**Big Mouth and Ugly Girl**

**Joyce Carol Oates**

The following are questions related to each chapter. It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings, as well as **answering ALL** assigned chapter questions for that day.

If Ms. Kucinic notices *(and she will),* that you are not completing the questions, you may find yourself sitting in a **pop quiz** situation the next day.

Please **answer all questions on a separate piece of paper.**

Most of all have fun and enjoy the novel!

**Chapter One**

1. What is the setting of the novel?
* It is set at Rocky River High School
* Westchester County New York
1. Describe the following characters: Matt Donaghy, Mr. Weinberg and Stacey Flynn.
* **Matt Donaghy:** he is described as brainy (intelligent) as well as humerous. He is also a perfectionist (as demonstrated with his need to get his play perfectly written)
* Physical description: he’s tall, lanky (ungracefully thin – bony) and whippet-lean, whippet – a small slender dog of greyhound type, quick and brisk, like a whip.
* **Mr. Weinberg:** good-natured, sauntering manner (strolling manner) – seems to be very easy going.
* Had a sense of humour
* Physical: he has graying sandy hair, a bristling beard.
* Wears plain clothing – corduroy jacket and matching slacks.
* **Stacey Flynn:** popular, very pretty, but a serious student.
1. Identify the conflict in this chapter.
* Person vs. person
* The cops have come question Matt
1. Describe the atmosphere of the first chapter.
* Suspenseful and unnerving
* Confusion and nervousness – we do not know why the cops are questioning Matt.

**Chapter Two**

1. Who is the narrator in this chapter?
* Ursula Riggs (Ugly Girl)
1. Why does the narrator refer to herself in the third person?
* When she takes the alter-ego of Ugly Girl she refers to herself in third person. (alter-ego – a second personality or persona within a person)
* But tells her story in first person because she is very self-absorbed.
1. Describe Ursula Riggs.
* Athletic – plays numerous sports.
* Doesn’t have many friends.
* Described as being “manly” – even her laugh was not a feminine laugh.
* Has dark hair
* Describes herself as a rebel – would like to shave her head one day.
* An excellent student
* A serious girl
* She says that Ursula Riggs was a coward – fearing other people’s opinions.
1. Describe Ugly Girl.
* Ugly Girl is the name Ursula gives her dark side.
* He is big, roughly dressed and defiant –will stand up to anybody, even her teachers.
* Nobody messes with Ugly Girl because she doesn’t care what others think of her and she definitely doesn’t not put up with anyone.
* She was mean – demonstrated when she made a mean comment to her grandma.
* Ugly Girl wasn’t a coward and didn’t give a damn about what other people thought of her.
* Ugly-Girl = Warrior Woman
* She is sarcastic and has dramatic mood swings
* Ugly Girl is the side of Ursula that is brave and doesn’t care what other people think of her
1. What type of conflict does Ursula have to deal with? Explain.
* Person vs self
* She struggles with the person that she wants to be and the person that she is.
* She does not know who she is, so she has taken upon herself the alter-ego of Ugly Girl
* She does not want to be hurt so puts on a mask pretending that nothing bothers her.
* Fiery Red mood – she had energy to do her best – especially on the court.
* Inky Black mood – depressed, her feet felt like concrete blocks, she felt like she could not do anything.
1. Identify the plot.

**Chapter Three**

1. Describe Ursula’s perceived relationship with her mom and dad.
* It seems as if her parents are not interested in her life
* They are more interested in what her sister does because it’s the girly thing to do (be a ballerina)
* Ursula was happy that her mom wasn’t in the audience because she would be shocked and disappointed in her.
* Her dad wasn’t there – but he never was because he seemed to be uninterested in her life.
1. What happened at the basketball game that made Ursula so upset?
* They lost the game and Ursula feels like its her fault.
1. How did Ursula’s teammates treat her after the game?
* Nobody talked to her
* They just left the locker room, not even Ms. Schultz (the coach)
1. What did Ursula learn about Matt as she was leaving the school?
* Ursula learned that Matt was accused of attempting to bomb the school.
* But she didn’t believe this because she remembers Matt as being a guy with a lot of friends with a sense of humour – he was always nice to girls and would never do such a thing.
* It disgusted her that people who knew Matt Donaghy believe such things.

**Chapter Four**

1.Identify the metaphor used at the end of this chapter. What message does it convey about Matt’s feelings?

* His feelings are being compared to a “wide-winged black-feathered bird” who wrapped his wings around Matt and prevented him from breathing.
* He feels trapped and overwhelmed – usually when people can’t breath they are nervous and panic.

**Chapter Five
\*mention of Columbine shooting – can incorporate a clip.**

1.What does the “glimmer of perspiration on the principal’s upper lip” suggest about Mr. Parrish?

* That he was nervous about the whole situation.
* He was nervous as a principal as well – not knowing what to believe about this matter.

2. Matt says, “And if I had, I wouldn’t tell you, about it, would I?” Why does Matt say this? What does it suggest about his personality?

* It tells us that Matt can be sarcastic and that he is intelligent.
* It also tells us that he is trying to add humour to the matter – he is having a difficult time taking the matter seriously because he thinks that its crazy.

3. Why is comedy and humour so important to Matt?

* It seems to be important because it lightens the situation
* Matt seems to be the type of person that likes to joke around and not be serious
* He does not know how to respond to serious situations
1. What does Matt compare “the questioning, the clearing of the air” to? What does this suggest about Matt? How does this relate to the role of media in society?
* He compares the “clearing of the air” to a TV sitcom.
* In which he had all the good lines
* He wants to take the situation serious but he just can’t - we see this when he starts pretending in his head to be the star of a show.
1. Students are described as leaving their classrooms in a noisy herd. Where was Matt when this took place? What does Matt find so strange about this situation?
* He finds it strange to be sitting in the office with these adults when the bell rang – because this indicated freedom – students are free to leave once the bell rings.
1. What is the most important thing to Matt? Justify.
* The way he is perceived by others – his reputation
* When the officers asked to search his locker he did not want them to
* He was ashamed – he did not want his peers to see his locker being searched.
1. Describe Matt’s family life.
* It seems like his father is constantly away – on business trips
* His mother seems like a fragile woman – worried that there might be truth to the charge
* It seems like she might even be suspicious of her own son – like she doesn’t know him

**Chapter Six**

1. What is Ursula’s role in relation to her sister?
* She is her big sis
* Lisa (her sister) seems to look up to her
* So she says that she better be a good example
* But she thinks that her sister is intimidated by her because of her six foot stature – rather then that she looks up to her
1. What is the one good things, as identified by Ursula that has come from the news coverage regarding the bomb from Rocky River?
* The focus at Rocky River High won’t be on losing the basketball game that Ursula believes they should have won.
1. What made Ursula change her mind about eating dinner with her family?
* She is a vegetarian and she could not eat dinner with her family because meat disgusted her.
* She decided to eat with her family when her dad said he was hurt because he doesn’t eat dinner at home a lot of nights, and when he does Ursula is in her room eating.
1. What secret does Ursula share with Bonnie LeMoyne?
* Bonnie LeMoyne attempted suicide by overdosing on pills when her father left the family. (barbiturates – sedatives – tending to calm or sooth)
* Ursula was afraid that their father would leave them as well.
1. How does Ursula know that the bomb allegations are only rumor?
* She knows because she was in the cafeteria and she heard what Matt said.
1. How does Ursula contact Matt? How long does it take Matt to get back to her?
* She tries to find his phone number but has no luck – nobody answers
* Then she calls all his friends and Denis Wheeler gives her Matt’s email address.
* She left an email for Matt at 10:23, and the phone rang at 10:47.

**Chapter Seven**

**\*mention of Edgar Allan Poe on pg. 58**

1. What method of discipline does Mr. Parrish choose to use with Matt?
* Mr. Parrish suspended Matt for three days
1. What is Matt’s first reaction to Ursula’s contact with him?
* He thinks that his friends are playing a prank on him.
* He thinks that its Skeets way of answering to Matt’s email because none of the guys had answered him yet – because Skeet has a weird sense of humour.
1. Why does Matt resent the fact that Skeet was not in trouble too?
* Skeet was in the cafeteria that day too and urged Matt on.
* Matt believes that if Skeet had not urged him on none of this would have happened.
1. What does Matt compare this situation to?
* He compares it to an incident when he was 12 years old and jumped off a diving board into the pool just to make the guys laugh, even though he had no idea what he was doing.
* He hit the water with a slap that left his stomach and chest red and his nose was bleeding because he hit his head on his knee.
1. What family member offers Matt much support and comfort in his time of need?
* Matt’s dog Pumpkin seems to be the only one that understands him.
* He likes to just bury his face in her fur and she would snuggled against Matt and reassure him that he’s not a psycho and that she believes in him.
1. What is Matt’s father’s reaction when he speaks to Matt on the phone after hearing about the allegations?
* Matt’s father tries to be supportive but all he is thinking about is the family’s reputation.
* His company seems to be downsizing and he is worried that he might lose his job – not really trying to be supportive about Matt’s feelings.
1. Why do both Matt and Ursula choose email as their method of communication?
* They both preferred email because talking on the phone made them nervous and uneasy.

**Chapter Eight**

1. Why does Ursula place so many phrases starting with capital letters?
* “One of Ugly Girl’s principles (beliefs) was: Do Not Quarrel With the Enemy Unless Cornered” (68)
* She believed that she should not argue with anybody unless she has no other choice.
* The phrases begin with a capital letter because it demonstrates the importance of this belief as well as how serious she actually is about it.
1. How do Ursula’s parents respond to the idea that she may get involved with investigation? What does this suggest about their values and priorities?
* They try to convince Ursula not to get involved.
* They are afraid that she might be accused as a conspirator and her reputation might be destroyed.
* They are afraid that she would not get accepted into an Ivy League school because of this. (Ivy League Schools: private institutions of higher education. The term also carries with it a reputation of social elitism. Some schools include: Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Brown)
1. What was one of Ugly Girl’s principles? What does this mean?
* Principle: “Do Not Quarrel With the Enemy Unless Cornered” (68)
* Do not argue or fight with your enemy unless absolutely necessary.
1. Describe Mr. Parrish’s leadership skills. What does this suggest about the role of adults in the school system?
2. What does Ursula wear when she approaches Mr. Parrish with her information? Why does she describe this to the audience?
* Ursula looks very different on the morning when she goes to speak to Mr. Parrish – she was wearing her glittery earings (not a row of studs), her maroon satin school jacket (not a flannel man’s shirt), khakis and boots.
* She describes this to the audience to show that she is serious and determined to help Matt Donaghy.
* She had to look presentable in order for Mr. Parrish to take her seriously.
1. Why does Ursula describe Mr. Parrish as her “opponent”. What does this add to the atmosphere of the novel?
* Adults vs. students.
* She assumes that Mr. Parrish will be against her just because he is an adult and the principal of the school.
* The atmosphere is intense because we expect to see an argument.
1. Does Ursula respect Mr. Parrish? Why or why not?
* No she does not – she really tries to put him in his place.
* She blames Mr. Parrish for taking this situation too far – she says that it was not handled right.
* She feels that he has overreacted.
* She even walks out of Mr. Parrish’s office without acknowledging him.
1. What is the role of the media in this chapter?
* The media is ruining Matt’s reputation.
* News channels are saying that Matt’s been arrested and questioned by the police.
* They present it as a police investigation after a crime – but Matt hasn’t done anything wrong.
1. How did Ursula get Eveann’s mom to agree with her position regarding telling the truth about the bomb threat? What does this tell the reader about Ursula’s personality and her abilities?
* Ursula knows the Eveann’s mom is a devout Catholic so she plays on her morals.
* She tells Eveann’s mom that anyone who doesn’t speak up for Matt will be morally guilty of ruining his life.
* She tells Eveann’s mother that its our Christian duty to bear witness for one another.
* This shows us that Ursula has a persuasive personality.

**Chapter Nine**

1. What does Matt keep comparing his situation to?
* He compares it to a dark play – something that Edgar Allan Poe would write
* “a dark, nasty comedy where people’s misery was held up to ridicule” (77)
1. What was the only good thing that Matt’s father identifies about the situation and the media’s coverage of it? What does this suggest about Matt’s father?
* That the name Donaghy hasn’t been printed in the paper yet
1. How does Matt feel in this chapter?
* He’s desperate
* He thinks about running away – even death
* He talks about how easy life would be if he just died – he’d fall unto a rock and crack his head – so easy (78)
1. How is the relationship with Matt and his “friends” different than before the allegations?
* His friends are not allowed to communicate with him
* They only sent him short emails explaining that they can’t communicate with him because they had been advised not to.
1. Describe the type of words used by his “friends”.
* To “keep clear”
* Their lawyers “advise” them to keep clear
* They can’t “communicate” with him
* Basically – they are not allowed to get in touch with Matt at all.
1. Why doesn’t Mr. Weinberg reply to Matt’s message signed “Matt ‘Terrorist’ Donaghy”?
* He probably didn’t know how to respond to it.
* Plus all emails sent are being monitored by the police so Ms. Weinberg did not want to get involved.
1. How does Matt end his email to Ursula? Why is this significant?
* He signs it “Your friend Matt”
* Its significant because two people that never spoke to each other are now friends because of this ordeal.

**Chapter Ten**

1. What happens that suddenly makes Ugly Girl shy and nervous?
* Matt begins to pay attention to Ursula
* He treats her like his friend and she becomes nervous
* She is shy like any other girl that speaks to a boy for the first time – perhaps she even has a crush on him
1. How does Ugly Girl deal with her problems? Identify the two problems described in this chapter and Ugly Girl’s response to them.
* She runs away – or ignored her problems.
* There was talk around the school that she quit the team cold – and she ignored it.
* Matt was going to walk to class with her and she turned around and took another corridor because she wanted to avoid him.

**Chapter Eleven**

1. Why does Matt suggest that life is no longer like it used to be?
* Nobody is friendly with him anymore
* And he says that its like he got his life back but it’s not the same.
* He seems to have nothing to look forward to – he calls his time “NOTHING-TIME”, “NOTHING-HOUR”, “NOTHING-DAY” –as if nothing interesting is happening in his life anymore.
1. How has the media responded to the dropping of Matt’s charges? How does he feel about the media?
* The media has moved on to other things now
* He understands that anything local has to be exaggerated because nothing happens at Rocky River High.
1. What does Matt write about that suggests he and Ursula are friends?
* He attempts to be conversational by talking about a school project and the weather.
1. What is the significance of Matt’s History paper topic?
* It’s significant because he is talking about Lincoln who was hated in his time for supporting black people but who is loved and admired now.
* This is significant to his own life because he feels that people once loved him and now they hate him.
1. What new identity does Matt create? Why does he do this?
* Matt-the-Mouth
* Perhaps now he feels differently about pleasing everybody
* Before he used to be known as the joker and would do and say anything – right now he doesn’t care about that anymore.
1. What does Matt do after writing the email to Ursula? Why does he do this?
* He deletes the email
* He is probably afraid that Ursula is ignoring him just like the rest of his friends.

**Chapter Twelve**

1. Why does Mr. Parrish invite Ursula into his office?
* He invited her to his office to commend her on her good behavior and standing up for what is right when everyone else behaved negatively.
* He commended her on behaving very maturely and responsibly. She has set a good example for everyone else.
1. Who does Ursula identify as her best friend?
* She considers Eveann her best friend because she helped her out with the Matt incident.
* Eveann was also a witness for Matt and was not afraid of standing up for what is right.
* That ordeal brought them closer.
1. Why does Ursula’s mind go blank? What does this suggest about her and her feelings?
* Ursula’s mind goes blank when she see’s Matt.
* It suggests that she is nervous about talking to him – either because she feels guilty for ignoring him or because deep down she wants to be his friend.
* She also might have deeper feelings for him that she is afraid to accept.
1. What happened between the Rocky River and Sleepy Hallow basketball teams?
* Sleepy Hollow walked all over the Rocky River basketball team.
* The score was 36-22.

**Chapter Thirteen**

1. What decision does Matt make in this chapter?
* Matt decides to resign from his V.P position of the junior class.
1. How does Mr. Bernhardt respond to Matt’s decision?
* He isn’t surprised but wants to know the reason why.
* He assumes that students at the school are acting negatively towards Matt.
* Mr. Bernhardt pities him.
1. What does Mr. Bernhardt’s response suggest about the atmosphere at Rocky River?
* That students at Rocky River are not very supportive of each other and they might still be ridiculing Matt.
* Not accepting.
* Mr. Bernhardt is understanding – he must know what Matt is going through.

**Chapter Fourteen**

1. What examples of censorship exist in this chapter? Who is doing the censoring in each example?
* **Censorship:** the suppression of speech. Freedom of speech is restricted.
* Matt is not allowed to publish his letter of resignation because as Mr. Steiner put it, it is not funny.
* Mr. Steiner tries to explain to Matt that his letter is too “raw”. Considering the circumstances his situation should not be brought up in the school paper.
* Mr. Steiner and the editorial staff are doing the censoring.
1. Describe Matt’s letter or resignation. What is the connection between this story and Matt’s recent experience?
* The title of his letter is “Just for the Record…”
* Matt would express his feels about the way he has been treated.
* He wants everyone at school to know how he feels about their behavour.
* He wants everyone to know that he knows what they think of him – that it’s not a secret.
* He is being treated different and wants everyone to know how he feels about it.
1. What event changes Matt?
* When he returned to school he expected people to welcome him and to offer apologies for the ordeal he had gone through.
* Instead it was the opposite.
* People avoided him and talked behind his back, he could sense it.
* Even his friends, like Stacey were avoiding him.
* Everyone acted uneasy around him. His friend Russ who was never in loss for words did not know what to say.
1. How has Matt changed?
* Matt is not longer the “joker” in the school.
* He is angry now and no longer smiles and when he does smile it is an ironic or suspicious smile.
* Matt is angry at the world.
* He avoids his friends now even turning down an invitation by his friend Russ to hang out with them.
* He seems to be moping around the house and doing nothing, however, before the accusation he was involved in many school activities.
* He’s described as being rude, especially to his little brother Alex.
1. What metaphor is used twice in this chapter? What comparison is being made?
* Metaphor: “My heart is a stone” (104). “My heart is a stone – it won’t be broken again” (105).
* His heart is being compared to a stone.
* He will be as hard as a stone – meaning he will not let anyone into his life again.
* He will not allow himself to be hurt again by people he cared about.
* Therefore, he will hate everyone.
1. Describe Matt’s home life.
* He used to be close with his family – now he claims to hate them.
* His parents tried to be supportive by telling him that things are fine and that he will feel better.
* It seems to be a tense atmosphere – his mom says that he won’t even talk to her.
* His room is smelly – which means that Matt has even let go of keeping his room tidy.
* His mom thinks that Matt is depressed – which could be the reality – all signs point to depression.

**Chapter Fifteen**

1. At what time does Matt start to write the email to Ursula? What does this suggest?
* Matt writes the email to Ursula at 2:11am.
* It is obvious that he cannot sleep.
* Usually people have a problem sleeping when they are going through something.
* Matt might be really nervous about his situation or experiencing depression.
1. Why does Matt think that Ursula is so cool?
* Matt thinks that Ursula is cool because she doesn’t care what people think about her.
* She doesn’t care if people are fake to her.
* Matt admires the fact that she is herself and is happy.
1. What is the overall feeling of the email?
* Very sad.
* Matt sounds desperate to be accepted by anybody.
* A few times in the email he says that he is lonely.
1. What does Matt do once he finishes writing the email? Why does he do this?
* He deletes the email because he still cares about what others think.
* If they find out that he is friends with Ursula, he will no longer fit in, which is ironic because he already doesn’t fit in.
* This is obvious when he says “if the guys had known, they’d have approved” regarding him deleting the email.

**Chapter Sixteen**

1. What event does Ursula’s mom insist she attend?
* A modern dance show.
1. What happens at this event? Why does this occur?
* Ursula leaves the show.
* She feels suffocated sitting there – it wasn’t her “scene”.
1. Ursula describes an event involving her father. What is this event? What affect does this have on her?
* Ursula’s dad tells her that she is getting to be a big girl.
* This comment makes her revaluate her looks and she realizes that she is a lot bigger than the other girls.
* She begins to feel self-conscious about her looks and quits the swim team as a result.
1. Describe the Brewer family. Why would these characters be incorporated into the novel?
* They were narrow minded.
* Were not accepting of minorities – they were against multiculturalism and were prejudice against ethnic minorities.
* He was controversial.
* Was against affirmative action: The term **affirmative action** refers to policies that take gender, race, or ethnicity into account in an attempt to promote equal opportunity.
1. How does Ursula feel about the letter Mr. Parrish wrote praising her actions?
* She was ashamed when she received the letter.
* It made it seem as if she went to Mr. Parrish just to impress him.
* She torn the letter that her dad made a copy of.
1. Who does Ursula see at the end of this chapter? How does this make her feel?
* Ursula thinks that she sees Matt skating with another girl.
* She becomes nervous and wants Matt to notice her.
* She even blushes.

**Chapter Seventeen**

1. The setting being in the winter is important. Why?
* The winter in general can be a depressing time and it reflects Matt’s feelings.
* the chapter begins with “winter loneliness. Winter solitude”.
* Usually people hibernate in the winter – they don’t do much.
* Matt hasn’t been doing much anyways so the winter symbolizes his feelings.
1. Why doesn’t Matt take Pumpkin on his hikes anymore?
* Matt wanted to be by himself – he wanted his privacy.
1. What was Matt’s mom crying about?
* She received a letter in the mail with a newspaper clipping that said “your neighbors are not safe. We are not going to forget.”
* She no longer felt safe living in Rocky River.
* The neighbours talked about her as being the mother of the “bomb-scare boy”
* She was sick and tired of all the gossip and the stares that she receives from the neighbours.
1. Why was Matt scared when his mom cried?
* His mother never cried – she was the one who always conforted others.
* This time she was the one that needed comforting – for the first time ever Matt saw his mom in a vulnerable state.
1. How are the people in the community responding to the Donaghy’s?
* The nighbours don’t feel safe living near them
* They are gossiping and treating them like criminals.
1. Why is Matt upset at the end of this chapter?
* His mom was not comforting Matt as usual.
* She didn’t reassure him that it wasn’t his fault.
* She didn’t say that his father and her still loved him.

**Chapter Eighteen**

1. How is Matt fading away?
* Matt is literally fading away.
* He resigned from his class V.P position.
* He quit the school newspaper.
* He sits by himself at lunch and not with his usual clique – sometimes he doesn’t even stay at school for lunch.
* He doesn’t participate in class discussions anymore.
1. Who does Ursula think made the bomb threat accusations? Why does she think this?
* Muriel and Miriam Brewer made the accusations
* Ursula thinks this because of the way they act and when she confronts them she can tell by the guilty look on their faces.
1. How do the people respond when Ursula confronts them about the false accusations?
* At first the Brewer twins deny it.
* They were acting snobbish towards Ursula.
* But then they admit that they heard Matt say it and went right home to tell their father who reported it to the police.

**Chapter Nineteen**

1. What were the two new startling developments?
* First: Everyone at Rocky River High found out that it was the Brewer twins who were the mystery witnesses.
* Second: The Donaghy’s are suing the school and the Brewer’s for 50 million dollars.
1. Why did they make accusation as according to rumour?
* Apparently one of the twins had a crush on Matt and he snubbed them.
* It was their way of getting revenge – and if one of the twins wanted to do something the other one is there to help.
1. How did the rumours explode?
* Everybody at Rocky River High began talking about it.
* There were conversations about it all over the school.
1. Why the change in Mr. Weinberg?
* Mr Weinberg really liked Matt and was tired of the whole situation.
* He did not want to involve himself anylonger.
1. Why is Ursula compared to her parents? What effect does this have on the reader?
* Her parents are described as upstanding citizens of Rocky River.
* Ursula is compared to her parents so that the readers try to understand why she turned out to be the outsider.

**Chapter Twenty**

1. What were the jocks calling Matt?
* They were calling him a traitor and a “fag” because he was suing the school.
1. Why didn’t Ursula agree with the lawsuit?
* Ursula thinks that this will make it even worse for Matt – now his name is all over the papers.
* She also believed that it made the whole ordeal look cheap because now there is money involved.
1. What did Ursula’s dad say that made her mad? Why did this make her mad?
* He asked Ursula how Matt feels about the law suit.
* This made Ursula upset because she was not friends with Matt – she feels that she just did the right thing and does not need to be friends with him.
* Perhaps she also feels guilty for the way that she has treated him – ignoring him like everyone else.

**Chapter Twenty-One**

1. What did Matt do when the boys started taunting him?
* Matt thought of running, however, he stopped and began to punch them.
1. What happened to Matt?
* He was beat up by the boys pretty bad. When they threw his backpack down the stairs Matt tried to grab it but lost balance and fell.

**Chapter Twenty-Two**

1. What hobby does Ursula take up again?
* Drawing
1. What does Ursula miss?
* She misses being on a team.
1. Why doesn’t Ursula trust herself?
* She didn’t want to be emotional.
* She didin’t want Ms. Schultz and her former team mates to see her emotions.
1. What change has come over Lisa?
* Lisa has become more outspoken.
* She’s bitter towards her sister Ursula.
* She colder and more distant – even rude to her.
* She’s become more competitive in ballet and seems to really care about her image more.
1. What is the issue regarding Lisa’s eating habits?
* Lisa doesn’t seem to want to eat, she’s afraid of gaining weight.
* Ursula is afraid that her sister will become anorexic.
1. What is the “obstacle race?”
* Ursula read an art book about women artists by Germaine Greer and found the following passage interesting:
* “The ‘obstacle race’, the author called it: trying to maintain your own integrity and your own talent, no matter how others tried to influence you. Germaine Greer was talking mostly about how men oppressed women, but, I could see, women and girls did it to themselves, too.” (143)
* Meaning you need to try to be successful regardless of what others think of you – especially men who try to make women feel inferior even though they have talent.
* Ursula believes that it is women also who keep or put other women down.
1. Where does Ursula go at the end of this chapter?
* To the nature preserve for a hike.
* Foreshadowing: “Just chance I took Windy Point. Or maybe I had a premonition” (143).
* We already know that Matt has been going hiking quite a bit and this passage foreshadows that they will probably run into each other on the hike.

**Chapter Twenty-Three**

1. How does Denis Wheeler insult Matt?
* Matt feels that Denis Wheeler is insulting him by being nice to him.
* He doesn’t want to be a charity case.
1. What memory does Matt want to erase from his memory?
* He wanted to erase the jocks – Cassity, Stanton, Booth and the others – out of his memory.
1. Rocky River is an affluent community. What is this important to the story?
* It’s important because we now understand why Rocky River students are snobby and unsupportive of each other – they come from wealthy families.
1. What is Matt determined to accomplish in this chapter?
* He wanted to climb to the top of the ravine.
* From the way he is speaking we get a sense that he might want to commit suicide.

**Chapter Twenty-Four**

1. What is the “typical Rocky River upbringing?”
* To be polite in any circumstance.
* Ursula was trying to be cheery and asking Matt random questions in a situation that is dangerous.
* Basically, she is saying that the typical Rocky River upbringing consists of being cheery and fake – she implies this when she mentions her mom’s dinner parties.
1. What does Ursula find up at Windy Point?
* She finds Matt about to jump off and kill himself.
1. How is there a role reversal between Matt and Ursula in this chapter?
* Matt is ignoring Ursula in this chapter and Ursula is pleasing with Matt to speak to her – or to communicate with her.
1. Why does Ugly Girl leave only Ursula to talk to Matt?
* Ugly Girl was savvy (acted on common sense) but in this situation she turned into Ursula because she was rock climbing with no gear.
* Ugly Girl was completely gone when Ursula began pleading with Matt to get off the cliff – Ugly Girl would not plead with anyone.
1. How does this situation change at the end of the chapter?
* Matt decides to listen to Ursula’s pleading and gets off the cliff.

**Chapter Twenty-Five**

1. What is the time of the email?
* Thursday 5:25am.
1. What does the email state?
* Matt thanks Ursula for the other day – when she saved his life.

**Chapter Twenty-Six**

1. What serious question does Matt ask Ursula?
* He asks Ursula if it was fate that she was there.
* He states that nothing is an accident.
1. How does Ursula respond to the above question?
* Yes/no/maybe
* She mentions Einsten who said that God does not play dice (take chances) with the Universe, therefore, maybe there was a purpose.
1. Why does Matt delete his last message?
* He probably feels like he has expressed too much.
* He might be falling for Ursula.
* When two people don’t need to say anything to each other it means that their feeling for one another are very strong.

**Chapter Twenty-Seven**

1. Why is pumpkin so important to Matt?
* Because he feels that Pumpkin trusts him.
* He believes that Pumpkin believes in him.

**Chapter Twenty-Eight**

1. Whose fingers is Matt talking about?
* Ursula’s.
1. How do the fingers make him feel?
* He feels like he is in a dream.
* He feels loved and cared for again – because he mentions that he gripped his mother’s, father’s and grandparents’ hand like that but a long time ago.
* He feels comforted.

**Chapter Twenty-Nine**

1. What does Ursula confront Matt about via email?
* Ursula felt like Matt snubbed her at lunch because he did not sit with her.
1. What is Matt’s response to the email?
* He says that he did not snub her but was afraid of sitting with her and two of her friends because he thought that they were just being “nice”.
1. What does Matt ask Ursula to do for him?
* If she gives him a sign he will join her for lunch.
1. Why does Matt ask Ursula’s opinion about the lawsuit?
* He cares about her opinion.
1. What does Matt’s mom give him to help him sleep? What does Matt do with these?
* She gives him barbiturates.
* He flushes them down the toiled because it makes him feel like his head is filled with phlegm.
1. What was Mr. W. and Matt impressed by?
* Ursula’s answer in class regarding Gatsby and if he was a hero or a fool.
* Ursula says that “A hero can be a fool, he’s still a hero.”
1. What type of appointment have Matt’s parents made?
* To see a psychiatrist (can prescribe medication – while a psychologist just aids by talking to a person)
1. What does Matt say really hurt him?
* That people believed the Brewers and not him.

**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 mother’s are alike.
* Their father’s are alike because they both travel a lot.
* Their father’s were both under pressure a lot (but that is true for most Rocky River father’s 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.

**Chapter Thirty-Nine**

1. Predict: What do you think Matt is talking about? What do you think happened?

**Chapter Forty**

1. Why was Alex crying when he returned home?
* Someone took Pumpkin when he took her for a walk.
1. What does Alex compare the Pumpkin situation to? How are they similar?
* He compares it to a TV show – it just happened so fast.
* Because the kidnappers took Pumpkin really fast.
1. Why does this situation happen, according to Matt?
* To punish him – probably for the lawsuit.
1. How do the police respond to the Pumpkin situation?
* Laid back.
* They seem to think that she may have ran away.
1. How do the police make Alex feel? How do they make him feel this way?
* The police make Alex feel guilty – as if it was his fault that Pumpkin went missing.
* They ask him if he saw the license plate and Alex says no – that it was dark – the police make it sound like she should have been able to see it.
1. Why does Matt sound sarcastic to the police?
* He’s fed up with the fact that they are not taking this seriously.
1. How do the media play a part in this chapter?
* They do not play a role at all.
* After seven hours the Westchester cable channel hadn’t posted Pumpkin as being missing.
* Matt tried to call the cable channel but only got a recorded message.

**Chapter Forty-One**

1. How does Ursula play a role in this chapter?
* Supporter – she is there to comfort Matt and his mother.
1. What does Matt realize about his mother in this chapter?
* That she is knowledgeable – she has a conversation with Ursula about a famous painting.
* He was surprised that she knew so much.

**Chapter Forty-Two**

1. What decision does Ursula make in this chapter?
* To go to Trevor Caddity’s house because both her and Matt believe that he took Pumpkin.
* To take action into her own hands.
1. How does Matt initially respond to this idea?
* He is hesitant – does not think that it is a good idea.
1. How does Ursula’s place in society help her with her idea?
* She is the daughter of Clayton Riggs – the CEO at Drummond Inc.
* Most of the kids parents’ at Rocky River worked for her dad.
* Ursula is able to use her father’s powerful position to her advantage.
1. What does Matt say about a gun in this chapter?
* He makes a joke about bringing his Colt AR-15 assault rifle after Ursula says that one of them should have staked out that back.
1. How do Matt and Ursula use “police tactics” in this chapter?
* They interrogate him.
* They question Trevor – pretending to know more than they do.
* They observed him to see if he looked guilty.
* They basically accuse him of it and lie by saying that they have evidence to prove it.
* Ursula then blackmails Trevor by giving him an option: to return Pumpkin by 6pm or she will tell her dad all about it and Trevor’s father might lose his job as a result.
1. How do both Ursula and Matt surprise themselves?
* They are both warriors.
* Not willing to give up and were able to control themselves.

**Chapter Forty-Three**

1. How does this chapter begin?
* Letting us know that by 4:40pm Pumpkin had gotten home safely.
1. What does the email state?
* Matt sends an email to Ursula on behalf of Pumpkin stating “THANK YOU for saving my life!”
* “I love you.” (238)

**Chapter Forty-Four**

1. What does the basketball team want from Ursula?
* They want her to join the team again.
1. How does she feel about this?
* She misses them.
* Gets a FIERY RED sensation thinking about being back on the court and with her team mates.
1. What does Ursula say is strange about Ugly Girl?
* Her Ugly Girl alter ego was not right for all occasions – for instance when she is with Matt.
* Ugly Girl was like a uniform for her that she could slip into.
1. What does Ursula say that Ugly Girl could learn?
* She could learn to get along with people – to respect other people.
1. Why does Ursula cry at the end of this chapter?
* Ursula cries because she is happy.
* Everything in her life seems to be perfect and she realizes that people do love her.
* Matt, as well as her mom and sister Lisa all came to watch her game.
* Ursula’s father called her from Tokyo to let her know that he was thinking about and wished he could have come to her game.

**Chapter Forty-Five**

1. What happens that causes chaos at the beginning of this chapter?
* A fire drill.
1. How does Mr. Parrish protect Matt?
* The police took Matt home under protective custody.
* The police informed Matt that the call is related to him and that he might be in danger.
1. Who is the anonymous caller?
* Reverend Brewer