

BATTLE FOR HIS SOUL

Study Guide

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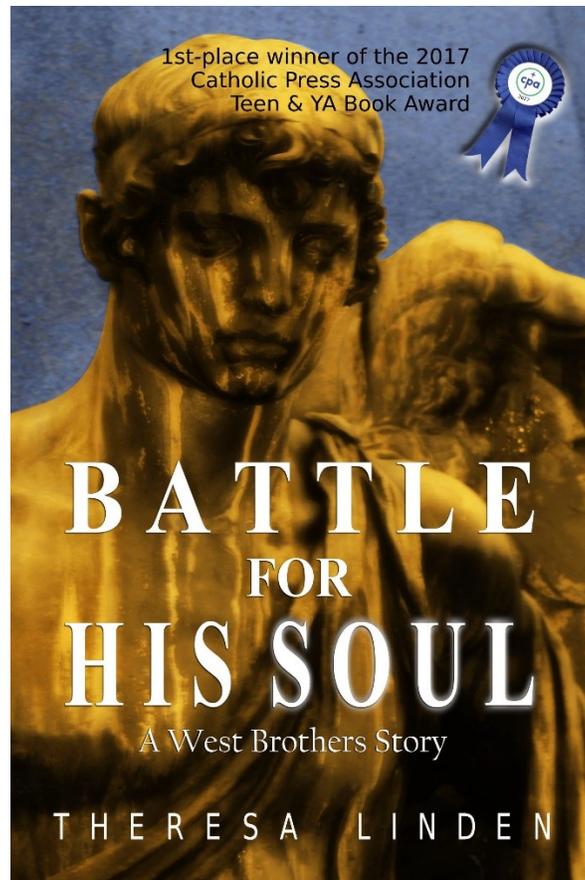


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Note to Instructor

This study guide is intended to help students analyze the story by providing comprehension questions. These questions are designed to be adaptable and can be answered with one or two sentences or with longer essays. They may also be used as discussion questions, as spring-boards to more in-depth analysis. Select the questions appropriate for your student(s).

Synopsis

Jarret West, a rich teenage boy, has been accustomed to having control over others and getting his way. So when his life begins to fall apart, his guardian angel Ellechial hopes now is the time for his conversion. He must be freed from the deep clutches of Deth-kye, the demon bent on seeing him in hell. The fate of several others depends upon Jarret's conversion. Meanwhile, Jarret's twin brother has joined a new prayer group and their prayer before the Blessed Sacrament has made Ellechial strong. Still, Deth-kye wins victory after victory. His weapons: emotions, vices, and memories. Who will win the battle for Jarret's soul?

Note from the Author

A cradle Catholic, I grew up in a two-parent family with an older brother and younger sister. My father was in the Coast Guard, so we moved often, giving me the impression that life was an adventure. We lived in several parts of California, the small island of Guam (it's in the Pacific Ocean near the Philippines and Japan—hard to find on a map), and in Oahu, one of the Hawaiian Islands. We visited many cultural centers and historical sites, enjoyed bananas and coconuts from the trees in our yard, saw wild boars in the woods behind our house on Guam, and we lived through Typhoon Pamela.

My father retired in Ohio, where I currently live with my husband and our three teenage boys. As a teen, the cold weather, flat landscape, difficulty making friends, and knowing that we would not move again dampened my spirit of adventure. God, however, never ceases to care for us, and He soon began to show me an even greater adventure than the ones I previously experienced. Our parish youth group leader's zeal and fiery love for Christ and His Church opened my eyes to the beauty and exciting elements of our Catholic faith. As a young adult, bursting with the desire to share this treasure, I decided I wanted to learn how to write. It has taken years to refine my skills, but I am now pleased to present these books to Catholic teens and adults everywhere. I hope each book sparks in my readers' hearts a greater love for the treasures of our Catholic faith.

Chapters 1-4

1. At what point does it become clear that Ellechial is a guardian angel? What hints come earlier in the chapter?
2. Why is Jarret so reckless on the mountain bike?
3. Where is the Hiding Place and why doesn't Roland want to go there?
4. Why does Caitlyn call a secret meeting?
5. When Jarret and Keefe fight in chapter 3, why is his guardian angel, Ellechial, unable to help him, while Deth-kye is strong in the attack? And why is Keefe's guardian angel strong, having no problem pushing back the demon Hursk?
6. Authors often use body language to convey a character's mood. Jarret convinces himself that Zoe wants to see him again. What does her body language say?
7. Deth-kye uses specific tactics to manipulate Jarret. Name some.

Chapters 5-8

1. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, every angel is an unique species. While this is deeper than we can comprehend, every guardian angel in the story represents a different attribute of God. What attribute does Nadriel represent? What about Ellechial? (See the end of chapter 3 and beginning of chapter 5. Watch for the other angels' attributes as the story develops.)
2. The direction of the story changes in chapter 5. What does Ellechial hope Jarret will do? What does Jarret decide to do instead?
3. When the Fire Starters meet to pray, how are they attacked even then? What does the guardian angel Monettello do?
4. When Keefe is about to knock on Jarret's bedroom door, what does he overhear Peter say and what does his guardian angel want him to do?
5. How does Jarret's impression of a life of faith seem distorted?
6. What memories does Deth-kye use to try to turn Jarret away from faith?
7. Describe the Zamoranos' house and Jarret's reaction to it.
8. What makes Jarret think that his father's trip is more than just a social visit?

Chapters 9-12

1. According to Ellechial, how do demons use memories to tempt people? How does he think Deth-kye is trying to use the memories on Jarret?
2. What reason does Nadriel give for why he thinks Roland is ready and able to help Jarret?
3. According to Caitlyn, what is a *Stop, Drop and Pray*? Is it a good thing?
4. Selena reveals why the Wests have come to visit. How is her explanation different from Mr. West's?
5. Describe the house Mr. West grew up in and Roland's thoughts about it as he sits by the pool.
6. What shows that Keefe is nervous about meeting the Franciscan brothers? Why do you think he is nervous?
7. At the end of chapter 12, what does Keefe think about the possibility of having a vocation? Do his thoughts seem reasonable?

Chapters 13-16

1. How is Roland tempted in the beginning of chapter 13? And how long does the temptation last?
2. How does Ellechial get the shield with the blue M on it? What does this show about prayer?
3. What is Jarret's response to the Zamorano's little chapel?
4. When Jarret's father takes the drink from his hands at the party, what memory does this trigger? How was Jarret feeling about himself in the memory? How did others treat him?
5. Why did Brother Leo call Keefe Brother Zacchaeus?
6. Contrast Roland's and Jarret's goals in chapter 15.
7. What does Jarret do to Roland so he can be alone with Selena? What reason does Nadriel give for why God allows this?
8. When Roland falls asleep, what does Jarret say he has against Roland? What does Ellechial wish that Jarret understood? How does Deth-kye respond to Ellechial's holy advice?

Chapters 17-20

1. Roland finds his father in his mother's childhood bedroom. What does Roland think he is doing? And what advice does he give?
2. In chapter 18, Keefe calls to ask Jarret's advice. What does Keefe tell Jarret and how does Jarret respond?
3. How did Jarret's date go?
4. When Jarret spent time at the monastery in California, he felt trapped and wondered if Brother Maurus ever felt that way. How does Brother Maurus answer?
5. In chapter 19, what tactics do the demons use to keep the teens from prayer? What does Peter say that disturbs the demons?
6. In chapter 20, Jarret was going to ride around alone. Why does he change his mind and invite Roland? What reason does he give Roland for the invitation?
7. Even though Jarret's intention is to get Roland into trouble, how does he seem moved by Roland?

Chapters 21-23

1. Jarret doesn't share Roland's values, but Roland went out with him anyway and then found himself in a bad situation. What does Roland end up doing that he never would've done? How could this have ended badly?
2. After sharing this "adventure," Roland thinks he and Jarret are starting to be friends. How does Jarret react when he comes downstairs and sees Roland?
3. Roland begins to realize that Jarret is going through a spiritual battle. What does he do to help?
4. Jarret cooperated with Deth-kye's plan the night before, trying to get Roland into trouble. How does Deth-kye treat Jarret the morning after? What does this show about sin and evil?
5. Deth-kye has been wanting to wrap the Chain of Addiction around Jarret for some time. How does he accomplish this in chapter 22? Why would drug use be considered a threat to the soul?
6. In chapter 22, what do the grapevines make Jarret think of? How might Brother Maurus's description of the grapevines refer to God and His care of our souls? What words strike Jarret as applying to himself?
7. In chapter 23, Jarret thinks he's changed. How has he changed and how does he think Roland has changed?
8. What makes Roland decide to come up with a plan to catch the thief?

Chapters 24-27

1. What is Roland's plan for catching the thief?
2. While waiting and watching, what does Jarret begin to suspect about Roland? Do Jarret's thoughts seem reasonable? Why would he feel this way?
3. Who is the thief and why has he been stealing from the Zamoranos? How did Juan Zamorano handle this discovery? How does Jarret feel about it?
4. Explain the inner turmoil Keefe was experiencing just before Caitlyn pulled him into the cave behind the waterfall.
5. Since the Fire Starters couldn't meet in the church at their regular time, what do they decide to do? How does the Scripture verse affect Keefe?
6. What have the Fire Starters done to make their prayers even stronger?
7. On the way to Laszio's house for prayer, Mr. West asks where Jarret is. What are Roland's thoughts about Jarret? At what point does Roland change his mind, and what does he do about it?

Chapters 28-31

1. When we pray, we are not alone. Who is shown in chapter 28 praying with the teens? What grace, relevant to the story, is gained through these prayers?
2. Describe the interior battle Jarret experiences in the canyon once he reaches Roland and sees his broken leg.
3. Roland's guardian angel, Nadriel, offers Roland a golden chalice. What does it represent? Why is Deth-kye so driven to stop this from happening?
4. What does Jarret confess to Roland? Which offense explains why Roland is afraid of water? Does he seem to have remorse?
5. What brings Jarret to his knees?
6. What moment from Jarret's monastery experience plant a seed, and how is it fulfilled in the canyon once Jesus appears to him?
7. How do the West brothers get out of the canyon? Explain Jarret's attempts as well.
8. How has Jarret changed by the end of the story?