**Big Mouth and Ugly Girl Highlights – pages 170-209**

**Chapter Thirty**

1. What does a Fiery Red mood indicate?

* It indicates that Ursula was in a good mood – she had the energy to do anything.

1. How has Matt and Ursula’s relationship changed?

* They have become a lot closer – they even eat lunch together at school.
* They talked on the phone rather than emailing each other – it didn’t make them nervous anymore because they laugh now.

1. What do Matt and Ursula have in common?

* They both have a younger sibling almost the same age and they both liked their siblings a lot.
* Ursula says that their mothers are alike.
* Their fathers are alike because they both travel a lot.
* Their fathers were both under pressure a lot (but that is true for most Rocky River fathers who are involved in business)

1. What significant event occurs in this chapter? What does it suggest about Matt and Ursula’s relationship?

* Ursula is introduced to Pumpkin
* It suggests that their relationship is become more personal

**Chapter Thirty-One**

1. Why is “Ugly Girl not-grumpy-around-the-house?” a thought had by Ursula’s mom?

* Her mom thinks that she is back on the basketball.
* She’s probably not grumpy because she’s happy that her and Matt are friends.
* She also might be falling for Matt.

1. What does Ursula’s dad say is the best defense? When does Ursula use this strategy?

* “The best defense, said Dad, is an offense (the act of attacking your opponent). When somebody’s asking you questions you don’t want to answer.” (173)
* When Ursula’s mom asks her why she is so happy around the house Ursula does not want to answer it so she pretends to get angry – she pretends to be defensive.

1. Why does Ursula suddenly ask her mom about her dad’s whereabouts?

* Offense (the act of attacking – offending someone)
* Turning the questioning around on her mother, rather than the questioning on being on her.

1. What does Ursula mean by “Mom, worry about Dad, OK?” How had she crossed the line with this question?

* Inappropriate child/adult role reversal.
* This is none of her business – it is her parents’ business.

1. Who is Courtney Levao?

* She is Ursula’s former team mate on the basketball team.
* She is almost as good as Ursula on the court and was made team captain after Ursula quit.

1. What does Ursula’s mom question her about in this chapter?

* Ursula’s mom questions her about Matt and whether they are dating.

1. How does Ursula respond to this line of questioning?

* At first Ursula remains calm – trying to avert her mom’s questioning.
* She tries to understand why her mom is so concerned now about her life when she never was before.
* But as her mom kept going Ursula started getting angry – FIERY RED.
* FIERY RED: meaning energy – she’s ready for anything.
* When her mother tries to read her email Ursula becomes really angry – closes the screen and gets up as if she is ready to fight.

**Chapter Thirty-Two**

1. What is the latest topic of gossip at Rocky River?

* Matt and Ursula and whether they were a couple or just friends.
* Everybody at school is talking about where they spotted them. Ex. Library, cafeteria, Cinemax, Rocky River Mall, Nature Preserve, art galleries, theatre shows, etc. (185)

1. Why is everyone so preoccupied with this topic?

* Because they can’t believe that Ursula and Matt are a couple.
* They don’t understand the attraction between them.

1. What does Stacey Flynn say about Ursula and Matt?

* She says that Matt must be in a state of shock and going out with Ursula Riggs is like his nervous breakdown.

**Chapter Thirty-Three**

1. What does Ursula say about the Donaghy lawsuit?

* She tells Matt that she thinks it’s a mistake.

1. Why does Ursula’s response upset Matt?

* It wasn’t what he wanted to hear.

1. What charges did the Donaghy’s sue under?

* They were suing Parrish, Rocky River School District, Reverend Brewer.
* On charges of “malicious slander”, “defamation of character”, “professional malpractice”.

1. What is the lawsuit compared to? Why is this an appropriate comparison?

* “Developments were leaked to the media, it was getting complicated like some disease that breaks down one organ, then another, then another.” (190)
* Sounds like it is being compared to cancer.
* The lawsuit will create one problem after another.

1. Why does Ugly Girl feel betrayed?

* Matt has been asking her for her opinion and the truth.
* She gives him her opinion and he gets mad at her.

**Chapter Thirty-Four**

1. What performance is Ursula referring to in this chapter?

* Her and Matt keep pretending that everything is fine between them in front of other people.
* Especially during their lunch time conversations.

**Chapter Thirty-Five**

1. Why doesn’t Matt want to give in?

* He feels that she had no right to criticize his parents.

1. What does “give in” refer to?

* Talking to Ursula.
* Working out their problem.

1. Why does Matt think he is a coward?

* He says that Ursula was a person of integrity (honor – truth) and he was a coward.
* He calls himself a coward because he couldn’t bear the truth – he asked Ursula for her opinion and when she gave it to him he became upset with her because it wasn’t what he wanted to hear.

1. Why does Matt hate Ursula? Does he really hate her?

* He says that he hates her because she is judging his parents.
* He thinks that Ursula also believes that a lawsuit is just about money, like everyone else.

**Chapter Thirty-Six**

1. Where is Matt at the beginning of this chapter?

* At home getting ready to see Mr. Harpie -a psychiatrist – a “renowned” (famous – well known) doctor.

1. Why did Matt agree to see Dr. Harpie?

* Both of his parents had put pressure on him.
* They claimed to be “very concerned”

1. How does Dr. Harpie describe Matt?

* As being sullen (grim – angry) and “uncommunicative”.

1. What does Matt change his mind about? How does his father respond to this change?

* Matt changes his mind regarding the law suit.
* His father tells him to forget about it – it’s too late to change his mind.
* His father seems to be getting angry at Matt for having such thoughts.

1. What has changed about Matt’s father?

* His face had changed – he used to have a handsome fair-skinned face – now it florid and slack.

1. How does Matt’s father make him feel guilty?

* He tells Matt that they need to seek revenge because basically everybody betrayed Matt.
* His father says that his own integrity and his name is at stake all because of Matt’s “idiotic, childish sense of humor.” (200)

**Chapter Thirty-Seven**

1. Why does Ursula get mean again?

* Protection tactic – she didn’t want to let people into her life again.
* She wasn’t happy because she no longer had Matt in her life.
* She admits that she’s becoming mean again: “I was getting mean again, the way I’d been before getting to know Matt, and before quitting the team.” (201)

1. What does Ursula want to protect Lisa from?

* She wants to protect her from the pressures that a young girl may go through.
* She’s doesn’t exactly know what she wants to protect her from.
* Ursula feels that her sister Lisa will not be protected like her.
* She probably assumes that her sister Lisa is fragile and won’t be able to take on another persona like Ursula.

1. Why does Ursula delete the email to Matt?

* It was easier to delete it then to send it and deal with the results or sending it.
* She thought that she sounded pathetic, all she wrote was “dear matt—I’m sorry. I miss you.” (202)

**Chapter Thirty-Eight**

1. What does Ursula find sticking out of her locker?

* She finds a note for a treasure hunt instructing her to go to the library.

1. What did Reverend brewer do to use the media to his advantage?

* He accepted TV interviews.
* He wanted people to know that an injustice was being done against him – referring to the lawsuit.
* He let people know that the Rocky River School District refused to pay for his legal fees and that he had to start a fund at his congregation.
* He says that his daughters had done their duty as “Christian U.S citizens” and were not being punished for it.

1. How did Matt surprise Ursula?

* He left a book for her in the library called Great Twentieth Century Drawings – a book that Ursula was eying at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
* He also left her an apology note on the inside of the book.
* He admits to being wrong and rude.

1. How is Matt dealing with the lawsuit?

* He’s been arguing with his father.
* He does not want to be a part of it – he’s contemplating not cooperating or showing up to court.

1. How does Matt compliment Ursula? How does she react to this?

* Matt tells her that she’s beautiful.
* “You’re beautiful Ursula. Not like other girls but – in your own way. Special.” (207)
* She does not know how to respond to it – she blushes.