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Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Among the Hidden

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

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



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Among the Hidden

Objectives

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

1. identify and cite examples from the text of the following literary terms:
 - climax
 - coming of age
 - plot
 - simile
 - theme
 - dystopia
 - utopia
 - third-person narration
 - foreshadowing
2. compare and contrast the way Luke and Jen deal with the challenges of being shadow children.
3. discuss how Luke's attitude toward Jen changes as the novel progresses, and cite examples from the text that illustrate this change.
4. describe Jen's commitment to the rally, and explain how her dedication inspires Luke to seek alternative methods of improving the lives of shadow children.
5. explain how the world of the shadow children is an example of a dystopia.
6. Using examples from the text, discuss how Luke's desire to meet others in his predicament helps him to overcome obstacles and learn more about his own situation.
7. discuss how Luke's isolation shapes his perception of himself, and identify the ways in which Jen helps Luke to realize that this perception is inaccurate.
8. explore how *Among the Hidden* can be considered a coming of age story.
9. define important vocabulary words found throughout the text.
10. define propaganda, and explain how it is used as a way of manipulating people.
11. analyze relationships between the characters and how those relationships shape the plot.
12. identify and discuss the themes of the novel.

Among the Hidden

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. How is Luke's life affected by the removal of the woods and the building of the Barons' estates?
2. In what way does Mrs. Garner's naming of her boys after the first books of the Bible reflect both her religious background and how various religions might respond to a severe population law as established in the novel's setting?
3. In what ways in the novel does the Government suppress progress and innovation by farmers like Luke's father?
4. Describe Luke's relationship with his brothers. How does his confinement to the attic affect it?
5. How does Luke feel about the harsh way his father forces him to stay out of sight, even in situations where Luke does not feel there is a threat of discovery? Does Luke understand the danger he is in?
6. What does Luke learn about the world from spying on the new neighborhood of Barons' estates through the attic vents?
7. How do Luke's and Jen's personalities differ? How do their differences affect the way they look at their lives?
8. What does Luke learn from Jen about the Government and how families like her own view it?
9. What does the word *propaganda* mean, and how does the Government use it in the novel to control the citizens? Are there any examples of propaganda you can think of that are used in our society? What are the sources?
10. In what ways does the author create a normal boy-girl relationship between Jen and Luke beyond the main plot of the story?
11. How does Jen's background as a child of a Baron family influence her plan to hold a rally in front of the President's house?
12. In what ways does Luke's friendship with Jen change his life?

Among the Hidden

Chapter One

Vocabulary

chiseled – sharp and well-defined
defied – rebelled; boldly resisted
harrumphed – cleared the throat
jeered – mocked; poked fun at
lofty – high; soaring
reassuring – comforting
savored – enjoyed
skittish – nervous or uptight

1. Who is the narrator of the story? How does the reader know the story is a third-person narrative?

2. What is revealed about Luke's situation in the first paragraph? How does the simile "silently as a shadow" set the mood of the story?

4. How does the discovery of the vents in his attic both encourage and discourage Luke?

5. What does Luke learn from watching the construction site?

6. The end of the chapter is filled with foreshadowing. In what ways do both Luke's and his mother's words and thoughts reflect coming changes in their lives?

Chapter Seven

Vocabulary

eaves – the part of a roof that hangs over a building
fatigue – tiredness; weariness
halfhearted – without energy or interest
hordes – large crowds; masses
linger – to delay; remain
porcine – relating to pigs
potential – possible
trailing – following behind
trespassing – unlawfully entering onto someone else's land

1. What stage has the construction of the new houses reached?

2. What are Barons? Describe Luke's observation of their appearances.

3. Besides watching the construction, how does Luke fill his time alone?

4. In what way does Jen strike Luke as different from himself?

5. What is Jen's opinion of the Government?

6. How does Luke react to Jen's behavior?

7. In what ways is it apparent that although Jen is a rather reckless tomboy, she is also kind and sensitive?

8. In what ways does Luke's meeting Jen illustrate the narrow existence of his own life? How does Jen react to that fact?
