

7. When John and Lorraine met on the bus, what brought them together? On the basis of their first meeting, what predictions can you make about the future?

8. Do you think John has compassion for others? Why or why not? Support your answer.

9. What does John want to be when he is older? Do you think he will succeed?

10. What is the relationship John and Lorraine have with their parents? Can you relate?

11. Who has better self-confidence, John or Lorraine? How do you know?

12. Why did John, Lorraine, Norton, and Dennis play telephone games? Have you ever made a prank phone call? If yes, how did you feel after the call? What did they say to Mr. Pignati? How did John and Lorraine feel after they talked to Mr. Pignati, why?

13. At the end of chapter 4, what is your opinion of the narrators? Which storyteller do you prefer and why?

Chapters 5-6 pages 31-47:

1. Why did Lorraine and John go to Mr. Pignati's house? How did John and Lorraine feel about the visit? Why didn't they tell Norton and Dennis?
2. Describe Mr. Pignati's character? What does Mr. Pignati collect and why? What is your opinion of Mr. Pignati? Do you think Mr. Pignati's lonely? If yes, why you think Mr. Pignati is lonely? Do you think Mr. Pignati's loneliness is common?
3. What did John and Lorraine do with Mr. Pignati's check? Why is 10 dollars a lot? What year does this story take place?
4. How would you characterize Lorraine's mother and John's mother and father? How are their personalities similar and different? How do they treat their children? How do John and Lorraine react to their parent's treatment?
5. John describes Mr. Pignati as "a great big kid." In what ways are Mr. Pignati's actions and emotions childish? Explain.
6. Why does John lie so extravagantly and so often? What traits are revealed about John?
7. How has being John's friend helped Lorraine? How might it have harmed her? How would you advise Lorraine if she asked you if she should continue being friends with John? Give some reasons.

8. Why did Mr. Pignati want to go to the zoo? What is one of the omens at the zoo that makes Lorraine uneasy?

9. Who is Bobo and what is his relationship to Mr. Pignati? Do you think humans can be friends with an animal? Explain.

10. At the end of chapter 6, which narrator do you prefer and why? Why do you think Paul Zindel never made Mr. Pignati a narrator? If he was a narrator, do you think that would have changed the chapters?

11. Do you think Paul Zindel is a reliable narrator when Lorraine is the narrator? Explain.

12. What are some stereotypes you found while reading? Use John, Lorraine, and the Pigman while listing.

Concluding Activity:

What are some advantages of having an animal as a friend? Compare and contrast these advantages to the advantages of having a human friend. When would one be better than the other? Do you have an animal that's a friend? Explain.