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SYNOPSIS

The Promise John Conlan and Lorraine Jensen, teenage protagonists of Paul Zindel's *The Pigman*, compose a sequel on the portable Smith-Corona in the third-floor closet at Franklin High in Staten Island, New York, among stacks of classic *Hamlets*. They take turns telling how they became involved with another old man who ultimately died.

Chap. 1: John states that he has given up childish behaviors like graffiti, but admits he still curses. He feels guilty for the Pigman's death.

Chap. 2: Lorraine declares that the Pigman killed their childhood. In May, four months after he died, they felt drawn to his house at 190 Howard Avenue near the Grymes Hill Convent. They see a face at the window.

Chap. 3: John recalls that Lorraine had had the same dream three nights in a row in April. She fears that Mr. Pignati has returned to give them a message. Her mother is a widow who earns her living as a practical nurse and steals canned goods when her patients aren't looking. Both John and Lorraine are unhappy at home. John's father, a coffee investor whom John calls the Bore, is an alcoholic and a likely candidate for a heart attack; his mother, the Old Lady, is an antiseptic freak. For affection and encouragement, John and Lorraine turn to each other.

Chap. 4: On Friday, the teenagers return to Mr. Pignati's house, climb to the upstairs bedroom, and discover a living resident.

Chap. 5: The voice they hear is a frail, wizened old bum who saw them the day before and fears they are agents of the Internal Revenue Service or robbers. He waves a stick, causing them to retreat. Lorraine believes he is the Pigman reincarnated and that she and John are receiving a second chance. They return to their homes, then meet on Saturday at the corner of Eddy street and Victory Boulevard. Lorraine buys a pound of marble pecan fudge. At 10:30, they return to the house on Howard Avenue and observe the old man through the kitchen window. When a cat startles them, the old man opens the front door for them.

Chap. 6: Lorraine overcomes his hostility and suspicion and offers him some fudge. The man identifies himself as a friend of the Colonel, who gave him a sparkling fossil pendant inscribed "To the Colonel, for fifty years of service." He identifies the Colonel as Glenville, a subway designer knighted by the King of Sweden. The old man says Glenville was run over by a train. He weeps and asks to go back. They invite him to play telephone games, but he prefers the Road of Life, a mind game that reveals basic desires and fears.

Chap. 7: The young people, still sorrowing for Mr. Pignati, identify with the old man, who introduces himself as Gus, and assist him in locating his black trunk. John, lacking a driver's license, pilots Gus's yellow Studebaker to the condemned

town house at 107 Stuyvesant Place, from which Gus was evicted. The registration is in the name of Parker Glenville. Among the collected flashlights and lanterns, posters of dinosaurs, blueprints, a crocodile skin from Tanganyika, uniforms, a telescope, and other memorabilia is the black trunk. When John and Lorraine examine a photograph strapped to the lid, they realize that their new friend *is* Colonel Parker Glenville.

Chap. 8: John and Lorraine drag the trunk down to the car. A scroungy, but affectionate German shepherd insists on joining the trio. Lorraine feeds him a piece of fudge and calls to Gus. The dog responds so readily to the name that the teenagers surmise that Gus is really the dog's name.

Chap. 9: The teenagers form a strong bond with the Colonel and his dog, spending their meager cash for groceries. Lorraine boils six eggs. After gulping down their gift of fudge, the Colonel becomes acutely ill. They rush him to Richmond Hospital in the balky old Studebaker, identify him as Gus Bore, and claim to be his grandchildren. Obviously feeling much better, the Colonel eludes the hospital staff, and the three speed away. He smiles his approval at John, claiming, "That's my boy!"

Chap. 10: The Colonel sleeps on Sunday. That afternoon, he goes through his trunk while John and Lorraine snoop into his tax bills. To relieve their feelings of inadequacy in settling the Colonel's medical and financial problem, on Monday, they consult with Dolly, the cafeteria worker who was assistant dietitian at Hill View Hospital until it became a poorhouse. Dolly is experienced at cheering up veterans with her colorful clothing and glittery pompom earrings. After school, she accompanies them to the house and encourages the old man to eat. John and Lorraine take a walk and leave Dolly with the Colonel. He invites Dolly, John, and Lorraine to visit Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Chap. 11: Lorraine is concerned that the Colonel suffers from diverticulosis, a common bowel complaint. The next morning, Dolly cooks breakfast for the old man and Gus. Lorraine and John cut classes. To bankroll the trip, the Colonel sells 123 rare silver dollars for over \$600. On the way, a loose water hose causes steam to shoot out of the Studebaker. He shares his money with Dolly, John, and Lorraine. In the gambling casino near the Boardwalk, John bets \$50 at the Wheel of Fortune and wins \$250; Dolly screams with delight at the blackjack table when she and the Colonel net \$4000. The Colonel wants to buy Dolly a diamond, but she insists on banking the money. Although Lorraine protests, Dolly insists that John keep the \$4,300 in cash. Lured by the glamor of the blackjack table, John bets extravagantly and loses all their winnings.

Chap. 12: At Lorraine's insistence, John rejoins the old man and Dolly in a daze and struggles to admit he lost the money. Although Lorraine weeps and John is saddened beyond words, Dolly consoles them for their loss, assuring

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them that it doesn't matter. On the way home that night, John has difficulty with the emergency brake. The Colonel, elated with his adventure in Atlantic City and warmed by Dolly's love, has no regrets. He gives her his fossil necklace. He begins to sweat and suffers terribly. In gratitude for Dolly's care, he kisses her hand.

Chap. 13: They rush the Colonel to the Staten Island Hospital, where he receives immediate treatment in the intensive care unit. Dolly explains to John and Lorraine that the old man is dying, a fact she has known since they talked privately about his illness. The Colonel insists that he marry Dolly. John and Lorraine dash to the convent, locate Father Santini, an Italian priest, and stop by the house for Gus, who remains in the car during the hasty wedding ceremony. The teenagers sneak Gus up the stairs to the Colonel's room, but they arrive too late. Gus leaps onto the Colonel's bed and licks the face of his dead master.

Chap. 14: Overwhelmed with grief, John and Lorraine take the elevator to another floor while Dolly fills out papers and makes funeral arrangements. They exit near the nursery. In front of the plate glass window where people view newborn babies, John declares his love for Lorraine. Thinking over their experiences, she decides that the Pigman has left them a legacy of love.

TIME LINE

winter The Pigman dies.
April Lorraine has the same dream three nights in a row.
May John and Lorraine go to Mr. Pignati's house and see a face at the window.
Friday afternoon They return to the house, climb to the upstairs bedroom, and discover an old man named Gus, who drives them away.
Saturday 7:00 A. M. They discuss the event by telephone.
10:30 A. M. They meet on a street corner. Lorraine buys a pound of fudge.
later The old man opens the front door for them and claims to be a friend of the Colonel. He questions them about the Road of Life, a game that reveals basic desires and fears. John drives the old man's Studebaker to a condemned town house at 107 Stuyvesant Place to retrieve a black trunk. They realize the old man is Colonel Parker Glenville and his dog is named Gus. The Colonel becomes acutely ill. They rush him to Richmond Hospital. The old man slips away from the staff and returns home with John and Lorraine.
Sunday The Colonel sleeps.
that afternoon He goes through his trunk while John and Lorraine snoop into his tax bills.
Monday John and Lorraine consult with Dolly, a cafeteria worker, about the old man's problems.
after school Dolly accompanies them to the house and encourages the old man to eat. As the teenagers take a walk, he reveals to Dolly that he has only weeks to live.
later He invites Dolly, John, and Lorraine to visit Atlantic City.
next morning Dolly cooks breakfast for the Colonel and Gus. The Colonel sells rare silver dollars for over \$600.

later At Atlantic City, he shares his money with Dolly, John, and Lorraine. In the gambling casino, John wins \$250; Dolly and the Colonel net \$4000. John loses all their winnings.

night The Colonel gives Dolly his fossil necklace. When he gets sick, they rush him to the Staten Island Hospital. John and Lorraine bring Father Santini to marry the Colonel and Dolly. The old man dies. John declares his love for Lorraine.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The product of a broken home and the victim of tuberculosis, Paul Zindel has lived some of the conflicts faced by his characters. The son of police officer Paul and Betty Beatrice Mary Zindel, a practical nurse, Zindel was born May 15, 1936, in Staten Island, New York, and endured frequent moves to new residences. He underwent a struggle to complete his high school education, which was interrupted for an eighteen-month stay in a sanitarium.

After receiving a B. S. and M. S. from Wagner College, he taught chemistry at Tottenville High School from 1959-1969 before marrying screenwriter Bonnie Hildebrand in 1973. The couple produced daughter Lizabeth Claire and son David Jack. Discontented with his career, Zindel accepted a Ford Grant in 1966 to observe the Alley Theater in Houston. From that experience came his Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*.

CRITIC'S CORNER

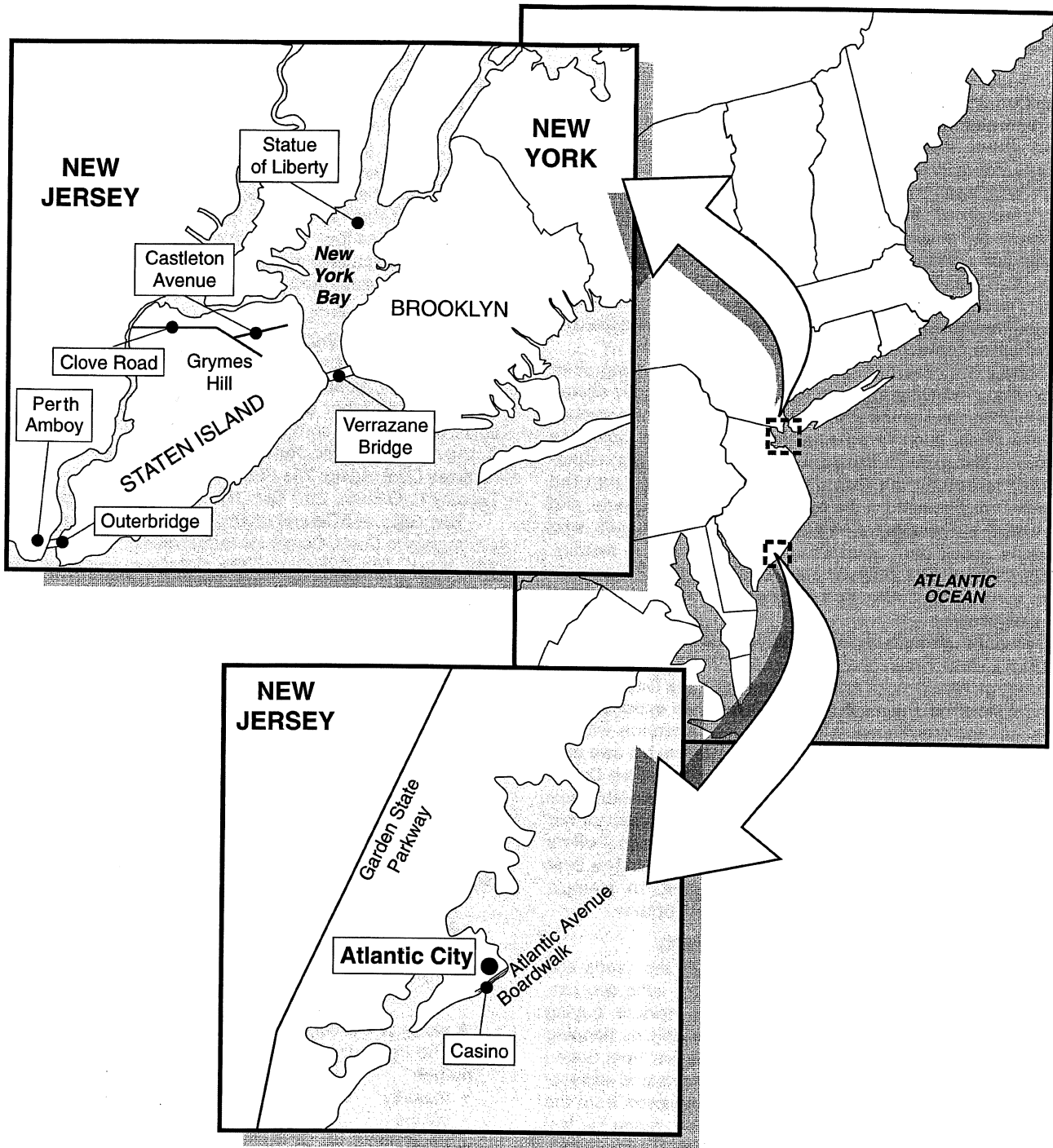
Zindel has produced a succession of plays and young adult fiction since the late sixties. Among his teen-pleasing titles are *Pigman*; *The Pigman's Legacy*; *My Darling, My Hamburger*; *I Never Loved Your Mind: Pardon Me, You're Stepping on My Eyeball*; *I Love My Mother*; *Confessions of a Teenage Baboon*; and *The Undertaker's Gone Bananas! The Pigman's Legacy* deals with standard young adult themes, notably the relationship between old and young, the sufferings of outcast and dispossessed people, and the human need to love someone and to share personal belongings before it's too late.

Zindel excels at the rhythms and idiom of adolescent speech, inter-generational conflict, and identifying the sub-surface doubts and fears so common during the teen years. For these talents, he has earned the New York *Times* Book Review Outstanding Books, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Los Angeles Drama Critics award, Obie Award, New York Drama Critics Circle Award, *Variety* award, New York Critics Award, Vernon Rice Drama Desk Award, American Library Association Notable Book, and an honorary degree from Wagner College.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To describe the effect of alternating narrators
2. To link the book with its predecessor, *The Pigman*
3. To discuss the physical, social, and financial hardships faced by old people
4. To contrast the types of love demonstrated by the four main characters
5. To chart the developing love relationships between the two couples
6. To discuss Paul Zindel's use of simile
7. To account for the human need to gamble and tempt fate

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8. To explain the title
9. To contrast settings
10. To acknowledge the value of friends and pets to the elderly

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To account for Lorraine and John's appreciation of old people
2. To describe Colonel Glenville's last day
3. To explain the Colonel's aliases
4. To describe the contents of the town house and explain the implications of the more bizarre items
5. To analyze John's response to the Colonel's love and trust
6. To contrast the death scene with the final scene
7. To justify Dolly's delight in the two teenagers
8. To analyze the symbolism of the Game of Life
9. To contrast the home environment of the Conlan family with that of the Jensens

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10. To account for Dolly's insistence that money isn't important

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Paul Zindel's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

alternating first-person point of view a rhythm of chapters spoken alternately by John and Lorraine indicating personal motivation and reflecting their assessment of each other's character and behavior. A clever technique, Zindel's alternation allows male and female teen characters to express the tensions in their homes and to account for character flaws and failings, particularly Lorraine's anxieties and repeated dreams and John's interest in graffiti. It is significant that "The Promise," the opening paragraph, is composed and signed by both speakers with no indication of individualized comment or opinion.

climax the height of an action, a crisis or turning point from which all behaviors or attitudes are permanently altered and nothing can ever be what it once was. The novel reaches a climax with John's unwise gambling with the Colonel's money. The resulting shame and tears offer Dolly an opportunity to soothe their worries without divulging that the Colonel has no need of the money. Her maturity, charity, and understanding provide a new cushion for the teenagers, who seem to seek older people as sources of wisdom, stability, and guidance. Her loving and tender care of the Colonel sets the example that John and Lorraine fail to receive in their troubled homes.

symbol a concrete object that stands for a complex or abstract idea or relationship and implies more than the literal meaning of the word or words, for example, the Game of Life. The simple mind game offers the Colonel an opportunity to discuss important issues with John and Lorraine without seeming to preach, talk down to them, or reveal his own misgivings about imminent death. When the trio observe Dolly's answers to the same game, they realize what a valuable person she is to their developing relationship. In token of her deep religious faith and upbeat attitude, the Colonel offers her a diamond, then gives her his fossil pendant. The brief wedding is the final symbol of unity and trust, an example that encourages John to express his love for Lorraine.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The urban setting of *The Pigman* frames the needs and impulses of two poorly disciplined city teens. John and Lorraine navigate the terrain with the skill of insiders, buying fudge, driving to the Colonel's former residence, skipping classes, and maneuvering the aged Studebaker from Staten Island to Atlantic City, New Jersey. They understand sophisticated problems, particularly the Colonel's eviction from the old address and his need of a place to stay during his last weeks. Without equal skill, they steer him to the emergency room and acquire the services of a priest to solidify the relationship between Dolly and her boy friend.

The domestic setting places the duo in Mr. Pignati's house, where they discover the squatter's predicament and gradually take over his care. Their purchase of a half dozen eggs is wise for an octogenarian with abdominal distress. Another fortuitous move is the addition of Gus to the household as a tie to old friendships and a boost to the Colonel's flagging morale. When Dolly joins the group, her knowledge of elderly people and their financial, physical, and emotional

problems eases John and Lorraine's worries about the Colonel.

The final settings at the casino, Boardwalk, and hospital introduce new challenges to John and Lorraine's ability to cope. Although John fails at gambling and Lorraine crumbles into tears at the sight of his discomfiture, the confrontation with money and chance is valuable to them both. In the atmosphere of loss and gain, the teenagers gain the love of Dolly, the mother figure who herds them back to reality and assures them that even the death of the Colonel is inevitable. Nothing that they encounter is outside the sphere of the Game of Life. As they gaze at the new lives in the maternity center, the teenagers realize that they share a love worth nurturing. The place and time become symbols of a mature future together.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about aging, diverticulosis, character, grief, subways, gambling, the Internal Revenue Service, Staten Island, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Acting on Your Values, Rosen Publishing Group

Nicholas Doni, *Aging: The Facts*

Timothy L. O'Brien, *Bad Bet: The Inside Story of the Glamour, Glitz, and Danger of America's Gambling Industry*

Characters in Crisis, Center for Humanities

722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York, Clifton Hood

What the IRS Doesn't Want You to Know, Martin Kaplan, Naomi Weiss

Also, consult these web sites:

"Crisis, Grief, and Healing," <http://www.webhealing.com>.

"Diverticulosis," <http://www.colstate.edu/student/health/lvminter/selfcare/divertic.htm>.

"The New York Subway," http://www.biosphere.net/~avr/ph_nysubway.html

"Old Age, Disease, and Death," <http://www.theosophy-nw.org/theosnw/death/de-gdp.htm>.

"Old Age—New Definitions," <http://yuma.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExtPUBS/COLUMNCC/cc970724.htm>.

"Psychological Aspects of Gambling Behavior," <http://teach.bhs.mq.edu.au/aps/publications/gambling/9.html>

"Staten Island Ferry," <http://www.bug.com/commune/si/ferry.htm>.

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Paul Zindel's *The Pigman's Legacy* should include these aspects:

Themes

- maturity
- values
- deception
- prying
- sharing
- loss
- understanding
- compassion
- dying
- grief
- guilt
- love

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Motifs

- taking care of a friend
- accepting death gracefully
- coping with finances and taxes
- comprehending consequences of frivolous actions
- defending the vulnerable
- making the most of a second chance

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers note the segment from which the item is taken.

1. The only practical jokes I do now are those designed to show the warm foibles of being human, (Chap. 1, p. 1)
(John was once a purveyor of sophomoric antics like putting cherry bombs in school toilets for maximum noise and mess. He now enjoys playing practical jokes or pranks that reveal the small frailties and weaknesses of character in his victims, as when he ties catgut to Lorraine's pocketbook and reels in anyone gullible enough to pick it up.)
2. "What is this?" John asked, taking out a carton from the refrigerator. "Acidophilus milk," I read from the label. "It sounds like a disease." (Chap. 4, p. 16)
(John and Lorraine are mystified by the carton of special milk which contains organisms that aid digestion. Acidophilus is necessary for people who suffer intestinal gas and cramping from undigested milk or milk products.)
3. It was all so unscientific, I wanted to say. We should get notes. We should have oscilloscopes. We should have electrodes in our heads. (Chap. 4, p. 17)
(Lorraine is serious about wanting to investigate the possibility of Mr. Pignati's ghost in his former residence. She considers a scientific study of spirits using an oscilloscope, a device that measures the fluctuations in an electrical wave on a fluorescent screen, thereby visualizing the range and intensity of the transmission. Such a scan might prove or disprove the presence of a ghost.)
4. I could see that Lorraine's sense of social work was now beginning to grow. I could just see this dossier growing in her mind. (Chap. 5, p. 21)
(John imagines the phony list of documents and other supportive data that Lorraine will use to justify her right to ask personal questions.)
5. I've come to the conclusion that his whole cranky attitude is just a defense mechanism. (Chap. 5, p. 24)
(Lorraine plays amateur psychologist and surmises that the old man uses grumpiness as a defense mechanism, a type of self-protective psychological behavior that shields the ego from painful feelings, impulses, or perceptions, for example projection, repression, regression, or sublimation.)
6. I stopped just in time and the cat moved slightly to the right of the front fender and stared at us as though it needed a quick visit to an exorcist, (Chap. 7, p. 49)
(The cat's odd movements imply the need for an expert in demonic possession. An exorcist could aid the animal by driving out evil spirits by means of scriptural recitation, incantations, or prayers.)
7. The Colonel hadn't paid real-estate taxes on the town house in years, and the only source of income we could find for him since he had retired was something called a Keogh plan, where he was supposed to pay taxes on money which he himself had saved. (Chap. 10, p. 72)
(The Colonel has contributed to a Keogh retirement fund, a post-employment income plan for self-employed workers. It was named after U. S. congressman E. J. Keogh.)
8. "I can only find the Big Dipper and the North Star." "I only know Betelgeuse," the Colonel muttered. (Chap. 10, p. 80)
(Dolly recognizes the obvious shape of Ursa Major, which incorporates the North Star in its makeup. The Colonel can spot only one star, Betelgeuse, which is Arabic for "house of the twins," a large, red star, the second brightest in the constellation Orion.)
9. I didn't think anything about it until the next morning when Lorraine called me at seven a. m. to say she was talking about diverticulosis with her mother, and her mother said that diverticulosis was a big word that could mean a lot of things. (Chap. 10, p. 81)
(Diverticulosis is a painful and potentially life-threatening abnormality in the intestinal wall, particularly the sigmoid section of the large intestine just above the rectum. The disease develops when pouches form and trap bits of digested food that decay and create gas after the rest of the food waste is eliminated. Because it traps hazardous waste in the body, diverticulosis causes cramping and discomfort that can lead to inflammation or diverticulitis, a medical emergency requiring urgent treatment to halt the spread of infection throughout the abdomen)
10. If it hadn't been for croupiers shouting out numbers at the roulette tables every once in a while, and some big brute running the Wheel of Fortune booming like a cannon, you would have thought we were in a tomb. (Chap. 11, p. 88)
(John identifies the croupier, a casino employee in charge of gambling tables who rakes in and pays out the money. The rest of the people seem unusually quiet as they bet their money and take their chances. Only one man yells "Yahooo" after winning at craps.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following question in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. What does the black trunk contain?
(The black trunk tells much about the Colonel's adult life. On first perusal, John finds a "long yellow tassel, the type an officer would wear on his shoulder." Underneath are clothes, odd-looking tools, and a wooden cigar box containing 123 old silver dollars. Strapped against the lid is a white envelope containing a photograph in a cardboard folder. The picture shows a "man with a beard. The man was in a uniform and he was saluting." The person, Colonel Parker Glenville, is the same man as Gus, only "thirty or forty years younger." When the Colonel has an opportunity to rummage through his belongings, Lorraine and John spy tax bills on real estate, information about a Keogh Plan, and a "lot of bills

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from the IRS.")

2. What items suggest that Mr. Pignati's house is again occupied?

(On first view, the house looks deserted. A maple limb has split and dangles pathetically, suggesting that no one lives in the house to maintain it. Lorraine surmises "no one cared about this house anymore. It had no doubt been left to rot and just wait for some real-estate speculators and bulldozers who would more than likely come one day and demolish it. After she notices a curtain flapping at an upstairs window, she spies a face at the window. She and John flee, but their curiosity draws them back the next day after school. The door is open, the refrigerator contains a carton of acidophilus milk, and there is a scraping noise upstairs. They climb the stair and find shaving cream in the medicine cabinet. The voice from the bedroom assures them that they are not imagining things.)

3. How does John communicate his need for a priest?

(John hurries to get the priest to the hospital in time to marry Dolly and the Colonel before the old man dies. John drives the aged Studebaker to the convent across the street from Mr. Pignati's former residence. He rings the bell, bangs on the door, and attracts the nun who is mowing the lawn with a riding lawn mower. She directs John and Lorraine to Father Santini, who lives in the garage apartment. John shouts the whole story about the Colonel and conveys his need for quick action, despite the fact that Father Santini has only recently arrived from Italy and barely understands English.)

4. How are the Colonel and Dolly dressed for their trip to Atlantic City?

(Dolly, as usual, sports a lively outfit. Her doghouse pocketbook and glittery earrings seem appropriate with her "blue electric dress" and "tight little pile of white curls . . . sprayed and firm on top of her head." The Colonel is tattered, but spiffy in his "pullover sweater and a turtle-neck with a little tear on a seam just above the spot where his fossil medallion swung back and forth, creating a semicircle of blue flashing that matched Dolly's dress."

When the couple get out of the Studebaker, Lorraine notes: "Her dress swayed in the breeze like a blue parachute. And the colonel's pullover did not match his trousers or turtleneck, but that didn't matter. The way they clung to each other, you'd have thought they were the Prince and Princess of Tasmania.")

5. How do John, Lorraine, and the Colonel enter the town house?

(After their harum-scarum journey to 107 Stuyvesant Place in the aged Studebaker, John and Lorraine are not encouraged by the five-story stone town house. The aging building is boarded up and plastered with "Condemned" signs. They escort the old man down the steps to the basement and unlock the iron gate with Gus's key. Gus hurls a garbage can through the window and orders John to climb in and unlock the basement door. Lorraine listens nervously for noises from the street, fearful that they will be arrested for breaking and entering. Inside John finds the "best collection of flashlights and lanterns I'd ever seen. He must have had seventeen regular flashlights and two or three bigger contraptions." Armed

with two flashlights and a lantern, the trio begin their tour of the Colonel's house.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. What changes have John and Lorraine noticed in their parents?

(John and Lorraine, who "lately have begun to really understand" their parents, notice signs of hope. Mrs. Jensen is reading transactional analysis, although she refuses to seek help from a psychiatrist. The Conlans are also interested in self-help books: Mrs. Conlan is learning how to say no to guilt and Mr. Conlan "is rereading How to Hate Vodka."

John is pleased with the improvement, commenting that "they realize they're just as much in transition as we are. It really takes the heat off us now that our parents, our teachers, and everybody knows that life is all adolescence." In token of his awareness, John begins carrying his dirty dishes out to the kitchen. He adds, "if you really want them to freak out, wash your own dishes. They'll go nuts.")

7. How does Lorraine deal with the old man's hostility?

(In the presence of the old man's hostility and suspicion, Lorraine steadies herself with the reminder to "Look beyond his words." When the old man rejects her offer of fudge, she remains calm in the face of his veiled accusation that "You young kids like to drug all us old people and then look through our shoe boxes for money."

Lorraine recalls an old lady who lived near her and "who smiled all the time and was nice to everyone." After the "lady's cat was poisoned one Christmas," the neighbor withdraws into her house and yells at Lorraine for making too much noise with her pogo stick near the old lady's house. Lorraine, applying psychological truths, keeps the incident in proper perspective, reserving judgment in the case of a person who "just never got over the murder of her cat.")

8. Why are John and Lorraine suitable companions for each other?

(Both John and Lorraine have a tremendous appreciation for life and more than their share of curiosity and audacity. Because their respective families withhold the love and acceptance that teenagers need during their maturing years, John and Lorraine turn to each other. Lorraine sums up their good times: "We've been alone in cemeteries. We've been chased by the police from time to time. We've even discussed all the great issues of life, like death, love, careers, war, heaven, God, and school. We've gotten dressed up in adult clothes, and had candlelight dinner parties for just the two of us. We've had beer bashes for the neighborhood gang. We did a lot of silly things and a lot of dangerous things." Despite Mrs. Jensen's concern that Lorraine will be victimized by a callous male as she once was, Lorraine develops a strong romantic attachment that John reciprocates. Lorraine sums up her response to love as an "answer to every mystery of what we were doing on this earth to begin with.")

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. How does Paul Zindel communicate John's vulnerability?

(John experiences an exhilarating sense of acceptance when the Colonel pats him and smiles, "That's my boy!

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That's my boy" *In the privacy of the school book closet, where both Lorraine and John type out their secret thoughts, John exults over the joy he feels at being touched by someone who approves of him because "my father never touches me, much less says 'That's my boy.'"*

John becomes introspective, wondering "how on earth I ever was born." He laments that "We're a family of untouchables, and if you think that sort of thing doesn't rub off on the kids, you're crazy." He believes that Lorraine, too, is marked by a lack of physical demonstrations of love, as is illustrated by their pathetic attempts to dance together. He forces himself to admit that he would enjoy intimacy with Lorraine and signs off with "(End of my humble secret paragraph.)"

10. Why does Paul Zindel reveal the Colonel's death so early in the novel?

(In the prefatory paragraph entitled "The Promise," John and Lorraine sign a solemn pledge to tell the truth about the second death in which they have been involved. Ironically, they are seated on a "stack of Hamlets," a literary figure with whom they have much in common. Like Hamlet, they hesitate to take action in a complex situation. Like Hamlet, their maturity is severely tested by responsibilities involving life and death, morality and an obligation to the spirit of a dead man.

Zindel removes suspense from the story so the reader can focus attention on the teenagers' development of loving attachments—to Dolly, Gus, Colonel Glenville, and eventually to each other. As Lorraine notes in the last chapter, "there was no shame, there was no fear, there was no Death." Their legacy from harrowing escapades with two lonely old men is love, which they are at last ready to receive and share with each other.)

Question 11-12 Creative Level

11. Describe an outing in which John and Lorraine renew their friendly ties with Dolly and Gus. What words of comfort and advice will she give them about love and death? What will she treasure from her brief relationship with the Colonel? How will they continue to provide affection for Gus?
12. Compose a letter of complaint to the hospital concerning the callous treatment of two teenagers awaiting news about the condition and treatment of their grandfather. Include details of questions from the mean nurse and the Colonel's haste in fleeing the staff.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

- Using desk-top publishing or other artistic media, design a brochure listing casino rules or hospital visiting hours, advertisements for fudge or a lost dog, poster of rules for private duty nurses in patients' homes or cafeteria workers, instructions for visiting hospital patients or repairing a water hose, schematic drawing of a subway or gambling hall, first aid for abdominal pain or faintness, chart of laws concerning skipping school and shoplifting, business card for an emergency room doctor or an engineer, headstone for Mr. Pignati or the Colonel, toll schedule from Staten Island to Atlantic City, forms for taxpayers to fill out concerning Internal Revenue Service investiga-

tions, or newspaper headline about Gus's visit to the hospital or the plight of the elderly homeless.

- Draw a story board for a movie version of *The Pigman's Legacy*. Show how the action includes buying and preparing food for Gus and the Colonel and private time between the old man and Dolly as well as a journey to Atlantic City's Boardwalk.
- Draw a character web representing the interconnectedness of school friends, teachers, parents, hospital staff, Gus, other tenants, Dolly, Father Santini, and the Colonel.

Science and Health

- Compose a chalkboard lecture on the causes of emotional distress. List reasons for Lorraine's recurrent dreams, the Colonel's depression, Mrs. Jensen's worries about her daughter, John's graffiti, Dolly's understanding, and the Bore's domestic unhappiness.
- Write an extended discussion of the causes and dangers of diverticulosis.
- Describe aloud signs of aging and impending death in the Colonel.
- Suggest methods of preparing food to help a victim of diverticulosis enjoy a full diet without suffering.

Journalism

- List questions a reporter might ask a doctor, casino worker, or Dolly about the last 24 hours of the Colonel's life.
- Compose a human interest feature on Gus's life with the Colonel and his behavior after his master dies.

Cinema and Drama

- View several realistic films and television series on troubled teens. Discuss with a small group the lasting effects of low self-esteem, arguments with parents, truancy from school, lying or deceiving, and unsupervised behavior.
- Write several conversations that are only implied, such as the Colonel's description of his hospital examination, Dolly's private talk with the Colonel about his disease, Father Santini's difficulty with English, and Lorraine's grief that John wasted the money.

Geography

- Compose a first person account of a car trip from Staten Island to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Give directions to popular tourist attractions along the way.
- Give a chalk talk on the major subway systems in the United States.

Economics

- Describe in a short speech John's innocence of the effects of gambling on good judgment.
- Write a theme in which you explain the difficulties Mrs. Jensen faces in working nights while trying to rear a teenage girl alone.
- Compose a radio program offering sources of information to elderly and/or homeless victims of Internal Revenue Service investigation.

Social Studies and Current Events

- Lead a debate about the types of punishment a court should levy on an elderly man in poor health who owes back taxes.
- Amplify the social and legal elements of the story, particularly poor school attendance, trespassing, lying, claim-

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ing false identity, and driving without a license.

Psychology

1. Compose chalkboard analyses of each stage of the Game of Life. Apply each as it elucidates the novel.
2. Explain to a small group what survival techniques help Lorraine and John overcome depression, frustration, anxiety, and daily home misery.
3. Make an oral report on the importance of intergenerational friendship. Discuss what John and Lorraine do for the Colonel and he for them. Explain how Dolly stabilizes the old man's final days.
4. Using John and Lorraine as models, comment on normal rebellion and waywardness in the teen years.
5. Suggest improvements to John and Lorraine's relationship, for example, developing friendships with peers and upgrading their behavior at home.

Mathematics and Computers

1. Generate graphs or create a bulletin board illustrating current census figures concerning juvenile delinquency, truancy, and single-parent homes, particularly for New York and the rest of the Northeast.

Language and Speech

1. Compose individual posters explaining these terms: sandpiper, Coriolanus, Betelgeuse, diverticulosis, Archbishop of Canterbury, mausoleum, croupier, paranoid, brandy, angina, Keogh Plan, connoisseur, iguanodon, and exorcist.
2. Compose a short speech in which you account for John and Lorraine's guilt.

Literature

1. Read aloud images from the novel that appeal to the five senses, such as "A Pigman is anybody who comes into your life and causes a voice inside of you to say, 'Okay buster, the jig's up.'"
2. Note how a minor character's words and actions reflect on compassion, loyalty, and concern, particularly the hospital nurse, gamblers, and Father Santini.
3. Compose a short segment of dialogue in which you become a peripheral character in the novel. Consider taking the role of teacher, police officer, onlooker, toll taker, casino owner, nurse, nun, parent of a newborn, or fellow tenant.

Education

Brainstorm ways that classroom teachers can assist students in coping with personal and family frustrations, particularly assigning papers or journals on personal reflection, organizing discussions with peers, consulting a counselor, and reading aloud or publishing students' first-person poetry.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. On a road map of the Staten Island/Atlantic City area, plot the journey to the Boardwalk and casino. Circle all routes, landmarks, and attractions mentioned in the book, including the Statue of Liberty, New York Bay, and the Staten Island Ferry. Suggest the best route for the trip in terms of scenery and convenience of travel in an aged Studebaker.
2. Make an oral report on geriatric medicine, noting the most serious, debilitating diseases, their causes, and treatment. Give data concerning the number of people

affected by each.

3. Write a detailed description of the stegosaurus, plesiosaurus, and the iguanodon. Note the time period in which these animals flourished. Provide a world map with markings to show where traces of dinosaurs have been found.
4. Outline another chapter that describes John and Lorraine's courtship. Note the reaction of Mrs. Jensen and the Conlans to their children's profession of love. Include Dolly's influence on their relationship.
5. Explain the rules of a game of chance, such as roulette, faro, blackjack, three card monte, or poker. Use diagrams to illustrate the way in which each is played. Discuss why people play games of chance that offer little hope of winning.
6. Write a critical comparison between *The Pigman* and *The Pigman's Legacy*. Emphasize any changes you perceive in the characters, setting, tone, symbolism, or theme.
7. Explain why you think Paul Zindel decided to write a sequel to *The Pigman*. Name other books that might spawn interesting sequels. Make up a title for these sequels.
8. Outline the responses of different character types to the Game of Life. Consider the answers of a cynic, an optimist, a pessimist, a psychotic, a young child, a great political leader, a philanthropist, a clairvoyant, a feminist, a con artist, a killer, a mercenary, or a habitual gambler.
9. Write a newspaper account of the unusual wedding/death scene in Colonel Glenville's hospital room. Describe the way in which Gus says farewell to his master. Make up some quotations from the doctors, nurses, and priest.
10. Research the major subway systems of the world, such as the London Tube and the Paris Metro. Compare them in terms of length, capacity, and years of use. Add a prediction about the current transportation system under the English Channel between France and England.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of low self-esteem, grief, dishonesty, hospitality, suspicion, regret, and immaturity in the story.
2. Compile a list of scenes that demonstrate John and Lorraine's helpful attitudes and behaviors.
3. Compose a scene in which John's parents learn the extent of their son's assistance to an elderly man.
4. Make a character list and explain the character weaknesses of each, including Mrs. Jensen's pilfering, Lorraine's pop psychology, the Colonel's depression, John's immaturity, the mean nurse's pettiness, and Dolly's bad taste.
5. Account for the importance of a second chance to assuage John and Lorraine's guilt.

ZINDEL'S OTHER WORKS

Dimensions of Peacocks, 1959
Euthanasia and the Endless Hearts, 1960
A Dream of Swallows, 1964
The Pigman, 1968
My Darling, My Hamburger, 1969
I Never Loved Your Mind, 1970
And Miss Readon Drinks a Little, 1971

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The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds, 1971
Up the Sandbox, 1972
Let Me Hear you Whisper, 1973
Mame, 1973
The Ladies Should Be in Bed, 1973
The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild, 1973
Pardon Me, You're Stepping on My Eyeball, 1974
I Love My Mother, 1975
Confessions of a Teenage Baboon, 1977
Ladies at the Alamo, 1977
The Undertaker's Gone Bananas!, 1979
A Star for the Latecome, 1980 (with Bonnie Zindel)
The Girl Who Wanted a Boy, 1981
To Take a Dare, 1982 (with Crescent Dragonwagon)
A Destiny with Half Moon Street, 1983
Harry and Hortense at Hormone High, 1984
When Darkness Falls, 1985
Maria's Lovers, 1985
Alice in Wonderland, 1985
Babes in Toyland, 1986
Amulets Against the Dragon Forces, 1989
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, 1989
A Begonia for Miss Applebaum, 1989

RELATED READING

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
Avi, *The True Confession of Charlotte Doyle*
Forrest Carter, *The Education of Little Tree*
S. E. Hinton, *Tex and That Was Then, This Is Now*
Carson McCullers, *Member of the Wedding*
Cynthia Rylant, *Missing May*
Irving Shulman, *West Side Story*
Betty Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
John van Druten, *I Remember Mama*
James Vance Walker, *Walkabout*
Yoko Kawashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*
Ruth White, *Belle Prater's Boy*
David Wilkerson, *The Cross and the Switchblade*
Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

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THE PIGMAN'S LEGACY

VOCABULARY TEST

Select words from the list below to complete each of the following quotations from the novel. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A. brayed | F. mausoleum | K. ptomaine |
| B. demoted | G. motley | L. speculators |
| C. dilapidated | H. mural | M. subliminally |
| D. elite | I. petrify | N. surreptitiously |
| E. indigent | J. platonically | O. transition |

1. Lorraine had borrowed a few of her mother's nursing journals, and she was _____ flipping through those as a sort of handy reference guide in case the Colonel had another attack on the way.
2. There was the town house, five stories of dark stone that looked like a private sanatorium for _____ berserk persons.
3. "Someone *is* here," he said with an assurance that made my jaw _____.
4. I'll never forget the first moment we saw Mr. Pignati's collection of strange _____ pigs.
5. "*Get in here* Lorraine," her mother _____ from the front door.
6. It was last May, about four months after our Pigman died, that John and I were riding home _____ as usual after school.
7. I took a quick glance in the backseat because _____ I had noticed a lot of junk on the floor.
8. "I feel like I'm standing in a _____," Lorraine said.
9. Maybe the marble pecan fudge had _____ in it, or botulism.
10. When TB disappeared they turned it into the Staten Island poorhouse and she was _____ to a sweeper.
11. "Farewell, old house," I sadly mumbled as we ran out to the _____ porch and didn't stop before we hit the street.
12. We started to walk around a bend past all the old villas that once housed the _____ of Staten Island, when we heard a *whirring* sound in the air.
13. It had no doubt been left to rot and just wait for some real-estate _____ and bulldozers who would more than likely come one day and demolish it.
14. But what I really think is terrific is that our parents understand Lorraine and me much better now that they realize they're just as much in _____ as we are.
15. I let go of John's hand and walked forward as though I was viewing a huge _____ in a museum.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Similes (20 points)

Match parts of comparisons. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. The garage doors looked like
_____ 2. We shot along like
_____ 3. This "special restaurant" looked like
_____ 4. He was taking these short rapid steps that made him look like
_____ 5. Another doctor who looked like
_____ 6. A puff of wind could make him topple into pieces like
_____ 7. His beady little eyes beaming down at us as if
_____ 8. This time we scared the cat so much it shrieked as though
_____ 9. She stood there making a big fuss over the man like
_____ 10. The roof leaped up into the air like
- A. a converted old office building
B. a dragon opening its mouth
C. it had just been sold to a Hong Kong Chinese restaurant
D. a medicinal dwarf
E. a sandpiper
F. a snowman
G. termite city
H. they were emitting death rays
I. a vampire actress waiting for a character she could really sink her teeth into
J. a yellow comet

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Identify the speaker of the following quotations.

- _____ 1. We are what we *do*, not what we *say*.
_____ 2. Lookin' up! Lookin' up!
_____ 3. I thought you were the guys from the Internal Revenue Service.
_____ 4. It's just too early to smoke spinach.
_____ 5. The only game I know is the Game of Life.
_____ 6. We had cranks at Hill View, too.
_____ 7. It dawned on me that I had never once seen my father use my mother for a pillow.
_____ 8. Please win. *Win for the colonel*.
_____ 9. It seemed we had a habit of stepping in and taking control of other people's lives.
_____ 10. I had this vision . . . that I was being nailed inside of a coffin.

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Part III: True/False (30 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. The teenagers regret that Gus is not invited for the trip to Atlantic City.
- _____ 2. Lorraine fears hospitals.
- _____ 3. John tries to stop Lorraine from gambling with the Colonel's money.
- _____ 4. The psychological principles he learned from books prove helpful when John entices the bum to eat.
- _____ 5. John is pleased with the Colonel's warmth and respect for him.
- _____ 6. The nuns suggest a local priest who can perform the wedding ceremony.
- _____ 7. Gus leaps onto the hospital bed and licks the Colonel's face.
- _____ 8. All students seem more sensitive to Dolly than to any other member of the staff.
- _____ 9. The Colonel gives Dolly his blue fossil necklace as a token of his affection for her.
- _____ 10. The trunk contains vital documents to free the Colonel of any obligation to the IRS.
- _____ 11. John immediately turns to Lorraine for comfort after the wad of money is gone.
- _____ 12. Because the priest has only recently arrived in the United States, he understands little of John and Lorraine's explanation.
- _____ 13. Gus Bore enters the intensive care ward and receives x-rays and intravenous liquids.
- _____ 14. John enjoys the thrill of driving the Colonel's Studebaker.
- _____ 15. The Pigman teaches Lorraine that kids are responsible for their own lives.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Describe the circumstances under which John and Lorraine meet and identify Colonel Parker Glenville.
- 2. Explain why Dolly seems unconcerned about the lost money.
- 3. Discuss the reason for John's statement of love to Lorraine.
- 4. Comment on hospital red tape that the Colonel escapes.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Select an answer to complete each of the following statements. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. In the Game of Life, John indicates that
A. the cup is made of porcelain.
B. he has little fear of death. C. his sex life will be rich and full.
D. the wall reaches as far as eternity.
- _____ 2. Lorraine uses the huge black umbrella to
A. shield Gus on their way to the emergency room.
B. hide her face as she breaks into the town house basement.
C. ward off the shrieking cat. D. protect the old man from the rain.
- _____ 3. John fears that he and Lorraine should never have fed the Colonel
A. a milk shake laced with scotch. B. scrambled eggs. C. acidophilus milk. D. fudge.
- _____ 4. Lorraine and John convince the nurse that
A. they want to get married.
B. they are Gus Bore's grandchildren. C. the Colonel knows he is dying from diverticulosis.
D. Dolly has every right to sign the death certificate.
- _____ 5. On the road to Atlantic City, John stops to
A. fill the radiator with cold water. B. pick up Gus. C. get some rolls of quarters.
D. ask the way to the Staten Island Hospital.
- _____ 6. John thinks of Mrs. Jensen as a nurse
A. who steals things like soup and sardines.
B. with an extensive knowledge of psychology. C. and an antiseptic freak.
D. and a former friend of Mr. Pignati.
- _____ 7. Lorraine recalls the Pigman's great love of
A. ice cream and fudge. B. geriatric perambulators.
C. games, riddles, and jokes. D. convertibles.
- _____ 8. When John and Lorraine need someone to advise them, they turn to
A. the nuns across the street. B. the sweeper in the school cafeteria.
C. Colonel Glenville. D. the Bore.
- _____ 9. The Colonel has a vision of
A. being nailed into a coffin. B. thousands of quarters pouring from the machine.
C. skins from Tanganyika. D. a plesiosaurus.
- _____ 10. In the Colonel's former bedroom window, John spots
A. a bit of fossilized rhino. B. a telescope. C. a black trunk. D. a German shepherd.
- _____ 11. Lorraine rushes from the elevator toward
A. the priest's office. B. the roulette table.
C. the typewriter hidden in the closet. D. sounds of babies crying.
- _____ 12. The "special restaurant" is filled with
A. staff members in tuxedos.
B. people waiting to enter Madame Charlotte's Temple of Knowledge.
C. delegates to a mortuary convention. D. people dancing to the "Anniversary Waltz."
- _____ 13. Dolly livens up her work at the TB sanitarium by
A. dancing the samba. B. roller-skating. C. wearing colorful earrings.
D. carrying a purse shaped like a doghouse.
- _____ 14. John cuts his thumb when he tries to
A. release the brake. B. force the basement door open. C. break into the Colonel's trunk.
D. cook eggs for Gus.
- _____ 15. On her way to Atlantic City, Lorraine sees a mural depicting
A. a dinosaur. B. a huge bull. C. the key to a church. D. a retirement community.

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Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Identify the speaker of the following quotations.

- _____ 1. But makeup isn't the thing that makes a girl beautiful . . .
- _____ 2. Can you imagine people going around saying, "Hello, Number 3."
- _____ 3. He loves you because you saved him from being alone in his last days.
- _____ 4. *That's my boy!*
- _____ 5. You're touching one of the mysteries of the universe . . .
- _____ 6. They'll think we're the Zodiac Killer or somebody who drives around in a car knocking off old people.
- _____ 7. I just needed a little medicine, not a new home.
- _____ 8. I have to admit now that I was going crazy.
- _____ 9. *I want to spend my life with you . . .*
- _____ 10. *Look beyond his words.*

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase that will answer each of the following questions.

- _____ 1. How does Dolly arrange Lorraine's hair?
- _____ 2. How much does the Colonel receive for his silver dollars?
- _____ 3. What was on both sides of the garden at the town house?
- _____ 4. What did Colonel Glenville design?
- _____ 5. Who smokes spinach cigarettes?
- _____ 6. Who believes that Freud and Jung can help people?
- _____ 7. Who surprises John by stroking his cheek?
- _____ 8. What does Dolly ask John to keep for her?
- _____ 9. Who insists on an immediate wedding?
- _____ 10. What is the Pigman's legacy?

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Give examples of how the Colonel shows his love for others.
2. Explain why Dolly and Gus are worthy additions to the original trio.
3. Contrast the Colonel's life before and after he meets John and Lorraine.
4. Describe how Lorraine knows that she loves John.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. surreptitiously | 9. ptomaine |
| 2. indigent | 10. demoted |
| 3. petrify | 11. dilapidated |
| 4. motley | 12. elite |
| 5. brayed | 13. speculators |
| 6. platonically | 14. transition |
| 7. subliminally | 15. mural |
| 8. mausoleum | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Similes (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. F |
| 2. J | 7. H |
| 3. A | 8. C |
| 4. E | 9. I |
| 5. D | 10. B |

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Lorraine | 6. Dolly |
| 2. Dolly | 7. John |
| 3. the Colonel | 8. Lorraine |
| 4. John | 9. Lorraine |
| 5. the Colonel | 10. the Colonel |

Part III: True/False (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T | 11. F |
| 2. F | 7. T | 12. T |
| 3. F | 8. F | 13. F |
| 4. F | 9. T | 14. T |
| 5. T | 10. F | 15. T |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A | 11. D |
| 2. D | 7. C | 12. C |
| 3. D | 8. B | 13. C |
| 4. B | 9. A | 14. A |
| 5. A | 10. B | 15. B |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. French twist | 6. Lorraine |
| 2. \$600 | 7. Lorraine |
| 3. statues | 8. roll of money |
| 4. subway systems | 9. the Colonel |
| 5. John | 10. love |

Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Dolly | 6. Lorraine |
| 2. John | 7. the Colonel |
| 3. Dolly | 8. John |
| 4. the Colonel | 9. John |
| 5. the Colonel | 10. Lorraine |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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