



Tears of a Tiger

by Sharon M. Draper

"Friends are Friends Forever"

Pre-Reading Activity

- ❖ Write a letter to your best friend.
- ❖ In the letter, you should describe the friendship, what makes that friendship special, and list some fun times the two of you have had together.
- ❖ Follow the rules of the English language, and make sure you write in the correct format.



Introduction

Tears of a Tiger by Sharon M. Draper

After a while the car started to sway, but I wasn't sure if it was me gettin' dizzy or if the car really was weaving across the expressway. At the time it seemed really funny. We was laughin' so hard- especially when people started honkin' at us. The more they tried to signal us, and I guess, warn us, the more we was crackin' up and laughin'. Rob had his feet up on the dashboard, partly actin' silly, and partly 'cause his legs was so long that they got cramped in that little car of Andy's. Me and B.J. was in the backseat. I was sittin' right behind Andy, and B.J. was sittin' next to me, behind Rob, 'cause he had the shortest legs, and Rob could push the seat all the way back.

Then, all of a sudden, like outta nowhere, this wall was in front of us, like it just jumped out in front of the car, and Andy was trying to find the brakes with his foot, and then there was glass everywhere and this crunchin', grindin' sound. My door flew open, and I rolled out. I remember I was cryin' and crawlin' around on my hands and knees- that's the only thing that got hurt on me- I got glass in my hands and in my knees.

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Reading Skill: Foreshadowing

❖ Foreshadowing: a writer provides hints that suggest future events in the story

Why do authors use foreshadowing?

❖ Creates suspense

❖ Makes readers want to find out what will happen in the story

"Through the Crystal Ball"



- On a sheet of paper, predict what will happen in the book based on the introduction.
- Write a good thorough paragraph, using reasons why you think your prediction is correct.

Key Vocabulary Terms

- fiery: being on fire; blazing
- raggedy: ragged; old and worn
- affirmative action: an active effort to improve opportunities for minority groups
- psychic: someone who can read your thoughts and mind without prior knowledge
- cotillions: a formal dance or formal ball

Key Vocabulary Terms Continued...

- righteous: acting rightly; upright; according to what is right
- dense: marked by closeness or crowding together of parts
- looted: stolen or taken by force
- phony: not genuine or real
- hypnotized: to cause to be in a trancelike state resembling sleep

Key Vocabulary Terms Continued...

- traumatic: feeling caused by severe mental or emotional stress or injury
- inevitable: impossible to avoid or evade; sure to happen
- deterioration: process of making or becoming worse or of less value
- coward: one who shows shameful fear or timidity
- inhibitions: the act of holding back from doing something

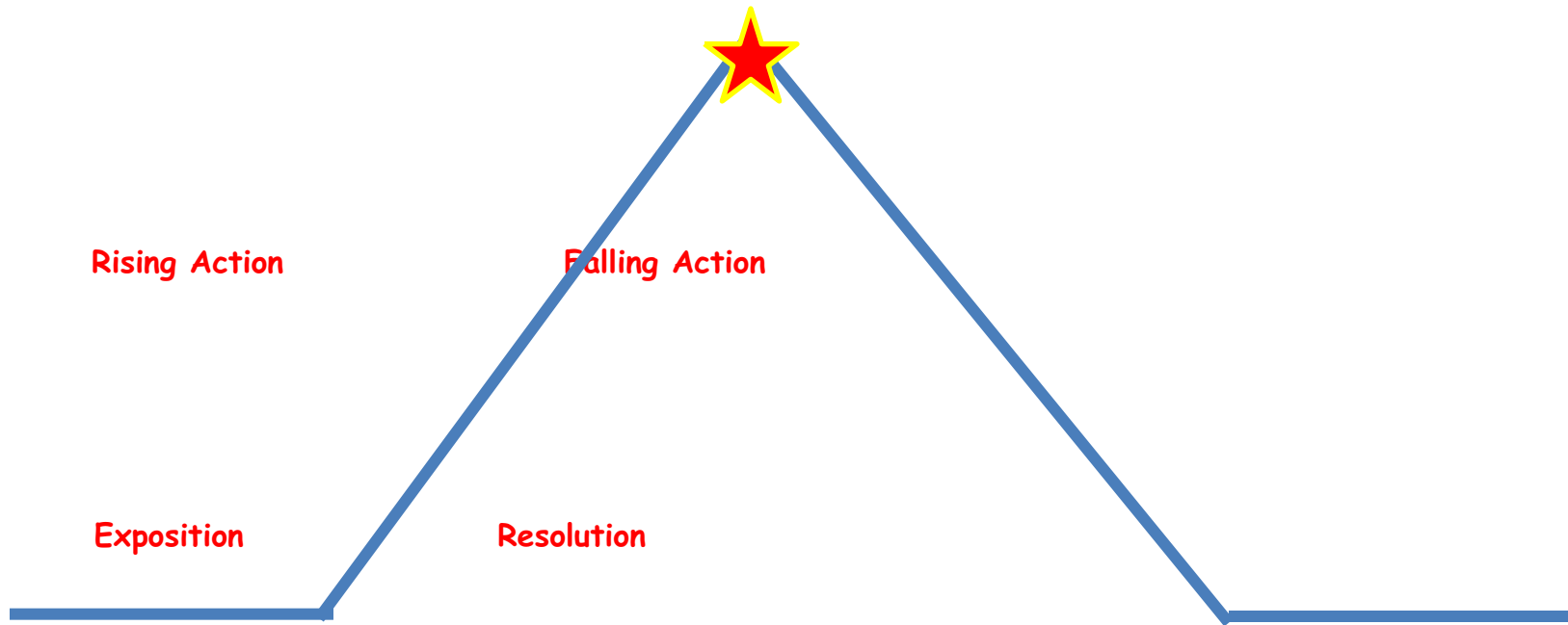
Key Vocabulary Terms Continued...

- resilient: able to bounce back
- punitive: involving or inflicting punishment
- detriment: a great damage
- disposition: one's usual attitude or mood
- summoned: ordered to appear before a court of law

Reading Skill: Plot

- Plot: the sequence of events in a story

Climax



Draw a plot diagram on your paper. You will fill in the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution as we read the novel.

CRASH, FIRE, PAIN

Study Questions

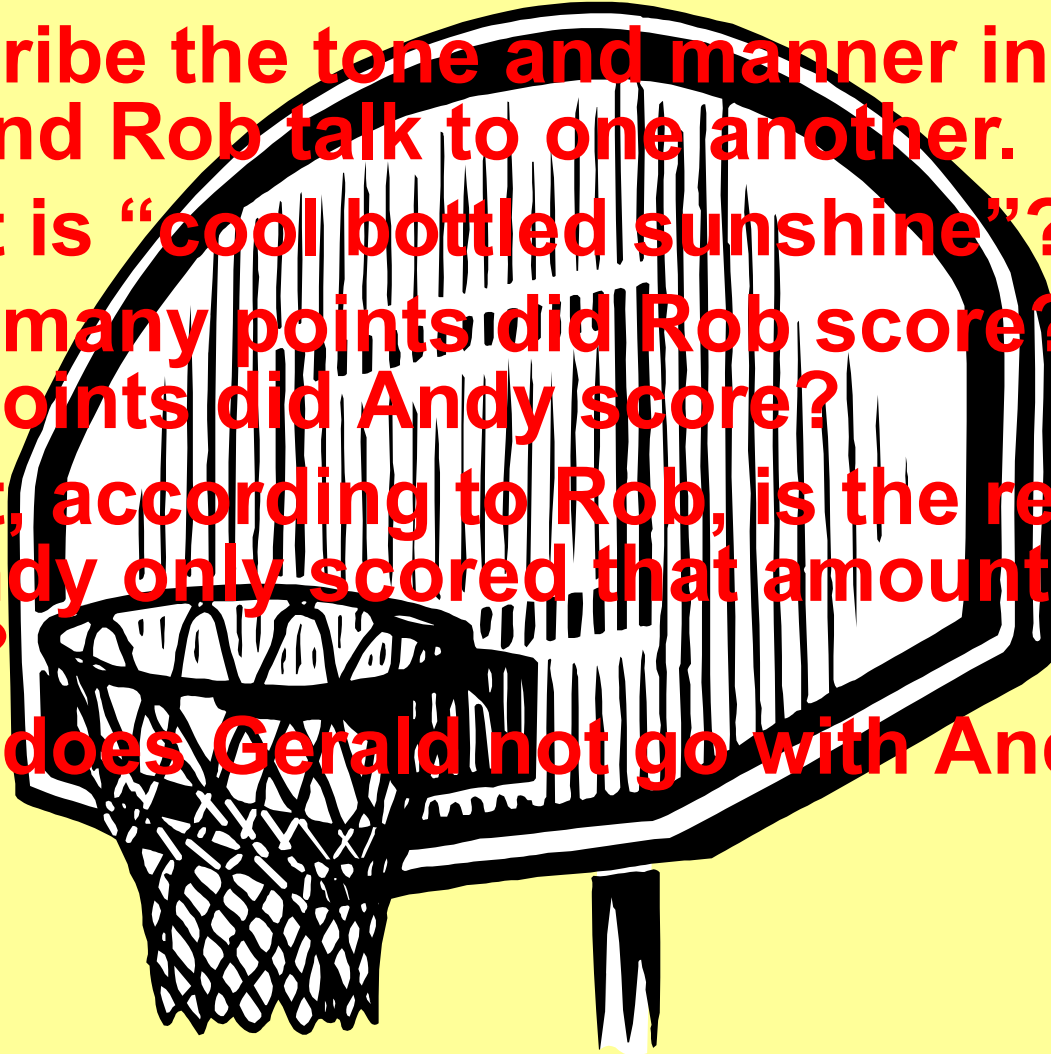
- 1. What/who caused the car accident?**
- 2. Why was Robert Washington unable to escape from the car?**
- 3. Who was involved in the car accident?**
- 4. Who was admitted to the hospital?**
- 5. What sports team did Washington captain?**



HIT THE SHOWERS! HIT THE STREETS!

Study Questions

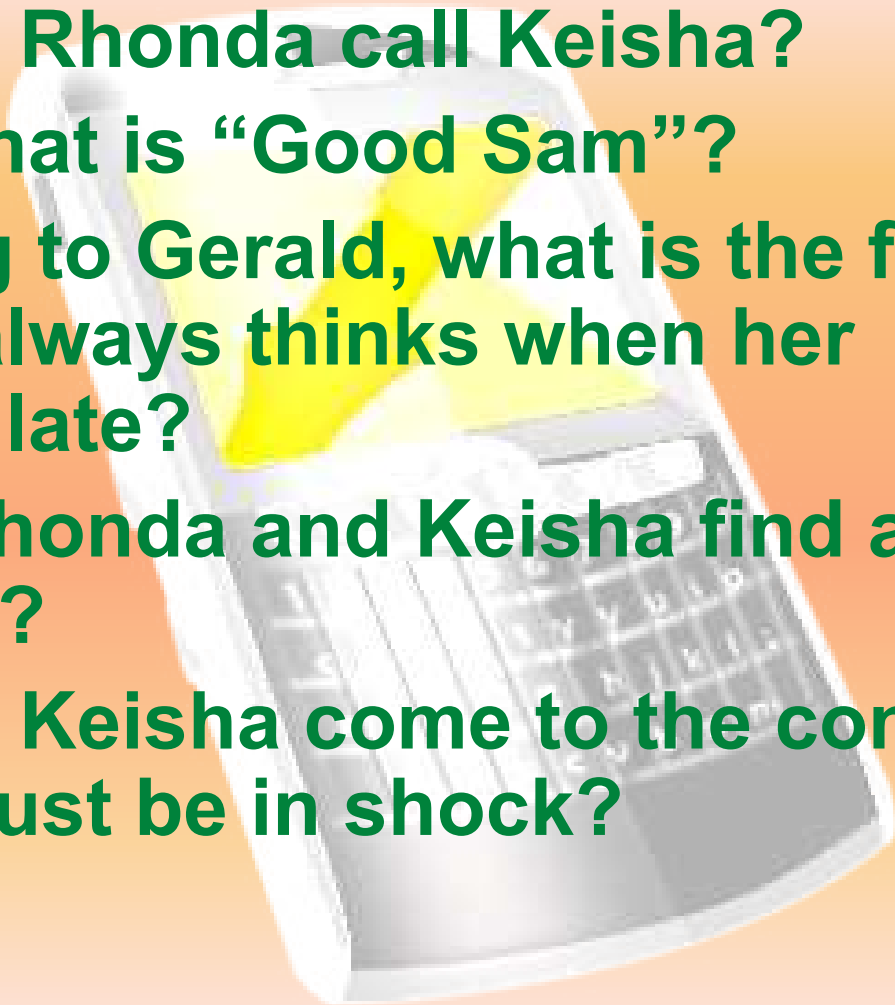
1. Describe the tone and manner in which Andy and Rob talk to one another.
2. What is “cool bottled sunshine”?
3. How many points did Rob score? How many points did Andy score?
4. What, according to Rob, is the reason why Andy only scored that amount of points?
5. Why does Gerald not go with Andy and Rob?



OH NO! IT JUST CAN'T BE!

Study Questions

1. Why does Rhonda call Keisha?
2. Who or what is “Good Sam”?
3. According to Gerald, what is the first thing a girl always thinks when her boyfriend is late?
4. How do Rhonda and Keisha find about the accident?
5. Why does Keisha come to the conclusion that Andy must be in shock?



MEMORIES OF FIRE

Study Questions

1. Who is questioned first about the accident?
2. Who is the officer asking the questions?
3. How is B.J. different from his friends?
4. What conclusions can be drawn about Gerald's stepfather?
5. Why do you think "old white ladies" in particular always "freak out" when Andy and his friends yell at them from Andy's car?
6. What was the boys' first reaction when the car started weaving across the expressway and people began honking at them?
7. Why could Rob not be rescued?
8. What ultimately killed Rob?
9. Whose help did Rob scream for when he realized he was trapped in the burning car?

“DEAR LORD”

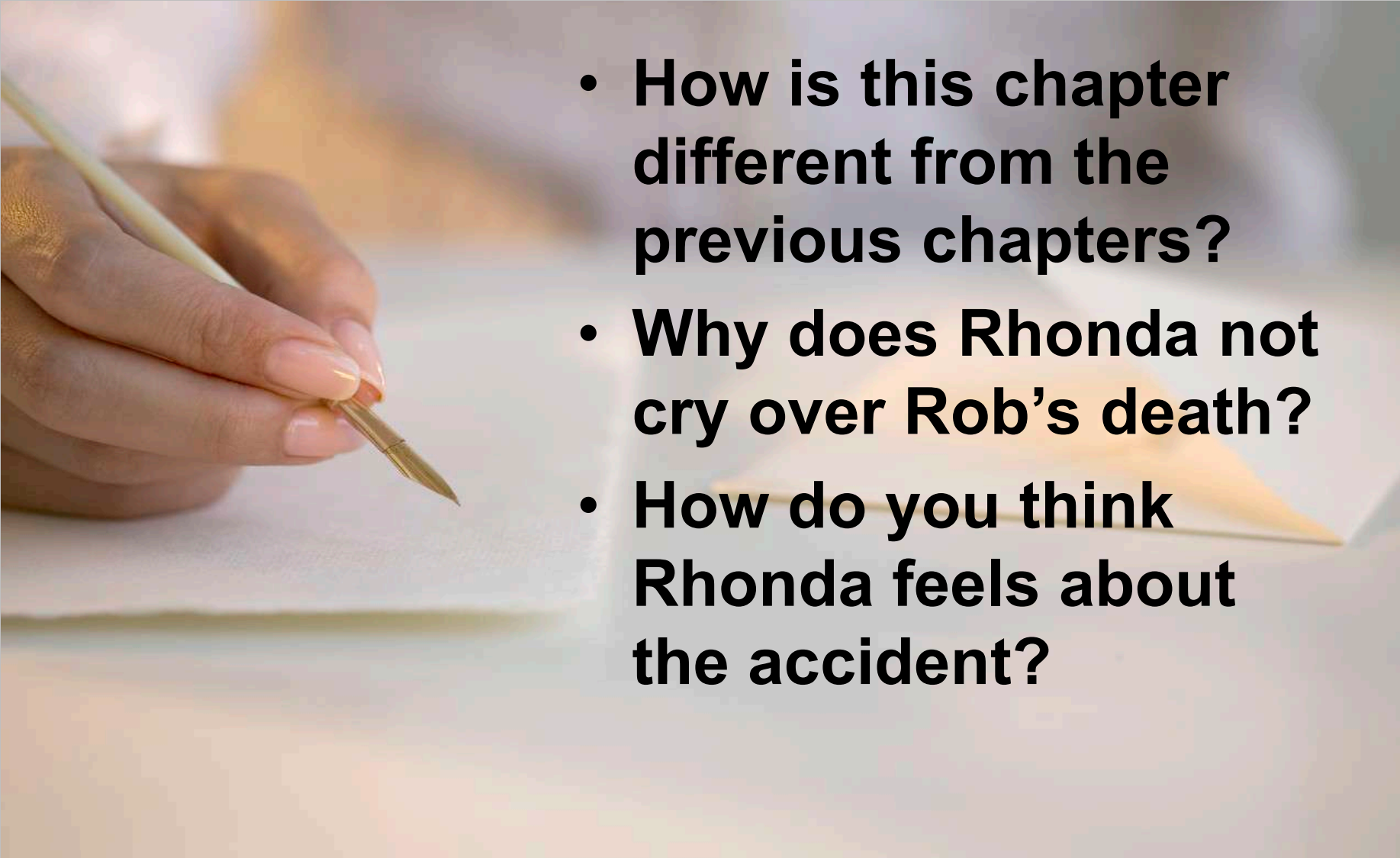
Study Questions

- **What does B.J. say in his prayer?**
- **What reason does B.J. give his friends for why he does not drink? What is his real reason for not drinking?**
- **Why do you think B.J. lies to his friends about his reason for not drinking?**
- **Why did B.J. not insist upon driving Andy’s car since he was not drinking?**



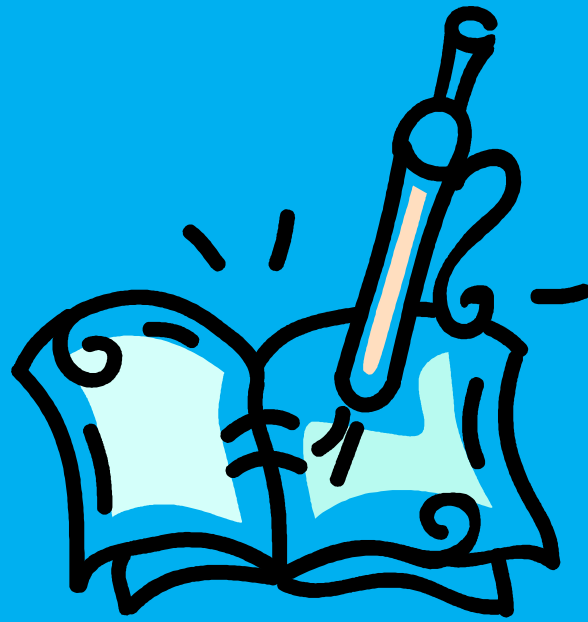
“MY MOST FRIGHTENING MOMENT”

Study Questions

- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a silver fountain pen, poised to write on a white, textured notebook. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the notebook and a hint of a desk. The lighting is warm and natural, creating a calm and focused atmosphere.
- How is this chapter different from the previous chapters?
 - Why does Rhonda not cry over Rob's death?
 - How do you think Rhonda feels about the accident?

In Your Journal...

- In your journal, answer the following question in great detail. What has been your scariest moment you have experienced in your life?



THE HAZELWOOD HERALD

Study Questions

- Why is this a “special edition” to the *Hazelwood Herald*?
- What does Niagra Abundada say is different about American students?
- How has the basketball team decided to honor Rob’s memory?
- Describe the tone of the “Editorial Comments” in this newspaper.
- Why is it ironic about the fact that one of Coach Ripley’s star players died in a drunk driving accident?



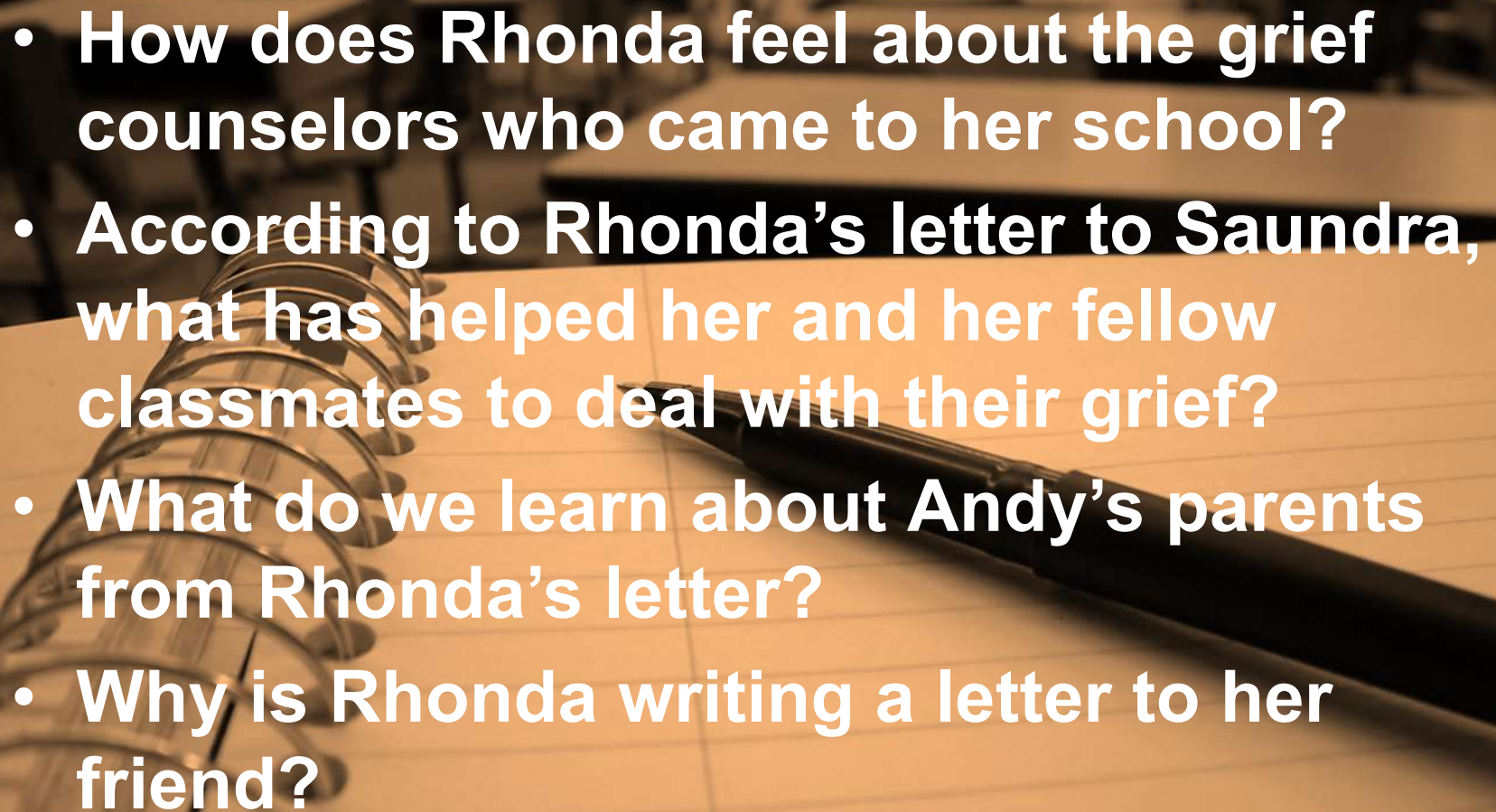
“HEY COACH, CAN WE TALK?”

Study Questions

- **Who does Andy confide in on his first day back at school?**
- **How are Andy's parents handling the accident?**
- **When and how did Andy and Rob's friendship begin?**
- **What is Andy's sentence? Is the judge lenient? Why or why not?**
- **What does Andy have to do to keep his basketball privileges?**
- **How does Coach Ripley treat Andy after the accident?**

SAD SONGS, JUICY GOSSIP

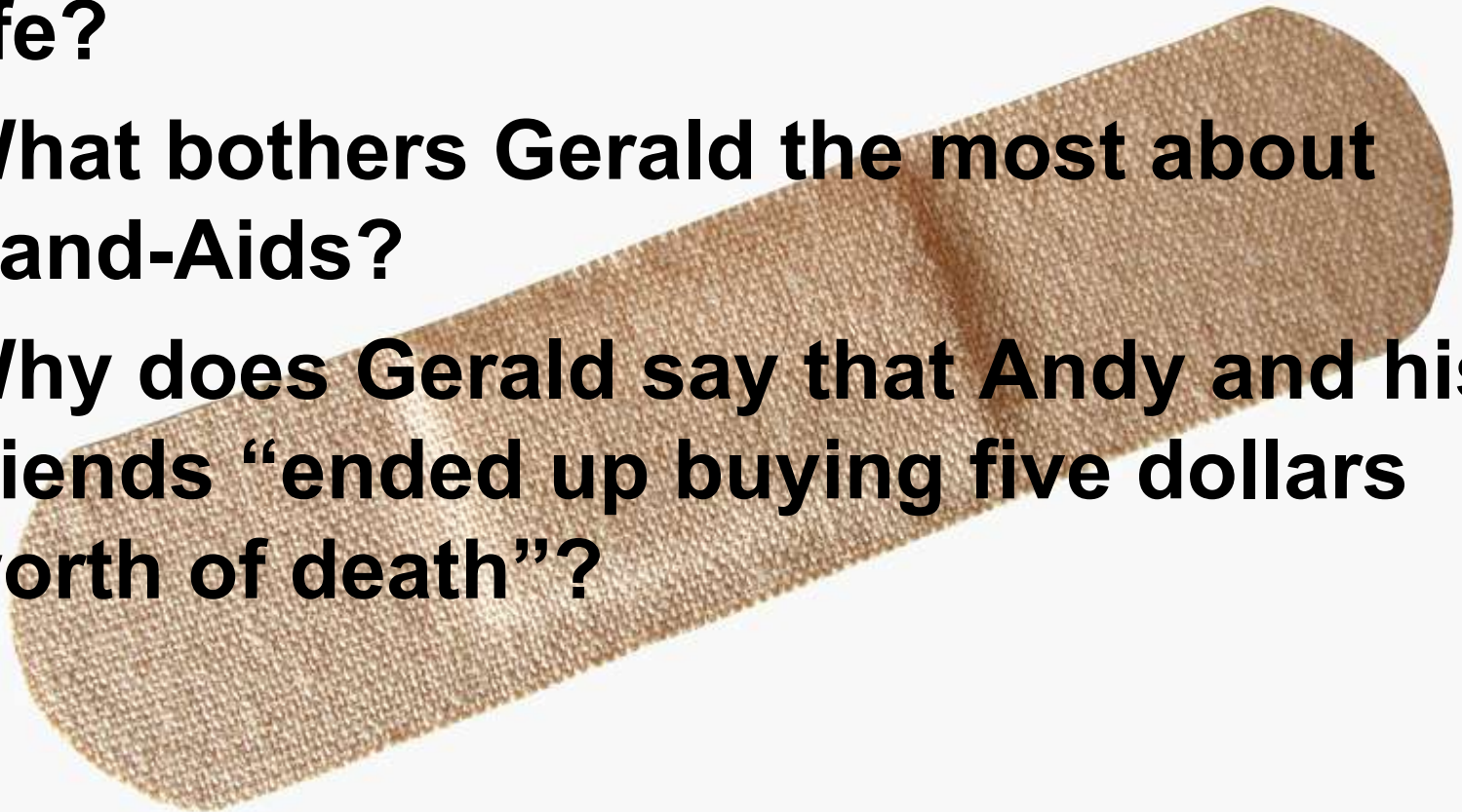
Study Questions

- 
- **How does Rhonda feel about the grief counselors who came to her school?**
 - **According to Rhonda's letter to Sandra, what has helped her and her fellow classmates to deal with their grief?**
 - **What do we learn about Andy's parents from Rhonda's letter?**
 - **Why is Rhonda writing a letter to her friend?**

“IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD”

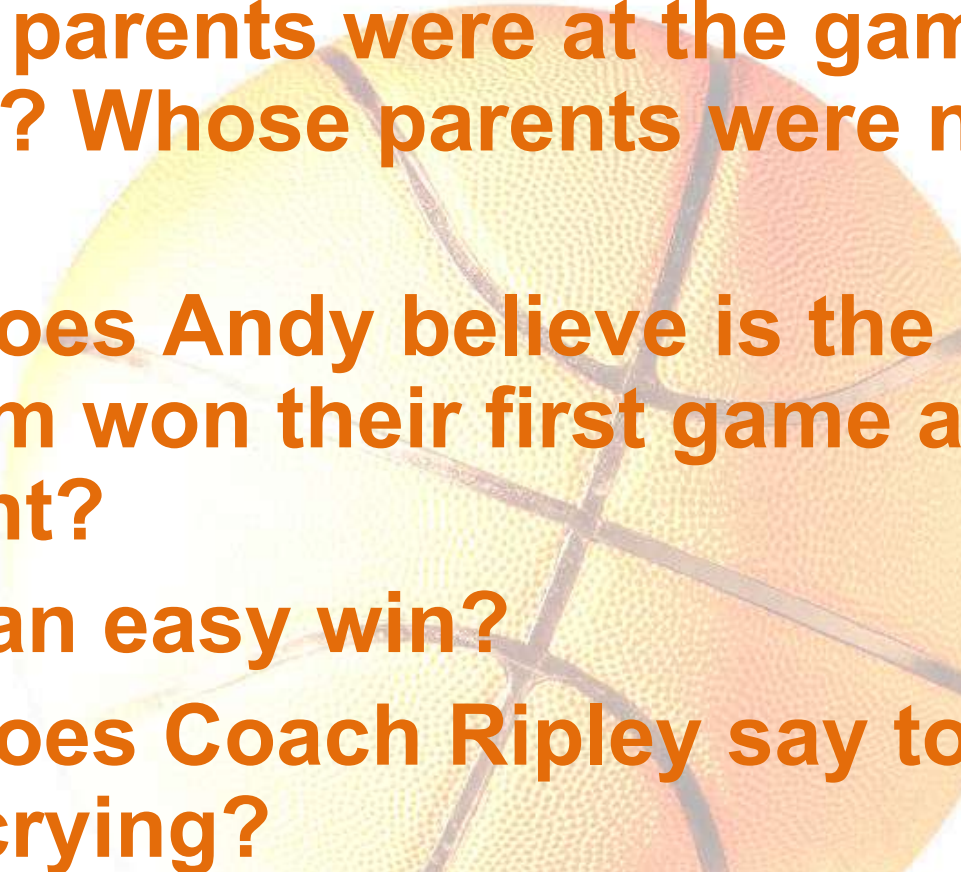
Study Questions

- **How would you describe Gerald’s home life?**
- **What bothers Gerald the most about Band-Aids?**
- **Why does Gerald say that Andy and his friends “ended up buying five dollars worth of death”?**



HOOPS AND DUNKS

Study Questions

- Whose parents were at the game tonight? Whose parents were not there?
 - What does Andy believe is the reason the team won their first game after the accident?
 - Was it an easy win?
 - What does Coach Ripley say to Andy about crying?
- 

“HOW DO I FEEL?”

Study Questions

- **At the beginning of his first psychologist session, what surprises Andy about the psychologist?**
- **How does Andy feel about being there and seeing the psychologist?**
- **Does Andy blame himself for the accident?**
- **How does Andy feel about his parents?**
- **Who is Monty? What is significant about him?**
- **How does Andy say his parents spend most of their time?**
- **How does Andy feel about taking Rob's position as center on the basketball team?**

In Your Journal...

- In your journal respond to the following statement. Imagine you as Andy. Write a diary entry after your first session with Dr. Carrothers.



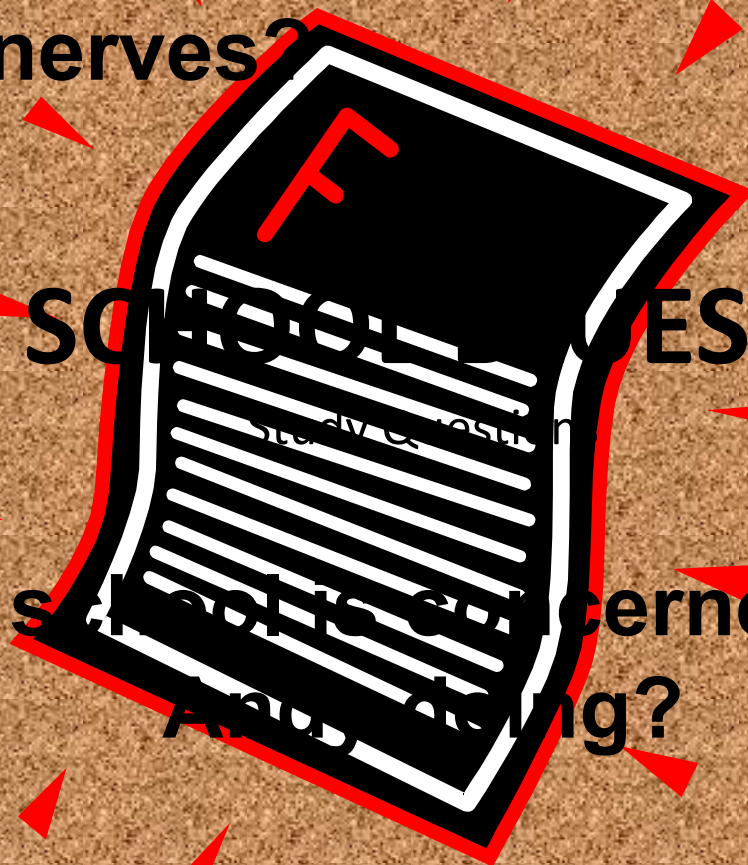
GIRL PROBLEMS

Study Questions

- What about Andy is starting to get on Keisha's nerves?

SCHOOL LIVES

As far as school is concerned, how is Andy doing?



FEROCIOUS FRUSTRATION

Study Questions

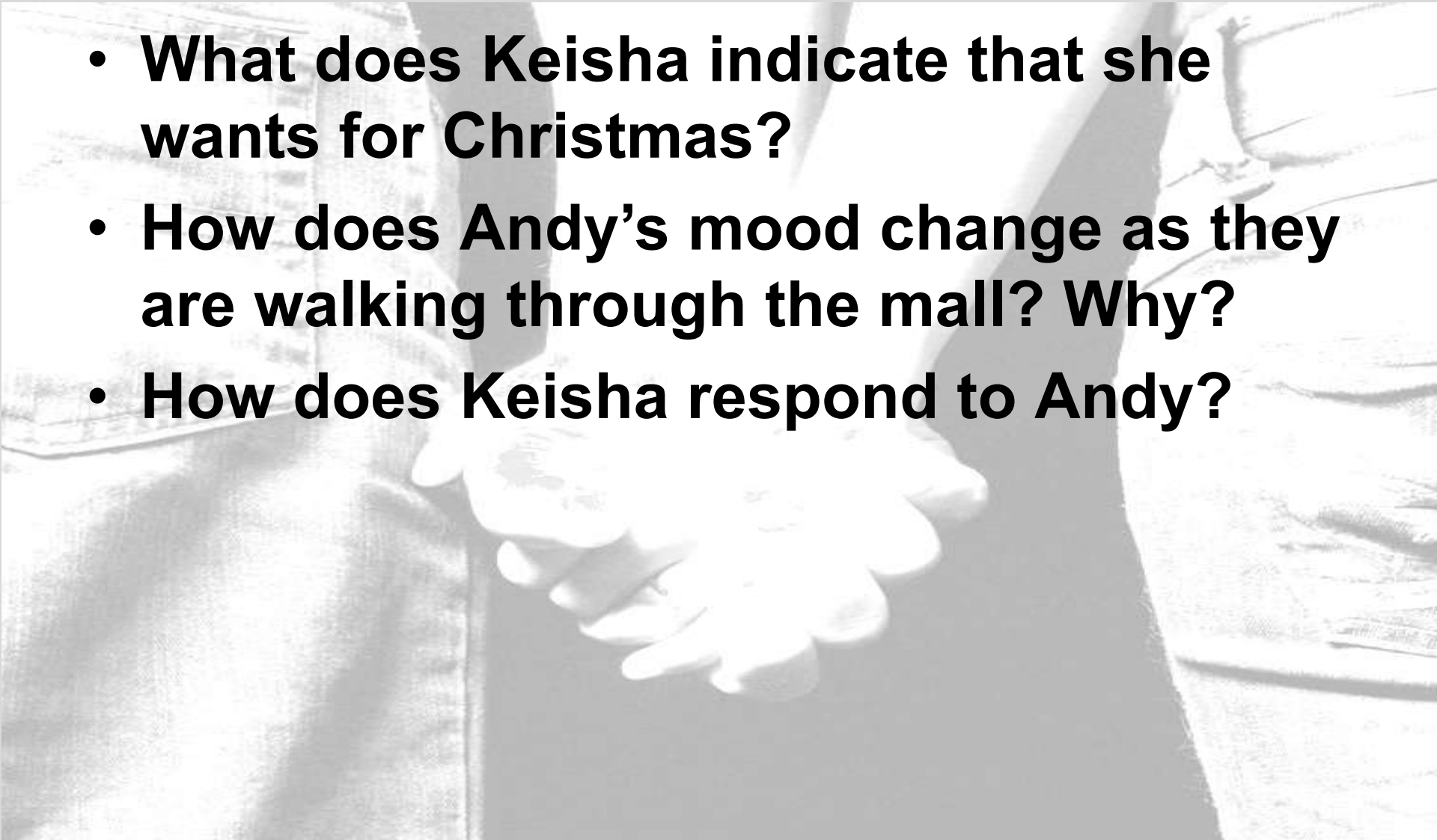
- Andy uses a metaphor to describe his grades to Dr. Carrothers. What is the metaphor?
- What is it about the students at school not like?
- According to Andy, which students win most of the academic awards on Awards Day? Why would it embarrass Andy to receive an award?
- What happened when Andy visited the school counselor?
- What assumption did his advanced math teacher make about Andy one day in class?



FEMALE FRUSTRATION

Study Questions

- **What does Keisha indicate that she wants for Christmas?**
- **How does Andy's mood change as they are walking through the mall? Why?**
- **How does Keisha respond to Andy?**



“HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO WRITE POETRY?”

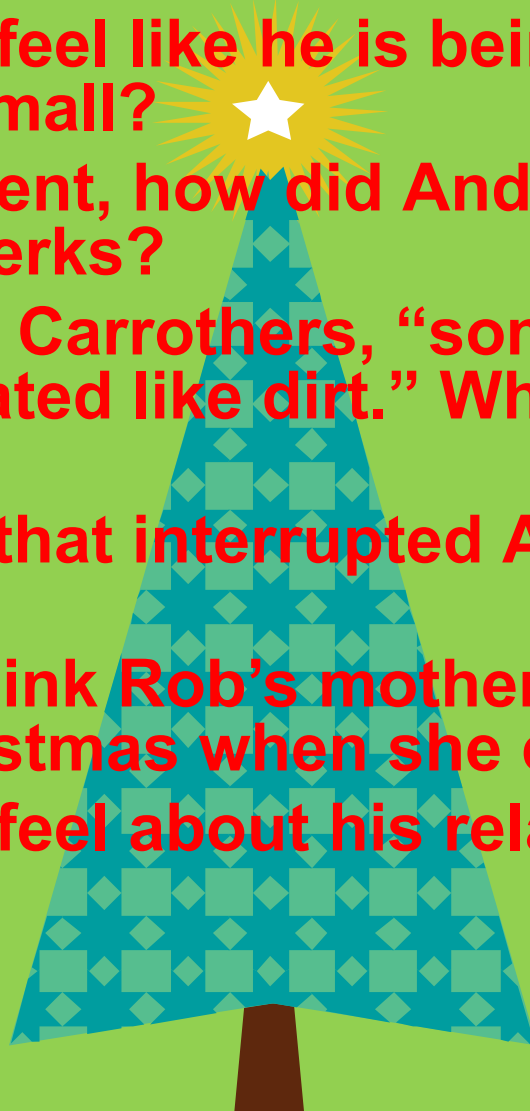
Study Questions

- **What does Ms. Blackwell compare poetry to in class?**
- **What is Andy referring to in his poem when he says, “The storm clouds are forming/upon the peaceful sea”?**
- **What is Rhonda’s poem about?**
- **How is Keisha’s poem related to Andy?**
- **What is the tone of B.J.’s poem?**
- **Why do you think Andy decided not to turn in his homework?**

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT ROB

Study Questions

- Why does Andy feel like he is being watched while he shops at the mall?
- Before the accident, how did Andy and Rob toy with the sales clerks?
- Andy says to Dr. Carrothers, “sometimes you get tired of bein’ treated like dirt.” What is he referring to?
- What happened that interrupted Andy’s “at peace” feeling?
- Why did Andy think Rob’s mother did not mention the rock on Christmas when she called him?
- How does Andy feel about his relationship with Keisha?



“GOOD MORNING, HAZELWOOD”

Study Questions

- **How many families did Hazelwood High School help during the holidays?**
- **What just arrived at school for students to pick up?**
- **What annual event is coming up at Hazelwood?**
- **Why do you think this chapter was included?**

BLACK ON WHITE

Study Questions

- **What is the title of the poem that Ms. Blackwell reads to the class?**
- **How does Gerald relate the poem to his life?**
- **Why do authors use the colors black and white in literature?**
- **What feelings do certain colors portray?**
- **Why does Andy begin to wonder if Rob is cold?**
- **How does Keisha feel about Andy by the end of this chapter?**

In Your Journal...

- In your journal, answer the following question in great detail. Write a poem about the "snow" Andy and Keisha talk about in the novel.



ACCEPTING FEAR- ESCAPING PAIN

Study Questions

- How does Andy feel about cold weather?
- Why might Andy remember the retaining wall being larger than it actually was on the night of the accident?
- Why hasn't Andy talked to Rob's parents since Christmas?
- How did Keisha react to Andy and his behavior on the overpass?
- What does Dr. Carrothers want Andy to do if he feels that he cannot handle a situation?
- What conclusions can be drawn about Andy after his session with Dr. Carrothers?
- What 'homework' does Andy have to complete for Dr. Carrothers before their next session?

NIGHT AND DREAM

Study Questions

- What kind of brother is Andy to Monty?
- What is Monty afraid of at night?
- What does Monty ask Andy about dreams?
- How does Andy imagine his future?
- While Andy is dreaming, what does Rob want Andy to do?
- Why do you think Andy had this dream?

A LETTER OF REMEMBERED JOY

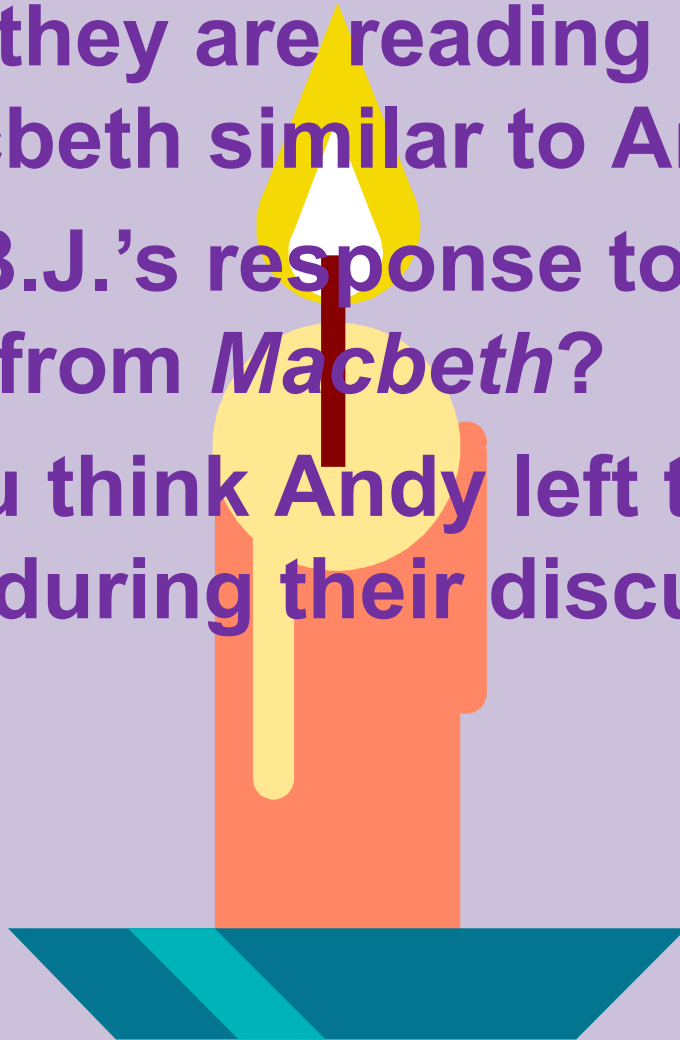
Study Questions

- **Why does Andy say he decided to write a letter to Rob's parents?**
- **Rather than repeating how sorry he is for Rob's death in the letter to Rob's parents, what does Andy decide to do in the letter?**
- **What is revealed about Andy's family in this letter?**

“OUT, OUT! BRIEF CANDLE!”

Study Questions

- In English, they are reading *Macbeth*. How is *Macbeth* similar to Andy?
- What was B.J.’s response to the passage read aloud from *Macbeth*?
- Why do you think Andy left the classroom during their discussion about *Macbeth*?



BALONEY SANDWICHES AND BAD BREATH

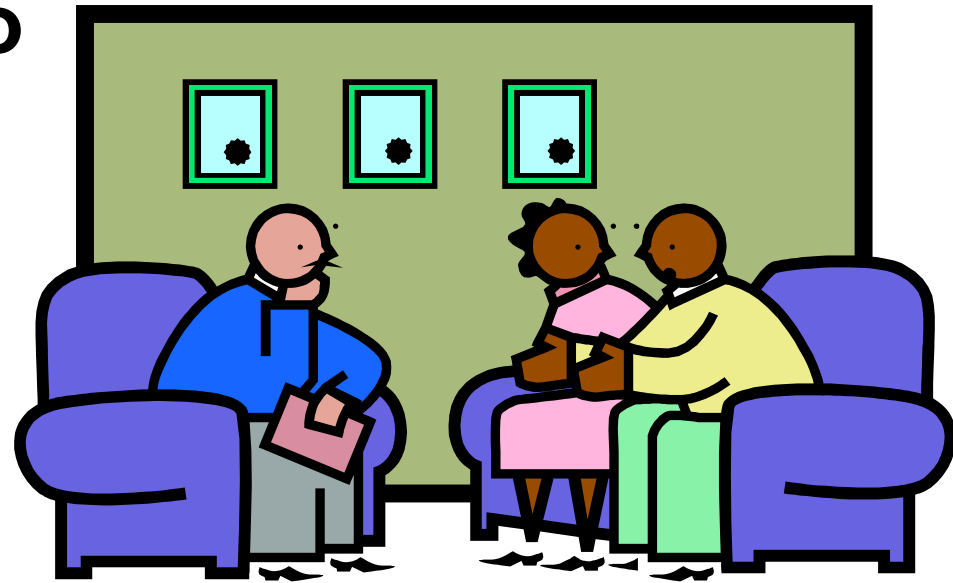
Study Questions

- Why does Andy get angry and yell at B.J. and Tyrone for “always talkin’ ‘bout Rob”?
- Why do B.J. and Tyrone visit the counselor?
- How does Mrs. Thorne, the counselor, respond to B.J. and Tyrone’s concerns?
- Was Andy’s privacy violated in this chapter? If yes, how was it violated?

LEARNING TO LIVE

Study Questions

- **Why do you think Andy starts lying to Dr. Carrothers?**
- **Why does Dr. Carrothers end Andy's frequent psychology sessions?**



THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

Study Questions



- In Keisha's personal essay, what is the only reason she gives for why students come to school?
- Through her essay, does Keisha believe that Andy will recover from this accident?

CONCERN AND DENIAL

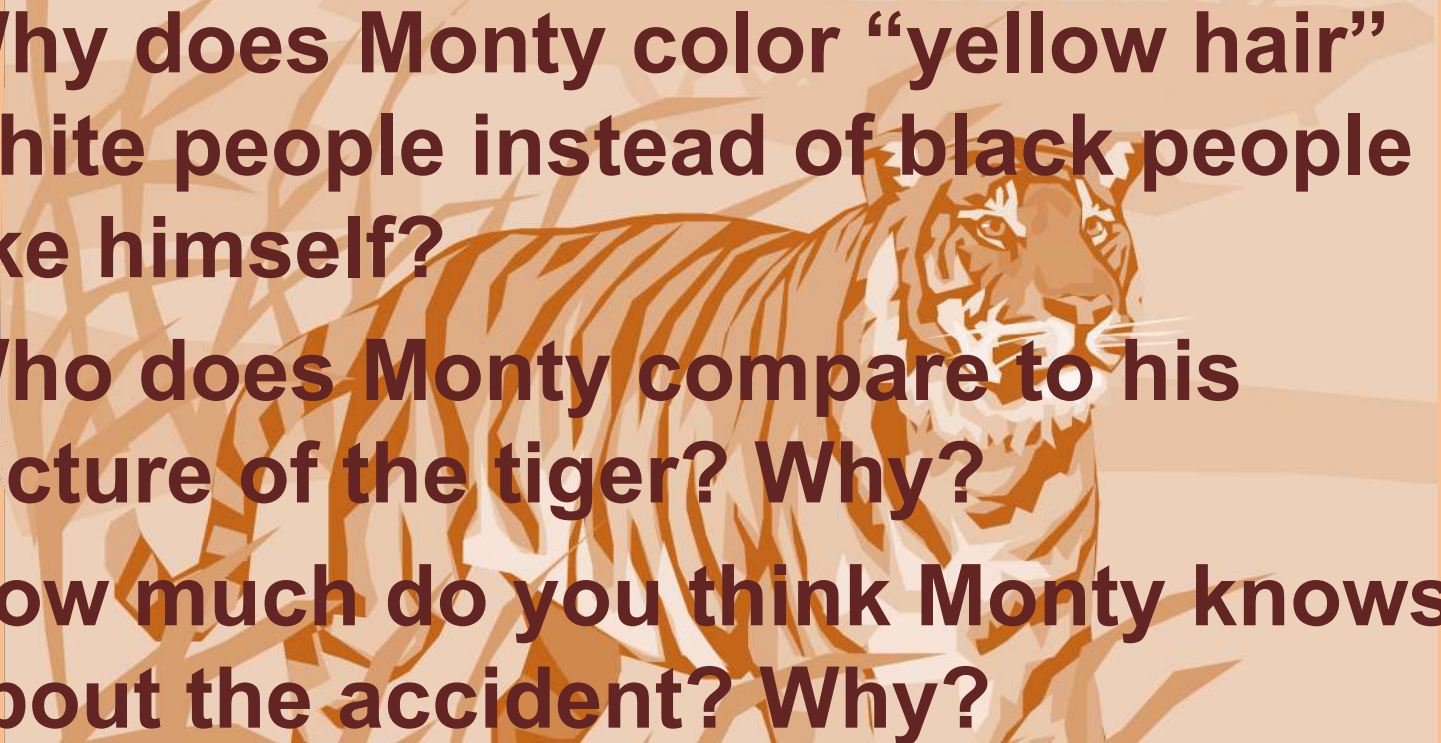
Study Questions



- **Who called Andy's father about his grades and behavior?**
- **How does Andy's father respond to the teacher's concern for Andy?**
- **What feeling do you get after reading this chapter?**

LIONS, TIGERS, AND DINOSAURS

Study Questions

- Why does Monty color “yellow hair” white people instead of black people like himself?
 - Who does Monty compare to his picture of the tiger? Why?
 - How much do you think Monty knows about the accident? Why?
- 

HIDDEN OPINIONS

Study Questions

- **How does the way the teacher in this chapter views Andy's behavior differ from the way Ms. Blackwell views Andy's change in behavior?**
- **What generalization does one of the teachers in this chapter make about black students?**
- **Why do the teachers believe that the Talent Show is a waste of time?**

NEEDS AND WORRIES

Study Questions

- According to Keisha's journal, what does she know about Andy that no one else does?



- How does Keisha feel about her relationship with Andy in her journal?

“DO YOU? DO YOU?” AND “I DO”

Study Questions

- What are the different ways Rhonda talks about love in her note to Tyrone?**
- In her note to Tyrone, what scares Rhonda about the “real kind of love”?**
- How does Rhonda and Tyrone’s relationship seem different from Keisha and Andy’s relationship?**



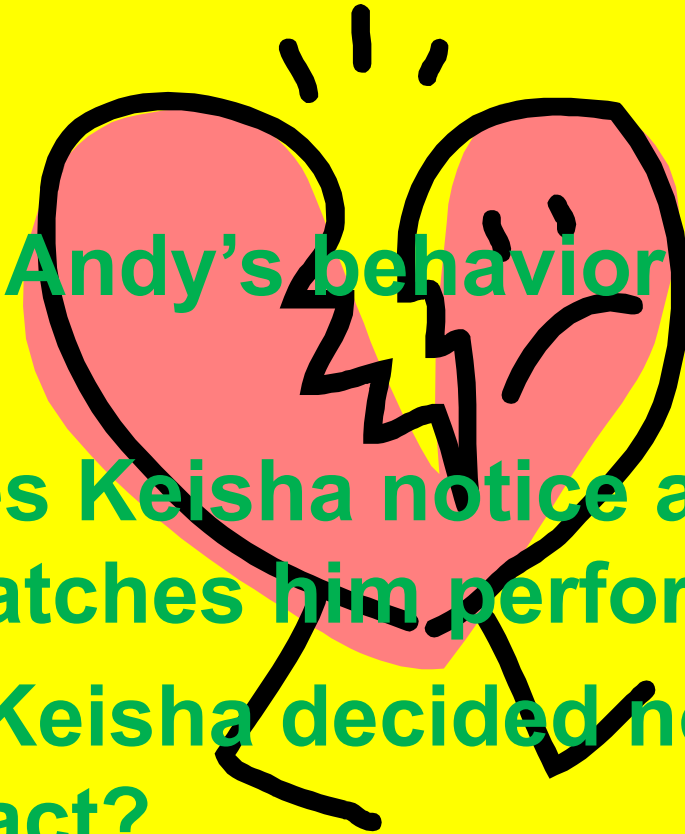
In Your Journal...

- In your journal respond to the following statement. Teenagers always think they have found their "true love" in school. Do you think that you look at things the same when you are a teenager compared to how you will look at things when you become an adult? Why or why not? Explain using good examples.



PUBLIC PLEASURE, PRIVATE PAIN

Study Questions



- Describe Andy's behavior at the Talent Show.
- What does Keisha notice about Andy as she watches him perform?
- Why did Keisha decided not to perform her solo act?
- How do you think Andy will respond to the break-up with Keisha?

PRIVATE PAIN

Study Questions

- Did Andy's parents attend the Talent Show to watch him?
- Why is Andy home early and without Keisha?
- Why does Andy become upset when his mother talks about the accident?
- Where did Andy's family visit when he was nine years old?
- Why does he tell his mother now about something that happened on that vacation?
- Andy says for the first time, "I can't deal with this by myself." He seems to be asking for some help. How does his mother respond to this?
- Why does Andy compare his feeling to drowning in an ocean?

“GIRL, LET ME TELL YOU!”

Study Questions

- **How did Rhonda describe Andy's personality at the Talent Show?**
- **Did she agree with Andy or Keisha?**
- **What does Rhonda think Andy needs?**



SLIPPING AWAY

Study Questions

- Who does Coach Ripley tell Andy had been looking for him?
- Who does Andy blame for missing the college scouts?
- At the end of the chapter, what has Andy decided?



A FATHER'S DREAM

Study Questions

- **Why does Andy's father call him Andrew all of the time?**
- **What career dream does Mr. Washington have for Andy?**
- **What led up to Andy's father wanting to discuss Andy's grades with him?**
- **What is Andy's father's real name?**
- **What do we find out about Andy's college dreams in this chapter?**
- **How is Andy's relationship with his father different from his relationship with Coach Ripley?**

NIGHTTIME CRIES OF DESPERATION

Study Questions



Help

- What does the title of this chapter “Andy’s Final Phone Calls” seem to foreshadow?
- Who did Andy first call to talk about his emotional state?
- Why is Dr. Carrothers unable to calm Andy?
- How does Andy feel about talking to answering machines?
- What does the fact that Andy chooses to make these phone calls tell us about Andy?
- Why did Andy not talk to Keisha that night?



HELP!



HELP

“HAVE YOU SEEN ANDY?”

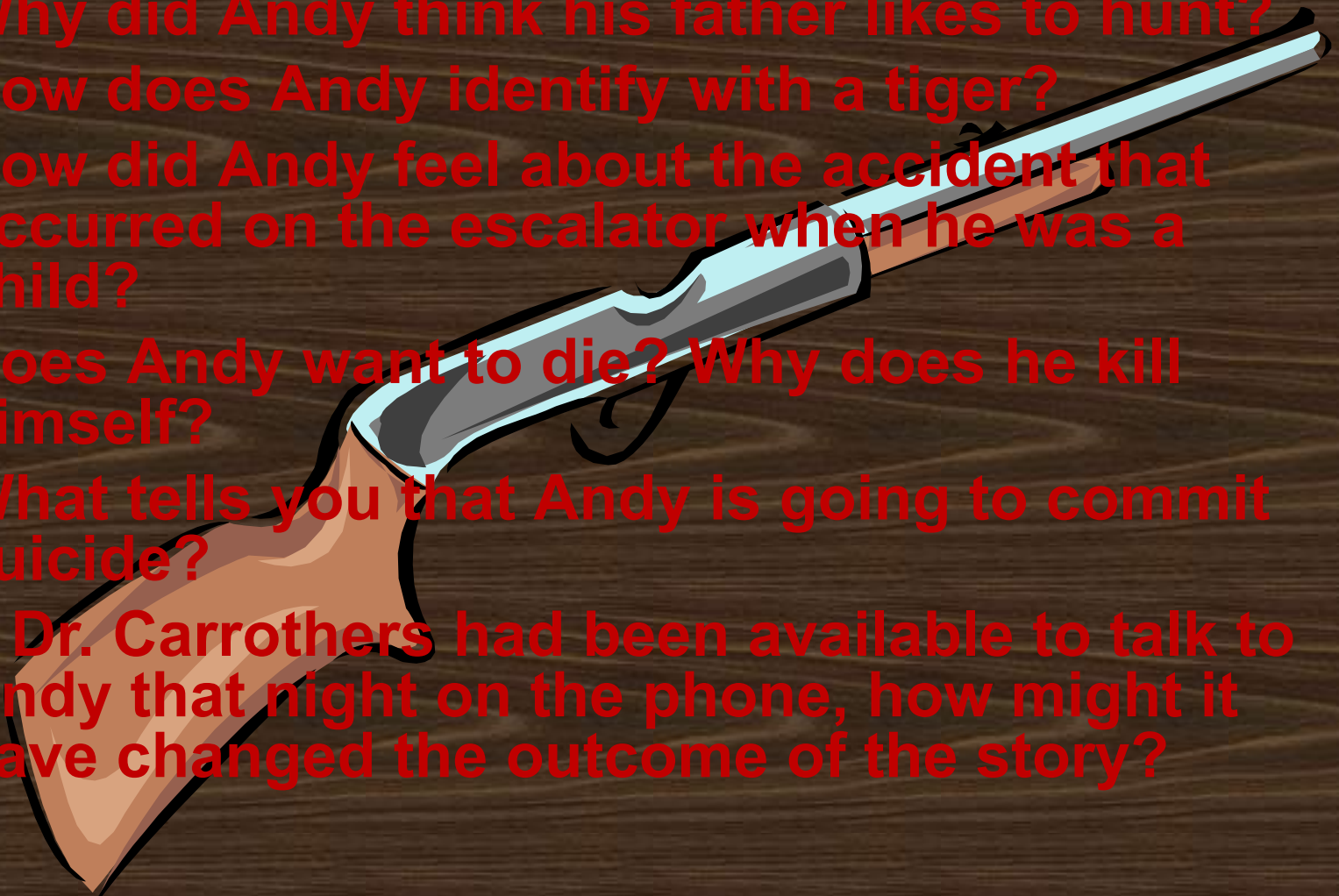
Study Questions

- When the teacher was calling roll, what assumption is made about Andy's being absent?**
- What does Keisha say she is looking forward to now that she and Andy are no longer together?**
- Why does Rhonda go to Andy's house?**
- Why did Keisha decide not to go with Rhonda to Andy's house?**

TIGERS HAVE IT ROUGH

Study Questions

- Why did Andy think his father likes to hunt?
- How does Andy identify with a tiger?
- How did Andy feel about the accident that occurred on the escalator when he was a child?
- Does Andy want to die? Why does he kill himself?
- What tells you that Andy is going to commit suicide?
- If Dr. Carrothers had been available to talk to Andy that night on the phone, how might it have changed the outcome of the story?



FACTS WITHOUT FEELINGS

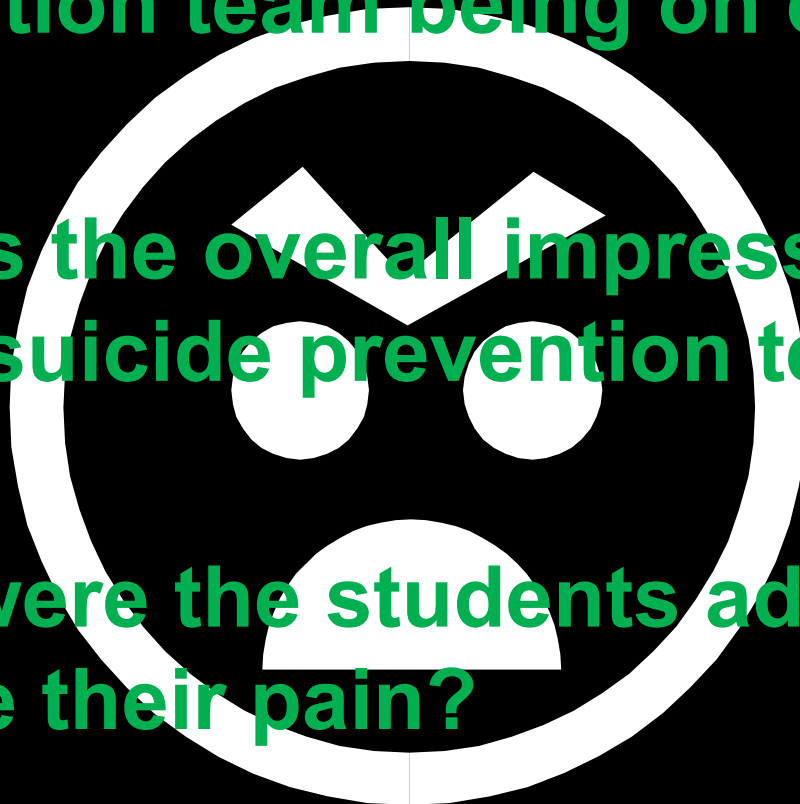
Study Questions

- **What police officer was called to the scene?**
- **Why do you think Andy left for school, but then came back home?**
- **What do we know from the report about his friends and their concern for Andy?**
- **What did Monty notice when he came home with his mother?**
- **Who was there at Andy's house with his mother and Monty?**
- **What police officer was called to the scene?**

FEELINGS ON DISPLAY

Study Questions

- How did Tyrone feel about the suicide prevention team being on campus?
- What is the overall impression you get of the suicide prevention team?
- What were the students advised to do to ease their pain?



ANGER AND PAIN

Study Guide

- Why does Tyrone compare Andy to Romeo and Juliet?
- What do we learn about Tyrone's and B.J.'s relationship?
- In his letter to Andy, Gerald seems particularly angry at Andy. Why?
- Marcus addresses his letter to "Andrew" instead of Andy. Why do you think he does this?
- How does Rhonda feel about Andy's suicide?
- What does Keisha mean when she states in her letter to Andy, "wait for me"?



“LORD, PLEASE FORGIVE HIM”

Study Questions

- **B.J. and Rob were also good friends. What does B.J. say in his prayer that helped him cope with the pain of Rob’s death?**
- **What is B.J.’s attitude when praying about Andy?**
- **What does B.J. reveal about Andy’s feelings on death?**

THE TEARS OF A TIGER

Study Questions

- What changes have occurred in Andy's family since his death?
- Earlier in the book, the "tiger" is associated with Andy. Who does Monty associate it with now?
- Describe the impact Andy's suicide had on everyone.



In Your Journal...

- In your journal, respond to the following statement. Write a new ending to the novel.



I hope you
enjoyed reading
Tears of a Tiger.