

## ROCKET BOYS assignment

By

Homer H. Hickham

### Homer's Guilt

By

Johannes Seelig

While reading Rocket Boys, I noticed that Homer H. Hickham Jr. faced a lot of guilt throughout his life. I was inspired by the fact that he was always strong enough to overcome these feelings. First was when Mr. Isaac Bykovski died in the mine. Then his cat, Daisy Mae got driven over. And lastly, he lost his de Laval nozzle and had to call home asking for help.

One of the first guilts that Homer experienced was when Mr. Bykovski died. He was the one who used Bykovski for himself to get supplies and get the rockets built. And **he** was the one who used Mr. Bykovski's liking for him to make him do what **Homer** wanted. Then, when his dad found out, he sent Bykovski into the mine. And not long after that, there was a crash in the mine and he was the **only** person who didn't survive, at that moment I really felt sorry for Homer because it seemed as though it was his fault that he was sent into the mine. But later, Homer found out that his dad had given Mr. Bykovski a chance to return to his old job away from the dangers of the mine, and that he had declined the offer because his new job paid more and there wasn't as much pressure as there was when he worked in the shop. That is how he finally found peace with himself with Mr. Bykovski's death.

Another time Homer felt guilt about something that happened was when he sent his cat, Daisy Mae, outside because she had been bothering him, and she got run over. He thought that if he hadn't let her out, she would have never gone into the street and gotten run over. It must have been really hard to have your cat die and you think that you could have stopped it. But, semi-luckily he found out that his cat was run over on purpose. Even though this doesn't change the fact that Daisy Mae is dead, it at least lets him have a clean conscience that it wasn't **his** fault, and that it would have happened sooner or later.

And one of the last times I noticed major guilt was when Homer was at the science fair and lost his de Laval nozzle and he had to call Coalwood. It must have been hard to call home and tell his family that he probably won't win the **National** Science Fair just because he forgot to lock up his stuff, especially when most of Coalwood was on strike. He probably thought that it was stupid of him to call for his science fair, when Coalwood's entire town could have been on the brink of disaster and destruction. It must have felt really good to hear that all of Coalwood stopped their disputing just to make Homer another nozzle and give him hope of winning again.

So, as you can see, Homer's life was filled with guilt that he overcame. He thought it his fault that Mr. Bykovski died. He believed it was his fault he let Daisy Mae out and she got her run over, and he called Coalwood for assistance amidst all their problems and disputes. I was astonished by Homer's ability to overcome all these feelings and I believe that everybody should learn this very important skill. Because if they would, this would be a much better planet to live on!

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