

Dynamic Character Tracker

Directions: In order to determine whether John or Lorraine matured during the course of the novel, use the adjectives below to fill in the following chart. Each adjective may be used more than once. You may add any other adjectives that you think are appropriate.

Truthful	Intelligent	Trusting	Humorous
Deceitful	Foolish	Suspicious	Serious
Friendly	Destructive	Compassionate	Short-tempered
Unfriendly	Vulnerable	Insensitive	Patient
Trustworthy	Disobedient	Lonely	Imaginative
Uncertain	Inquisitive	Confident	Depressed

Character	Beginning of Book	End of Book
John		
Lorraine		

The Pigman

by Paul Zindel

Novel Activity Booklet

Name _____

Period _____



Points Earned _____

Grade _____

Chapter 1-3 Reading Guide



1. What reputation did John earn as a high school freshmen? Why?
2. How did his behavior change when he became a sophomore? Explain.
3. Why are John and Lorraine writing the memorial epic?
4. How does Lorraine's reason for writing about the Pigman differ from John's?
5. What is John's "source problem," according to Lorraine?
6. How did Lorraine and John first meet? Describe this.
7. What is John's opinion about Lorraine's mother?
8. What is John's opinion of his own father?
9. Why does John describe the game he played with Lorraine, Dennis and Norton as a "telephone marathon"?
10. What confession is made at the end of the chapter and who is being blamed?

More on Simile:

Similes are figures of speech in which two unlike objects are compared, using the words "like" or "as." For example:

They just whisked Mr. Pignati away on a stretcher like an old sack of potatoes.

What is being compared in the simile above?

_____ to _____

What is the effect of this comparison?

What is being compared in the following simile:

A big plow came down Forest Avenue, scooping snow right into the front of it and throwing it out the top through this pipe contraption. It looked like a black dragon devouring everything it touched.

_____ to _____

What is the effect of this comparison?



***The Pigman* Figurative Language: Similes and Metaphors**

Directions: Similes and metaphors are figures of speech that compare one thing to another. For each of the sentences below, (a) write down what is being compared, and (b) explain the comparison.

Example: John thought of Dennis and Norton as two amoebae who were too insignificant to be considered good friends.

Dennis and Norton, amoebae

Their unimportance in John's life

1. Lorraine had very interesting green eyes that scanned like nervous radar.

a.

b.

2. Lorraine did not consider herself Miss America, but she felt that she was not the abominable snow-woman either.

a.

b.

3. Mr. Pignati let out a tiny cry almost like a puppy that had been stepped on by mistake.

a.

b.

4. It seemed as if the monkeys knew something had happened because they started making noise and pulling against the bars. I thought they were going to tear them out of the frames, and I wanted to put my hands to ears to shut out the jungle that had surrounded us.

a.

b.

5. Right in the bright sunlight you could see the flashing dome of the ambulance going like crazy, pulsing like a heartbeat.

a.

b.

Directions: Analyze the main characters from the novel, using the methods of characterization.

Method	John Conlan	Lorraine Jensen
Statement by the Author		
Character Appearance		
Character's Thoughts		
Character's Actions		
Reactions of and to the character		
Character Conversations		
Reactions to the Setting		

Chapter 4-6 Reading Guide



1. How did Lorraine and John first make contact with the Pigman?
2. What excuse did Lorraine give the Pigman?
3. Why does Lorraine think that John can't really be blamed for lying?
4. Why did John's mother refuse to give him money when he asked for it?
5. What argument did John use to persuade Lorraine to go to visit the Pigman?
6. What was John's impression of Mr. Pignati when he and Lorraine visited the Pignati house?
7. How did Lorraine explain her late arrival home? Why?
8. What does Lorraine think of her mother?
9. What were Lorraine's reactions to what she saw at the zoo?
10. What was the Pigman's reason for going to the zoo so often?

Pigman: Symbolism

Directions: A symbol is something that represents or stands for something else. In *The Pigman* certain characters, places, objects come to represent ideas in the minds of Lorraine and John. Explain what those ideas are by answering the questions below.

1. What does Bobo symbolize to Mr. Pignati?
2. Reread the paragraph in Chapter 8, beginning, "The three monkey's were hugging each other desperately..."
 - a. The topic of the paragraph is a symbol. What is that symbol?
 - b. Which characters in the novel does Lorraine associate with this symbol? The last two sentences of Chapter 8 provide this information.
 - c. What ideas does the symbol and the people she associates with it represent to Lorraine? Reread the paragraph in Chapter 10, beginning, "John took extra long coming back..." to find out.
3. Reread the paragraph in Chapter 15, beginning, "Didn't she know how sick to my stomach it made be feel..."
 - a. What do baboons stand for in John's mind?
 - b. John refers again to baboons at the very end of the book. How does he relate this symbol to his decision to take responsibility for his life?
4. Although the symbol is basically the same in each of the examples just given, its meaning is different in the minds of John, Lorraine, and Mr. Pignati. What do the varying interpretations of the symbol suggest to you about the personalities of these characters?

Theme:

In literature, the theme refers to the author's message of the central ideas in a work. As you read *The Pigman*, record allusions to each of the themes shown in the chart below.

Theme	Text Example	Page #	Explain how example supports the theme
Dealing with Death			
Friendship			
Family & Relationships			
Responsibility			

Recalling Details

The names of four Franklin High School teachers are written in the boxes below. Read each phrase in the list beneath the four boxes and write its letter in the box of the teacher to whom it applies. *Hint:* Some of the phrases do not relate to any of the four teachers.

MISS REILLEN	MR. WEINER
MISS STEWART	MISS KING

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. the Cricket | j. wore tight clothes |
| b. caught the Bathroom Bomber | k. teacher of a course called Problems of American Democracy |
| c. an English teacher | l. the school nurse |
| d. had a sick mother at home | m. the school principal |
| e. may not have had money to buy clothes, according to Lorraine | n. the typing teacher |
| f. called John a card | o. a substitute teacher |
| g. gave John a higher mark than Lorraine had been given | p. provided the typewriter used by John and Lorraine |
| h. the school librarian | q. was resented by John for trying to sound up-to-date |
| i. wore stockings that made a scratchy sound | r. taught the last class of John and Lorraine's school day |

Theme:

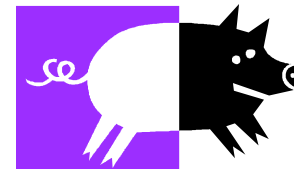
In literature, the theme refers to the author's message of the central ideas in a work. As you read *The Pigman*, record allusions to each of the themes shown in the chart below.

Theme	Text Example	Page #	Explain how example supports the theme
Maturing			
Friendship			
Family			
Trusting Others			

***The Pigman*
Cause-Effect Relationships**

Each of the incomplete sentences on the left-hand side states a cause. Choose the phrase (or effect) from the right-hand side that best completes the sentences. Write its letter in the blank.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. ____ Because Norton was teased about playing with dolls, he | a. earned a tough reputation by fighting and stealing |
| 2. ____ Because Mr. Conlan seemed amused by John's drinking, John | b. confessed about the fake charity |
| 3. ____ Because the Pigman had been so good to John and Lorraine, they | c. continued the habit as a way of getting attention |
| 4. ____ Because Mrs. Jensen had been betrayed by her husband, she | d. distrusted and seemed to hates all men |
| 5. ____ Because John began combing his hair and using shaving lotion, Lorraine | e. got to go home rather than to the police station |
| 6. ____ Because John and Lorraine had never been able to return their friend's hospitality, | f. sensed their relationship they was changing |
| 7. ____ Because Melissa Dumas joined John in dancing on roller skates, Lorraine | g. telephoned Mr. Pignati and asked him to go to the zoo with them |
| 8. ____ Because Mr. Pignati had not pressed charges' John and Lorraine | h. was pink with jealousy |
| 9. ____ Because John and Lorraine felt extremely guilty about the damage done at the party, they | i. went overboard in asking guests to the party |
| 10. ____ Because she could not look anyone in the eye after the party, Lorraine | j. wore Ben Franklin sunglasses to the zoo |



Chapters 13-15 Reading Guide



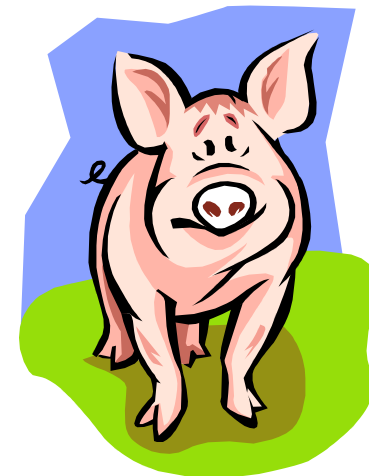
1. How did John justify holding a party at the Pignati house?
2. Who was not invited to the party? Why?
3. In what ways did the party get out of hand? List specific examples.
4. Who arrives at the party in a taxi?
5. What was the reaction of Lorraine's mother upon learning of her daughter's involvement at the party?
6. Why did Lorraine decide that her mother could never really understand her?
7. Why did the Pigman collapse at the zoo?
8. How did Lorraine react to the Pigman's collapse?
9. Does John care about Mr. Pignati?
10. How are Lorraine and John different after their involvement with the Pigman? What did they learn from their experience?

Literary Element: Point of View

1. What is unusual about the point of view in *The Pigman*?

2. What are the advantages of this point of view?

3. What are the limitations of this point of view?



Chapter 7-9 Reading Guide



1. Why did John and Lorraine go to the cemetery with Dennis and Norton after school?
2. What did John like about the cemetery, and what was he trying to prove by his visits there?
3. What made John think that Conchetta Pignati was not really away on vacation, as the Pigman had explained?
4. In what way did Lorraine wish that her mother were more like the Pigman?
5. Why was Lorraine especially delighted by the Pigman's buying spree in the fancy food department?
6. Why did Lorraine agree to roller skate out of Beekman's with John?
7. According to John, why had Norton become such a tough person?
8. Describe Norton. What threat does he make? How is this an example of foreshadowing?
9. How does John explain the origins of his beer drinking?
10. In what ways did John find his parents different from the Pigman?

Character Traits

Directions: Below is a list of traits that might be used to describe some of the characters in *The Pigman*. Some of these traits refer to Lorraine, other to John, and some refer to both. In the spaces provided, give an example of how the person demonstrates each trait. The first one has been done for you.

Lorraine	Trait	John
interested in writing, in people	ambitious for career	interested in acting: flair for drama in his pranks
	anxiety about the future	
	compassion for others	
	feelings of guilt	
	ravenous appetite	
	indifference to school work	
	leadership	
	love of fun	
	outgoing nature	
	poor self-image	
	rebellious nature	
	tendency to lie	
	sense of humor	
	unhappiness with home life	

Chapters 10-12 Reading Guide



1. How does Lorraine explain the reason for her mother's attitude toward men?
2. What did John and Lorraine confess to the Pigman, and what did he admit to them in return?
3. What change did Lorraine notice in the Pigman as he got to know his young friends better? Why does he begin to change?
4. What example of onomatopoeia occurs at the end of chapter 10?
5. Why was John uneasy during the hospital visit?
6. What abrupt change of mood did Lorraine and John experience during the evening of the spaghetti dinner?
7. What changes in John did Lorraine notice after that evening?
8. How does Lorraine and John's relationship change?
9. How did Lorraine interpret her dream about the room in which Mr. Pignati kept his pig collection?
10. What is John's idea? Make a prediction about this idea.

Characterization

Directions: You can often learn a lot about a character by what they say. Identify the characters who made each of the following statements. Write his or her name and then explain what the statement tells you about the character.

1. "Actually, I hate school, but then again most of the time I hate everything."
Character:

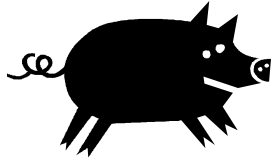
Explanation:
2. "I didn't want anyone really to take advantage of the old man. Some people might think that's what I was doing, but not the way Norton would have."
Character:

Explanation:
3. "Sometimes it's just the way I say one word that gets her going, and she's so quick with her hand it's hard to think of her being gentle to sick people."
Character:

Explanation:
4. "One part of me was saying 'Don't let this nice old man waste his money,' and the other half was saying 'Enjoy it, enjoy doing something absolutely absurd – something that let me be a child in a way I could never be with my mother, something just silly and absurd and ...beautiful."
Character:

Explanation:
5. "We loved each other. We didn't need anyone else. She did everything for me. We were each other's life..." (Ch. 10)
Character:

Explanation:



The Pigman: Cause and Effect Relationships

Choose the phrase that tells what happened as a result of each incident below. Write the letter of that phrase in the blank next to the sentence number.

- _____ 1. John was impressed by the substitute teacher's enthusiasm about commemorative stamps.
- Many students began to collect stamps.
 - There was no supercolossal fruit roll that day.
 - Lorraine call John a lunatic.
- _____ 2. No one spoke to Lorraine when she first moved into John's neighborhood.
- She joined the Latin Club.
 - She deliberately annoyed John on the bus.
 - She was depressed and lonely.
- _____ 3. John talked too much on the Conlan family telephone.
- Lorraine was unable to phone John from her house.
 - Mr. Conlan had a lock put on the telephone.
 - Mrs. Conlan wanted to have the phone disconnected.
- _____ 4. Norton was caught stealing in the supermarket.
- He was nicknamed the Marshmallow Kid.
 - He served a sentence in the reformatory.
 - Lorraine felt sorry for him.
- _____ 5. Mr. Pignati donated ten dollars to the L and J Fund.
- John and Lorraine spent the money as soon as they could.
 - John decided that he and Lorraine should accept Mr. Pignati's invitation for an outing to the zoo.
 - John and Lorraine plotted to get more money from him.
- _____ 6. Lorraine's mother believed that her employers underpaid her.
- She yelled at Lorraine for spending too much money.
 - She quit her job in protest.
 - She felt no guilt after taking food from their refrigerator.

- _____ 7. A peacock backed Lorraine against a fence at the zoo.
- Lorraine decided that the peacock was a second bad omen.
 - Lorraine never returned to the zoo.
 - Mr. Pignati introduced her to Bobo as a distraction.
- _____ 8. John imitated the gorilla's noises.
- The floorwalker told him to stop.
 - Mr. Pignati was afraid that Bobo would be upset.
 - His two companions joined him in creating a din in the monkey house.
- _____ 9. Mr. Conlan had taken John to the see the Coffee Exchange.
- John did not want to work there.
 - John became jealous of Kenneth's success in business.
 - John gave up drinking coffee.
- _____ 10. John explored the second floor of the Pignati house.
- He discovered the Pignati pig collection.
 - He found the papers from the funeral director.
 - He decided that Mr. Pignati was a rich man.

Complete each of the following statements, using details from the novel.

- John earned the reputation of a practical joker at school because
- Lorraine interpreted John's behavior in psychological terms because
- John resented his brother Kenneth because
- Lorraine did not enjoy visiting the zoo with Mr. Pignati and John because
- John and Lorraine began to feel at home in Mr. Pignati's house because