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Sample

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



Deathwatch

by Robb White

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



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Deathwatch

Objectives

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

1. define and use vocabulary words from the novel.
2. compose a character sketch for each of the following:
 - Ben
 - Madec
 - Strick
 - Dr. Saunders
 - Barowitz
3. compare and contrast Ben and Madec's personalities and roles.
4. understand the use of control in the novel.
5. identify and discuss examples of symbolism in the novel.
6. discuss the idea of good versus evil as it pertains to the characters in the novel.
7. comprehend stereotypes and generalizations used in the novel.
8. discuss the meanings of the concept of survival of the fittest.
9. identify how prejudice and bias are used in the novel.
10. discuss the use of anger in the novel.
11. understand the author's use of foreshadowing.
12. identify and discuss the conflict of man versus man in the novel.
13. comprehend the conflict of man versus nature in the novel.
14. give examples of the author's use of personification.
15. compare and contrast the characters of Dr. Saunders and Barowitz.
16. discuss the use of fear by the author in the novel.
17. comprehend the element of risk in the novel.

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Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Discuss the essence of human nature as it is handled in the novel.
2. Discuss how Ben's experience can be seen as a story for navigating through life.
3. Discuss the nature of survival of the fittest and how it is applied in the novel.
4. Analyze the following characters:
 - Ben
 - Madec
 - Dr. Saunders
 - Barowitz
 - Ben's uncle
 - Strick
5. In what ways did Ben have to change his basic nature to survive? Do you think this experience has changed Ben's nature permanently?
6. Analyze the connection between Ben, the prospector, and bighorn sheep.
7. What characters in the novel are stereotypes? Explain what the stereotype is for each and why it is used.
8. Discuss how fear and risk are connected in the novel.
9. Analyze the weapons used in the novel, and discuss their symbolism.
10. Analyze the reaction of Ben's friends and uncle to his situation.
11. Do you think that Madec planned to kill Ben for sport from the beginning?
12. Is Madec a cold blooded murderer, or someone who is so selfish that he crosses the border of insanity for his own needs?
13. Discuss the element of control in the novel.
14. How is wealth and status important in the novel? What do they symbolize to Madec?
15. Discuss the nature of the human survival instinct and how it is demonstrated in this novel.

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Chapter One

Vocabulary

accomplished – to have done something well
alarmed – fear caused by a sense of danger
chopper – slang term for helicopter
competition – a contest
congealing – to thicken
disgust – a sickening dislike
ewe – a female sheep
fissure – a crack
geologist – someone who studies the earth's surface
illegal – against the law
intensity – strong amount of force
jarred – unsteady movement caused by sudden noise or action
lugging – carrying or dragging something heavy
outcrops – rocks that stick out from the ground
outwit – to get the better of by cleverness
prone – lying facedown
rack – the set of horns on a bighorn sheep
ram – a male sheep
range – large area of land where animals roam
ridge – raised, narrow strip of land on a mountain
scope – gun part used to see a target
shale – thin, flat layers of rock
sight – gun part used to aim at a target
specimen – a sample of a group
teed – slang term for angry
wariest – most cautious

1. Why is Ben helping Madec find bighorn sheep?

10. How do Madec's actions, up until now, foreshadow the situation Ben finds himself in?

11. Ben still cannot comprehend that someone could be so evil. When does this realization finally sink in?

12. What feelings have been going through Ben's mind?

13. What response is activated in Ben when Madec shoots at him?

14. Madec compares Ben's life to his own. How does this justify killing Ben in Madec's mind?

15. As Ben begins to walk, what plan formulates in his mind?

16. How does this experience begin to change Ben?

9. What does the butte represent to Ben?

10. Why does the butte interest Ben?

11. What does Ben see in the butte that gives him hope?

12. How does Ben show his resourcefulness?

13. Although Ben is in pain and is experiencing dehydration, why does he continue toward the butte?

Chapter Thirteen

Vocabulary

commission – in working order
complicated – difficult due to many parts
distinguish – to show the difference in
distorted – to twist out of shape
doused – soaked
imperceptible – very slight
methodically – orderly
mortised – shaped to fit into something
obsolete – outdated
preliminary – beginning
rations – food
smoldering – burning and smoking without flame
stock – the wooden handle of a rifle
unrecognizable – unable to be seen or heard as being known before

1. What kinds of thoughts are provoked by Ben's fear of discovery and death?

2. How does Ben organize his thoughts so that he can risk the next step in his plan?

3. What does Ben decide?

4. Why does Ben almost bury the slingshot, but then change his mind? What does this foreshadow?
