

Shadows by the Lighthouse- Before You Read

Directions: Consider the title of the book. Answer each the following with at least one complete sentence.

What assumptions can be made about the setting of the novel? (“Assumptions” means something accepted as the truth even though there is no proof.)

Think about the word “Shadows”. How does the word make you feel? What ideas come to your mind when you think of shadows? Are these thoughts positive (good) or negative (bad)?

Shadows by the Lighthouse- Before You Read

Directions: Below is a series of statements. Read each and circle the response that most closely matches your feelings on the statement. Then, explain your response in at least one complete sentence.

Life is better with friends.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

You can tell a lot about a person by how they look and who they spend time with.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

People shouldn't question things.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

Children shouldn't question things.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

Children can't accomplish the same kinds of things that adults can.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

It's okay to put yourself in dangerous situations if you are trying to do the right thing.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

It's important for parents to trust their children; it's also important for children to trust their parents.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Explain:

Shadows by the Lighthouse- While You Read

Directions for each chapter: respond to each chapter's journal prompt in at least three sentences. Answer the "While you read" questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 1

Journal- Have you ever moved before? If so, how did you feel about that major change in your life? If you haven't, do you think you would like to move to a new place where you didn't have friends yet? What would you miss?

From the Reading-

1. What details do we learn about Avery?

Mrs. Fowler?

Chief Fowler?

2. What do readers learn about the family in general? How do they spend their time together? How well do they get along?

Chapter 2

Journal- Avery is meeting Owen and Landon for the first time, and his nervousness is similar to what some people feel on the first day of school. How do you usually feel on the first day of school?

From the Reading-

1. Describe Avery's relationship with his mom.
2. What does Avery hope to have someday like his dad?
3. INFER- How does Avery feel about his dad?

Chapter 3

Journal- Avery began surfing to have something to do with his new friends. He wanted to fit in better. What is something new you have tried to do recently? Or what is something new you would like to try to do? Describe the activity and why you chose to/want to do it. Is it easy to try new things? Fun?

From the Reading-

1. What “big” moments (two things in particular) happen for Avery in this chapter?
2. Officer Brown takes her morning to help Avery. Describe what we learn about her as a person from this scene.
3. The chapter ends with, “Avery doesn’t remember anything after closing his eyes, that’s how tired he is. And when he wakes up, everything is different.” What literary device is being used here and how should it make the reader feel?

Chapter 4

Journal- Avery and the town experience the shock and devastation of the loss of Officer Brown. Avery sees how upset people are, and he wonders if he is allowed to be upset because he did not know Officer Brown for very long. What do you think?

From the Reading-

1. "His stomach growls with aggression that will not be ignored."
This sentence is an example of what literary device (metaphor, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification)?

2. "His mother is in the kitchen, mouth in a tight line, eyes staring in the distance. He's seen that look on his mother's face before, many times if he is being honest, when his dad is at work, on days when his task is a little more dangerous than others."

From this description, what can we infer about what has happened while Avery is sleeping? Why?

3. What do the boys decide to do to try to help the situation?

4. Why do you think Owen's dad is not happy to see the three boys at Officer Brown's house?

5. Why does Landon suggest the three boys investigate the murder on their own, separately from their fathers' investigation?

6. Avery is able to come up with a few potential reasons why this crime occurred. What can we **infer** about his father's career and experiences compared to the experience that Owen and Landon's fathers have had in their police career based on Avery's ideas?

Chapter 5

Journal- Avery, Landon, and Owen go visit Mr. Bowen to get some information on town “gossip”. What is gossip? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? In real life, can it be hurtful? Helpful? Should people gossip?

From the Reading-

1. What did Avery expect Mr. Bowen to be like? How is Mr. Bowen actually described?

2. What kind of police officer does Officer Brown seem to have been from Mr. Bowen’s stories?

3. If you were a detective, would you trust Mr. Bowen? Elaborate on why or why not.

4. The chapter ends with Mr. Bowen telling the boys that serious crimes have been happening in their town. Does it make sense that Landon and Owen would not know anything about these things?

Chapter 6

Journal- Avery really worries that he has offended his new friends in this chapter. Can you think of a time that you have hurt a friend's feelings? How did you feel? What did you do to fix it? Or, if you have never hurt someone's feelings, what do you wish people would do when they hurt your feelings?

From the Reading-

1. When rumors start spreading about what happened to Officer Brown, Chief Fowler tells the boys that they need to wait and trust the _____.
Why?
2. Owen's dad tells the boys that he is proud of them for wanting to help and for caring about Officer Brown's legacy the way they do. How do you think that made Avery feel?
3. When Avery approaches his dad later about wanting to help, what does his dad say in response?
4. Avery decides to do a little digging on his own, but he changes his plan to bring Owen and Landon with him to speak to the business owners. Why did he think he needed Owen and Landon with him?

5. Should the business owners give the three boys any information? Why or why not?

6. Of all the business owners, only one helps. Which one is it? Why do you think he says yes?

Chapter 7

Journal- Avery knows that sneaking around the conference room in the police station is wrong, but he does it anyway. Why do people sometimes do things they know they should not do? If you were Avery, what would you have done? Why?

From the Reading-

1. Who do the black trucks outside the police station belong to?
2. What glimpses into Chief Fowler's personality do we get by the description Avery offers of his office at the police department?
3. Name some of the differences Avery has mentioned so far in the book between Summerset Island and where he used to live in New Jersey.
4. What has happened to the crime scene and why?

Chapter 8

Journal- Avery declares that it is hard to be thirteen in this chapter. Do you think there are challenges to being a kid? What are they? And if not, why is Avery overreacting?

From the Reading-

1. Avery describes that Owen is really impressive at juggling the soccer ball, and “Avery looks like an uncoordinated baby deer in comparison. Great, yet another thing for him to practice.”

What literary device is being used in the underlined section of the quote?

Infer how Avery is feeling right now.

2. Early in the chapter, readers learn that Avery and his dad have what in common?

3. What important clue does Avery see when he goes to Officer Brown’s house?

4. Why doesn’t Avery get to play video games with his friend Matt that night?

5. When Avery realizes his dad knows what happened, he wonders if Owen had anything to do with getting in trouble. Why would he think this and why is his confusion such a big deal?

Chapter 9

Journal- What do you do when you are sad to make yourself feel better?

From the Reading-

1. Match the literary device to the quote below: alliteration, personification, hyperbole

“The steeple rises high into the air, seemingly touching the clouds, standing out against the bright blue of the day’s sky.” _____

“Everything was going to be the end of the world.” _____

“That fierceness, that love for her family and friends, it never faded.” _____

2. Why was it a sad day for the characters?

3. What memories of Officer Brown does Andrew? What does this memory say about Officer Brown and about Summerset Island?

4. Think about the comment Mr. Bowen shares. What can we infer about him based upon his opinion?

Chapter 10

Journal- The boys have an amazing night getting to go watch the soccer game. What's been a memorable time that you have gotten to spend with friends or family members? Describe it.

From the Reading-

1. Landon finds a pattern in when the mystery car appears by the lighthouse. What is that pattern?
2. Why can't Avery tell his dad about what they found?
3. Why does Andrew agree to send the footage to Chief Fowler?
4. What is Avery's opinion of the soccer field?
5. How is the soccer game experience made even better thanks to Officer Brown?
6. There are many differences between this team and the one Avery played on back in New Jersey, but he takes notice of one difference in particular while he watches the game. What is that difference?

7. How does Chief Fowler embarrass Avery in front of his friends? Why does Avery feel embarrassed in this moment?

Chapter 11

Journal- Avery, Landon, and Owen spend a lot of time talking about whether or not the Magic 8- Ball could actually work. Do you believe in magic or luck? Why or why not?

From the Reading-

1. What is Avery's mom making for breakfast? Why is this important?

2. "And the event that occurred a few weeks ago should not change that, should not discourage you or shake your pride and your faith in this community.'
It's a sea of nodding heads. Avery is beginning to get impatient."
The underlined sentence is an example of what literary device?

3. What does it mean for the police to "find a lead"?

4. Why are the boys so upset at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 12

Journal- Do you have a favorite movie? If so, what is it about and why do you enjoy it? If not, describe one you've watched recently and enjoyed.

From the Reading-

1. What does Chief Fowler tell Avery that he should do? Why doesn't Avery take advantage of the opportunity?

2. Avery spends the evening having out with both of his parents; readers know that this is not something that happened often when they lived in New Jersey. Infer how Avery was feeling during this time with his parents.

3. The chapter ends with Avery feeling tired, but tired can mean more than just sleepy. What else do you think it means for Avery?

Chapter 13

Journal- Name something that you want to be good at. What do you think you will have to do in order to become better at this goal?

From the Reading-

1. Underline and label the literary devices in each of the following sentences (Metaphor, Alliteration, Allusion, or Simile)

“He sits on his board, bobbing up and down like a buoy, content to just feel the power of the ocean around him.” _____

“Hey, Goldie Locks, seriously? Doesn’t your mother feed you breakfast?’ Avery asks with a twinge of annoyance.” _____

“She’s incredible, your mother. Tough as nails but soft as a marshmallow.”

2. Avery labels Owen and Landon’s strengths. What are they? From your observation, what is Avery’s strength?

3. What band is on Andrew’s shirt today?

4. Landon is working really hard at trying to find evidence to help them in their case, but what is going to work against them?

5. What was stolen from the Summerset Island Police Department’s evidence room?

6. When Owen calls himself a Sherlock, who is he referring to?

Chapter 14

Journal- How do you feel when you know someone is disappointed in you? Does it (the other person's opinion) matter? Should it matter?

From the Reading-

1. From the details given about Officer Brown's calendar, what can readers INFER about her life?
2. What is a toll bridge? If you're not sure, try to look it up.
3. How is Officer Brown's closet different from Mrs. Fowler's according to Avery?
4. Why don't the three boys remove anything from Officer Brown's house?
5. List some important details Avery learned about Officer Brown from her journals.

6. List important information Landon was able to find on Officer Brown's laptop.

Chapter 15

Journal- Are you good at keeping secrets? Do you think being able to keep secrets is an important quality to have, or are secrets things that we shouldn't have from other people?

From the Reading-

1. How did Avery know to look behind the desk? What can we INFER about him based on this?

2. Name the literary device found in this sentence: "The sunlight hits them immediately, like a police officer shining a flashlight in a perpetrator's face."

3. Why was Avery a little upset when Owen and Landon mention the soccer party?

4. Landon says to Avery, "Maybe your dad is tired of all the high risks. Maybe he is willing to put pretty bows on everything now." What does Landon mean by that?

5. Describe what readers see of Avery's family in this chapter. Do they get along? How do Avery's parents seem to act toward and around him? How does Avery act toward his parents?

6. Who are Owen, Landon, and Avery looking for at the party?

7. What important information do they learn from this person?

8. How does Avery find out who stole Officer Brown's boots?

Chapter 16

Journal- Do you ever feel like people don't expect much from you because you're young? Do you wish you were treated more like a grownup? Is there a bad side to being young? Or to being old?

From the Reading-

1. INFER- why does Chief Feller send the boys home instead of allowing them to be involved with the police work?

2. How do you think Avery feels about his dad's phone?

3. Describe Avery's relationship with his father at this point.

Chapter 17

Journal- Do you believe in luck? Do you have an object that brings you comfort or “luck”? Describe it.

From the Reading-

1. Avery mentions that the front door had been left unlocked the other morning. How does his dad respond?

2. What does Chief Fowler threaten to take away from Avery if he doesn't stop investigating? Is this fair? Why or why not?

3. Describe Avery's performance at the soccer tryout.

4. How does Avery feel when he learns that Landon's father shared information with him about a break in that happened in town?

Chapter 18

Journal- Avery's tryout didn't go exactly as he had planned. Just because things don't go as we originally thought they would, is that always a negative thing? What should Avery do in this instance?

From the Reading-

1. Owen says in this chapter, "Look at Landon actually cracking jokes today." What does this tell readers about Landon's personality?

2. How do you think Avery felt in this chapter's beginning, when he sees Officer Brown's house has been vandalized and he has to call his dad? Provide evidence and explain it.

3. Why is Chief Fowler upset with Avery this time?

4. Chief Fowler says, "I don't want any surprises. But I trust you." Avery's face lights up when his dad says this, but he also feels terrible. This is an example of inner conflict, or man vs. self. Describe why his emotions would be conflicted.

5. Why is Chief Fowler different from other officers (consider the comment Owen makes when the forensics crew appears at Officer Brown's home)?

6. Compare and contrast Owen and Landon.

7. What details stand out to you from the scene in the Fitzgerald's house?

Chapter 19

Journal- Do you enjoy music? What kinds of music do you like? And if not, what do you prefer to listen to?

From the Reading-

1. The chapter opens with “Dinner feels sadly like normal.” What did Avery mean by this?

2. Why is Avery currently suspicious of his father?

3. How does Mrs. Fowler respond to Avery’s suspicions?

4. What used to be important to Avery? What is important to him now?

5. Why does Owen want to celebrate?

6. What do the three friends find out instead of celebrating?

Chapter 20

Journal- What would the perfect summer day look like for you?

From the Reading-

1. Why are the boys frustrated at the beginning of the chapter? How does this help show a theme from the book?

2. What plan do they come up with?

3. Who is Mr. Fountain?

4. What helpful information does he give to Owen and Avery?

Chapter 21

Journal- Do you enjoy having a routine? Or do you enjoy just doing things whenever the mood strikes you? Describe why.

From the Reading-

1. What does Avery notice that seems strange when he arrives home?
2. Avery describes his father as being in work-mode. How do you think Chief Fowler was feeling after learning that Avery was in danger and why?
3. Who do you think was in the Fowler's house? What do you think will happen?

Chapter 22

Journal- What do you think about rules? Why do they exist? Are there unfair rules? Why do teachers, guardians, or parents set rules?

From the Reading-

1. What are the new rules the boys have to follow according to all of their parents?

2. Why is Chief Fowler confident that the police will catch the man who broke into the Fowler home?

3. Avery is upset and thinks that moving to Summerset Island was a mistake. Was it?

4. Chief Fowler is leaving to go to the station and plans to work all night. Mrs. Fowler questions if he should do that, and Avery calls this “normal.” How is Avery really feeling?

5. The boys decide to stop investigating. Is this a wise decision? Do you think they will follow through?

Chapter 23

Journal- Avery, Landon, and Owen get to see all kinds of expensive, shiny planes this chapter. If you could hop on a plane and go anywhere, where would it be and why? Who would you bring with you? What would you do?

From the Reading-

1. Who surprises the boys while they are looking around the planes?
2. Who is helping this person?
3. What happens at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 24

Journal- Avery and his friends thought about giving up many times, but they kept trying to find justice for Officer Brown. How do their actions teach us a lesson for our own lives?

From the Reading-

1. How did Chief Fowler know to rescue Avery?
2. What is the different between a police officer and a judge's role?
3. What motivated Chief Fowler to investigate Mr. Ramsey further?
4. Avery's told he is not allowed to investigate any more, ever again, but what should he be happy about and proud of?

Chapter 25

Journal- What was your favorite part of the book? Why?

From the Reading-

1. How much time has passed between chapter 24 and 25?
2. What kinds of things does Avery have to look forward to now?
3. Do you think the boys will solve another mystery?