

BATTLE FOR HIS SOUL

Study Guide

by Theresa Linden

(Teacher edition: includes Answer Key)

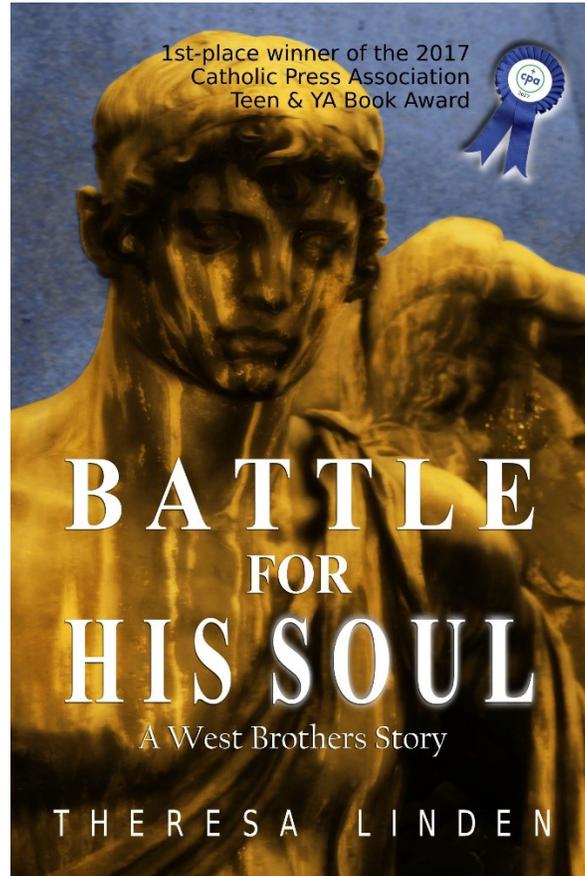


Table of Contents

[Note to Instructor](#)

[Synopsis](#)

[Note from the Author](#)

[Chapters 1-4](#)

[Chapters 5-8](#)

[Chapters 9-12](#)

[Chapters 13-16](#)

[Chapters 17-20](#)

[Chapters 21-23](#)

[Chapters 24-27](#)

[Chapters 28-31](#)

[Answer Key](#)

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). Suggested answers are provided after the student pages.

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?

Answer Key

Answers should be in complete sentences but need not contain all the points given here. Answers will vary.

Chapters 1-4

- 1. At what point does it become clear that Ellechial is a guardian angel? What hints come earlier in the chapter?**

(answers will vary for first question, so no suggestion is given)

Hints include: Ellechial watches and speaks to Jarret, but Jarret makes no sign of hearing him. Ellechial's thoughts reveal that he knows a great deal about Jarret, like his recent trials and sufferings, and his strengths and weaknesses. The words used to describe Ellechial's movements hint that a human body does not hinder him: he "zipped" and "shot" to Jarret's side and he "hovered above him." "With only a thought," Ellechial can make a beetle fly to Jarret's hand. When Ellechial shouts, Jarret almost seems to notice; the hair on his neck pricks and he looks around. When Jarret is about to try a reckless jump, Ellechial says he will do what he can to protect him. Once Ellechial flies over to save him and he spreads his wings, it is obvious that he is a protecting angel.

- 2. Why is Jarret so reckless on the mountain bike?**

Confident and athletic, Jarret throws himself into whatever he does but lacks impulse control, pushing things to the limit. Jarret is feeling sorry for himself because he feels his life is falling apart. He has lost the control he once had over everything and everyone in his life. Jarret feels like there is a rift between him and his twin brother, who no longer goes along with his schemes. And his girlfriend broke up with him. In chapter 4, we learn that he feels great loneliness and emptiness.

- 3. Where is the Hiding Place and why doesn't Roland want to go there?**

The Hiding Place is deep in the woods behind Peter's house, in a cave behind the waterfall. Roland first saw it last year with Peter Brandt. To get to the hiding place, Roland would have to go behind the waterfall and likely get wet. Since childhood, the idea of cold water pouring on his head gives him a near-paralyzing fear.

- 4. Why does Caitlyn call a secret meeting?**

Considering the blessings she and her friends received in the past, Caitlyn feels inspired to form "an intense, radical prayer group." God showed them His love and power by healing their friend Dominic through the intercession of Saint Conrad, so she believes God wants them to keep turning to Him with petitions. She believes He wants to answer their prayers.

- 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?**

Jarret has stopped listening to the voice of his guardian angel. He doesn't pray, and he doesn't seek to do the right thing. Instead, he has cooperated with Deth-kye's suggestions and given in

to his temptations. This makes Deth-kye strong in the fight for Jarret's soul. Keefe, however, has started listening to his guardian angel's inspirations and strives to do the right thing. The demon Hursk no longer has a strong influence on him.

- 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?**

Zoe doesn't smile or step outside when she sees him, showing trouble of some kind or that she doesn't share his feelings. She glances over her shoulder, hinting that they are not alone. When he asks her outright why she doesn't say she misses him, Zoe doesn't make eye contact at first but then her gaze turns hard. She does not want to get back together with him.

- 7. Deth-kye uses specific tactics to manipulate Jarret. Name some.**

In the first chapter, Deth-kye hurls insults at Jarret, reminding him of his mistakes and calling him worthless. When Jarret and Keefe fight in chapter 3, Deth-kye inflames Jarret's anger by reminding him of Keefe's past mistakes and offenses against him. In chapter 4, Deth-kye begins using Jarret's memories. He is also responsible for pushing Jarret to do reckless things, like speeding to numb his mind.

Chapter 5-8

- 1. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, every angel is unique to a 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.)**

Roland's guardian, Nadriel, represents and glorifies the sacrificial love of God. Jarret's guardian angel, Ellechial, specifically praises and glorifies the majesty of God.

- 2. The direction of the story changes in chapter 5. What does Ellechial hope Jarret will do? What does Jarret decide to do instead?**

Ellechial had hoped Jarret would seek his twin brother's counsel, as he had in the past. Keefe is now open to God's will and would be able to give him good advice. However, Jarret decides to go with his father and Roland to Arizona.

- 3. When the Fire Starters meet to pray, how are they attacked even then? What does the guardian angel Monettello do?**

The demons Doubt and Dissension try to instigate disagreement and trouble. Few people show up at first. No one planned the prayer time, and now they don't seem to agree on what to do. The priest is late, making some worry. Peter says he's not going to sing and that he won't pray for Jarret because he wants revenge for when Jarret made a fool of him while fencing. Once Monettello arrives, he chains the two demons and forces them to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament.

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?

Keefe overhears Peter talking about a group of Franciscan brothers who are coming to his family's bed and breakfast. Monettello wants him to hear more and to talk to Peter about the Brothers.

5. How does Jarret's impression of a life of faith seem distorted?

Jarret accuses Keefe of wanting him to think like he does and to give up doing what he wants. He seems to be listening to Deth-kye's suggestion that religion is a way to control and restrict a person.

6. What memories does Deth-kye use to try to turn Jarret away from faith?

A few months before this story takes place, Jarret's father took him to California to stay in the guest house on a monastery grounds. Jarret believes his father took him here as a punishment even though his father thought the visit would help him to think about his life, the choices he's made, and where he's headed.

7. Describe the Zamoranos' house and Jarret's reaction to it.

The Zamoranos live in a sprawling Spanish Colonial home with pale stucco walls, a red-tile roof, columns, balconies, and wrought iron grills over the windows. A servant greets them at the door and leads them into a room decorated with large paintings of Mexican scenes and a crystal chandelier. There are stables and an in-ground pool on the property. Jarret thinks of it as a deluxe resort and says he's going to have "a good old time."

8. What makes Jarret think that his father's trip is more than just a social visit?

Senor Zamorano tells Mr. West that he's glad he came on short notice and that he doesn't ask for favors often. Since their father usually puts them to work on trips, as Jarret's memory of the monastery trip shows, Jarret thinks it will happen this time too. Later, Rufino mentions that something has been going on over at the Zamoranos' house, but Mr. West cuts him off before he can explain. When Jarret says he's leaving Rufino's house, Mr. West starts to tell him something, but Jarret cuts him off, assuming it's related to work.

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?

Demons use memories to ensnare one in feelings of guilt or to lure a person back into a sinful relationship. But Deth-kye is using them to inflame Jarret to hostility toward authority, religion, and faith. He wants Jarret to see religion as a way for people to control others. The demon wants Jarret to trust in himself instead of God or his father and to follow the desires of his heart. Whenever Jarret does, however, Deth-kye accuses him and reminds him of his wickedness. In

this way, the memories will convince Jarret that God has no interest in him. He is too bad for God to forgive and love.

2. What reason does Nadriel give for why he thinks Roland is ready and able to help Jarret?

While Roland lacks the courage to confront Jarret, he longs for his brother's friendship and conversion. Nadriel recalls how at the waterfall Roland pushed himself beyond his comfort zone and beyond his fears so he could go where he had been called.

3. According to Caitlyn, what is a *Stop, Drop and Pray*? Is it a good thing?

A Stop, Drop and Pray is when a person who learns about an urgent need, stops what they are doing, drops to their knees, and prays from their heart for whoever is in need. Yes, this is a great thing because, as Caitlyn explains, we can't always be there to help someone in need, but we can always pray. And prayers are very powerful with God.

4. Selena reveals why the Wests have come to visit. How is her explanation different from Mr. West's?

Selena says they are here to find out who has been stealing things from the house and chapel. Mr. West tells Roland he is there to appraise Senior Zamorano's valuables, especially the antiques, for insurance purposes. Mr. West insists they are not there to catch the thief.

5. Describe the house Mr. West grew up in and Roland's thoughts about it as he sits by the pool.

His father lived in a humble house on a bit of farmland. The old decorations on the wall, pictures of Jesus and Mary and a crucifix in every room, strike Roland as a testament to his father's and his grandparents' faith. He came from a hardworking, devout family. A picture of a 49er and a tribe of Native Americans make him realize his father was interested in archaeology and geology even as a child. Roland is also impressed that his father was friends with Rufino, who had nothing, and Juan, who had everything.

6. What shows that Keefe is nervous about meeting the Franciscan brothers? Why do you think he is nervous?

Wanting to make a good impression, Keefe insisted Nanny cut his hair and he spent a lot of time trying to decide what to wear. He arrives at Peter's house early. As he waits on the front stoop, butterflies flit in his stomach, making him feel as nervous as he had on his first date. Then he's distracted while Peter and Caitlyn talk to him, and he turns his head every time he hears something, hoping it's the brothers coming into the room. Keefe is probably nervous because he's attracted and a bit fearful of the idea of a religious vocation. God is stirring his heart.

7. At the end of chapter 12, what does Keefe think about the possibility of having a vocation? Do his thoughts seem reasonable?

Overcome with peace, Keefe considers that God is calling him to a vocation. But then he decides that God would not want him to abandon his brother to please himself. He thinks God wants everyone to help the people around them, especially those who are the closest. He begins to think it is wrong for him to consider becoming a Franciscan friar because Jarret would never speak to him again and Jarret needs help. Keefe's thoughts are not entirely reasonable because he is not trusting that God has a plan for Jarret too. God loves Jarret more than Keefe ever

could, and we do not always comprehend the ways of God. Keefe's faithfulness to his calling and his wholehearted "yes" to God would do more for Jarret—and for the entire Body of Christ.

Chapters 13-16

1. How is Roland tempted in the beginning of chapter 13? And how long does the temptation last?

Roland is tempted to jealousy when he sees Jarret and Selena dancing. Because Roland is accustomed to listening to his guardian angel's voice, Nadriel encourages Roland and the temptation passes right away.

2. How does Ellechial get the shield with the blue M on it? What does this show about prayer?

Keefe has been praying for Jarret, so the grace from his prayers gave Ellechial the shield with the blue M on it. This is a stylistic representation of the power of intercessory prayer. Even when a person refuses to pray, others can pray for them and bring them real help—though we may never realize the effect until we are in heaven.

3. What is Jarret's response to the Zamorano's little chapel?

At first, his spirit lifts and he thinks that God wants to connect with him. But then he doubts that God would stoop so low. He decides that God doesn't care about the shrine, statues, and pictures; people who think it pleases God are just being superstitious. The picture of Saint Sebastian and the story Selena tells about the saint really annoy Jarret; with talk of conversions, twins, and a girl named Zoe, the story comes a bit too close to home. He responds to the saint story by saying Sebastian should've had his own bow and arrows. "Ain't nobody gonna bring me down without a fight."

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?

Jarret remembers the time at the monastery when he stole two bottles of wine and got drunk in the underground tunnels. He feels sorry for himself because he is all alone and because Keefe got to go to Italy. He thinks no one is thinking about him or even cares about him at all.

When the monk finds him, he drapes his cloak over Jarret's shoulders to keep him warm and helps Jarret get out of the tunnels. He then leads Jarret through the driving rain back to the guesthouse. Jarret's father is not happy with Jarret's behavior, but he helps him out of his wet clothes, even stooping to untie his shoes.

5. Why did Brother Leo call Keefe Brother Zacchaeus?

Keefe follows the brothers out into the woods in the early morning. Rather than approach them openly, he climbs a tree to get a better look. When he falls from the branch, all the brothers notice him. Brother Leo calls him Brother Zacchaeus, making a reference to the tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-10).

6. Contrast Roland's and Jarret's goals in chapter 15.

Both brothers seem to enjoy Selena's company. Roland wants to help his father, so he is working with Selena, cataloging the items in the Zamoranos' little shrine. He seems content to do things with both Jarret and Selena. Jarret wants Roland out of the picture. He wants to be alone with Selena, horseback riding, shopping, anything other than helping his father.

- 7. What does Jarret do to Roland so he can be alone with Selena? What reason does Nadriel give for why God allows this?**

Jarret puts liquid sleep aid in a bottle of juice and offers it to Roland. Roland seems a bit surprised by Jarret's kindness but accepts the drink. Jarret pretends to be his friend while the sleep aid takes effect, encouraging Roland to take a nap because he's been pushing himself too hard lately. When Selena is ready to go out, Roland is sound asleep. Nadriel says God allows it because somehow it will work around to His greater glory.

- 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?**

At first, he says he has nothing against him. Then he goes on to list several things: Selena seems to like Roland and not Jarret, Roland's good behavior and helpfulness makes Jarret look bad, and their mother liked Roland best—according to Jarret. Ellechial wishes that Jarret understood that the suffering in his life was all for a reason. He wishes Jarret accepted that God loves him. Deth-kye tells Jarret that he has no reason to feel guilty because he hasn't killed anyone. He encourages Jarret to follow his own rules.

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?**

Roland thinks his father agreed to come out to the Zamorano's because he's uncomfortable about his feelings for Miss Meadows; he's afraid of falling in love again. Roland tells his father that he knows he still loves their mother but she's not here anymore, so it is okay to fall in love again.

- 2. In chapter 18, Keefe calls to ask Jarret's advice. What does Keefe tell Jarret and how does Jarret respond?**

Keefe thinks that God is trying to tell him something, like maybe God is calling him to the religious life. He wants to know if Jarret has had similar feelings, or if he's thought about what God wants him to do with his life. Jarret reacts with sarcasm, telling Keefe to find a "shrink" if he thinks he's hearing voices. Then he says Keefe's faith is driving a wedge between them, and if Keefe goes through with it, Jarret will never talk to him again.

- 3. How did Jarret's date go?**

Jarret thought it went fine but doesn't understand why Selena won't smile at him the next day. He let her pick the restaurant, so they ate at a little Italian place. He felt awkward at first, but he

made himself relax and asked her a lot of questions. She told him all about her love of horses and where she liked to ride. After dinner, they stopped at two shopping malls. She wouldn't let him buy her anything, but he got a hat. He thought they got along well all evening, laughing, talking, and finding things in common, but her mood shifted when they got home. He wanted to ride the horses or take a walk, but she told him goodnight.

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?

Brother Maurus loves living in the monastery. It is home to him. He says he has his share of struggles, but he knows God has called him to this life. Brother Maurus suggests that Jarret ask Jesus to show him where he belongs. He later encourages openness to the Lord's inspirations, no matter how small they seem.

5. In chapter 19, what tactics do the demons use to keep the teens from prayer? What does Peter say that disturbs the demons?

Hursk attacks Keefe, trying to rile him to anger. Grudge plants a seed in Peter, resulting in negative feelings and comments about Jarret. Peter's stubbornness makes it difficult to uproot. The other demons whisper lies and tempt the teens to boredom, apathy, vanity, presumption, and despair. Peter disturbs all the demons by saying, "...some demons only come out of a person with prayer and fasting..."

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?

Once he believes Roland doesn't know about the sleep aid, an idea pops into Jarret's mind. He decides he can have fun and get Roland into a little trouble by inviting him along. While their father had made it clear he doesn't want them investigating, Jarret knows Roland can't stop thinking about it, so he tells Roland that he knows how they can find the thief.

7. Even though Jarret's intention is to get Roland into trouble, how does he seem moved by Roland?

When Jarret sees that Roland likes a song that comes on the radio, he leaves the song on. Together they sing the lyrics to "Lean on Me." Roland bumps his shoulder at the words "I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on..." Jarret's eyes grow teary and he swallows hard, looking genuinely touched. His guardian angel wonders if it occurs to Jarret that Roland has never shown bitterness despite the cruelty Jarret has shown him over the years. Also, when Roland doesn't seem to agree with the plan to visit pawnshops, Jarret seems willing to give in. And when they reach a dangerous neighborhood, Jarret insists Roland stay in the car.

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?

Roland uses a gun to threaten gang members who are beating up Jarret. They take off but then Jarret is too hurt to drive them home. Roland is forced to drive, though he doesn't even have a temporary driving license. Finally, Roland does not explain the situation to his father when they get home. While Jarret sneaks up to their bedroom, Roland simply says Jarret is not feeling well.

Going along with people who don't share your values opens the door to trouble. While this seems like a bad situation, it could've been worse. Jarret could've been seriously injured. One of the gang members could've had a gun too, and rather than take off, he could've used it on Roland or Jarret. Having little or no driving experience, Roland could've wrecked the car.

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?

Jarret refuses to make eye contact and calls Roland "Judas," insinuating that Roland betrayed him by telling their father they went to pawnshops. He also acts like Roland tried to get him into trouble. Then Jarret bumps Roland as he passes on his way to leave the house. When Roland asks where he's going, Jarret says, "None of your business." And when Roland asks if he can go too, Jarret says no.

3. Roland begins to realize that Jarret is going through a spiritual battle. What does he do to help?

Roland gets out the Miraculous Medal he'd packed in a duffel bag, asks for the Blessed Mother's prayers, and stuffs the medal into a pocket of Jarret's jeans. Then Roland calls his friend Peter and asks him to have the Fire Starters pray for Jarret by name.

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?

Deth-kye spews hateful words and curses at Jarret, calling him a loser and a selfish, wicked brother. He urges Jarret to feelings of guilt, reminding him that Roland could've gotten killed if one of the gang members had had a gun. Even when people cooperate with evil, the evil ones still hate them. Sinful things might seem desirable at the moment, but they leave the sinner feeling empty and laden with guilt after they've made the bad choice.

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?

Feeling empty and sorry for himself, Jarret goes to Rufino's house to get high. He's never crossed this moral boundary before, but if Deth-kye can keep him willing and wanting to do drugs, it will be easier for Deth-kye to claim his soul. Just as with alcohol, illicit drug use impairs a person's ability to make good choices and makes one more susceptible to sin.

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?

The brown, twisted grapevines only have tiny leaves at this time of year. They remind Jarret of prisoners with their arms stretched out along wires. Brother Maurus explains how they need careful pruning, thinning, and positioning of their shoots so they can bear much fruit. This is like

our souls! God prunes our souls of selfishness through the sufferings and trials of life. Brother Maurus explains that the grapes are not good for eating but must be crushed and sit for awhile in the dark, where a secret transformation takes place. Then he says, “you have something wonderful.” Jarret senses that these words apply to him as well.

7. In chapter 23, Jarret thinks he’s changed. How has he changed and how does he think Roland has changed?

Jarret used to be in charge of his life. Whatever he wanted, he got. But now he feels like he has no power at all, and he likes that feeling. He has no goals, and he doesn’t care what anyone else is doing, not even Keefe. He doesn’t care what Selena thinks of him either. He thinks Roland has changed too, mostly because Roland is wearing light and not dark colors.

8. What makes Roland decide to come up with a plan to catch the thief?

Roland is motivated because the thieving hasn’t stopped and they have clues. Selena says something else was taken; it could’ve been stolen days ago, but her father noticed it missing this morning. Roland remembers the maid’s complaints about dirty footprints on the floor in Selena’s father’s den. The hired hands don’t usually go into that room. The prints aren’t from cowboy boots but men’s work boots, and Jarret knows what the pattern looks like. Jarret also brings up the tobacco juice they saw in the chapel. After discussing all this, Roland suggests they set a trap. Jarret and Selena agree.

Chapters 24-27

1. What is Roland’s plan for catching the thief?

Roland hides a heavy box in the bushes beside the house. Two of them attend the dinner party and whisper—loud enough for others to hear—about the box and where it’s hidden. They pretend it’s filled with valuables, Juan knows nothing about it, and that they plan to store it somewhere for safety. Meanwhile, the third person watches from the shadows outside, hoping the thief will come for the box and they can catch him.

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?

Jarret thinks Roland has a devious side that no one else sees. He thinks Roland is not shy but rather calculating. Jarret decides that Roland has only been pretending to want to be Jarret’s friend, but Jarret feels that would be impossible after all the mean things Jarret had done to him. According to Jarret, Roland’s real intentions are to get Selena, to make Papa like him best, and to get revenge on Jarret.

Jarret’s thoughts are not reasonable. Perhaps they are influenced by his drug use, but more likely his guilty conscience skews his views of others and their motives.

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?

Laszio is the thief. His wife is very sick. Traditional medical treatments proved futile, so he has sought the help of a shaman. He has been stealing artifacts to provide the gifts the shaman expects in exchange for his “spiritual services.” Juan is disappointed that Laszio, a Catholic, has put his trust in a shaman over God, but he forgives him, offers counsel, and does not press charges. Later, Juan calls everyone together to pray for Laszio’s wife. Jarret is annoyed by Juan’s mercy, thinking he should’ve done more and at least gotten his things back.

4. Explain the inner turmoil Keefe was experiencing just before Caitlyn pulled him into the cave behind the waterfall.

Keefe realizes this is the day the Franciscans are leaving. He wants to say goodbye and ask if he can stay in touch, but then doubts fill his mind, making him wonder if he really has a calling at all. He takes off on Roland’s mountain bike before anyone sees him. Self-loathing thoughts assail him as he pedals deeper and deeper into the woods. He ends up by the river and the waterfall. Here he resigns himself to the love of God, renewing his commitment to listen to God’s voice.

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?

They pray in the cave behind the waterfall and decide to see if Father will let them in the church later. Peter prays for Roland and for Jarret, as Roland had asked him to do. Dominic reads a random verse from the Bible, which touches Keefe deeply because it is about leaving everything, including one’s brother, for the sake of Jesus and receiving in return a hundred times as much and also eternal life.

6. What have the Fire Starters done to make their prayers even stronger?

They are sacrificing their time and meeting together in prayer. They are praying before the Blessed Sacrament, and Peter is even fasting for Jarret. The angel Monettello says, “Prayer and fasting for one’s enemy is a most powerful means of obtaining grace.”

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?

Hurt from Jarret’s mean behavior, a part of Roland doesn’t care where Jarret is. He realizes that Jarret wants nothing to do with him or any of them. He decides that Jarret is selfish, rude, and unchangeable. In the middle of praying the Rosary with the group, Roland becomes so concerned about Jarret that he takes off after him on a horse. He finds Jarret’s horse near a canyon. Thinking Jarret climbed down a rope into the canyon, and worried that Jarret doesn’t answer his calls, he grabs the rope and starts to climb down.

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?

Jesus Christ is present in the Blessed Sacrament. Angels surround the altar, offering songs and praise in worship. Saints are also there. The saints shown in this chapter are Saints Conrad of

Parzham, Peter, Paul, Dominic, Therese, and Clare. The Blessed Mother has a special place, kneeling beneath the cross. The prayers and sacrifices of the teens have gained grace for Jarret's guardian angel, Ellechial. He kneels before the Blessed Virgin and receives gleaming armor and the assurance that he will have a flaming sword and a bow in battle.

2. Describe the interior battle Jarret experiences in the canyon once he reaches Roland and sees his broken leg.

Jarret hears Roland moan in agony and takes off running to get to him. When he sees the blood-streaked rock, Roland's broken leg, and the frayed rope, Jarret can't believe this is happening. Then anger flickers inside him. He knows it's wrong, but he gives in to the anger and says cruel things to Roland. He's mad that Roland followed him and that they now have no way out of the canyon. Several times, he thinks that he should control his temper, but his next thoughts have him blurting more mean remarks. As much as he can't understand where the hatred is coming from, the words keep flying from his mouth.

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?

The golden chalice represents the trust and sacrifice that God is calling Roland to make. If Roland accepts it, he will offer up his pain, uniting it to the sacrifice of Jesus. And rather than allow himself to feel anger toward Jarret, Roland is called to offer his suffering for Jarret, the one who is amplifying the pain. When we give the Lord our trust, especially in the most trying situations, and we unite our sufferings to His, we merit an abundance of grace. Deth-kye fears that this grace will save Jarret, whereas he longs for his physical and spiritual death.

4. What does Jarret confess to Roland? Which offense explains why Roland is afraid of water? Does he seem to have remorse?

Jarret confesses that he drugged Roland so he could go out alone with Selena. Then he explains why Roland is afraid of water, saying that when Roland was still a toddler, he dumped a bucket of ice cold river water on his head. He did this several times over the years, until Roland developed a phobia. He also admits that the reason he took him to Tucson was to get him in trouble with Papa. Then he confesses incident after incident from the past but has not the least bit of remorse.

5. What brings Jarret to his knees?

Jarret expects to hear Roland say he hates him. Instead, Roland says he forgives and loves him, and that no matter what Jarret does to him, he will always forgive and love him. Roland's acts of love and mercy overwhelm Jarret and bring him to his knees.

6. What moment from Jarret's monastery experience plants a seed, and how is it fulfilled in the canyon once Jesus appears to him?

When Jarret and his father break into the secret room in the underground tunnels, Jarret's attention is riveted to a life-size statue of Our Lord with his arms outstretched and fire burning in his heart. At this moment, Jarret remembers the words of the priest in the confessional: "Jesus waits for you." In the canyon, Jesus appears to Jarret and invites him to come to Him, holding nothing back. He tells Jarret not to be afraid and not to let his sins and weaknesses

stand in the way. "Can't you see that I love you?" Jesus says, showing Jarret the wounds in his hands. Jesus asks him to open the door of his heart to Him.

7. How do the West brothers get out of the canyon? Explain Jarret's attempts as well.

After making a splint for Roland's leg and building a fire to keep Roland warm, Jarret finds a crack that goes all the way up in a little cave on the far side of the canyon. He helps Roland walk to it, pulls him into the cave, and tries to hold onto Roland while he climbs between the two walls of the crack. This doesn't work, but then a rope drops down from above. Enyeto had gone looking for them, remembering how their father had gotten stuck in the same canyon when he was a child. Using the rope, he helps Roland up. Jarret climbs out last.

8. How has Jarret changed by the end of the story?

Jarret shows signs of repentance by keeping Roland company and serving him in every way he can. He even gives Roland the blue and white plaid t-shirt that he had borrowed previously. When he is packing, he notices the angel statue that had been there all along, and he turns his heart to his own guardian angel in a wordless prayer. Jarret had not only gone to confession, but he gave Roland a rough apology. Back home, when Peter says something rude, Jarret glares but makes no reply, showing a level of self-control. Then he encourages Keefe to pursue his vocation, and he lets his father know it's okay to develop his relationship with Miss Meadows.