

The Pigman

Chapters 5 - 6

Study Guide



Vocabulary

demented	dentures	primate	patron
attaché	grating	subsidize	juvenile
case	hypertension	misdirected	delinquent
phenomenal	cultural	killjoy	dismember
terminal	lag	antagonist	anxiety
nocturnal	omens	reticulated	pottos

Questions

1. Why didn't John want Norton to know about the L&J Fund?
2. What statement by John foreshadows (gives a clue about what lies ahead in the story) that Norton is involved in the death of the Pigman? What sort of trouble do you think he caused?
3. What do you know about John's relationship with his parents? Do you think there is anything John could do to improve that relationship, or should the initiative come from his parents?
4. Who was Aunt Ahra? Do you think John felt sorry for her?
5. How did John convince Lorraine to go to Mr. Pignati's to collect the money? Do you think Lorraine believed John's argument? How could she have gotten out of going? Is John more guilty of exploiting Mr. Pignati than Lorraine is?
6. What is Mr. Pignati like? How do you know? Would you call him "elderly"?
7. Some people might say that John is a master of manipulation; he knows how to "read" people and "pull their strings." Cite evidence in support of these ideas.
8. Were you surprised that John and Lorraine took the money from Mr. Pignati? Was he better off being "duped" of \$10 than if he had been left without company that night?
9. Why is the book entitled, The Pigman?
10. Why did John find that he "couldn't help liking" Mr. Pignati? In what way is he a contrast with John's mother?
11. Why doesn't John tear up the cheque? Do you think Lorraine accepts John's reasoning?

12. John has shown himself to be a good observer of people. What evidence can you find that Lorraine, too, "reads" people--particularly John--carefully?
13. Why do you think Lorraine refers repeatedly to John's "distortions" instead of to "lies"? What is the difference between white lies, lies, and distortions?
14. Where is Lorraine's father?
15. Why does Lorraine wear Ben Franklin glasses? How has she changed over the past few years? Do you think this particular change is healthy?
16. Do you agree with Lorraine's observation the "people just don't go around smiling like that all the time unless they're mentally unbalanced or harboring extreme anxiety"? Was Mr. Pignati mentally unbalanced? How did Mr. Pignati's smiles make her feel about him?
17. What were the "bad omens" at the zoo? Do you think Lorraine would have been better off if she had "recognized" these as omens and left "there and then"?
18. How did Mr. Pignati describe Bobo to John and Lorraine? What did that show about Mr. Pignati?
19. How does Lorraine feel about zoos? Why? Do you like them?
20. How did you do on the snake quiz? Do you think the author's insertion of quizzes, drawings, notes, etc. is effective or distracting? Why?