

Chapter 13

1. What is 'scorching'?

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2. ""I don't want it to choose the boy," Littlest whispered." Why does Littlest feel this way?

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3. Highlight all the sounds that can be heard when a Sinisteed enters the house.

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- (a) Bangs
 (b) Thumps
 (c) Snorting
 (d) Pounds
 (e) Whinnies
 (f) Screaming
 (g) Sizzling
- 4. Describe how a Sinisteed inflicts a nightmare.
- 5. His eyes were closed but he continued to call out in panic. "Don't let him get me!" Based on your understanding of the entire text, who do you think John is referring to?
- 6. Why do you think John wanted the Old Lady's story to be about the beach?



7. At the end of the chapter, what does Thin Elderly ask Littlest One to do in order to 'strengthen' John? Why does he ask her to do this?

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Chapter 14

8. ""Now he hates you, right? You thought he was your friend, right? But now he hates you."
"So where'd he go? California? I bet you don't even know. I bet he just left and didn't tell you where."

What do these quotes show the reader about John and his background?

- 9. Describe two ways in which John is cruel to Toby.
- 10. List two negative comments that John makes about the Old Lady's friend in the photograph.
- 11. How did the Old Lady's friend die?
- 12. What violent act does **John** offer to commit on Toby?

13. ""Sometime you'll get really, really mad at him," John said. He tore one piece of toast in half and stacked the two pieces on top of each other.
"Then you won't want him. You'll probably give him away." "You'll probably give him to some jerk with no TV," - John

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Why does John think this might happen to Toby?

Chapter 15

- 14. Highlight **aspects of the lady's apartment** that she finds unpleasant.
 - (a) Stacked unopened cartons
 - (b) Smoke from her cigarette
 - (c) Stained rug
 - (d) Dirty dishes
 - (e) Old wallpaper
 - (f) Unopened pizza box with stale crusts inside
 - (g) Cockroaches
- 15. What kind of job is the lady looking for and why?



16. Has the lady ever left her son, John alone before?

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- 17. ""He's gone. I don't know where he is. I probably didn't even need the restraining order. I think he went to California." Who do you think she is referring to in this sentence?
- 18. "He's my best friend, you know?" Why do you think the social worker on the phone did not like this statement?
- 19. "Listen, I'll call you back as soon as I get a job. And you make sure he's treated okay! And tell him well, tell him I'm working on it, and he'll be back home soon, and I love him, and—" Huddled on the couch, clutching the phone, the young woman began to cry. "Tell him I dreamed about him last night," she said.

What do these quotes show us about John's mom? 20. "I lost it, okay? It was a bad time for me. I did some stupid things." What do you think John's mom might have done that caused her to lose custody of John?



ANSWERS

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. J.O.

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1. Hot breaths and Exhalation.

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- 2. The boy was not as strong as the woman as he cried before he slept.
- 3. (b) Thumps
 (c) Snorting
 (d) Pounds
 (e) Whinnies
- 4. They would lean their massive heads down towards the victims and then like an engine releasing stream, they snort a hissing emanation of breath that envelops the victim's head.
- 5. His father and the terrible memories he has of being abused by him.
- 6. He misses his mom and this was one of the best memories he had.

7. He wanted Littlest to gather her best fragments because John had just received a nightmare and Thin Elderly wanted him to have a good dream to recover.

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- 8. (1) John uses the word 'hate' to describe how he thinks the Old Lady's friend might feel about her, which shows us that he thinks hate is a normal emotion to have in a relationship. He assumes that the Old Lady might act like his father as he has had a bad experience with an authority figure before and assumes that everyone would treat him badly.
 - (2) When John asks **"You thought he was your friend right?"** it shows that he assumes that the Old Lady was betrayed because he himself has been betrayed by a loved one. He feels hurt and distressed about his father's behaviour towards him.



(3) The words "I bet you don't even know" and "I bet he just left" shows that he is struggling with the absence of his father, who has abandoned him. His background clearly contains a lot of trauma as he has to deal with pain and abuse.

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Therefore I think that John is a very troubled child with a dark and difficult past to overcome.

- 9. He gave a fingerful of soggy cereal to Toby then withdrew it quickly when he sniffed it and gave him a light kick using his sneakers.
- 10. He thought that the old lady's friend just left her and did not tell her where and tha the never wrote her anything or sent her money.
- 11. He died in war in France.
- 12. He offered to shoot Toby with a gun.
- 13. John thinks this would happen to anyone who is loved, as it is an experience that he is suffering through at the moment.



- 14. (a) Stacked unopened cartons
 - (c) Stained rug
 - (d) Dirty dishes
 - (f) Unopened pizza box with stale crusts inside

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15. The lady was looking for a job that was part time, like eight to two so that she could be home when John was home from school.

16. Yes.

- 17. Duane, John's father.
- 18. The social worker thought that the mother would start treating John like her friend and not set limits as she ought to do with a son.
- 19. These quotes show that John's mom really misses John and wants to see him again.
- 20. Possible Answers:
 - (1) She left John all alone at home
 - (2) She might be on drugs
 - (3) She might not be able to provide a clean, stable home

(4) She might not have a job

(5) She might not be able to afford to raise John

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