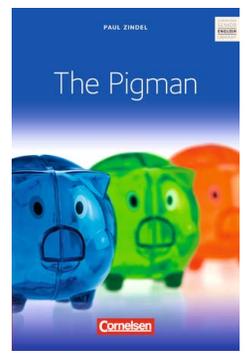


The Pigman

Chapters 7 - 8

Study Guide

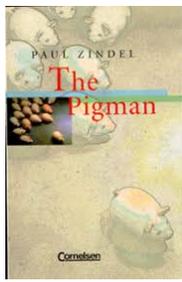


Vocabulary

voluptuous	perpetual	erosion	hemoglobin
ritual	prosecuting	ingrate	individualistic
scungilli	oscilloscope	suspicious	varicose
prophet	vile	killies	delicatessen
arsenal	absurd	artillery	floorwalker

Questions

1. Cite examples of Lorraine's lies and John's distortions, in this and previous sections of the story. Do you see any difference?
2. Why do you think John liked going to the cemetery? Are his thoughts about cemeteries unusual for a teenager?
3. What is the difference between the way John's father and Mr. Pignati treat John?
4. Why do you think Mr. Pignati said Conchetta was in California? How do John and Lorraine discover the truth? Do you think Mr. Pignati needs grief counseling? What might a counselor say to him?
5. How does the detail about the charge card "date" this novel? What details would change in an "updated" version?
6. How can you tell that Lorraine has some sympathy for her mother? How does she try to explain her mother's behavior to us--and to herself?
7. Why did Lorraine accept the stockings and other gifts from Mr. Pignati? Should she have?
8. What does Lorraine mean about toy manufacturers needing "a good course in preventative psychiatry"? Do you agree?
9. Why couldn't Lorraine be a child with her mother? Whose fault is that--if anyone's? What do you think a family counselor would say to the two of them?
10. Why did John want to wear the roller skates in the store? Is that something he could have convinced you to do? Was Lorraine right to go along with it?



The Pigman Chapters 9 - 10 Study Guide

Vocabulary

costume	obstacles	interrogating	fixated
jewelry	escapist	assassin	predicament
mulled	realist	mundane	

Questions

1. John, like Lorraine, “analyzes” Norton. Why does John think Norton plays the tough guy? Do you think he is right?
2. Why would John have anything to do with Norton?
3. John says that he is as messed up as Norton. Do you agree?
4. John compares the way Pigman treats him and the way his father does. Is that a fair comparison? Do you think John would have been happier with Mr. Pignati as a father?
5. Some might say that both John and Lorraine are looking for a father-figure in Mr. Pignati. What does that mean? What’s the difference between a real-life father, an ideal father, and a father-figure?
6. Explain what Lorraine means when she says that her mother is “fixated on the subject” of men.
7. How does Lorraine lie about the stockings? If you were her mother, how would you handle such a lie?
8. Why was Mr. Pignati sad after his visit to the zoo?
9. Why did Lorraine and John decide to tell Mr. Pignati the truth--that they were not collecting for charity? Do you think they should have kept their secret? How did Mr. Pignati react?
10. Why did Mr. Pignati collapse on the stairs? Was it John’s fault?

The Pigman Chapter 11 - 12 Study Guide

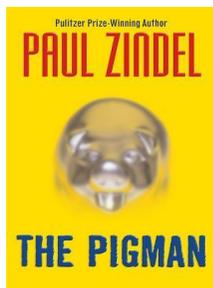


Vocabulary

whisked	mature	graft	vermicelli
semiprivate	thrive	ivories	maladjusted
transformation	congealed	antifermenting	
straight man	hovel	ghouls	

Questions

1. What lie do Lorraine and John tell in order to be allowed to see Mr. Pignati at the hospital? Were they wrong to do that?
2. John says that the police left Mr. Pignati's after taking Lorraine and John's statements, "probably anxious to get along on their rounds of the local bars and collect their graft for the week." Why did that statement make Lorraine angry? Are you surprised that he doesn't trust police officers? Do you think he is right?
3. John describes how, after Mr. Pignati's attack, he and Lorraine took a walk in the cemetery where a fresh grave depressed Lorraine. "There's nothing worse than a freshly dug grave with snow falling on it." Is this a "normal" teenager's observation? Can you think of anything worse?
4. What did Lorraine and John bring Mr. Pignati in the hospital? What would you bring him?
5. How did Mr. Pignati seem, when Lorraine and John visited him in the hospital? Was he angry at them? Should he be? What was he most concerned about?
6. How do Lorraine and John feel about hospitals? What does John mean, "They ought to bury people in hospitals and let people get well in cemeteries." Is that how you feel?
7. Was the spaghetti supper at Mr. Pignati's a success? How did the relationship between Lorraine and John change from that point? Do you think they started acting "like a married couple"?
8. What does Lorraine mean when she says that her mother was "antifermenting" the kitchen? Why do you think she uses that word?
9. Why did Lorraine and John avoid the room with the pigs when they were cleaning? What sort of omen did Lorraine later decide the dream had been?
10. Why was John taking out the beer? What is wrong with his reasoning when he says, "Don't you think Mr. Pignati wants us to have a social life?"



The Pigman Chapter 13 - 15 Study Guide

Vocabulary

momentum	DDT	disheartened	edit
frenzied	amplifiers	attendants	canopy
forsaken	case	trespassing	
autopsy	incongruous	titmouse	

Questions

1. Why did John invite Dennis? How is Dennis's father like his own?
2. John said that each party guest had a unique problem. Is he being accurate--or putting people down? Did he invite people because of their problems?
3. How many people came to the party? How did Lorraine and John decide to invite them?
4. Would the party have gone wrong if Norton hadn't come?
5. How did Lorraine's mother react when the policemen brought her to the door? As her mother, how would you have reacted? How could Lorraine say, "I didn't do anything wrong"?
6. When Lorraine told her mother the "edited" version of her relationship with Mr. Pignati, what parts do you suppose she included and what did she leave out?
7. How did John's parents react when he arrived home? What consequences did they decide were appropriate? Do you agree?
8. Lorraine blames John for everything that went wrong from the point where he hatched the idea of the party. Is she right? John mentioned at the beginning of the story that he feels that they aren't responsible for "murdering" Mr. Pignati--that he would have died anyway--just a little later, perhaps. Do you agree?
9. What does the fact that John and Lorraine called Mr. Pignati after the party say about them? How did Mr. Pignati show that he forgave them for the terrible thing that had happened?
10. Why did Mr. Pignati collapse and die? In what sense did John feel that Mr. Pignati was being punished for "trespassing"? Do you agree? What sort of trespassing did John feel that he and Lorraine had done? How did they pay?