

Jud

- Jud is Billy's half brother. He bullies Billy – beginning his day by thumping Billy, who is smaller and younger than him, before pulling the blankets off him.
- He treats Billy as his slave, expecting his under-age brother to put bets on for him, and only communicates with him by hitting and abusing him verbally.
- He is crude and foul-mouthed: “Hands off cocks, on socks” are his opening words to Billy in the morning and “What’s the matter wi’ thee, shit th’bed?” when for once Billy is up early.
- His natural response to most situations seems to be swearing or violence.
- He treats his mother almost as badly as he treats Billy. He makes disrespectful remarks about her sex life, taunting her about her behaviour when drunk, and refusing to do anything he is asked to around the house. He appears to treat her like a slave too.
- His attitude to women seems generally disrespectful. He anticipates his night out as one where he will get drunk and see how far he can go sexually with the nearest available woman.
- The question can be asked: is Jud realistic? Or is he just a caricature, too extreme to be convincing? Perhaps he feels as deprived as Billy does by his mother's attitude, and perhaps he, too, has always missed his own father and that has helped to make him into the unsympathetic person he is.
- He is understandably furious when Billy keeps the money and the bet wins. What he says about having a week off work, had he been able to collect the money, is the nearest we get to an insight into Jud's mind: maybe he did not want to be a miner any more than Billy does. However, the author does not explore Jud's character in enough detail for the reader to find out.