

Mrs Casper

- Mrs Casper is a weak parent in many ways. She has little or no control over either Jud or Billy. Jud appears to frighten her, and she can do nothing when he kills Billy's hawk.
- She does not behave in an appropriate manner for a parent, asking Billy for a cigarette rather than trying to persuade him not to smoke, and using him as an errand boy when she knows that she has no money for shopping, has not paid her debts and Billy will be late for school.
- She speaks to him in an aggressive and inappropriate manner, often using foul language and making no attempt to correct Billy's speech or manner. Indeed, his manners are a reflection of hers.
- She makes no attempt to get his meals, telling him to get his own, nor to provide the essentials of civilised life such as a warm house, or clean clothes.
- She appears embarrassed by any display of emotion from Billy. When he describes with enthusiasm how he is going to get and train a kestrel, she does not even appear to be listening, and when Kes is killed she cannot comfort Billy and pushes him away.
- She seems uninterested in Billy and his concerns, though she is a bit more sympathetic towards Jud, perhaps because his interests coincide more closely with her own.
- She appears totally self-centred.
- Mrs Casper is promiscuous and likes a good time. She goes out most nights and gets drunk, and seems to have a procession of men friends. This situation has clearly existed both before and since Billy's father left her. She makes no attempt to hide her sex life from her sons nor from anyone else, and Billy's 'uncles' are the talk of his classmates at school as well as of the estate in general.