



Themes in the Story

1. The story is about a boy growing into a man. How he was able to develop determination and will power by saving money for two years or not quitting when chopping down a tree for two days. At the hunt, Billy gets to drink coffee with his father and grandfather, and he likes how the other hunters talk to him like he is a man.
2. Whenever Billy wants something badly, he prays to God. He believes God answers his prayers because he is sincere, and they are from his heart. His father thinks that there is a possible other explanation for things happening. He explains how the wind that only blows on the big tree is possibly because it is so tall.
3. Poverty is another idea that is explored. There is a contrast between Billy and the other children in town. At the hunt Billy's clothes and the other hunters are very different. Even his dog's leashes and collars are very different from the other dogs. Billy does not feel like he is missing out and he is not envious of the possessions of others.
4. The beauty of nature was also explored. Often Billy would describe the part of the countryside and how he liked the sounds and sights.