

The Lovely Bones

by Alice Sebold

Summer Reading Study Guide

Directions: Read each of the following questions and when you find the answer in the novel, HIGHLIGHT that passage & WRITE the number of the question it answers. A few questions ask you to write a brief response as well. Make sure you write your response in the margins of the novel as well. This way, your book will serve as your study guide. Remember, your novel must have your name clearly written on the inside of the cover and it will be checked the first week of school. If there are questions you are unsure about, mark them on the study guide and be sure to ask for clarification in class since there will be an objective test on the novel within the first two weeks of school as well!

Chapter ONE

1. What shocking piece of information does the narrator immediately share with the reader?
2. What quote did Susie include in her yearbook and what do YOU think it says about her?
3. Why did Susie stop to talk to her murderer even though she wasn't "comfortable with adults?"
4. Who is the first person Susie mentions from "her heaven"?
5. Who is Buckley?
6. Highlight some of the details of the hole and what Mr. Harvey kept in it.
7. What was the first piece of evidence that turned up after Susie was killed?
8. What were Susie's parents contrasting reactions to the news of her death?
9. What is the first thing Susie thinks of when Mr. Harvey attacks her?
10. What are the last words Susie utters?

Chapter TWO

11. According to Susie's explanation, why are the other people she sees in heaven there?
12. What do we learn about Franny's background and how she died?
13. What does Susie wish for in heaven and how does Franny respond?
14. What does Susie want the most and also cannot have?
15. How does the weather reflect Mr. and Mrs. Salmon's emotions? Comment in the margins.
16. How does Lindsay react when her father tells her about Susie's elbow?
17. What did Ray Singh slip into Susie's notebook?
18. Who does Susie miss the most at this point in the novel?
19. When the principal tries to comfort Lindsay and is failing miserably, what does Susie wish he would do?

Chapter THREE

20. What did Susie get for her 11th birthday and what was the first thing she did with it?
21. Where does Mr. Salmon "see" Susie?
22. What does Mr. Salmon say to Susie as he cleans his den?
23. What does Mr. Salmon ask Buckley as he grieves for Susie?

Chapter FOUR

24. What does Mr. Harvey save from the burlap sack?
25. What possession of Susie's did Mr. Harvey take?
26. What item does Mr. Harvey keep as a "souvenir?"

Chapter FIVE

27. What alternate realities does Lindsay daydream about while showering?
28. What conflicting information does Mr. Harvey give to Len Federman?
29. What instrument does Samuel play?
30. Which piece on the Monopoly game is Susie's?
31. What is the Christmas gift that Samuel gives Lindsey?

Chapter SIX

32. According to Susie, what is the real reason that Ruth is "subversive?"
33. Find an example of Susie "reading the mind" of another character. How would you characterize this type of narration: 1st or 3rd person – limited or omniscient? Write your answer in the margin of the example you find.
34. What does Mr. Salmon want to thank Ray for?
35. What is as powerful as a mother's intuition?
36. What advice does Ruana give Mr. Salmon?
37. What makes Len Fenerman different than the other police officers?
38. What does Len keep in his wallet?

Chapter SEVEN

39. What memento of Susie's does Buckley show his friend Nate?
40. What is the significance of this memento?

Chapter EIGHT

41. What memento did George Harvey receive from his mother?
42. What is significant about George Harvey's family dynamic considering how he turned out? Write your answer in the blank space(s) of Chapter 8.

Chapter NINE

43. What does Grandma Lynn bring back into the house (figuratively speaking)?
44. What does Grandma Lynn do to help Abigail?
45. What does Grandma Lynn do at the memorial that is "the most important thing that day?"

Chapter TEN

46. What does Lindsey substitute for her last name on her bag? Why does she do this? Write your response in the margin by the answer.
47. What does Susie flashback to in Ruth's life? What does this indicate about Ruth?
48. Is Susie in heaven?
49. What does Susie have to do to get the type of reality she wants?

50. What is the competitive game at Lindsey's camp for the gifted this year?

Chapter ELEVEN

51. Highlight and count the souvenirs George Harvey keeps. Based on these souvenirs, how many girls has he attacked?

52. What does Mr. Harvey keep in the crawlspace of his house?

53. Who does Jack Salmon have a physical encounter with in the cornfield?

Chapter TWELVE

54. What happened to Len Fenerman's wife?

55. What kinds of stories did Abigail tell Susie and Lindsey during bathtime and how did these stories relate to Abigail's larger dreams for herself?

56. What does Abigail do that gives her the feeling that she might have a new life? How do you feel about what she does? Does it change your view of her? Write your response in the margins of the book.

57. What is Franny's secret pleasure?

Chapter THIRTEEN

58. What is the dangerous idea that Jack and Lindsey share?

59. What family revelation does Lynn share with Abigail? What is Lynn's purpose in sharing it? Write a response in the margins.

60. What does Abigail dream of and what do you think it means? Write your response in the empty space next to the highlighted answer.

Chapter FOURTEEN

61. Who or what is Mr. Harvey's imaginary wife modeled after?

62. Susie references the English paper she wrote when describing her sister, Lindsey. What was the name of the paper and why do you think she connects it to Lindsey at this point in the novel?

63. What is the "clue" Lindsey finds that she believes is evidence of Mr. Harvey's guilt?

64. How does Jack Salmon respond when Lindsey presents him with the evidence? What do you think is the significance of the phrase he utters in the context of what is going on?

65. Who does Susie meet in heaven when she follows Franny's map?

Chapter FIFTEEN

66. George Harvey was whose "little accomplice" and how did he feel about it?

67. What did George Harvey believe were the "two worst things to be" when he was young? What is the significance of this information and the flashback into his past? Why do you think Alice Sebold included these flashbacks into Mr. Harvey's life? What is their purpose?

68. What is Abigail doing as Mr. Harvey makes his getaway?

Chapter SIXTEEN

69. What do people do on the anniversary of Susie's death?

SNAPSHOTS

70. Why is this chapter entitled "Snapshots?" Write your answer on the first page of the chapter in the blank space & number it #70.
71. Why do the women of the neighborhood start leaving food on the Salmon's doorstep in the summer of 1975?
72. Who steps in when Abigail leaves?
73. What is the "clue" that tips Lindsey off to her mother's infidelity?
74. What strange scene does Abigail stumble upon when she reaches the shore? What is the significance of this image?
75. Why does Lynn make muffins?
76. What is the connection that Hal finds between Sophie Cichetti's murder and Susie's?

Chapter SEVENTEEN

77. What makes Susie run around in her heaven "like a chicken with its head cut off?"
78. What does Buckley see? Why do you think he is the only one who sees?

Chapter EIGHTEEN

79. How is Ruth a kind of "celebrity?"
80. What does Buckley want to use to stake his tomatoes? Why does Jack Salmon have a problem with this?
81. What does Buckley accuse Jack of taking? What is the significance of it?
82. What does the confrontation between Buckley and Jack lead to?
83. Who does Susie reunite with in heaven?

Chapter NINETEEN

84. Who does Abigail call when she gets the message about an emergency back home?
85. What does Abigail feel she was being punished for?

Chapter TWENTY

86. Why does Susie bring up the grave rubbing and Lindsey's favorite line from their game? How does it relate to the current situation?
87. What flowers does Abigail bring Jack? What is their significance?

Chapter TWENTY-ONE

88. Where do Ray and Ruth go?
89. What does Len Fenerman bring to the hospital?
90. Who returns to Susie's neighborhood?

Chapter TWENTY-TWO

91. What indication do we the readers get that Ray realizes that Ruth is actually Susie?
92. Who does Susie try to call before she leaves Ruth's body?

Chapter TWENTY-THREE

93. What gift does Hal bring to the house for Buckley?
94. Who owns the house that Lindsey and Samuel want to buy?

BONES

95. Where is Susie now? Why do you think Alice Sebold chose to differentiate between the heavens?
96. What is Mr. Harvey's fate?
97. Mr. Harvey's fate is a little too coincidental considering the winning idea from Lindsey's summer camp. What is Alice Sebold suggesting about Mr. Harvey's death? Write your answer in the margins by the answer to #96.
98. What does the name of Lindsey's baby girl suggest about Lindsey's relationship with her mother?
99. What do you think of Alice Sebold's version of heaven? Write your response on the last page of the novel and the back cover.
100. Why do you think Alice Sebold chose to have Mr. Harvey escape "justice?" How would it have changed the focus and the message of the novel if he had been caught?