

LIFE-CHANGING LOVE STUDY GUIDE

by Theresa Linden

(Teacher edition: includes Answer Key)

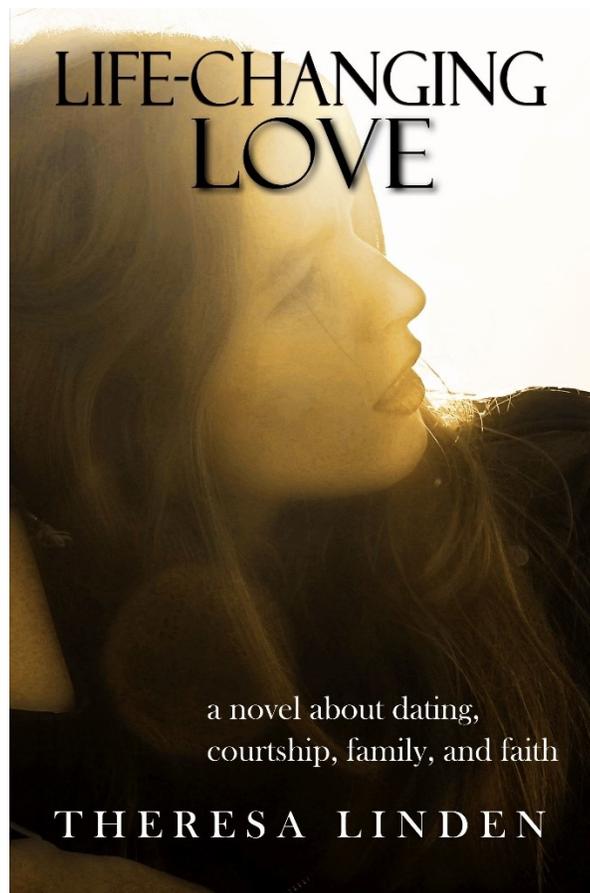


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Note to Instructor

This study guide is intended to help students analyze the story by providing comprehension and essay questions about character, setting, plot, and theme. Select the questions appropriate for your student(s). Suggested answers are at the end of this document.

Synopsis

Life-Changing Love follows three teens as they struggle to find themselves. Caitlyn Summer, soon to be fifteen, must practice old-fashioned courtship with high parental involvement, but she has a terrible crush on shy Roland West and she has competition from a girl with no restrictions. As Caitlyn struggles to remain faithful to God, her parents, and herself, her best friend gets pregnant and might get an abortion. When Caitlyn discovers her mother's past mistakes, she begins to resent all the guidelines her parents expect her to follow.

Roland West wants to help his older brother Jarret avoid loneliness and stay out of trouble, but Jarret wants nothing to do with him. When Jarret winds up a hero, Roland begins to wonder if he is jumping to conclusions about Jarret. He does not want to be judgmental.

Keefe West finds himself awestruck in Italy. He's supposed to help his father find artwork from a collection, but he needs to find himself. All his life he's played sidekick to his overbearing twin brother, and he's just realized he has no idea who he is. Can he find himself in Italy?

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 tiny island of Guam (it's in the Pacific Ocean—hard to find on a map), and in Oahu, one of the Hawaiian Islands. We visited cultural centers and historical sites, enjoyed bananas and coconuts from trees in our yard, saw wild boars in the woods behind our house, 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 showed 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 1-6

All stories contain five elements: characters, setting, plot, conflict, and theme. Authors reveal characters through appearance, interactions with others and surroundings, hobbies, habits, introspection, and by giving important characters a history.

1. Describe Caitlyn Summer, including her interests and goals.
2. What do Roland's thoughts and actions in the first section of Chapter 2 reveal about him?
3. What do Keefe's thoughts reveal about him in Chapter 3?
4. What sensory details are used to describe the setting in Chapter 3? Consider other senses besides sight too.
5. List some of the setting details in Chapter 4 and explain what they show.
6. This book begins with a poem. How does the poem relate to Caitlyn Summer and her story goal?
7. Caitlyn says courtship is not the same as having a boyfriend. How does she explain the differences?
8. What does Roland want? How does he try to get what he wants, and what conflict arises from his actions?
9. Roland and Caitlyn both want to help the Finns, who are building a new house. How might this help Roland and Caitlyn with their individual goals?

Chapters 7-13

Characterization: after the initial introduction of characters in the early chapters, behavior and thought processes develop characters throughout the story.

1. What is Caitlyn's motive for helping at the Finns' house? How does it compare, in her opinion, to the other teens' motives?
2. At the end of Chapter 7, what does Caitlyn discover about Roland and how does it make her feel?
3. How do the museums and artwork affect Keefe's mood?
4. Jarret admits to Keefe his motive for helping the Finns. What is it? What does this show about his character?
5. When Caitlyn tells Zoe that Roland doesn't want a girlfriend, how does Zoe's response move the story forward?
6. At first Jarret refuses to go camping. How does Roland respond? Why do you think Jarret changes his mind?
7. In Italy, Keefe talks to Jarret on the phone and shops for him but forgets the phone calls his father expected him to make. How does Mr. West respond? What does Mr. West seem to think the twins need?
8. Describe Toby from Caitlyn's perspective, as shown in Chapter 12. How does Peter seem to feel about Toby in this scene?
9. In Chapter 12, what does Caitlyn do that is out of character and how does it make her feel?
10. How does the incident with Toby in Chapter 13 reveal Jarret's attitude?

Chapters 14-19

Setting includes the time and location. Setting details allow the reader to experience and participate in the story. These details can also aid in developing character, plot, theme, and mood.

1. Why does Caitlyn decide not to join Zoe and the others at the paddleboats? Why did Roland decide not to join them?
2. Describe Bagno di Romagna, Italy.
3. What does Keefe see inside the Basilica of St. Maria Assunta and how does it affect him? Define reliquary.
4. What story does Peter tell before he lights the bonfire? Is there a message in the story?
5. What incident happens at night that gets Caitlyn thinking about what she would do?
6. Keefe asks his father if the family can start going to Mass on Sunday again. Why does Keefe think his father stopped going to Mass? How does his father respond?
7. Why does Keefe get his hair cut? Why does he think Jarret keeps his long?
8. How does Jarret react to Keefe's haircut? What other self-pitying thoughts does it lead to?

Chapters 20-26

Characterization: to bring the reader deeper into the story, it is better to “show” how a character feels than to “tell” how he/she feels.

1. Caitlyn overhears Roland talking to Keefe on the phone. Why does she want him to tell her about the miracle and what does she decide to do?
2. How does Jarret’s immaturity show in Chapter 21?
3. While Zoe’s relationship with Jarret develops, Caitlyn only sees Roland at school. What does Caitlyn want to do and how does Mya’s suggestion help.
4. What revelation increases the tension in Chapter 23?
5. What revelation increases the tension in Chapter 24? What concerns does Caitlyn have about this revelation, as shown in the beginning of Chapter 25?
6. What mistake does Caitlyn make after Mass that increases the tension yet again?
7. What actions show that Zoe is terrified of discovering she is pregnant?
8. Caitlyn is eager to know about Keefe’s miracle. Why does she go back upstairs and miss the conversation?

Chapters 27-33

Setting: while initial setting details should provide the backdrop against which the story plays out, they can also create mood, meaning, and even conflict in a story.

1. After Caitlyn tells Zoe that she feels her friendship with Roland is growing, Zoe admits something shocking. What do each of the girls have to say about this?
2. Describe the setting details in Chapter 28.
3. What two things upset Caitlyn at the party, and, later, what causes her to run into the woods?
4. How might the kids in the Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell costumes serve as a warning for Jarret, or anyone who sees them?
5. Why and how does Keefe challenge Jarret to a duel?
6. Caitlyn gets lost in the woods. Who finds her and how might this change the direction of the story?
7. When Keefe wants to see Caitlyn, why does he ask permission of Roland? How does Roland seem to feel about it?
8. How can you tell Caitlyn is nervous in Chapter 32?
9. How is Jarret's "meeting of the parents" different from Keefe's?

Chapters 34-39

Plot & Conflict: the plot is a summary of story events. Stories move through several stages. First, the characters, setting, and goals are introduced. Next, characters encounter conflict and the tension increases until it reaches its highest point. Finally, the story winds down and ends with all the story threads tied up.

1. One of the courtship principles is to get to know each other by working on group projects. What do Caitlyn and Keefe do together and what is the point of this principle?
2. How does Zoe convince Caitlyn that she should have a birthday party at Zoe's house? Why isn't this a good idea?
3. How is Caitlyn's guilt compounded the day of the party?
4. How does Keefe show that he's changed and grown since Italy?
5. On the walk home, what does Keefe tell Caitlyn about his experience in Italy? What conflict does he experience now because of it?
6. On Thanksgiving, Zoe admits that she didn't have the abortion. How does Jarret respond and what affect does this have on Zoe?
7. Why does Mr. West call a family meeting?
8. When Caitlyn figures out that Zoe is at the abortion clinic, she treats it like an emergency. Roland, however, is hesitant to get involved. Compare their reactions and the possible reasons for them.

Chapters 40-47

1. Once Zoe decides to keep the baby, describe the challenges she and Jarret face next.
2. How does the Summer family help Zoe in her time of need?
3. At the dig site in DeSoto National Forest, what does Roland do about Jarret's secret? Once Keefe finds out the secret, what does he say about trust?
4. Based on the West brothers' conversation in Chapter 43, what does Keefe think about courtship?
5. After Caitlyn shares Keefe's letter, her mom tells her there is no need to rush things because "This is a time for friendships." Thinking that she'd like to date like everyone else, rather than practice courtship, Caitlyn confronts her mother about her "big mistake." What is her mother's response?
6. Compare Jarret and Zoe's reunion with Caitlyn and Keefe's.

Chapters 48-55

1. How does Jarret's nervousness show in Chapter 48?
2. What did Zoe learn about her baby from her doctor?
3. Explain Caitlyn's self-evaluation and her decision in these last chapters.
4. Describe the chaos in Caitlyn's house and explain how it increases the tension in Chapter 51.
5. Throughout the story, Roland has been focused on helping Jarret. How does he help him again in these last chapters?
6. After witnessing the miracle of childbirth, what does Caitlyn learn about love?
7. Pick one of the characters and explain how they have grown and changed over the story.

Answer Key

Answers should be in complete sentences, written as either short answers or essays, according to grade level, but need not contain all the points given here. Answers will vary.

Chapters 1-6

1. Describe Caitlyn Summer, including her interests and goals.

Caitlyn Summer is a joyful, upbeat, soon-to-be fifteen-year-old girl. She lives in a two-parent home with two younger brothers and two younger sisters. She loves Jesus, her family, and her life. Something of a romantic, she enjoys painting and classical fiction. One day, she wants to get married and have many children. She has a crush on Roland West and would like to get to know him better, but she's afraid that won't be possible because he's shy and she must practice courtship with high parental involvement.

2. What do Roland's thoughts and actions in the first section of Chapter 2 reveal about him?

Roland is a private and determined person who cares about his brothers. His determination to accomplish his goal is shown in several ways: he races on his bike to Peter's house, he doesn't care about the Hazel bush scratching his face, he expects his actions to have consequences, and he pays to have Leo drive him. His refusal to tell anyone why they are following Jarret shows he is a private person. When Caitlyn's face appears in his mind and calms him, it reveals that he likes her. His thoughts about Jarret show that he is worried about him.

3. What do Keefe's thoughts reveal about him in Chapter 3?

Keefe's thoughts reveal his relationships with his brothers and his father. They also show that he feels blessed to be in Italy. However, he thinks Roland should've been the one on this trip because Roland is so hardworking and helpful to their father. He knows that Jarret is responsible for blowing Roland's chance to be in Italy, and he recognizes that he is guilty too because he helped Jarret. His conscience nags him to tell on himself. Other thoughts reveal his anxiety over receiving a phone call from Jarret. This shows that he worries about his twin brother. The chapter ends with Keefe realizing that he has been a follower (to Jarret) all his life and so doesn't really know himself.

4. What sensory details are used to describe the setting in Chapter 3? Consider other senses besides sight too.

Keefe is staying with his father in a hotel room on the fifth-floor. From the balcony, he sees a "sea of red-tiled roofs and pale buildings." He notices a red dome in the distance. "A soothing breeze" blows his hair and carries "the scent of a woman's flowery perfume." He hears "indistinct chatter and laughter."

5. List some of the setting details in Chapter 4 and explain what they show.

It's fall and still nice enough to eat outside. Caitlyn's and Zoe's reactions to the weather show differences in their personalities. Zoe thinks it's chilly outside and wonders why they don't eat inside. Caitlyn thinks it's perfect and expresses her love for the fall. Even Zoe's choice of picnic tables (the only one without acorns and leaves on it) shows how she likes everything to be perfect.

6. This book begins with a poem. How does the poem relate to Caitlyn Summer and her story goal?

Student's answer should show that Caitlyn feels like she is missing out because she doesn't have a boyfriend. Her best friend has had boyfriends since junior high. To make matters worse, she must now practice old-fashioned courtship, which she feels will make it even harder to get to know the boy she likes. She does not get to do what "everybody else" gets to do. Caitlyn no longer wants to be the "sole unbusy thing."

7. Caitlyn says courtship is not the same as having a boyfriend. How does she explain the differences?

She says there are certain principles that a person follows in courtship. A person is encouraged to discover three things about himself or herself before practicing courtship: who they are, where they are headed, and how they plan to get there.

8. What does Roland want? How does he try to get what he wants, and what conflict arises from his actions?

Roland wants to help Jarret stay out of trouble while his twin brother is away. Not knowing what Jarret is up to, he follows him. Jarret catches Roland following him both times, first in the car and second on his bike. Through his words and actions, Jarret makes it clear that he doesn't want Roland interfering in his business. Jarret punches him and accuses Roland of being judgmental. Then he admits that he's been helping a family build their house, and he invites Roland to help too.

9. Roland and Caitlyn both want to help the Finns, who are building a new house. How might this help Roland and Caitlyn with their individual goals?

Roland hopes that if they help get the work done, Jarret will go camping with them. If Jarret goes camping, he won't be home alone and possibly getting into trouble. Because Caitlyn has a crush on Roland, she loves the idea of working on a project with him. They can get to know each other better even without dating.

Chapter 7-13

- 1. What is Caitlyn's motive for helping at the Finns' house? How does it compare, in her opinion, to the other teens' motives?**

Caitlyn is helping at the Finns' so that she can work with Roland and develop their friendship. She believes everyone else is helping for purely charitable reasons.

- 2. At the end of Chapter 7, what does Caitlyn discover about Roland and how does it make her feel?**

Caitlyn overhears Peter and Roland talking about her. Peter gets Roland to admit that he likes Caitlyn. This makes Caitlyn very happy. But when Peter encourages him to make Caitlyn his girlfriend before someone else does, Roland says he's not ready for a relationship. Caitlyn is devastated and races to the bathroom to hide and cry.

- 3. How do the museums and artwork affect Keefe's mood?**

Keefe is awestruck by all the 13th to 18th century paintings, sculptures, and even the architecture of the museums. They put him in an introspective mood and he begins to think of the spiritual side of life. "...it kept striking him that God had given awesome talents to men and that using these talents, artists directed men to God." Impressed by the talent of the artists, he realizes he has no idea what talents God has given him or what God is calling him to do. He thinks of how little he knows of himself.

- 4. Jarret admits to Keefe his motive for helping the Finns. What is it? What does this show about his character?**

Jarret has an agreement with his father. If he helps the Finns complete the work on their house, his father will help him get a car. Jarret has been deceptive, allowing Roland to believe that he's helping simply because he's nice and "doing a good deed."

- 5. When Caitlyn tells Zoe that Roland doesn't want a girlfriend, how does Zoe's response move the story forward?**

Zoe says Roland is shy and that maybe he's afraid of having a girlfriend. She encourages Caitlyn to not give up. And then she reminds her that Mya is after Roland too. Now Caitlyn is determined to listen to Zoe's advice.

- 6. At first Jarret refuses to go camping. How does Roland respond? Why do you think Jarret changes his mind?**

Roland pesters Jarret, trying to convince him to change his mind. When Jarret still won't go, Roland decides he won't go either; he'll stay home with Jarret. Roland tells Jarret that he feels he's only seen one side of him, his bad side, and he really wants to get to know him better. Jarret might have changed his mind because Roland's persistence moved him. In Chapter 13, his

motives seem shallower: he could have a change of environment, be around girls, and keep his mind off Keefe in Italy.

- 7. In Italy, Keefe talks to Jarret on the phone and shops for him but forgets the phone calls his father expected him to make. How does Mr. West respond? What does Mr. West seem to think the twins need?**

Papa struggles to control his temper and then tells Keefe he's not allowed to call Jarret more than once a day. He suggests that Keefe has separation anxiety. He also tells Keefe that Jarret doesn't need him as much as he thinks he does and that he needs to worry about himself and his own responsibilities. Mr. West seems to think that the twins will benefit from being apart.

- 8. Describe Toby from Caitlyn's perspective, as shown in Chapter 12. How does Peter seem to feel about Toby in this scene?**

Toby is nine but looks like a twelve-year-old and speaks and acts like a three-year-old. He has big brown eyes and gazes at sunbeams. When Toby doesn't respond to Caitlyn, she thinks he is overwhelmed by the new surroundings. Peter seems annoyed by Toby's clingy behavior and tells him to go find Mom.

- 9. In Chapter 12, what does Caitlyn do that is out of character and how does it make her feel?**

Caitlyn, who always wears modest skirts and dresses, takes Zoe's advice and dresses in tight jeans. While she tries to convince herself that everyone else wears them so she should be able to also, she feels self-conscious, fake and exposed. She wants to run back to the tent and change. She wants Roland to like her, but she realizes she doesn't want him to like her "for the way she filled her jeans."

- 10. How does the incident with Toby in Chapter 13 reveal Jarret's attitude?**

Jarret doesn't want to help search for Toby at first because he doesn't want the inconvenience and he doesn't see it as his problem. Over two dozen people are looking for him already. "They don't need me," he says. But when Keefe insists he help too, Jarret allows his conscience to be stirred and he joins in the search. Once he spots what might be Toby on a rock in the middle of the river, he grumbles and complains to himself, but he also pushes himself to do the right thing when no one is looking.

Chapters 14-19

- 1. Why does Caitlyn decide not to join Zoe and the others at the paddleboats? Why did Roland decide not to join them?**

Caitlyn decided not to go because Mya was following Roland everywhere and sat next to him during lunch. And Roland didn't seem to mind. "Caitlyn couldn't bear another moment of Mya and Roland," and she felt she couldn't compete. Roland didn't really like Mya's attention and wanted to get away from her.

- 2. Describe Bagno di Romagna, Italy.**

Bagno di Romagna is a famous thermal resort surrounded by forests, lush hills and mountains, and rivers and lakes. Rock walls, decorative bushes, and clean sidewalks line the streets. The buildings, pale with red-tiled roofs and arched walls, have an old-world feel. Keefe thinks the place gives a feeling of health, life, and renewal.

- 3. What does Keefe see inside the Basilica of St. Maria Assunta and how does it affect him? Define reliquary.**

Keefe sees a Eucharistic miracle. On the altar sits an ornate reliquary that holds a white linen with drops of blood on it. The anticipation that has been growing in him all day intensifies until everything but the Blood fades from view and silence surrounds him. He sees golden, pulsating light like a halo around the cloth, and he realizes that it is Jesus' blood. He feels the love of God intensely. He later makes a promise to the Lord to always listen to His voice and to know that God is with him. A reliquary is a receptacle for keeping or displaying sacred relics.

- 4. What story does Peter tell before he lights the bonfire? Is there a message in the story?**

Peter tells the story of a girl who wants to go to a dance. Her mother won't let her, and her preacher says the dance is for the devil. The girl sneaks out anyway. Normally, no one notices her but this night she becomes the center of attention. A good-looking man asks to dance with her and spins her faster and faster until she disappears. He turns out to be the devil and he spun the girl all the way to hell. The message might be that a person should be careful with their choices. Choosing enjoyment over obedience is cooperating with the devil.

- 5. What incident happens at night that gets Caitlyn thinking about what she would do?**

Once the campground is quiet and everyone inside their tents, Jarret invites Zoe to come out and see him. Caitlyn thinks Zoe shouldn't sneak out there alone with a boy because it could open the door to trouble. Mya says she'd go if Roland invited her. Caitlyn says she wouldn't but then she wonders if she would. She wonders if Roland would be willing to follow all the courtship rules or if he would prefer to be in a less-restrictive relationship.

- 6. Keefe asks his father if the family can start going to Mass on Sunday again. Why does Keefe think his father stopped going to Mass? How does his father respond?**

Since his father stopped going to church after his mother died, Keefe thinks his father might blame God for taking her so young. He also thinks that Sunday Mass might bring back too many painful memories. Mr. West tells him he's old enough to go to Mass without his permission. When Keefe bravely suggests that it was wrong for them to stop going, his father agrees but ends the conversation.

7. Why does Keefe get his hair cut? Why does he think Jarret keeps his long?

Keefe wants a concrete symbol of the promises he made to the Lord to listen to His voice and to always remember that God is with him. Jarret never wants to cut his hair because it resembles their mother's hair and it is a way to remember her.

8. How does Jarret react to Keefe's haircut? What other self-pitying thoughts does it lead to?

Once he discovers Keefe's haircut, Jarret feels betrayed and agitated. He almost decides to go home because he's so upset about it, but he stays. Then he seems to take his frustration out on Zoe by trying to make her jealous. His other self-pitying thoughts include: he is tired of Roland watching him and he doesn't like having to wait to get a car.

Chapters 20-26

- 1. Caitlyn overhears Roland talking to Keefe on the phone. Why does she want him to tell her about the miracle and what does she decide to do?**

Caitlyn believes miracles are meant to be shared. When her friend Dominic was healed, it made her think about “the relationship God wants with each person and the confidence everyone ought to have in Him.” She decides to find a way to ask Keefe about the miracle when he returns from Italy.

- 2. How does Jarret’s immaturity show in Chapter 21?**

Jarret admits that he hides to smoke cigarettes. Still trying to make Zoe jealous, he asks Mya to make him a plate of food. He seems pleased when Zoe abandons her dinner and walks off, but he decides not to go after her. He wants her “really worked up with jealousy.” Later, on Bonfire Hill, Toby accidentally bumps into Jarret. Jarret reacts with anger and gets in a fight with Peter. After the priest breaks up the fight, Jarret makes a move on Zoe.

- 3. While Zoe’s relationship with Jarret develops, Caitlyn only sees Roland at school. What does Caitlyn want to do and how does Mya’s suggestion help.**

Caitlyn wants to find a way to get all her friends together so that she can see Roland outside of school. Mya suggest throwing a Halloween costume party. Caitlyn will be able to invite all her friends, including Roland.

- 4. What revelation increases the tension in Chapter 23?**

Roland catches Zoe in Jarret’s bedroom. Roland has been trying to avoid being judgmental and jumping to conclusions, but it now seems obvious Jarret is up to no good. Another answer could be: Keefe has returned home and Jarret reacts with a cold attitude, still angry about the haircut.

- 5. What revelation increases the tension in Chapter 24? What concerns does Caitlyn have about this revelation, as shown in the beginning of Chapter 25?**

Zoe is worried she might be pregnant. Caitlyn is shocked to learn that Zoe and Jarret have that kind of relationship. Caitlyn wonders why Zoe kept their relationship a secret and she wonders if they love each other and how well they even know each other.

- 6. What mistake does Caitlyn make after Mass that increases the tension yet again?**

Caitlyn wants to know about the miracle Keefe witnessed so she tries to get Peter to invite the West family over. When he refuses, she asks Jarret. Jarret says he won’t invite his family but he’ll come over. At that moment, Caitlyn realizes her mistake. Zoe is going to the Brandts’ that night to secretly take the pregnancy test somewhere other than at her house. She doesn’t want Jarret to know.

7. What actions show that Zoe is terrified of discovering she is pregnant?

Zoe puts off taking the test for as long as she can. When she sees the results, she staggers back and bumps a towel rack. Zoe is always so poised but now she is sitting on the bathroom floor. She even digs through the garbage to get the box back out. Wondering if the results could be wrong, she rereads the instructions through “desperate eyes.”

8. Caitlyn is eager to know about Keefe’s miracle. Why does she go back upstairs and miss the conversation?

Caitlyn realizes that Zoe did not follow her downstairs but that she remained upstairs with Jarret. When Jarret storms from the house and Zoe still doesn’t come downstairs, Caitlyn realizes her friend needs her. She puts the needs of her friend before herself.

Chapters 27-33

1. **After Caitlyn tells Zoe that she feels her friendship with Roland is growing, Zoe admits something shocking. What do each of the girls have to say about this?**

Jarret wants Zoe to have an abortion. The answer seems simple to Caitlyn: it is “a real live baby” so she can’t do it. However, Zoe seems to think it’s a difficult decision. She tries to justify the choice by saying it’s legal, no one wants to have to do it, and that she’s too young to have a baby. Caitlyn doesn’t give up. She encourages Zoe to let someone else raise the baby after it is born, but Zoe seems to disregard Caitlyn’s advice, saying, “These decisions are so easy for people who aren’t pregnant, for people who aren’t even involved in a relationship.”

2. **Describe the setting details in Chapter 28.**

The setting details show a fun party atmosphere, beginning with the natural surroundings and zooming in to specific details. The afternoon sunlight creates a “magical aura” around the Wests’ stone castle. A few gold and orange fall leaves cling to otherwise bare trees that stand among dark evergreens. People are all over the West property, busy with party preparations. There is a big purple tent near a spit roast and rows of tables with white tablecloths and jack-o-lanterns. Little white lights hang everywhere. A breeze is blowing.

3. **What two things upset Caitlyn at the party, and, later, what causes her to run into the woods?**

She sees Roland with Mya. He is giving Mya his full attention as she shows off her Marilyn Monroe dress. Then Mya loses her balance, he catches her, and he doesn’t let go right away. Caitlyn is even more upset when she sees the ripped hem of Keefe’s monk costume; she assumes she’d made it too long. Later, Caitlyn suggests that Roland talk to his father about the type of relationship Zoe and Jarret have. Roland seems annoyed at her persistence and says it’s none of their business. Caitlyn insists it is their business, especially since her best friend is in trouble. Upset that he doesn’t seem to agree, she runs off.

4. **How might the kids in the Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell costumes serve as a warning for Jarret, or anyone who sees them?**

Jarret has been making morally wrong choices, but one day he will be judged. One day we will all face death and judgment, personal judgment upon death and the general judgment at the end of time. We will each receive reward or punishment based on our choices in this life. Seeing these four kids should have stirred his conscience a bit. If he had allowed himself to think about it, it also could have prepared him to respond better to the news Zoe gives him.

5. **Why and how does Keefe challenge Jarret to a duel?**

Missing his friendship with his twin brother, Keefe tries to talk to Jarret. Jarret is still angry about the haircut and refuses to talk to him. Keefe challenges him to a duel by slapping him across the face with gloves and announcing his challenge. Keefe hopes that once they fight it out, Jarret will talk to him again.

6. Caitlyn gets lost in the woods. Who finds her and how might this change the direction of the story?

While Peter and Roland also look for Caitlyn, Keefe is the one to venture into the woods and find her. She is thankful and touched that he rescues her, and a bit surprised that he was watching her before she took off into the woods. She thinks of how different Keefe is from his twin brother and even from Roland. Finding tension in her friendship with Roland, Keefe's kindness and faith might appeal to her.

7. When Keefe wants to see Caitlyn, why does he ask permission of Roland? How does Roland seem to feel about it?

Keefe has noticed that Roland and Caitlyn are good friends. He respects Roland and doesn't want to do something that will bother him. Roland doesn't like the idea because he likes Caitlyn too. But he's not ready to have a girlfriend and he thinks she might want a boyfriend, so he tells Keefe he doesn't mind.

8. How can you tell Caitlyn is nervous in Chapter 32?

While waiting for Keefe to come over, Caitlyn shows she is nervous in several ways. When one of her sisters says she sees a car, Caitlyn races to the window but it's not Keefe. Frustrated with her sisters' anxious behaviors, she asks her Mom to make them go away. Then she looks at the old furniture in the living room as if she is trying to think how it will come across to Keefe. She had spent time arranging the candles on the coffee table and gets upset to find someone rearranged them. When Keefe finally shows up, Caitlyn doesn't get the door right away but then runs to open it. As the family sits with him in the living room, Caitlyn is relieved when her father takes over the conversation. And she seems at a loss for words over dinner.

9. How is Jarret's "meeting of the parents" different from Keefe's?

Rather than openness and innocence, dishonesty and tension surround the visit. Jarret came over before Zoe's parents got home, sneaking around with Zoe as they had been doing all along. Jarret tells Zoe he'd rather not meet her parents, but she insists. When Mr. McGowan comes home early, they must devise a plan to get Jarret back out of the house so that no one knows they were home alone. Having an attitude and a lot to hide, Mr. McGowan's questions irritate Jarret and he wishes he hadn't come over at all.

Chapters 34-39

- 1. One of the courtship principles is to get to know each other by working on group projects. What do Caitlyn and Keefe do together and what is the point of this principle?**

They both belong to the Catholic youth group, the Fire Starters. They've worked at the food pantry and will be planning a Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. This principle allows them to get to know each other, discovering each other's strengths and weaknesses, while working toward a common goal. The group setting helps them to avoid situations of temptation.

- 2. How does Zoe convince Caitlyn that she should have a birthday party at Zoe's house? Why isn't this a good idea?**

While Zoe wants the guestlist to include only Jarret and herself, Caitlyn and Keefe, she says they won't call it a date. She reminds Caitlyn that she always spends her birthday at Zoe's house but that they won't have a sleepover this year. Zoe says her mom will cover for them. When Caitlyn says Keefe won't like the idea, Zoe says they won't tell him all the specifics. This is a bad idea for several reasons: they plan to lie or avoid telling the full truth, and they are creating a situation that opens the door to temptation.

- 3. How is Caitlyn's guilt compounded the day of the party?**

Lies often lead to more lies. Caitlyn feels guilt or "like a snake" because she didn't tell her Mom the full truth. She is also worried about Keefe's reaction once he realizes Zoe's parents aren't home, and she feels guilty for not having told him. Once Keefe finds out, he suggests they leave, but Caitlyn finds herself giving him reasons why they should stay. Then she realizes Jarret put alcohol in their drinks, which adds to her guilty feelings, but which also motivates her to listen to Keefe and go home.

- 4. How does Keefe show that he's changed and grown since Italy?**

Keefe encourages Caitlyn to do the right thing and go home. Then he stands up to his twin brother, who has controlled him all his life. He resists the urge to get into a fight with Jarret and instead tells Jarret the truth: "You put yourself in situations like this where you end up doing something stupid, something wrong."

- 5. On the walk home, what does Keefe tell Caitlyn about his experience in Italy? What conflict does he experience now because of it?**

He walked into that church in Italy just looking for his father. When he saw the Eucharistic miracle, he knew at once it was Jesus. Unable to think of anything else, he fell to his knees. The love of God overpowered him, making him want to try to love God back. He cut his hair as a symbol of promises he made to God. He promised God he would be faithful, but he doesn't want to alienate Jarret. Away from Italy and the church where it all happened, Keefe feels like he is on his own with the responsibility to remain faithful.

6. On Thanksgiving, Zoe admits that she didn't have the abortion. How does Jarret respond and what affect does this have on Zoe?

At first, he responds with an immature and violent outburst, hitting the steering wheel and cussing. He takes it as a personal attack: "You're not doing this to me." Then he sends her away. Before she walks away, emotion overwhelms him. He stops her from leaving and tells her he thinks he loves her. Zoe seems moved by his expression of love and decides to go through with the abortion.

7. Why does Mr. West call a family meeting?

Since two of his boys have girlfriends, he wants to talk to them about respecting girls. He's noticed the way Jarret was "all over Zoe" at the Brandts'. He says that God's plan is different than the picture Hollywood paints. Mr. West ends the meeting with a threat: if he finds out one of them is taking advantage of a girl, he's going to tan his hide.

8. When Caitlyn figures out that Zoe is at the abortion clinic, she treats it like an emergency. Roland, however, is hesitant to get involved. Compare their reactions and the possible reasons for them.

Caitlyn sees this as a life-or-death situation whereas Roland is reluctant to interfere in another's business. Caitlyn concludes that Zoe's recent depression is the result of doing something she doesn't really want to do: have the abortion. Assuming the appointment is today, Caitlyn realizes she has one chance to save Zoe from doing something that she will regret. She knows that many women who have had abortions become suicidal. Roland, however hasn't even wanted to believe that Zoe is pregnant, much less having an abortion. He gives Caitlyn the excuse that Jarret never listens to him, so it would be pointless for him to talk to Jarret. Ever since Jarret accused him of being judgmental, Roland has tried giving Jarret the benefit of the doubt and not interfering in his business. Because of Caitlyn's persistence, Roland realizes he must interfere regardless of whether Jarret accuses him of being judgmental.

Chapters 40-47

- 1. Once Zoe decides to keep the baby, describe the challenges she and Jarret face next.**

Zoe will soon begin to show, so she and Jarret must tell her parents. Jarret knows that Mr. McGowan never liked him to begin with, so he is terrified to find out how he will respond to the news. Mr. McGowan responds with anger, tells Jarret he can't see Zoe anymore, and commands Mrs. McGowan to take Zoe to have an abortion. Jarret insists that they will not kill their baby, but this only enrages Mr. McGowan. Jarret is told to leave their house and never see Zoe again.

- 2. How does the Summer family help Zoe in her time of need?**

They help in several ways, which Zoe may or may not appreciate. When Zoe comes over saying she can't stay at home because her father insists she have an abortion, the Summers welcome her to their home. Caitlyn admits to her Mom that Jarret is the father, knowing that her parents might change the rules for Caitlyn and Keefe. Caitlyn also comforts Zoe, who is feeling broken because of all of this. While Zoe might not see this favorably, Mr. Summer insists she follow the same dating/courtship rules Caitlyn follows.

- 3. At the dig site in DeSoto National Forest, what does Roland do about Jarret's secret? Once Keefe finds out the secret, what does he say about trust?**

Roland shows more courage than ever by pestering Jarret relentlessly, trying to get him to tell their father about his "secret." Once Keefe learns the secret, that Zoe is pregnant, he understands Jarret's lack of trust in their relationship. He says, "If you can't use self-control together, why would you trust each other apart?"

- 4. Based on the West brothers' conversation in Chapter 43, what does Keefe think about courtship?**

Keefe says it's not like dating. He likes that he and Caitlyn are always around their families or with groups because it takes the pressure off him. He says with courtship a guy doesn't have to wonder what a girl expects him to do. And he likes getting to know Caitlyn in this low-pressure way, working together and being with friends who share their faith.

- 5. After Caitlyn shares Keefe's letter, her mom tells her there is no need to rush things because "This is a time for friendships." Thinking that she'd like to date like everyone else, rather than practice courtship, Caitlyn confronts her mother about her "big mistake." What is her mother's response?**

Caitlyn's mother says she and Caitlyn's father made many small mistakes before the big one. They always knew they should wait for marriage, but no one in her family talked about relationships, true love, how one thing leads to another, and why sex belongs in marriage. Caitlyn's mother picked up ideas from TV shows on how to behave on a date. She wishes she'd been given guidelines and that she'd understood how married love is an expression of permanent, self-donating love. (see Chapter 45 for other answers)

6. Compare Jarret and Zoe's reunion with Caitlyn and Keefe's.

Jarret's reunion is filled with shock, panic, and fear. While Jarret first longs to see Zoe, he is shocked when he realizes how big her belly now is. And he's even more terrified when he sees that his father is up at school. Since he hadn't told his father about Zoe, he doesn't want him to see her. Caitlyn and Keefe's reunion is less dramatic. She is excited to see Keefe but a bit disappointed when he doesn't hug her after they'd been apart for so long. Keefe and Caitlyn show concern for one another, Caitlyn realizing that something is on Keefe's mind. When Keefe shares that he thinks God has been trying to tell him something, Caitlyn unselfishly suggests they be "just friends."

Chapters 48-55

1. How does Jarret's nervousness show in Chapter 48?

Jarret's nervousness is shown through his thoughts, words, and actions, including: unable to relax, Jarret invites his brothers to play a game of pool. When Keefe questions if Papa saw Zoe at the high school, Jarret's stomach flips. Jarret also makes bold statements that contradict his thoughts: "I'm sixteen...I can do what I want." Inside he's thinking he'd get in trouble for sure if his father knew. When he hears his father approaching, he scratches the eight ball and sinks the cue ball, losing a game he was winning. Jarret's voice squeaks at one point, when he's speaking to his father. Jarret has a few paranoid thoughts about his brothers trying to get him in trouble, etc.

2. What did Zoe learn about her baby from her doctor?

Her baby weighs four pounds and is seventeen inches long. Her organs are completely developed, except for her lungs, she has fingernails, and her brain is still developing. (Zoe is about six months along here. Consider having student look up a baby development timeline or watch the amazing video "The Voyage of Life"—easy to find on the internet.)

3. Explain Caitlyn's self-evaluation and her decision in these last chapters.

Caitlyn recognizes how Keefe changed after having an encounter with the Lord: he now put God first and sought His will, come what may. She realizes that in her pursuit of a boyfriend, she made some bad choices and offended God. God wants to be close to everyone. He wants to be close to her, but she hasn't given Him much room in her life. She begins to realize that in drawing near to God and opening her heart to His life-changing love, she can learn how to truly love others. She decides to seek God first from now on. (answer could also come from Chapter 51)

4. Describe the chaos in Caitlyn's house and explain how it increases the tension in Chapter 51.

Caitlyn is left in charge while her parents are gone, and the house is filled with noise and activity. The baby is throwing a tantrum, rather than napping. Caitlyn's sisters are bugging Zoe and each other. Little David runs out into the backyard alone. There is a milk spill on the coffee table. While all this is going on, Zoe—who is two days past her due date—gets contractions. The baby is coming, Jarret doesn't answer his phone, and there is no adult present to take Zoe to the hospital.

5. Throughout the story, Roland has been focused on helping Jarret. How does he help him again in these last chapters?

Zoe is getting ready to deliver the baby and wants Jarret at the hospital, but no one knows where he is. While trying to help Jarret over the past few months, Roland has gotten to know him better, so he is the one who figures out where Jarret is. He realizes that Jarret is sentimental

and is probably up at the campground where his relationship with Zoe began. He is right. They find Jarret and get him to the hospital in time.

6. After witnessing the miracle of childbirth, what does Caitlyn learn about love?

“Love is about sacrifice, about laying your life down for another.” The love of a husband and wife exemplifies this. They forsake all others and cling to one another. Their love bears fruit, which a woman brings forth through the pain of childbirth, but then she experiences great joy.

7. Pick one of the characters and explain how they have grown and changed over the story.
(student can use examples or quotes from the story, but a general idea follows)

In Chapter 1, Zoe thought she knew herself and what she wanted out of life. By the end of the story, she realizes that she doesn't know who she is yet. She's made a lot of mistakes. She decides to break up with Jarret because she wants to start over. She needs to find herself before she can share herself with another.

Caitlyn began the story envying Zoe and thinking Zoe had it all. She learned to appreciate the courtship guidelines, especially because they allow a person to grow and change and to let God lead. At the end of the story, she decides she doesn't want to have a boyfriend yet. She just wants to enjoy her high school years.

Roland overcame his fear of being labeled judgmental and realized it is more important to talk to someone about their bad choices. He grew in courage. He never changed his mind about dating but showed that he knew himself in this aspect of his life.

Keefe went from not knowing himself at all to finding himself in Jesus. He recognized the life-changing love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharistic miracle. He allowed his heart to be touched and his life to be changed. He no longer went along with his twin brother's bad ideas but stood up for what he felt was right.

Jarret didn't show as much change as other characters. He started off selfish and feeling sorry for himself and he ends the same way. He does inevitably grow in his understanding of consequences for bad choices. He experienced great heartache over his losses, both of Zoe and of his little baby girl. And he does open up to Keefe a bit at the very end, allowing his twin brother back into his life a little bit. Jarret has a lot of growing up to do.