of a child sociopath raging through his neighborhood in Colorado Springs, that parents had forgotten the primary responsibility to raise children. I've raised two children (and I am about halfway done at this point), and I have deliberately decided to not spend my free time writing, because to be truly successful as a writer, one has to put that first. I'm a teacher; when I'm done with my children being minors, I will take up writing again with a vengeance. I understand the damage that is caused by parents not putting their children first; I see it every day at my school. Heinlein recognized this problem early on, and tried to call attention to it in his writing for much of the rest of his life. The problem is now epidemic, and I can tell you that the vast majority of the academic problems my students face are directly related to failed parenting (generally, the father has absented himself from his son's life, depriving that boy of male guidance at the most critical stage of their life.)

Podkayne is thus about the destruction of the American character, as are most of Heinlein's books from the mid fifties on: as he said, "Freedom and self-responsibility" were his great themes.

Podkayne thinks watching Clark is fine practice for being a commander someday: if she can't control this "savage" how can she run a starship? She has to not use force; Clark fights dirty. Their mother met their archaeologist father as they fought over the remnants of Martian civilization, versus finishing the construction on time. Her father fought in the Martian revolution (see *Red Planet*), and lost his right arm. He still shoots fast with the left.

Their Uncle Tom (an ironic inversion of that depiction of a toadying older black man) is a "parasite" and quite old. He too fought in the Revolution, and was involved in politics. Uncle Tom always makes time for her, and they share a streak of Original Sin.

There are three younger children that don't come into the story. The reason: they're in deep freeze, waiting for their mother to have time for them (to a degree, I think this is meant to be chilling). Podkayne remembers how jealous she felt at first about Clark. Her parents argue about when to uncork them. Clark suggests just killing them (he is amoral...which is the problem).

Their father believes in corporal punishment (there is some ironic inversion of this being progressive. It worked well for Podkayne: "I canalized most easily." It isn't working for Clark.

They are going to have twin sisters soon. By the time they become adolescents, she will be long gone (ironically, given the original ending, she is going to be dead).

INTERLUDE:

Clark is writing to her. He can read her code. Clark learned English so he could read books that hadn't been translated into Martian. Clark is telling her how to read his comments...but she won't even know he's written in her journal until she figures that out on her own.

CHAPTER TWO:

Podkayne is madder than mad. They aren't going to Earth.

She wants to blame Clark, but she can't figure out how he did it. Of course, she still hasn't figured out how he rigged the delivery robot to bring him snacks and charge them to her, but then, neither has the company. Clark has horrendous taste in food: ice cream with hollandaise sauce. "Clark is widely known to eat anything which does not eat him first." Podkayne also has some advice to girls: "I simply want to warn all girls not to have a Mad Genius for a baby brother."

They are going to have triplets: Grace, Duncan, and Elspeth. Their mother is getting all maternal (the underlying argument here is that parents love having cute babies; they forget that they need to keep parenting them until they're adults). She might be allowed to travel alone, but she isn't old enough to take Clark too, and he was promised to be allowed to go as well.

Technology has solved the biological vs. social problem of procreation: biologically, we are better off having children young; socially and economically, we are better off raising them when we are older.

Their three babies were accidentally given to the wrong parents.

So now they have triplets.

The company settles with them, by paying three years of the mother's salary.

Podkayne wants to know how she is going to be paid back.

Clark suggests just switching babies. Podkayne says their father almost killed Clark right then.

Instead of going to Earth, Podkayne is spending her days changing diapers.

CHAPTER THREE:

Now they ARE going to Earth. Podkayne and Clark, that is.

Podkayne is overwhelmed by all the diaper changes. Her mother has gone all instinctual. So she goes to see her Uncle Tom, who has won a wad of money playing cards.

She tells her troubles to Uncle Tom, who then calls a friend and arranges for the trip. He takes her to the crèche which screwed up. While Uncle Tom talks to the director, she visits the crèche and asks questions. Podkayne is called to the Director's office. Clark and the lawyer are there too. The lawyer isn't happy about the new arrangement being made, and refers to it as blackmail, which upsets Uncle Tom. Apologies are made. Uncle Tom has decided to travel with them, at the crèche's expense. Clark asks for expenses too. Uncle Tom laughs: "He'll go far – if somebody doesn't poison him." The doctor asks about why Uncle Tom was transported to Mars

(Mars started as a penal colony); Tom laughs, and says it was a frame-up for freezing babies.

They go back home; Podkayne gives Duncan some love. She then realizes they are going to Venus as well as Earth.

CHAPTER FOUR:

Podkayne is very busy getting ready for the trip. Her classmates give her a going away party. Reporters come to see Uncle Tom off. The travel is described realistically and effectively. She is frustrated she can't go shopping at the spaceport, and says "Politics!" as a dirty word. Uncle Tom upbraids her, explaining that "politics is the human race's most magnificent achievement." Without politics, all that is left is force. Politics is a way "to let most of us, most of the time, get along well enough so that we usually don't kill each other."

They go through customs – slowly. Clark says he has happy dust – which turns Venusians into murderous lunatics. They let Podkayne go through, and search Clark thoroughly (this is Clark's trick). Podkayne has more weight in her luggage than she thought, but Uncle Tom is under a bit, so they don't charge them more. They board the spaceship, and undergo the slow spin up to artificial gravity (which is explained thoroughly). Spaceships stink. Brains ultimately will edit out the smell.

Podkayne explores the ship. She returns to find Clark going through her bags. She realizes he must have been smuggling something: but what?

INTERLUDE:

Clark corrects Podkayne's grammar. He also suggests the solution to her puzzling over the delivery robot.

CHAPTER FIVE:

Podkayne searches Clark's room...which is conveniently left unlocked. She finds a letter with her name on it. Inside is a note from Clark: he knew she would snoop. She confronts Clark over the smuggling. He denies everything. Should she tell? She doesn't want her brother caught officially. She decides to keep her eyes open.

She complains about the deceptiveness of travel brochures. The ship is full of old people, not the pretty people she expected. Only rich people can afford this luxury; most rich people are old. The only young competition is the young rich Miss Girdle. She explains the roundabout of the dances. Clark has a crush on Girdie. Podkayne uses that as leverage on Clark to make him dance with her. By the end of the night, the dancing becomes quite fun as the officers no longer have to dance with the old ladies.

CHAPTER SIX:

They are heading to Venus. Podkayne is working out in the gym to get ready for Venus' gravity. So is Clark.

She complains about the manners of Earth people.

They eat at the Captain's table. The captain is called Captain Darling. Podkayne starts practicing with men on him, and decides that it is best to never let any man know how smart you are at first (I have heard this all my life; I still think it's stupid, since the smarter a woman is, the more attractive she is...and I think Heinlein taught me to think this way). She sneaks it in on the captain that she wants to be a pilot...thus wangling an invitation to the control room. She is now the ship mascot. She is charming because she listens while men talk (by the way, this works both ways, said this well-trained male...)

Mrs. Royer grills her about her family and St. Podkayne. She also can't get rid of her. Mrs. Royer starts putting Podkayne to work. Podkayne finally refuses to help her, and Mrs. Royer won't speak to her again. So Mrs. Royer starts to put down Mars at every point – and she calls Uncle Tom a “big black savage”, which is one of Heinlein's tricks: he often slips in a racial referent long after we've assumed the character is white, to unsettle our established expectations. Uncle Tom is Maori. Heinlein parodies female gossiping. The old biddies even suggest Podkayne is Uncle Tom's mistress.

Podkayne makes the mistake of telling Clark about all this.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

They have a radiation storm drill. Clark had to be tracked down, and the Captain threatened to have him locked up if he was ever late again. Heinlein fully details the danger of radiation, and how the ship's radiation drill works.

Something has happened to both Mrs. Royer and Mrs. Garcia. Podkayne suspects Clark has done something to them.

Podkayne discusses the convict past of Mars. We find out that the communists took over Earth for a time, and that's why Mars was used as a penal colony.

Podkayne admits loving Clark...sort of.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

The radiation storm comes – 18 hours, locked up. Podkayne wishes she were an alien – their staterooms are specially designed for such storms.

Podkayne starts to realize how hard it is to lead. It's not all glamour.

Heinlein explains how the solar system is set up to guard for radiation storms, and how the Captain and crew have to behave. Podkayne describes how badly most people behave when they are denied something they want.

Podkayne finally sees Mrs. Royer – and she is impossibly, brightly red. Podkayne thinks she might be dead from radiation – which means her uncle and Clarke might be dead too. But everyone is safe; nobody is hurt. One woman snaps and starts screaming; the crew sedate her fast. Podkayne helps Girdle with the babies.

Mrs. Garcia is bright yellow.

Clark booby-trapped their washcloths with photographic chemicals.

Mrs. Dirkson has her baby in the control room – they name her Radiant.

Podkayne rounds up help to love the babies – including Clark. The captain cuts the power, thus creating free fall. They have to keep five babies from choking to death. Vomit is floating everywhere.

Podkayne decides misery is better than boredom.

CHAPTER NINE:

On Venus, Podkayne is 27.

Podkayne thinks Venus is miserable, but she wants to see fairies. There is a stuffed one in the hotel lobby.

What is primitive about Venus is that you can go outside without wearing special gear. Uncle Tom even tells her that on Earth, some people even bathe in water unprotected. Podkayne is terrified of the idea.

Podkayne learned about Earth from Oz books.

She enjoys traveling with Uncle Tom – no delays. But she starts to realize Uncle Tom is engaged in political maneuvers. Clark prefers cash for his bribes...

They enjoy living high on the hog. Podkayne likes her twin maids. She gets vaccinated and has to wait to go out. She enjoys the bathroom, and the real piano. She threatens Clark with his life if he touches the piano. Girdie is helping Poddy learn how to dress and do makeup properly. They go out to the casinos. They get inundated by commercials.

They find Clark gambling...and winning.

She and Girdie meet Dexter Kurt Cunha. He's rich. Girdie tries to warn Podkayne, but they all go out together. They collect Clark.

Dexter confesses he was sent to make Uncle Tom's niece happy. Dexter wants to be an explorer captain too.

They end their night. Clark goes back to gambling. Girdie confesses she isn't rich, and that she needs to get a job.

Podkayne wonders if she is in love with Dexter.

CHAPTER TEN:

Rumors come: Clark is planning to sell her.

Podkayne is only mad because of how cheap the price is supposed to be.

Podkayne goes through the rules of Venus: there aren't any. Total freedom of behavior, anything goes – except crime, in the city. Uncle Tom calls their system "corporate fascism." Girdie is now working in the casino. Clark isn't allowed to gamble at her table.

Somehow, Clark is winning. Perhaps psionics?

He brings all the cash home, to enjoy it. He offers to loan some to his sister – no interest.

Then Clark wants to know how old Girdie is.

She gets Clark to admit that he was paid to smuggle something to Venus. A bomb.

It was set to blow up in three days; Clark disarmed it.

Podkayne isn't sure he is lying. Why blow up their ship (readers answer: Uncle Tom!)

She gets Clark to admit to the dye jobs on the old ladies.

She keeps going out with Dexter. He keeps trying to seduce her; she keeps putting him off. Sex is a good, normal thing – quite an unusual lesson in a juvenile.

Podkayne is starting to rethink her chances to become a pilot are very limited. She starts thinking marriage might also work. Or perhaps being in charge of a crèche on a starship.

Podkayne is ready to go to Earth. She wants to move on from Dexter before he gets bored. But she does want to see a live fairy.

“Thank you” is the only secret to travel –learn it in every language. You can tip small as long as you say thanks; Clark won’t, so he has to tip big.

Uncle Tom is worried about something.

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

Clark is missing; Uncle Tom is scared.

Podkayne has argued with Dexter.

Uncle Tom has been having a major argument with the Chairman of the Board of Venus.

Podkayne learns that Venusian security has been following them around the entire time. Uncle Tom blames the Chairman for Clark being missing. Podkayne thinks Clark is missing deliberately because he wants to stay on Venus with Girdie – and the money.

The Venusians allow kidnapping as long as they don’t hurt the victim. Otherwise, serious torture.

Uncle Tom tells Podkayne she isn’t responsible; he is. But then, every human being is responsible solely for themselves. He will also apologize to the Chairman, because he thought Clark had been kidnapped for political reasons. Uncle Tom was using Clark and Podkayne to hide his reason to be on Venus: politics. Uncle Tom explains why he is on Venus. Mars is Switzerland – neutral. Uncle Tom wants to make sure Mars doesn’t ally with Earth, so he’s on Venus lining up opposition to Earth. Poddy tells about slapping Dexter, then she picks her teeth, Maori style, to indicate she isn’t being lady-like.

They have no way to search for Clark; the Venusians are already looking. All they can do is wait. Podkayne decides she has to break her St. Podkayne oath and tell about the bomb. They wait together. Podkayne asks for the Poddy Story. The only miracle is children.

CHAPTER TWELVE:

Podkayne wakes up to find that Uncle Tom is gone. Podkayne opens up her journal, and discovers a note from Clark. He has gone to help Girdie; he explains how to find him.

Podkayne calls Uncle Tom and tells what happened. But she can’t reach him. Or the Chairman. Or Dexter. Or Girdie.

So she defies Uncle Tom’s orders and goes looking herself.

Security stops her. So she sneaks out.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

Podkayne has now seen fairies. She has completely screwed up. A fairy she has named Titania follows her; the fairy has a baby.

The fairy does nothing to her...unless she tries to leave the room. Then she attacks; fairies are carnivores. A Venerian named Pinhead brings her food. Podkayne explains how she got into this trouble. Mrs. Grew is one of the bad guys. Clark is there. They paralyze Podkayne from the neck down. Uncle Tom is there too (looking like Lincoln at Waterloo...) They're going to use the children to force Uncle Tom to ally with Earth at the conference.

Clark curses at Mrs. Grew. She doesn't care...until he says she cheats at solitaire. They're going to put Clark into a water heater and then bang on the outside. Podkayne tries to get Mrs. Grew to realize that Uncle Tom won't cave. Mrs. Grew says that nobody could love Clark. Poddy and Uncle Tom talk about their situation; Mrs. Grew insists he will cave. Mrs. Grew isn't a fanatic; she's a professional. Clark may be deaf by now.

Podkayne is in the room guarded by Titania. She looks through Clark's things, but nothing is useful. She reads his comic books. They bring her things – but any weapons are gone. She brings her journal up to date.

Mrs. Grew gives some dust to Pinhead, and Podkayne is terrified at the monster the Venusian became.

Clark is brought in. Clark is pretending to be deaf. Podkayne reads his lips. Uncle Tom has left. Clark says they have to escape soon, or they will be dead. They plot their escape. Podkayne is told their coordinates and given the inertial compass. Clark has a secret compartment in his bag. Clark plans on blowing the whole place up with the bomb he's kept hidden.

POSTLUDE:

Original written ending:

Clark explains what happens. Podkayne's flaw is that she doesn't recognize the evil in people. Clark can, because there is evil in him. Clark made a slingshot to kill the fairy guard. They trick Pinhead and Mrs. Grew to come in to their cell. Clark drops down on Pinhead. Podkayne gets the gun. He sends Podkayne off...then he gets lost himself. The bomb goes off. Clark had forgotten to disarm the bomb. Podkayne is dead; she went back to get the baby fairy, and she did keep it alive from the blast. Clark is sorry Podkayne is dead. "I wish I knew how to cry." Clark is going to take care of the fairy baby.

Heinlein implies that Clark may be able to learn how to be human.

Original published ending:

Podkayne is allowed to live. Heinlein adds a whole new section that Clark overhears, with this essential message from Uncle Tom: "People who will not take the trouble to raise children should not have them." It may be too late for Clark.

Heinlein draws out the parenting message, and the issue about Clark, far more clearly in the rewritten ending.

Chapter Tests / Quizzes:

Personally, I do not care for many published textbook tests/quizzes, as I often find them to not fit what we have actually discussed in class, or what the students have themselves found in the text. I therefore tend to make up my own quizzes and tests, and I also rely heavily on questions about relationships, more than I do questions about specific details of the books. I teach very poor readers, and I am far more concerned that they understand what is happening between the characters, than I am in what color shirt a particular character is wearing, or some other pithy little detail that teachers dealing with very good readers might ask to make sure that their students have read. I check to make sure they've read by insisting that they answer the following kinds of questions using specific details (and by always asking a question about the end of the chapter), but I allow them to choose the details themselves to fit the question. I train them to answer questions this way by giving them several sample questions, then answering them on the board, using their input to craft a model response. I hope that the following questions are useful for quizzes and tests, as well as for classroom discussion. Again, I expect students to use specific details from the novel to answer these questions. If the extra credit questions seem appropriate for your class, you can add them to the quizzes, or use them as extra credit homework assignments.

CHAPTER ONE / INTERLUDE:

1. What does Podkayne want to become?
2. What is Clark like?
3. What is their mother like?
4. What is their father like?
5. Where are they planning to go?
6. What does Clark figure out how to do?

CHAPTER TWO:

1. What ruins their plans to go to Earth?
2. What does Clark suggest doing as a solution?
3. How does the company resolve the mistake?

CHAPTER THREE:

1. How do Podkayne and Clark get to go on their trip after all?
2. Where else do they get to go?

CHAPTER FOUR / INTERLUDE:

1. What happens at customs? Describe it thoroughly.
2. What has Clark done with Podkayne's luggage?
3. How did Clark rig the delivery robot?

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. What does Podkayne find when she searches Clark's room?
2. What happens at dances?
3. How does Clark feel about Ms. Girdle?

CHAPTER SIX:

1. What does Podkayne start working on the captain and the crew for?
2. What is wrong with Mrs. Royer?

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. What is a radiation drill like?
2. What is Podkayne afraid Clark has done?

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. What happened to Mrs. Royer and Mrs. Garcia?
2. How does Podkayne help during the radiation storm?

CHAPTER NINE:

1. What is being on Venus like?
2. What does Girdie teach Podkayne?

3. What happens at the casino?
4. Who is Dexter?
5. What does Girdie have to do?

CHAPTER TEN:

1. What are social customs like on Venus?
2. What did Clark smuggle in?
3. What did Clark do with what he smuggled in?
4. What changes to Podkayne's plans is she making?
5. What is the secret to happy traveling?
6. What's wrong with Uncle Tom?

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. What has happened to Clark?
2. What does Uncle Tom explain about responsibility?
3. What is Uncle Tom's reason for being on Venus?
4. What secret does Podkayne tell?
5. What's the only thing they can do about Clark?
6. What is the Poddy Story?

CHAPTER TWELVE:

1. What does Podkayne discover?
2. What does she decide to do about it?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

1. What does Mrs. Grew plan?
2. What does Clark plan?

POSTLUDE:

Original written ending:

1. What happened to Podkayne?

Original published ending:

1. What happened to Podkayne?
2. What does Uncle Tom tell Podkayne's parents?

Extra Credit Questions:

1. Who is Praxiteles, and why would he not give Podkayne a second look?
2. What is Original Sin?
3. Why is changing diapers like the Augean Stables?
4. What does "semper toujours" mean?
5. What is a Stylite?
6. Why name the fairies Titania and Ariel?
7. How is Podkayne wrong about Uncle Tom looking like Lincoln at Waterloo?

Vocabulary Words (these are all words I've had students ask me about):

- p. 1: habitation; originated
- p. 2: marginally
- p. 5: cloistered; contemplation; parasite
- p. 6: entropic; decanted.
- p. 7: precedent; reverence; walloped; canalizing
- p. 11: charlatanous; machinations; malevolent; legerdemain
- p. 12: appalling; heterodyne
- p. 13: proximate; reconciled; atavistically;
- p. 14: crèche; marbleized; consigned
- p. 17: melancholy
- p. 18: indignant; waggle
- p. 23: infallible; proposition
- p. 25: insolvent
- p. 26: rapacity
- p. 27: cumshaw
- p. 30: query; blasé; myriad
- p. 31: finesse; corsage; laryngitis

p. 34: dicker; tedious
p. 35: durance vile; proctor
p. 36: surly
p. 38: chagrin
p. 41: dillydally
p. 43: cybernetic
p. 50: chaperonage; regularity
p. 55: brochure; deceptive; geriatrics
p. 62: devious
p. 63: fiendish; disposition; proclivities; mellow
p. 64: riffraff
p. 65: harpies
p. 68: differential equations; vector
p. 71: garrulous
p. 92: imposing
p. 111: wafted
p. 121: crescent
p. 123: croupier
p. 129: aplomb; savoir-faire
p. 134: polygamy; polyandry
p. 135: putative
p. 137: psionics
p. 154: acrophobia
p. 155: plenipotentiary; credentials; skein
p. 157: gallant
p. 170: scurried; meticulously
p. 171: glib
p. 173: fubbed; fray
p. 174: mewing; piteously; futile
p. 176: contemptuous; vulgar; idioms; inferior
p. 177: adamant
p. 178: abstraction; bandying; solemn; farce; pretenses
p. 180: aghast; feebly

Essay Questions and Projects:

1. Research the history of using colonies to dump unwanted prisoners. Compare and contrast those historical examples with Uncle Tom and Mars.
2. Compare and contrast different adult behaviors toward children in this novel, leaving aside parents for the time being. What is Heinlein suggesting about what is wrong with this typical relationship?
3. What is the novel arguing about proper parenting? Use Clark as the example of what goes wrong when people don't parent correctly.

4. What does it mean to grow up? Write a persuasive essay comparing Heinlein's argument in the book with what you think contemporary society says.

5. Write an essay comparing and contrasting the two different endings to the novel. How does each ending change the meaning of the novel? Particularly focus on the effect on Clark.