Mirrors Jack’s emotional state and 1950s ie. Chinook = isolated and dark

**Escape as a solution**

**Negative portrayal of Masculinity**

Roy’s power

D violence and cruelty

Bobby, Skipper, Norma = loss of American Dream

Jack’s name change

Arthur and restlessness

R optimism irresponsibility

Cars and roads

Salmon

Animals: squirrel, beaver,Champion

Chestnuts

Jack London

Dedication and quotes

White paint

Chronology until the end

Ending on a sense of optimism

Chapter titles

Reflection of actions ad motivations

First person = reader cannot get an unbiased view

Refusal to be nostalgic

Honesty and sincerity; admissions and hindsight; authenticity

Relates to main themes: hope, freedom, loss, longing for meaning in life

Children growing up were a product of parents’ lack of values

Wealth and Prosperity

Pressure of nuclear family (Norma, Rosemary)

Race = Bobby

Pressure of gender roles

Correction to the sentimental idealisation of pop culture

Lacked authenticity

Escape isn’t enough; one needs acknowledgement, forgiveness, and redemption. Must reconcile before moving forward.

Can be innocent of corruptive

Car and music

Are we products of those who influence us?

We lose out dreams of innocence; they are only fleeting

Violent undercurrent: guns, military service, competitiveness, confidence, frontier, leads to respect, power, adventure and admiration

Dominant over femininity; women are simply chattels

Is seductive and attractive

J yearns for male approval

Search for self worth

Personas, daydreams, imaginings, reinvention

**Search for Identity**

**Masculinity**

Longs for conventional and belonging

Covering up literally (clothes) and symbolically (white paint)

Starts to believe the myths he creates

Lost identity in Chinook and when sep from R

Thrown into an adult world too early

**How**

**What**

**Plot Structure**

**Setting**

**Symbolism and Motif**

**Characterisation**

**Genre: Memoir**

**Questioning 1950s Nostalgia and the American Dream**

**This Boy’s Life**