

Study Guide: *The Pigman*

Student Name: _____

Period: _____

Characters: Write a brief description of each. Feel free to add important information as you read through the book.

- John Conlan:

- Lorraine Jensen:

- Miss Reillan, aka "The Cricket":

- Miss Stewart:

- Miss King:

- Dennis Kobin:

- Norton Kelly:

- Mr. Angelo Pignati, aka "The Pigman":

- Kenneth Conlan:

- Aunt Ahra:

- Tony:
- Deanna Dees:
- Bobo:
- Bore:
- Old Lady:
- Lorraine's mom (unnamed):
- Helen Kazinski:
- Jane Appling:
- Rocky Romano:
- Nick Cahill:
- James Moon:
- Marlon Brewery:

- Josephine Adamo:

- Tony Remco:

- Bernie Iatoni:

- Barney Friman:

- Janice Dickery:

- Gary Friman:

- Billy Baffo:

- Chicken Dee:

- Melissa Dumas:

- Jack Brahn:

Vocabulary: Look up the definition for each of the following words in a dictionary. Pay attention to the context (how each word is used) in the novel – some words have multiple definitions. It will probably help to write down which chapter/page of the book where you find each word.

- Gestapo:

- Avocation:

- Subliminally:

- Thrombosis:

- Sclerosis:

- Distort:

- Washwomen:

- Amoebae:

- Philanthropy:

- Prevarications:

- Subconscious:

- Schizophrenic:
- Antagonist:
- Voluptuous:
- Perpetual:
- Erosion:
- Embalmers:
- Elaborate:
- Prosecuting:
- Attaché:
- Conditioned:
- Ingrate:

- Individualistic:
- Oscilloscope:
- Putrid:
- Delicatessen:
- Varicose:
- Arsenal:
- Artillery:
- Absurd:
- Cro-Magnon:
- Berserk:
- Escapist:
- Realist:

- Fixated:
- Predicament:
- Arrested:
- Graft:
- Gladiolas:
- Inquired:
- Exhibiting:
- Contraption:
- Devouring:
- Congeaed:
- Fidgeting:

- Antifermenting:
- Succinct:
- Infantile:
- Maladjusted:
- Hovel:
- Rummaging:
- Intimate:
- Hors d'oeuvres:
- Momentum:
- Curvature:
- Frenzied:
- Incongruous:

- Finality:
- Forsaken:
- Viciously:
- Dishcartened:
- Demolished:
- Proficiency:
- Disposition:
- Trespass:
- Omen:

Chapter Questions: Answer the questions for each chapter as you read the book.

Chapter One:

1. What is a “fruit roll”?
2. Why didn't the kids “fruit roll” the retired postman?
3. What reason does John give for not setting bombs anymore?
4. What is the significance of “3@#\$%” versus “@#\$%”?
5. Why is Miss Reillan called “The Cricket”?
6. What is one way to tell that this book was published in 1968?

Chapter Two:

1. Why does John get away with all the “unusual” things he does, according to Lorraine?
2. Why does John do all the “unusual” things does, according to Lorraine? What is his “source problem”?
3. What occupation might Sigmund Freud have, based on the description of him in chapter two?

4. Name two ways in which John “distorts” things, according to Lorraine.
5. Why does Lorraine feel sorry for Miss Reillan?
6. What is the one big difference between Lorraine and John, besides gender?
7. What is Lorraine’s definition of “paranoia”?
8. How do Lorraine and John first meet?

Chapter Three:

1. Why does John dislike that Miss King calls him a “card”?
2. What does John say is the one thing Lorraine needs?
3. What is one similarity between John’s and Dennis’ fathers?
4. What is John’s nickname for his father?
5. What do John and Lorraine want to do when they are adults?
6. How do John and Lorraine meet the Pigman?

Chapter Four:

1. Why is Norton's nickname "The Marshmallow Kid"?
2. Why was it better to choose a woman's phone number for the telephone game?
3. What is "compensation syndrome", according to Lorraine? Who does she think has it?
4. What does Lorraine mean by the following quote: "I don't want to report. I want to make things up. In a way, I guess that's lying too, except I think you can tell the real truth with that kind of lying."
5. Why does Lorraine feel it's important for parents to have a "guilt complex"?
6. How does John threaten to "complicate" the situation with Mr. Pignati?

Chapter Five:

1. What is one way in which Lorraine seems to have rubbed off on John?
2. What do John and Lorraine tell Mr. Pignati their last names are?
3. Describe Mr. Pignati's house.

4. How does Mr. Pignati react when he first meets John and Lorraine in person?
5. What was Mr. Pignati's profession?
6. What does the picture on page 35 represent?
7. What does Mr. Pignati show John and Lorraine before they leave?

Chapter Six:

1. What is Lorraine's mother's occupation?
2. Why doesn't Lorraine's mother want her daughter to go to Stryker's Lunchconette?
3. What is Lorraine's mother's opinion of her daughter's education? What does she ask Lorraine to do instead of going to school?
4. What makes Lorraine change her mind about going to the zoo?
5. How do John and Lorraine ensure they won't get in trouble for cutting school?
6. What is Lorraine's mother's reasoning behind stealing things from her clients' homes?

7. How has Lorraine's clothing style changed since she met John?
8. What incident makes Lorraine dislike the Baron Park Zoo?
9. Why is Lorraine put off by Mr. Pignati's smiling?
10. What are the three omens that Lorraine receives at the zoo?
11. What does Lorraine do while Mr. Pignati and John look around at the snake house?
12. Who is Mr. Pignati's best friend?
13. What is the nickname for the principal at John and Lorraine's high school?
14. Where is Lorraine quoting from when she says the hyenas at the zoo are "raider[s] of graves", and that the hippos "secrete a fluid the color of blood all over their body"?

Chapter Seven:

1. What is the biggest difference between the fibs John tells, and those Lorraine tells?
2. Where do the kids in town go to smoke, according to John?

3. What's the real reason John says he goes to the graveyard?
4. What are two of John's nicknames for his mother in this chapter?
5. What does John's father want him to do?
6. What important detail does John find out by reading the "What Every Family Should Know" pamphlet?

Chapter Eight:

1. Why does Mr. Pignati's laughter make Lorraine nervous?
2. Why does John like the ferryhouse at Staten Island, according to Lorraine?
3. What does Lorraine feel is an omen when she gets to Chambers Street?
4. Why is Lorraine disillusioned by Beckman's toy department?
5. How do we know the novel is set in New York?
6. What does Mr. Pignati buy John, Lorraine and himself at Beckman's?

7. What does Lorraine feel is John's favorite thing about her?

Chapter Nine:

1. What does Norton threaten to do?
2. What is Norton's nickname for Lorraine?
3. What is the only thing John does better than his older brother?
4. What is John's reasoning for nicknaming his parents?
5. What is the main difference between the way John is treated by his parents, and the way he is treated by the Pigman?

Chapter Ten:

1. What subject is Lorraine's mother "fixated" on? Why?
2. Why is Mr. Pignati acting so sad?
3. What are the literal and figurative reasons that Mr. Pignati plays the "Assassin" game with Lorraine and John?
4. What happens to Mr. Pignati at the end of the chapter?

Chapter Eleven:

1. What does John say upsets Lorraine on their way to the cemetery?
2. What does John mean when he says the nurse is “exhibiting her ivories”?
3. What do John and Lorraine do in the Pigman’s house while he’s in the hospital?

Chapter Twelve:

1. What is John’s behavior ever since he and Lorraine first kiss at Mr. Pignati’s house?
2. Why don’t John and Lorraine move anything around in the pig room?
3. Describe Lorraine’s “omen of death” about the pig room.

Chapter Thirteen:

1. Why don’t John and Lorraine invite Norton to the get-together at Mr. Pignati’s house?
2. Who are collectively referred to as “Beauty and the Beast”? Why?

3. What is the reason Jack Brahn didn't come to the party?
4. What does Melissa Dumas do that makes Lorraine jealous?
5. What does John catch Norton doing at the party? What happens in the pig room?
6. Who shows up at Mr. Pignati's house at the end of the chapter?

Chapter Fourteen:

1. Why is Lorraine angry at her mother?
2. What do John, Lorraine, and Mr. Pignati find out about Bobo?
3. What happens to Mr. Pignati at the end of the chapter?

Chapter Fifteen:

1. Why does John compare himself, Lorraine, and Mr. Pignati to baboons?
2. How did Mr. Pignati "trespass" on Lorraine and John's lives? How did they trespass on his?
3. Who are Mr. Pignati's children?