

*Bud Caldwell's Glossary of Words  
to Have a Funner Time and Make a Better Reader Out of Yourself*



by Mrs. Fontes's fourth grade class

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Yourself***

**A-**

air in the trunk – Miss Thomas went to check how much air was in the trunk when she didn't want to be a part of the naming ceremony

Amoses – the foster family Bud went to live with when he left the home, prior to going on the lam

apple – one of the food items offered to Bud by Lefty Lewis to entice him into getting into his car

atlas – the book the librarian used to show Bud where Chicago, Illinois and Flint, Michigan are in comparison to each other

ax – a slang term for an instrument or saxophone

**B-**

backwash – the baloney sandwich and mustard that ended up in the red pop from Lefty Lewis

baloney sandwich – another food item that Lefty Lewis promised to Bud if he'd come out of the bushes and talk to him

bedwetter – one of the things Mrs. Amos couldn't tolerate, new foster children had to sleep on a rubber mattress pad for months to prove themselves

Billy Burns – the bully at the home who bet Bud a nickel that he didn't know who his daddy was

billy club – what the Pinkerton cops carried to protect the train from rail riders

bite the dust – die

blood – what Lefty Lewis was transporting from Grand Rapids to Flint when he happened upon Bud in Owosso, Michigan

bloodstain – what was in the middle of the shed at the Amoses

book powder - the invisible powder that is in library books that makes you fall asleep when reading them

boxcar – the part of the train people ride in when they are riding the rails

bread and butter – money, or way of making money

brown sugar – what Bud's pretend mom had his pretend brother and sister share with him when they ate oatmeal at the Mission

Bud, not Buddy – the name Bud was given by his mother, if she'd have wanted him to be called Buddy, she would have added a *dy* to his name

**C-**

California – where Bugs and Bud were intending to go by riding the rails

Calloway, Herman E. – the man's name on the flyers that Momma saved; fiddle player

cardboard jungle – the Shantytown where Deza Malone lived, also called Hooverville

cheese sandwich – what the librarian gave Bud after he'd spent the entire day in the library

China – the tin cans the people of Hooverville ate out of, they were washed in the crick and turned upside down so rain wouldn't get in them and cause them to rust

Christmas tree- the kind of tree Bud slept under outside the library

Civil War books – Bud's favorite books because they had the best gory pictures

Clarence – the name Bud's pretend family gave him so that he could get in the food line at the Mission to eat

cockroach – the bug that got in Bugs's ear earning him the nickname Bugs

craws - mouths

crawdads – one of the ingredients in the muskrat stew in Hooverville

crick – a creek or a stiff neck

#### **D-**

Deza Malone – the first girl Bud ever kissed, he met her in Hooverville and they did dishes together in the crick and then they kissed; he liked her dimple

dimple – what Deza Malone had on her cheek and Bud couldn't stop thinking about it

dirty cowboy hat – what Momma was forced to wear in the picture of her on the horse

Dirty Deed – Roy Breed, the piano player and only white member of Herman E. Calloway's band

dirty drawers – underwear that weren't clean

Doo Doo Bug – Chug Cross, the piano player in Herman E. Calloway's band

double-barreled shot gun – the type of gun the Amoses kept in their kitchen

Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!! – one of the names of Herman E. Calloway's band

#### **E-**

embouchure – the mouth piece of an instrument

#### **F-**

fiddle – an instrument similar to a violin

fingers – what you soak in warm water to cause bedwetting

fire nail – what being stung by a hornet feels like

fish heads– what guarded the door in the shed where Bud was locked up after slapping Todd Amos

Flint, Michigan – where Bud lived with his Momma, in the Home, and with the Amoses

flyers – the papers that upset Momma that she brought home with the name Herman E. Calloway on them, Bud kept them in his suitcase because he thought they were a clue to who his daddy was

foster family – what the Amoses were

## G-

gassed up – to put gas in your car

gone - dead

grace – what you say before you eat

Grand Rapids, Michigan – where Bud was headed to meet Herman E. Calloway

grandkids – what Scott and Kim were to Lefty Lewis

## H-

harmonica – a mouth organ, it was played by one of the men in Hooverville, he played Shenandoah the song about an Indian man and woman who couldn't see each other for seven years

headlights – the lights that shined on Bud in Owosso, Michigan from Lefty Lewis's car

hero – what Bud was considered at the Home after word got back that he had beat up a kid much bigger than him

hoodlum – what Bud was to Mrs. Amos after he slapped her son Todd

Hooverville – the place where hungry, tired people who are scared about what is going to happen tomorrow go, they were cardboard cities all across America named for President Herbert Hoover

hornet – what came out of the nest on the ceiling of the shed

hornet's nest – what was actually on the ceiling of the shed, Bud had thought at first it was a vampire bat

hot wax – what getting stung by a hornet in your ear feels like

humming – what Miss Thomas did in addition to singing

## I-

icebox – a box similar to a refrigerator to store your food in to keep it from spoiling; the Amoses kept their double-barreled shot gun next to theirs

## J-

jackknife – the type of knife Bud carried with him at all times for protection

jagged teeth – the type of teeth on the fish heads that guarded the shed door

Janet Angela – Bud's mom's name

jelly jar – what the Amoses made Bud drink from and what Bud filled with warm water to cause Todd to wet his bed

Jerry – the other boy from the Home that went to a foster family the same day Bud did, his foster family had three girls who were probably going to play family with him and make him be the baby

## K-

Kim Sleet – Lefty Lewis's favorite and least favorite granddaughter

kiss my wrist – Bud's saying meaning "I don't think so"

knickers – short or knee length pants that boys wear

knot – the certain way Bud tied the twine around his suitcase

KP – stands for kitchen police; it's kitchen duty after a meal

**L-**

Lefty Lewis – the man that found Bud walking down the road in Owosso, Michigan

librarian – the good woman who helped Bud find the distance to Grand Rapids and Chicago, she also loaned him a Civil War book to read and gave him a cheese sandwich

library – where Bud ran away to after leaving the Amoses

lickin' – getting hit or spanked

locomotive – a train

Log Cabin – the name of Herman E. Calloway's club

Loudean – the name of Herman E. Calloway's Packard

**M-**

magic chemical – the chemical supposedly put in the public pool that makes urine turn red

memories – all that Bud has left of his Momma

Momma – Bud's mother who died when he was six

Mission – the place where hungry people went to eat breakfast and dinner

matrimonial – marriage, the librarian Miss Hill who Bud was relying upon for help and advice had gotten married and moved to Chicago, Illinois

mouth organ – harmonica, it was played by one of the men in Hooverville

Miss Thomas – the musical stylist (singer) in Herman E. Calloway's band

Miss Tyla – the waitress at The Sweet Pea, Steady Eddie had a crush on her

Mr. Jimmy – Jimmy Wesley, the horn player in Herman E. Calloway's band

Mr. Lewis – Lefty Lewis is the man who found Bud walking down the road at 2:30 a.m. in Owosso, Michigan

Mrs. Sleet – Lefty Lewis's daughter, the mother of Scott and Kim

muskrat stew – the type of stew that was being served at Hooverville the night Bud and Bugs got there

mustard – what Bud doesn't like on his baloney sandwich (unless he's so hungry he forgets about it)

**N-**

nickel – what Bud won from Billy Burns when he told him that his daddy's name was Herman E. Calloway

nosy – what Bud considered the Amoses for looking through his suitcase

Nubian Knights of the New Deal - one of the names of Herman E. Calloway's band

## O-

oatmeal – what Bud ate at the Mission with his pretend family, his pretend momma put brown sugar on it on the house - free

orphanage – where Bud lived after his momma died, it was called the Home

Owosso, Michigan – a place where Negroes weren't welcome, especially after dark

## P-

padlock – the lock on the door of the shed at the Amoses that kept Bud locked in

pancakes – what Mrs. Sleet made for breakfast along with toast, sausage, and orange juice

peanut head – what Lefty Lewis thought about the size and shape of Bud's head

pencil – what Todd shoved up Bud's nose to the *r* on Ticonderoga

picture – the only picture Bud had of Momma, she was on a horse when she was a girl wearing a horrible, filthy cowboy hat

Pinkerton cops – the men who protected the train from rail riders

pistol – what the Flint police carried and used to shoot holes through the soup pots and wash tubs in Hooverville

pretend family – the people who called Bud, Clarence, in order for him to eat breakfast on his first day on the lam after running away from the Amoses

Pullman porter – they take care of people once they're on the train

punch – what Bud was trying to do to Todd when his hand suddenly opened up into a slap

## R-

rake – what Bud used in the shed to kill the vampire bat that turned out to be a hornet's nest

rassle – to wrestle

redcaps – the men who work at the railroad station loading the trains and taking people's bags to their cars

red pop – the drink that was offered to Bud when Lefty Lewis encountered him walking down the road at 2:30 a.m. in Owosso, Michigan

riding the rails – jumping onto a train that's moving to travel from one place to the next for free

## S-

saggy horse – the horse in the picture with Momma

Scott Sleet – Lefty Lewis's favorite and least favorite grandson

shed – where Bud was locked up after slapping Todd

sireen – a police siren

slapped – what Bud accidently did when he actually intended to punch Todd

Sleepy LaBone – Bud’s nickname, given to him by the band

slob – slobber or spitting in one’s hand

Steady Eddie – Harrison Eddie Patrick, the saxophone player in Herman E. Calloway’s band

steel bars – what Bud looked through when he arrived at the library and determined he couldn’t get in

suitcase – what Bud carried all his worldly possessions in

*T-*

teeth – Lefty Lewis had to show Bud his teeth to prove he wasn’t a vampire

telegraph – used to quickly send messages to people, in a telegraph the word STOP is used to mean period or end of the sentence

the Thug – Doug Tennant, the drummer in Herman E. Calloway’s band

Ticonderoga – the kind of pencil Todd put up Bud’s nose to the letter *r*

tin cans – the “China” dishes that were used in Hooverville

tobacco case – what Bud carried his rocks in

Todd – Bud’s foster brother who stuck a pencil up his nose causing Bud to punch/slap him, Bud ended up getting revenge on the Amoses by causing Todd to wet the bed

toady frogs – the frogs that croaked along the road while Bud was walking from Flint to Grand Rapids

toilet – going to the bathroom while riding the rails consisted of sticking your rear quarters out and doing your business

trousers – long pants, Bud got a pair of Scott’s outgrown trousers

20,000 Leaks Under the Sea – a book Bud’s mom once read to him

twine – the type of string Bud used to keep his suitcase securely tied shut

*U-*

underdrawers – underwear

union – a group of people who got together to form a family of sorts who work to try to make things better for themselves and for their children

Urgent: Contains Human Blood – the sign on the box in Lefty Lewis’s car that convinced Bud that Mr. Lewis was a vampire and caused him to attempt to steal his car in Owosso, Michigan at 2:30 a.m.

*V-*

vampire – what Bud thought Mr. Lewis was because of the human blood in the box in his car

vampire bat – what Bud thought was on the ceiling of the Amoses’ shed

vomick – what Lefty Lewis’s friend had to do several times on the side of the road after eating Mrs. Sleet’s “paincakes”

*W-*

warm water – what Bud soaked Todd’s hand in to cause him to wet the bed

west – where Bud and Bugs wanted to go to earn money

wet the bed – what Todd did after Bud poured warm water on his pajama bottoms

wock – how Herman E. Calloway's four year old daughter said rock

wooga, wooga – the sound Mr. Lewis's car made

woop, zoop, sloop – Bud's saying that means, "and just like that"