

# A Long Way from Chicago Characters

## Themes and Characters

*A Long Way from Chicago* is a coming-of-age novel. Joey Dowdel grows from a nine-year-old child who is intimidated by Grandma Dowdel to a young man of fifteen who has gained respect and love for his grandmother. As a young child he took Grandma at face value, but as the summers progressed, a more mature Joey grows in his understanding of human nature and insight in respect to Grandma Dowdel and who she really is.

The themes of truth, justice, and ethics—Grandma Dowdel-style—permeate each chapter. Although Grandma says she does not care about her neighbors, her actions speak otherwise as she rights wrongs using somewhat unorthodox methods.

A sense of family and place surfaces as a theme in the story as Joey, Mary Alice, and Grandma join together to work toward common goals. A sense of loyalty to each other develops. The children help Grandma Dowdel restore honor to Shotgun Chestnut, secure punishment for the mean-spirited Cowboys who terrorize elderly women living alone, rescue a young woman who is dominated and abused by her mother, and feed hungry men riding the rails looking for work because of the depression.

Another theme developed by Peck is learning to see beyond first impressions of people. Joey learns that Grandma Dowdel is really not the gruff, uncaring woman she would have him and the community believe she is. He and Mary Alice learn not to take people at face value. It is worthwhile to get to know someone, to really know that other person. Looking beneath the surface they gain insight and personal involvement in the lives of others. Joey and Mary Alice learn first hand the transformations that take place in their own lives and others when they are involved in good deeds that improve the lot of neighbors and strangers. They experience the deep satisfaction that results from treating others as you would have them treat you, offering respect, comfort, thanks, and a cold drink to the thirsty. Their humanity has increased.

At the beginning of *A Long Way from Chicago*, nine-year-old Joey Dowdel calls himself Joey, not Joe. Joey thinks of himself as somewhat sophisticated. After all he lives in Chicago, the city of Al Capone, carné, movie theaters, and modern conveniences. He is certain he will be bored at Grandma Dowdel's.

# Long Way From Chicago Chapter Guide

**Jin-Ying Zhang**



## **Long Way From Chicago Chapter Guide:**

**The Spur** ,1928    *How We Analyze a Long Way from Chicago* Student World,2016-12-25 Joey and Mary Alice Dowdel brother and sister are sent to stay with their grandmother Grandma Dowdel each summer for a week Besides seeing the regular rural places and things they do experience a little bit different during their trips Grandma Dowdel is a different character a kind of larger than life figure highly authoritative and dominating on several occasions The novel is set during the Great Depression Each chapter is given to a different year when the brother and sister travel by train to see their eccentric and huge grandmother who is mostly referred to as Grandma Dowdel throughout the novel *How We Analyze A Long Way from Chicago* Copyright Chapter One Introduction Chapter Two Plot Overview Chapter Three Major Characters Chapter Four Complete Summary Chapter Five Critical Analysis    Ice and Refrigeration ,1927    **Hotel World** ,1927

**Technology Review** ,1928    **Officers, Program ... List of Members ...** ,1929    *pt.1. Public testimony - summary and indexes* United States. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Commission on the Control of Huntington's Disease and its Consequences,1977    **The Chicago Banker** ,1915    Journal of American Steel Treaters Society American Steel Treaters Society,1918    *Commercial West* ,1902    **St. Andrew's Cross** ,1920    Manufacturers' News ,1919    **News-bulletin** ,1929    **Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine** ,1918    *Professional Engineer* ,1920    **The Public Relations Journal** ,1977    **The Ahepa ...** ,1929    **Full Employment Act of 1945, Hearings Before a Subcommittee of ..., 79-1 on S.380 ..., July 30 ... September 1, 1945** United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Banking and Currency,1945    **Telephony** ,1917    The Marine News ,1955

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