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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



No Easy Answers

(Ed.) Donald R. Gallo

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



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ISBN: 978-1-8049-478-6

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Item No: 300762

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the students should be able to:

1. discuss the use of clichés as a device of personification, using “The Photograph” as a reference.
2. evaluate a series of options facing fictional characters and make informed judgments about the choices made in the stories.
3. comment on the construction of a story, using “Cradle Hold” as an example of how a title, a story’s opening, and a climactic scene hold the story together.
4. cite examples of the use of inference in writing, referring to “Stranger” and “Wishing It Away.”
5. pull examples from several stories to address universal themes including responsibility, guilt, and peer pressure.
6. use the actions of fictional characters to explain the reader’s own actions in certain circumstances.
7. evaluate the behavior of adults, citing examples from “The Photograph,” “I’ve Got Gloria,” “Cradle Hold,” “Wishing It Away,” and “Trashback.”
8. identify irony as a literary device in “Confession,” “Trashback,” and “The Doi Store Monkey.”
9. discuss ethnicity as it is presented in these stories and evaluate whether ethnicity is an issue in the decisions made by the characters.
10. act as a literary critic, analyzing the strengths of one story and the weaknesses of another.
11. discuss the difference between a protagonist and a hero, citing examples from the stories.
12. articulate a moral hierarchy, discussing slight lapses of judgment among the characters in the stories, serious errors, and morally reprehensible acts.

Questions For Essay and Discussion

How Did I Get Myself Into This?

1. In “The Photograph,” discuss Anthony’s size and interests, and evaluate how they set him up to “get into this.”
2. “The Photograph” includes sexism, homophobia, betrayal, and redemption. Give an example of each.
3. In “Bliss at the Burger Bar,” what does the incident with Old Faithful (when he tries to buy fries) reveal about Bliss and her management style?
4. When Bliss leaves Hannah at home, she wonders if she could have done more. What other choices would she have had?
5. In “The Photograph,” Anthony has two points when he had a moral choice to make. In “Bliss at the Burger Bar,” Bliss had one major choice regarding Hannah. In “Moon over Missouri,” Mike made a big decision regarding the contract. Compare their decisions.
6. In the story “The Photograph,” the author completes the story, but in “Bliss at the Burger Bar,” the author leaves Hannah’s story unfinished. Discuss why you think the authors would approach their subjects so differently.
7. Both “The Photograph” and “Bliss at the Burger Bar” revolve around sexual relationships, although these relationships are not directly part of the stories. Discuss the ways in which the stories’ characters make themselves vulnerable because of their sexual relationships.
8. Discuss the differences between legal responsibility and moral responsibility in “Moon over Missouri,” considering Mike’s situation as the signer of the contract, his decision concerning royalties, and the role of the Flaky Four in defending the lawsuit.
9. “Moon over Missouri” is Mike’s story. Evaluate the role Mike’s father played in the story and his responsibilities to the Flaky Four and to his son.
10. “How Did I Get Myself Into This?” is a question that confronts everyone from time to time. Discuss the leadership styles of Lance, Milo, Bliss, and Mike, and tie them back to the title of this section, pointing out the effects of different leadership styles on peers and on decision-making.

No Easy Answers

Introduction

VOCABULARY

character – the level of integrity or morality displayed by a person
ethically – relating to making moral choices
illiterate – unable to read
moral – a sense of right and wrong
retaliation – getting even with someone

1. Does the editor believe that teenagers have moral standards?

2. What does the editor state as the goal of this book?

3. Are all the characters in the stories to be considered good role models?

4. What kind of pressure does Mike feel?

5. What causes the legal problems for Mike and the others?

6. Why is Mike the only one of the Flaky Four being sued?

7. What improves Mike's outlook?

8. What is Mike doing until his case comes before the court?

9. What is he looking forward to?

5. What does Cory decide, and where does he go?

6. How did Cory begin to help the Kim family?

7. What decision does Cory make that paves the way for him to help the Kim family every day?

8. Two sets of parents come to accept Cory's role in rebuilding market. Who are these parents?

9. Cory learns of a particular treasure that was lost in the fire. What is it, and why was it so important?
