



Prestwick House
Teaching Unit™

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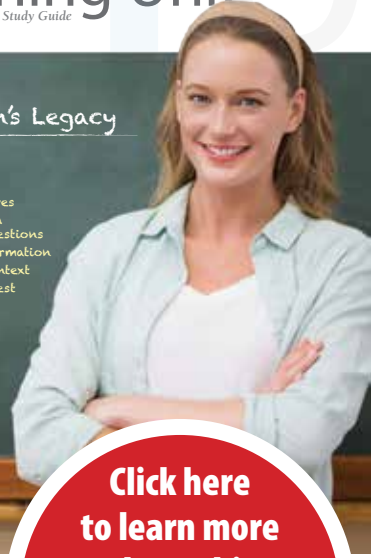
Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



The Pigman's Legacy

by Paul Zindel

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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The Pigman's Legacy

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. define literary terms associated with novels and be able to cite examples of each one.
2. define important vocabulary words used in the novel and be able to use them correctly in context.
3. recognize examples of foreshadowing; speculate on what each example might be foreshadowing.
4. identify the point of view of the storyteller(s) and discuss the effect of the author's use of two different narrators.
5. pick out significant events, scenes, or speeches and explain their significance to the novel as a whole.
6. identify the important conflicts which lead (rising action) to the climax.
7. explain how the author resolves (or does not resolve) the various conflicts brought up during the course of the plot.
8. discuss how the setting influences the way in which the action can occur.
9. recognize several important quotes and explain their importance to the general understanding of the novel.
10. discuss the importance of the supporting characters to the success of the plot.
11. note examples of parallelism between the main plot and the underlying subplot.
12. trace the growth and development of the main characters.
13. find examples of comic relief and explain what tension the comedy is relieving.

The Pigman's Legacy

Activities and Discussion Questions

1. *Make a quick sketch of Lorraine, John, the Colonel, and Dolly. Be sure to include any important physical characteristics mentioned in the book, along with important props each might have had. Attach a list of personality traits for each, drawing from both directly stated and implied information.*
2. Draw a diagram or make a model of the Pigman's house or the Colonel's town house. Include the yard and furniture or other important props that would help someone who had not read this book understand what each building was like.
3. Create a time line of the major events in the novel.
4. *List all the important supporting characters, and in a sentence or two, outline the role (importance) each plays in the story.*
5. Compare Lorraine's family situation with the family situation John deals with. What strength or knowledge has each of these teenagers learned at home that helps them cope with the action in this novel?
6. List the two most important female characters. Choose a present day actress to take the role of each. Explain why you would make these casting decisions based on the words and actions of each of the characters in the play.
7. List the two most important male characters. Choose a present day actor to take the role of each. Explain why you would make these casting decisions based on the words and actions of each of the characters in the play.
8. Write a script for one of the scenes in this novel. Make up your own dialogue for any words that you feel should be added to what is already in the book. You might want to include stage directions and a list of important props.
9. Pretending you are first Lorraine and then John, write an entry or two in their journals. Choose the same subject or incident on which to base your entries, showing what each character is feeling and thinking.
10. If you had won all that money in Atlantic City, how would you spend it. Compare your answer to the way in which the Colonel chooses to spend his winnings and the way John actually does spend the cash.
11. Show how the information shared early in the novel about Dolly is helpful in understanding the role she plays when she meets the Colonel.

The Pigman's Legacy

Chapter One

Vocabulary

epic – classic, long, written work, usually with a hero and a quest
legacy – inheritance, birthright, heritage
pubescent – young, youthful, juvenile

1. Who is telling the story in chapter one?

2. What is this character's technique for choosing books for English class book reports?

3. This character assures the reader that he is reformed. How so?

Chapter Five

Vocabulary

cantankerous – bad-tempered, irritable, complaining
emitting – discharging, releasing, producing,

1. Who is the “ghost” behind the bedroom door?

2. Why is Lorraine doubly disappointed when she meets this intruder?

3. Lorraine and John are not the only suspicious characters in this chapter. Who else is very nervous and suspicious?

Chapter Thirteen

Vocabulary

acidophilus milk – fermented milk
plasma – fluid part of the blood

- 1. What very important information does Dolly tell Lorraine and John before the Colonel dies?

- 2. The Colonel continues to do surprising things. What is his last surprising act in this novel?

- 3. What is the last deed that John and Lorraine do for the colonel? How does it turn out?
