

CHAPTER SIX: NOBODY OWENS'S SCHOOL DAYS

Vocabulary: Word analogies are equations in which the first pair of words has the same relationship as the second pair of words. For example: RICKETY is to STABLE as ALIVE is to DEAD. Both pairs of words are opposites. Choose a word from the Word Box to complete each of the analogies below.

WORD BOX			
apprentice	clench	cutlass	intimidate
beaker	crocheting	graphite	Mister Hyde

1. TEACHER is to PUPIL as MASTER is to _____.
2. THREAD is to EMBROIDERY as YARN is to _____.
3. BLINK is to EYE as _____ is to FIST.
4. CLARK KENT is to SUPERMAN as DOCTOR JEKYLL is to _____.
5. BOOK is to LIBRARY as _____ is to SCIENCE LAB.
6. CANDLE is to WAX as PENCIL is to _____.
7. HANDLE is to KNIFE as HILT is to _____.
8. THIEF is to STEAL as BULLY is to _____.

Read to find out what happened when Bod left the security of the graveyard to go to school.

Questions:

1. Why did Bod have an altercation with one of the dead inhabitants of the graveyard?
2. Why did Silas believe that Bod should stay in the graveyard? How did Bod convince Silas that he should be allowed to attend school?
3. Why was Bod "a forgettable and easily forgotten" student at first?
4. How did Bod become noticed at school?

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5. What techniques of the dead did Bod use to try and convince Mo and Nick to change their behavior? How effective were they?
6. Why did Bod consider running away? How did Liza convince Bod to change his mind?
7. Why did the police want to take Bod to the station house?
8. How did Bod manage to escape from the police?
9. Why did Bod return to Old Town School one last time?
10. What compromise did Bod and Silas reach that could expose Bod to future dangers?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Bod should have followed Silas's advice about keeping a low profile instead of getting involved with the students at Old Town School?
2. Why do you think Bod is beginning to challenge Silas's authority?
3. Do you think Bod's advice to stop Paul from being bullied would really work? Do you ever face bullies? What do you think is the best way to respond to bullies?
4. Mr. Persson refers to Silas as a member of the "Honour Guard." What conclusions have you reached about Silas's true identity? What do you think the Honour Guard does? Who else might be a member?
5. Both Silas and Liza place great importance on Bod's potential. What hopes and expectations might each of these characters have for Bod? Why might their expectations differ?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Idioms*—Underline the two idioms in this sentence, and then explain their meanings.
"I think I've got Fear down, but how do I take it up all the way to Terror?"

- II. *Allusion*—In the beginning of this chapter, Bod reads the classic adventure story *Robinson Crusoe*, which tells the tale of a man shipwrecked on an island in the middle of the sea. In what ways was Bod's experience at school similar to a shipwrecked survivor's adventure on an island?

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III. *Metaphor*—What comparison does the author make in this passage?

At the best of times his [Silas's] face was unreadable. Now his face was a book written in a language long forgotten, in an alphabet unimagined.

How does this passage help you understand Silas's feelings about Bod's behavior?

Writing Activities:

1. Have you ever witnessed or had an encounter with a bully? Write a description of the incident and describe how it was resolved.
2. In describing the scene in the miniature graveyard, the author states that "fear is contagious." Write about a time when you "caught" a feeling of fear from someone else. Describe how and why this fear spread and how you reacted.
3. Portunia Perrson suggests that a Visitation would be far more effective than Dreamwalking. Rewrite the scene in which Bod pays Nick Farthing a late night visit. Instead of trying to modify his behavior with a Dreamwalk, have Bod use a Visitation to convince Nick to change his bullying ways.