

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

LOIS DUNCAN

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY KATHERINE LAMBERT-SCRONCE

SYNOPSIS

Laurie Stratton introduces herself as a seventeen-year-old girl who lives in a home called Cliff House on Brighton Island off the New England Coast. Laurie's father is a science fiction writer, and her mother is an artist. She has a brother, Neal, who is eleven and a sister, Megan, who is eight. There is another presence in the house – a presence which rustles down the passageways and whispers to Laurie, "I blame you, only you." Laurie states that she is putting her experience on paper because there is no one she can talk to about the presence in her life.

Her tale begins September a year ago. She awoke after battling a twenty-four-hour virus and walked out on the balcony to enjoy the ocean view. She reminisced about the special summer she had just enjoyed – her first summer of being noticed by boys, being proud of her looks, and being kissed. Laurie's thoughts shifted to the regret she felt at having missed Natalie Coleson's end-of-the-summer party the previous night due to her flu. Gordon Ahearn, Laurie's boyfriend, attended the party although Laurie couldn't go with him as planned.

Laurie dressed for the first day of school and accompanied her brother and sister to the ferry which took all the island students to the mainland school. She looked forward to sitting with Gordon, but when she boarded the ferry, her friends, including Gordon, gave her the cold shoulder. Gordon wanted to know when the healing miracle had occurred that permitted her to feel so much better in such a short period of time. Natalie Coleson told Laurie that everyone knew she was not sick. Both Gordon and Natalie claimed to have seen Laurie on the beach outside Natalie's father's inn where the party was held. Gordon and Natalie remained angry although Laurie insisted that she had been sick in bed the night before. (Chapter One)

Laurie spent the first day of school in anger because of Gordon's and Natalie's accusation that she lied about missing the party. She made a new friend, Helen Tuttle, a red-haired, plain girl who had transferred in from a high school in the Southwest. After school Laurie and Gordon had a confrontation while boarding the ferry for home. Gordon wanted to know what she had been doing on the beach the night before, and Laurie wanted to know what Gordon had been doing on the balcony with Natalie. Nothing was resolved, so Laurie took a seat next to Jeff Rankin, an unpopular boy. Jeff had been a popular, good looking boy until the summer when a can of lighter fluid exploded and burned half of his face. One side of his face remained strikingly good looking while the other side was hideous. Laurie began pouring out her troubles to Jeff, who

listened with impatience and said that Gordon had Laurie "on a string." He also suggested that there must be someone on the island who looks like Laurie and is causing the confusion.

When Laurie got home, her brother was drawing pictures. He asked Laurie if she had just come in from outside. When she said yes, he was confused because their father had said that Laurie had stayed home from school and that he had passed her on the stairs in route to her room. Laurie hurried up the stairs to her room to look for the intruder. (Chapter 2)

Laurie sensed that someone had been in her room although nothing was out of place. She also confronted her father about having seen her during the day while she was at school. Her father thought he had become confused and had really seen her the day before. After dinner her family played monopoly, but Laurie was too upset to play. She went outside and walked down the path that ended where the rocks jutted out over the ocean below. Gordon startled her, and they resumed the conversation they had begun on the ferry. Gordon confessed to having shared a kiss or two with Natalie at the party, and he urged Laurie to confess to having met another guy on the beach during that same time. The two kissed and talked under the moonlight.

When Laurie went back into the house, she checked on her sleeping brother and sister. Megan awakened and asked Laurie what she had been doing walking "high up." Laurie insisted that she had not been walking on the high rocks but had stayed on the path. Megan stated definitively that she had seen Laurie "high up."

Laurie went to her room and glanced toward the glass doors of the balcony. She caught sight of her reflection and thought about why Gordon found her attractive. She watched as the corners of the mouth in the reflection smiled at her although she had not smiled at all. (Chapter Three)

Laurie slept little after seeing the reflection. She dreamed of a voice that whispered in her ear, "We are two sides of the same coin. We floated together in the same sea before birth." Laurie asked if the being were "the one with my face" to which the being replied, "I came first. It's you who have my face."

On the ferry to school, she told Gordon of the fear that her home had an intruder. Gordon admonished her that Cliff House was not safe because her parents never locked the doors and spent all day in their separate studio and study. Laurie thought that Gordon had probably heard rumors about her strange artist parents in the island village.

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

Laurie's day at school was full of little aggravations: forgotten lunch money and locker combination, lost shoe heel, broken bra strap. She introduced Helen to the lunch crowd from the island, but they snubbed her. Laurie then made an off-the-cuff remark that Helen would have to visit Cliff House sometime, and Helen asked when. Laurie did not want to become too close to Helen because of her not fitting in with the island crowd.

At home Laurie asked Megan what she had been doing looking out her window at night. Megan said that Laurie had been looking in. Laurie insisted that Megan's window was too high, to which Megan replied, "You were so high. How did you get there?"

When Laurie lay down, she felt the same presence beside her bed. She asked who was there, and the being whispered, "I am Lia. I am your sister." (Chapter Four)

Two weeks passed with no sign of the presence. Helen spent the day and night Saturday with Laurie on the island. Gordon refused to take the girls out because Helen didn't fit in, nor would he try to find Helen a date. The girls spent the day biking on the island. They talked about the island crowd and Gordon. Helen told about her life in Arizona on the Navajo reservation where her father was a teacher. Helen had a Navajo friend named Luis Nez who had given her a turquoise eagle pendant to protect her from evil spirits. Laurie told Helen about the stranger whom Gordon and Natalie and Megan had mistaken for her, and Helen asked her if she had been using astral projection. Helen then described the process and told of Navajos who were expert at it. The girls passed Jeff Rankin on the return trip to Cliff House, and he was unusually friendly to Helen.

That evening at Cliff House the Strattons had dinner and a family poker game. Mr. and Mrs. Stratton talked about their trip to Arizona years ago and their thoughts of settling there.

Helen and Laurie retired to Laurie's room. In the night, Helen screamed, "Laurie, what are you doing there? Please, get back! Don't look at me like that! What *is* it?" Laurie jumped from the cot, crossed the room to Helen, and turned on the lamp. Helen explained that she had seen Laurie standing by the bed, but Laurie's eyes were different - evil. Helen said she had been afraid that the being who looked like Laurie would kill her. (Chapter 5)

Several weeks passed. Helen and Laurie discussed the presence of Lia. Helen was convinced that Laurie had an evil twin who was practicing astral projection. Laurie and Gordon had a fight because Laurie was always with Helen or otherwise preoccupied.

Laurie asked her mother if a twin sister existed. Laurie's mother painfully told her that she was adopted. The Strattons had been told that they could not have children, so they made a trip to the Southwest to adopt a child of mixed racial heritage because they heard that these children were easier to adopt. Laurie's mother was a Navajo, and her father was white. Laurie did indeed have a twin sister, but the Strattons were aspiring artists on welfare and could not afford to adopt both. Mrs. Stratton held each twin, but for some inexplicable reason, she did not like holding Lia and was convinced that she could

never love Lia. After adopting Laurie, Mrs. Stratton became pregnant twice although the doctors had said this would not happen. Thus, Neal and Megan were born.

Laurie felt tremendously betrayed by her parents. She accused them of lying to her. Her parents thought that she had discovered the adoption papers and did not believe her insistence that her twin was appearing to her. Although Laurie was confused and hurt, she never doubted that her parents and siblings loved her. (Chapter Six)

Laurie and her parents made peace. The only other people Laurie told about her adoption were Helen and Gordon. Helen was most understanding, but Gordon shrugged it off as if it were embarrassing. Laurie went through the adoption files and wrote a letter to the agency in hopes of finding out the whereabouts of Lia.

In November Laurie spent the weekend at Helen's house. Helen's parents told Laurie that they had moved from the Southwest in hopes that Helen would meet new friends, but Helen's mother was concerned that Jeff's visiting Helen would not help her popularity. Laurie was surprised to hear that Jeff and Helen were friends. When they were alone, Helen and Laurie talked about astral projection. Laurie wanted to try it and was convinced that she could because of her Indian heritage. Helen insisted that it would be dangerous and that Lia was evil.

Three days later, a reply came from the daughter of the woman who had managed the adoption agency. The lady recalled her mother's speaking of the twins, one of whom was adopted and the other taken back by the biological mother who died some years later. After the mother's death, the twin, Lia, was placed in a foster home. The letter cautioned Laurie to let the past remain the past. (Chapter Seven)

The following week, Lia appeared. Jeff told Laurie that she should not be walking on the slippery rocks of the cliff which jut into the ocean, but Laurie had been nowhere near the rocks. Megan referred to the being as "Laurie's ghostly" and said that she often saw it walking down the hall of Cliff House. Mary Beth, a friend who lived on the island, berated Laurie for not showing or delivering a present to a birthday party she gave for another friend, Darlene. Laurie insisted that she knew nothing about the party, but Mary Beth said that she had been invited by word of mouth on a foggy day when Laurie and she passed in route to the post office. Mary Beth further stated that everyone had noticed the change in Laurie, and the word in the village was that her parents were divorcing. Mary Beth had heard from Gordon that Laurie was having some problems with her parents. He did not, however, mention the adoption.

Laurie went to the ferry to meet Gordon who had stayed late at school for basketball practice. She saw Gordon holding hands and engrossed in conversation with another girl. Undetected, Laurie said a silent goodbye to Gordon.

On her return to Cliff House, she felt Lia's presence beside her. Lia spoke to Laurie, and the two went into the house together. (Chapter Eight)

Laurie's life changed. She spent most of her time in her room where she waited for Lia to appear. Gordon tried to

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

make amends, but Laurie wasn't interested. Laurie's parents were concerned about her behavior but attributed it to adolescence. She also made her first D in algebra.

Lia told Laurie about their mother, a beautiful Navajo girl who was married to the son of a chief when she was thirteen. When she was seventeen, she fell in love with a trader who had come to the village to buy jewelry. She left the village with him, but he soon sent her away. She was pregnant with the twins at the time, but the man left her with an envelope of money and the address of an adoption agency. Laurie was adopted by the Strattons, but Lia was not, so her mother took her back and made her living by cleaning houses. At night, the mother would leave her body by means of astral projection and search for the trader she still loved. One night, she did not return to her body. Laurie repeatedly asked Lia where Lia lived, to which there was always no answer.

Laurie told Helen all about her experiences. Helen warned Laurie that Lia was evil. Shortly after the warning, Laurie's mother told her that Helen was in critical condition in the hospital. (Chapter Nine)

Laurie and her mother went to see Helen at the hospital. Jeff Rankin was sitting by the elevator doors. He directed them to the waiting room for intensive care where Helen's mother and dad were waiting. Helen's mother told them that Jeff and Helen had been on a date the night before, but Helen did not come home. Jeff had sent her home in a cab that evening, but instead of going straight from the cab into her home, Helen, for some unknown reason, ventured into the park across the street. It was thought that she fell and hit her head on one of the iron benches, and she remained unconscious in the cold night until someone happened upon her and called the police. Helen's mother blamed Jeff for the accident and said, "Looks can warp a person." Laurie regretted having spent so little time with Helen lately and considered herself a poor friend. That night Lia appeared and told Laurie that now just the two of them were friends. (Chapter Ten)

The Christmas season came, and Helen was still unconscious in the hospital. Her father went to school on the last day and delivered Helen's presents which she had bought before the accident for Jeff and Laurie. He told Laurie that he and his wife were moving Helen to Duke University Hospital in North Carolina. Laurie quickly wrote down her address for him to take, but she doubted if she would hear from them again.

That night, Jeff came to Laurie's house and told her that Helen's mother thought he had attacked Helen in the park. He also asked Laurie if she had been walking on the dangerous rocks. To her surprise, he mentioned astral projection. Laurie was indignant, but Jeff insisted he was only joking. He said Helen had bought some books about astral projection the night of the accident. Laurie and Jeff held hands, and Jeff confessed he often walked to Cliff House because Laurie lived there.

Lia appeared when Laurie was in her room. Lia told Laurie it was time for her to try astral projection. Laurie tried to go to Helen, but with no success. Lia encouraged her not to think in words, but to will her soul. (Chapter Eleven)

Laurie tried astral projection for several nights with no success. Lia urged her to continue trying.

On Christmas Eve, Natalie's father, Mr. Coleson, came to Cliff House for Mrs. Stratton to help him select a frame for the oil painting she had done. Mr. Coleson mentioned that he hoped to see Laurie at the party Natalie was giving that evening. Laurie said that she couldn't come. Laurie's mother asked her in private why she was not going, and Laurie replied, "I wasn't invited." She thought that Gordon had a new girlfriend which would make her an outcast just as she had been before she and Gordon started dating.

Jeff Rankin called Laurie to say that he had the books on astral projection which Helen had bought on the day she fell in the park. Laurie invited him to Christmas Eve dinner. That afternoon Lia appeared and reprimanded Laurie for inviting Jeff. Laurie told Lia that Jeff would remain a friend. Lia told Laurie that unless she rescinded the invitation, she would bear guilt all her life. Thus Laurie realized that Lia was evil and was responsible for what happened to Helen.

Jeff did not show up at the Stratton House for dinner. Laurie thought she had been "stood up." (Chapter Twelve)

Christmas Day arrived. Laurie was angry that Jeff had stood her up, and Mr. and Mrs. Stratton voiced the opinion that Jeff was rude. Later, Jeff's father called to say that Jeff had not been home the night before. Laurie told her parents about Jeff's being missing.

The Strattons opened their gifts. Laurie opened the gift Helen's father had brought to the school after Helen's accident. It was the turquoise eagle the Navajo boy had given to Helen.

Neal and Laurie rode their bikes into the village in order to find clues about what had happened to Jeff. After they returned to Cliff House and had dinner, Laurie went to her room. She stepped out onto the balcony and saw a patch of red amid the weeds and sand. She ran out of the house and found the books that Jeff had promised to bring with him the night before. She believed Jeff had laid them down before going onto the slippery rocks that jutted into the ocean. In a panic, she climbed the rocks, but she slipped and took a long fall into a dark cavern. (Chapter Thirteen)

Laurie was hurt when she fell into the cavern amid the rocks. As she lay in the darkness, she heard a voice call her name. It was Jeff. He, too, had fallen into the cavern and broken his leg. He and Laurie hugged for warmth, and to Laurie's surprise, Jeff said he loved her. He then told her about his mother's sending him to live on the island with his father because she couldn't stand to look at his face. Laurie said she was used to his looks. The two felt hopeless about their predicament because the noise of the surf muffled any cries for help they might make. Laurie was able to leave her body by astral projection. She floated over Cliff House where Neal caught sight of her presence. Then the force of Jeff's tortured cries brought her back to her body. Jeff thought Laurie had died. The two held each other until Laurie's father peeked into the cavern. (Chapter Fourteen)

Laurie's injuries were not serious, but Jeff had broken his leg and almost died of exposure. Laurie spent several

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

days reading the books on astral projection which Neal had brought into the house after the accident. The books substantiated reports of cultures around the world, including the Navajo, which were noted for astral projection. Laurie took the books to Jeff's house because he had not returned her call. Jeff was cold toward her. They talked about astral projection, and Jeff told Laurie that if Lia were as evil as they suspected, Laurie should be perfecting her powers of projection. They agreed that Lia had been responsible for both accidents, and Laurie made plans to try projecting herself to Lia in the morning hours when Lia never appeared at Cliff House. Jeff said he was delirious when he told Laurie that he loved her. Laurie said that he was not and that she hoped he had not been serious on that point. The two kissed. (Chapter Fifteen)

Although Laurie was invited to a New Year's Eve party at a friend's house, she spent the evening with Jeff and her family. On New Year's Day she took down the Christmas decorations, and during the afternoon, she felt Lia's presence. She called Jeff, and he made her promise to try astral projection the next morning. That night she read the books on astral projection and was convinced that she could do it. The next morning she successfully projected herself to Helen's bedside at Duke hospital. She witnessed a conversation between Helen and her father during which it was obvious that Helen suffered from amnesia: She remembered nothing about having lived in New England, and her father told her that she had been hurt in Arizona. He then told her that they would be moving to New Mexico upon her recovery. Thus, Helen would have no memory of Laurie or Jeff. As the nurse entered with Helen's breakfast, Laurie realized she would be late for breakfast at home. With that thought, she seemed to snap back into her body. Neal was scared because he had been trying to wake her, but she was not breathing. After calming Neal, she dressed for breakfast. (Chapter Sixteen)

Laurie and Jeff were celebrities on the ferry and at school. Everyone, including the teachers, was interested in what had happened to Jeff and Laurie in the cavern. Laurie told Jeff about projecting herself to see Helen. Jeff thought they should somehow jog Helen's memory about the four months she spent in New England, but Laurie disagreed.

The next morning, Laurie tried to project herself to Lia. Her astral self arrived at a house out West. She drifted into a man and woman's bedroom where the woman was having a nightmare and screaming "Kathy! Watch out!" She then drifted into a room which was stripped bare as if no one had ever been there. The third room was a girl's bedroom with items in disarray as if she had planned to return. A high school annual lay open on the bed. There were two girl's pictures side by side - Katherine Abbott and Lia Abbott. (Chapter Seventeen)

When Laurie returned to her body, she fearfully realized that perhaps someone had been sent to wake her. She hurried downstairs, but all seemed normal. No one had been sent to wake her because there was a hail storm, and school had been canceled. Megan said Jeff had called, so Laurie excused herself to return the call. When alone, she tried to recall every detail of the astral projection to the

Abbott house. She remembered seeing some letters on their TV set. The return address was Albuquerque, New Mexico. Laurie recalled Mr. Abbott's wife having called him Art, probably for Arthur, so she called information and was connected to the Abbott home. Mrs. Abbott answered the phone, and Laurie asked about Lia. Mrs. Abbott was overcome with emotion, so she put Mr. Abbott on the phone. He told Laurie that he and his family had taken Lia in as a foster child although her placement with several other families had not worked. He mentioned accidents. Lia was extremely insecure and said she was becoming too close to the Abbotts. Also, she was very difficult to awaken and spent a lot of time in her room. At that point, Mr. Abbott said that Lia was in a hospital "here" and could not be seen. He advised Laurie to be happy with her own life and to stay away from Lia. (Chapter Eighteen)

Laurie went back downstairs after the phone call. She and her family had breakfast and cleaned the house. They then gathered to tell stories in the dark. Laurie told a story of a girl with a twin sister. The girl could go out of her body and fly. Laurie's mother became angry and accused Laurie of always bringing up the adoption. The family then went to the kitchen to fix lunch, but Laurie said she was not hungry and went to her room. Once there, she projected herself to the mental hospital where Lia was a patient. Laurie studied the face of Lia as she lay on the bed. Lia had obviously projected herself somewhere. Laurie overheard the nurses talking about the horseback riding accident where Kathy was killed. They also talked of the accidents which befell other families who had taken her in. They mentioned a verdict where Lia was pronounced innocent by reason of insanity. Laurie then realized how evil Lia was and became afraid that she would harm her family at Cliff House. In a panic, she projected herself back to Cliff House, but as she neared her own body, she could not enter it. She watched in horror as the body on the bed awoke and stretched before her. (Chapter Nineteen)

Lia went downstairs to dinner. Mrs. Stratton apologized for her reaction to Laurie's story, but Lia said it didn't matter. At dinner, only Megan sensed that something was different with Laurie. Lia began eating the white meat of a chicken, but Megan knew that Laurie only ate dark meat. The Strattons talked about Jeff's need for cosmetic surgery, and Lia seemed uninterested. She said she didn't know how old Jeff was, but Megan said Laurie had told her yesterday that Jeff was nineteen. Megan excused herself and went to bed. When Lia went upstairs to Laurie's room, Lia sensed that Laurie was there. Lia said that she had always wanted a family where she would be an heir, but all of her foster families had children of their own. She got rid of the other children so that she would be the only heir, but her schemes didn't work. She told Laurie that without a body, she would eventually simply fade into nothingness. (Chapter Twenty)

Lia assumed Laurie's role. For several days, Laurie watched her family. She spent time watching her mother paint and her father write. She also spent lots of time watching Megan and Neal. Megan told Lia that the Strattons were planning on paying for Jeff's operation. Lia

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

became furious because the expense of the operation would take away from her inheritance. Megan was shocked at Lia's reaction, so Lia further stated that she had made up with Gordon and would tell Jeff that day on the ferry to school. Lia told Megan to instruct Jeff to stay off the ferry and meet her at the end of the pier. Laurie hovered above and tried to send telepathic messages to Jeff, but to no avail. Megan stayed off the ferry, too, and once again, Lia was very angry. She told Jeff that she didn't want to see him anymore, but Megan told Jeff that Laurie was like herself on the outside, but she was like the mean "ghosty" on the inside. Jeff asked Lia a trick question to which she did not know the answer. He then pulled the turquoise eagle pendant out of his pocket. Lia shrank in fear because the eagle was supposed to ward off evil spirits. Lia knocked it from his hand, got one of Jeff's crutches, and was going to push Jeff into the icy water. Megan grabbed the pendant and hurled it at Lia's throat. Immediately, Lia was forced from Laurie's body, and Laurie reclaimed it. She cried to Jeff and Megan, "I'm back!"

Laurie says she has just turned eighteen. Mr. Tuttle has told her that Helen will be going to school on Shiprock Reservation and that he wants Laurie not to contact her because there is no memory of the time spent in New England. Jeff has had his operation, but he will need another. His father has remarried, so Jeff has gone to live with his mother.

Laurie says she still feels Lia's presence at Cliff House. Mr. Stratton talks with Arthur Abbott because of the strange number which appeared on the phone bill. Mr. Stratton tells Laurie that her twin sister has died. Lia's body had no pulse and no breath, so it was cremated. Only Laurie knows that Lia was simply projected and would have returned to her body.

Laurie is to start college soon. She plans to start a new life and try not to worry about whether or not Lia's presence is still there. Laurie will, however, be like her father and write about her incredible experiences. (Chapter Twenty-One)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lois Duncan has written many books for young people. She grew up in Sarasota, Florida, graduating *cum laude* with a B.A. from the University of New Mexico. She has always known that she wanted to be a writer, and as early as three years old, she was inventing stories. Mrs. Duncan now has five children, four of whom have published their writings.

Living in Albuquerque, Lois Duncan enjoys photography, horseback riding, and being with her family.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Stranger with My Face won the National League of American Pen Women's Best Novel Award in 1982, was named a Best Book for Young Adults by the American Library Association and a "Best Book of the Year" by the *New York Times*, the *English Teachers' Journal*, and the Library of Congress.

Publisher's Weekly hailed the book. The reviewer wrote, "Duncan's reputation for writing gripping, solidly plotted mysteries grows with each new novel, and this one may be the most popular of all."

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To expand vocabulary through word study, class discussion and research
2. To identify the themes of the novel
3. To explain how personal appearances first affect the actions of others
4. To comment on the qualities that form a true friendship
5. To explain the significance of cliques among high school students
6. To compare this novel with other works by Lois Duncan

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast the characters of Laurie and Lia
2. To understand the traits that make Lia evil
3. To analyze Lia's motives for causing the "accidents"
4. To compare Laurie's relationship with Jeff and her relationship with Gordon
5. To explain why Laurie pursues a friendship with her twin sister despite being warned not to do so

MEANING STUDY

Students should define and learn the meaning of the following words:

1. solace
(*comfort*)
2. influx
(*a flowing in*)
3. deboarded
(*got off a plane or ship*)
4. silhouetted
(*shadowed*)
5. emerging
(*coming out*)
6. resemblance
(*likeness*)
7. crevices
(*cracks*)
8. illuminated
(*lighted*)
9. exodus
(*a departing*)
10. eons
(*a very long time*)
11. accentuating
(*emphasizing*)
12. souvenir
(*keepsake*)
13. incessant
(*without pause*)
14. ransack
(*raid*)

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

15. illusion
(mirage)
16. blared
(made a loud noise)
17. parka
(jacket)
18. restraints
(controls)
19. sage
(wise)
20. enunciated
(pronounced)
21. inmate
(a person confined to an institution or prison)
22. cavern
(cave)
23. accentuated
(emphasized)
24. reverberating
(echoing)
25. manipulate
(navigate through obstacles)
26. canopy
(an overhanging cover)
27. torrent
(flood)
28. solemn
(serious)
29. piranha
(a man-eating fish)
30. imposter
(fake)
31. saga
(story)
32. meteorological
(of the science of weather forecasting)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Students should answer the following questions in short essay form.

1. Personal appearance plays a major role in the lives of Laurie, Jeff, and Helen. Describe each character and tell what effect his or her appearance has on his or her actions.
(Laurie likes her appearance and is confident with others. Laurie comes to realize that although Gordon is better looking than Jeff, Jeff's personality and understanding of people makes him the better mate. Jeff has gone from being attractive to being disfigured, and he judges himself on the basis of his looks; therefore, he is not able to socialize after the accident. Helen is plain, but she does not let this stop her from seeking friends.)
2. Natalie is Laurie's friend on the island. Does she exhibit qualities associated with friendship? Cite specifics from the book to support your answer.
([Answers will vary.] Natalie invites Laurie to all of the parties she gives at her father's inn. She is not

- particularly nice to Helen. Also, she kisses Gordon at a party where Laurie is absent.)
3. Helen and Laurie become friends despite the barriers to their friendship. Tell about these barriers.
(Helen is from the mainland, and for this reason, Gordon will not fix her up with a date so that the four of them can go out together. Also, Gordon is jealous of the time Laurie spends with Helen.)
4. Gordon shows signs of immaturity throughout the book. Cite instances in which Gordon acts or reacts in a less than appropriate manner.
([Answers will vary.] Gordon acts embarrassed when Laurie tells him about the adoption. He refuses to include Helen in their plans. He is attracted to other girls and is less than trustworthy.)
5. Helen's mother and father make some very important choices for Helen which they deem to be in her best interest. What are these choices?
(They move to New England to provide a change for Helen. They judge Jeff to be unworthy of her attentions. They keep Helen's experiences in New England a secret, and they ask Laurie not to contact her.)
6. Contrast Laurie and Lia's mother's ideas of love with their father's.
(Laurie and Lia's Navajo mother fell in love with the white trader. She gave herself completely to him and expected that they would spend their lives together. Their father took relationships lightly, and when their mother became pregnant, this signaled a level of commitment for which he had no desire.)
7. Helen and the Abbotts warn Laurie that Lia is evil. For what evil deeds is Lia responsible?
(Lia is responsible for Kathy Abbott's death. She also sees that Helen and Jeff are led to accidents.)
8. How does the saying "money is the root of all evil" apply to Lia?
(Lia's sole motivation is to make herself exclusive heir to the money of both the Abbotts and the Strattons.)
9. Contrast the personalities of Gordon and Jeff.
(Gordon is concerned with fun and appearances. Jeff is searching for a soul mate. Gordon is gregarious, but Jeff is introverted. Gordon is shallow where Jeff shows depth of character.)
10. Laurie is warned twice not to pursue a relationship with her twin sister. Which two people issue these warnings and why?
(The lady at the adoption agency issues a warning because it has been her experience that pursuing one's past is not a good idea. Mr. Abbott warns Laurie because he knows that Lia is dangerous.)
11. Jeff's relationship with his parents is less than desirable. Give details showing how Jeff is treated by his mother and his father.
(Jeff's father is more interested in his girlfriend than in his son. Jeff is left alone for long periods of time, including Christmas Eve. Jeff's mother sends him to live with his father because she does not like looking at his face after the accident. Neither parent is concerned enough to see that Jeff gets the cosmetic

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

surgery he so desperately needs.)

12. How does the turquoise eagle pendant give credence to the Navajo belief that it would protect its owner from evil spirits?

(It is the turquoise eagle pendant that forces Lia's spirit from Laurie's body so that Laurie may live.)

COMPREHENSION CHECKS

These questions should be answered either true or false. The answers are in the answer key.

Chapter One

1. Laurie Stratton lives on an island.
2. She has no brothers or sisters.
3. Laurie got sick and missed a party.
4. Gordon stayed home because he had no date.
5. Natalie was concerned that Laurie was not well enough to be at school.

Chapter Two

1. Laurie missed the first day of school because she was sick.
2. Gordon and Natalie had forgiven Laurie for missing the party.
3. Jeff Rankin was a boy who had been in a serious accident.
4. Helen Tuttle was very popular at school.
5. Laurie's father believed Laurie had stayed home from school.

Chapter Three

1. Neal enjoyed drawing.
2. Laurie and Gordon kissed and made up.
3. Megan claimed to have seen Laurie walking on the high rocks.
4. Laurie walked on the high rocks.
5. Laurie's reflection smiled at her.

Chapter Four

1. Gordon accused Laurie of wanting to see another guy.
2. Megan had been spying on Gordon and Laurie.
3. Helen fit in perfectly with the island crowd.
4. Laurie wanted Helen to come to Cliff House for a visit.
5. The being who stood beside Laurie's bed said she was Laurie's sister.

Chapter Five

1. Laurie's parents liked Helen.
2. Gordon fixed Helen up with a date.
3. After dinner, the Strattons played poker.
4. Helen saw the stranger who looked like Laurie.
5. Helen said the stranger had very kind eyes.

Chapter Six

1. Helen and Laurie spent little time together.
2. Gordon and Laurie got along better than ever.
3. Laurie was adopted.
4. Laurie had a twin sister.
5. Laurie was half Navajo.

Chapter Seven

1. Gordon wanted to know all about Laurie's adoption.

2. Helen and Jeff had become friends.
3. Helen encouraged Laurie to try astral projection.
4. Laurie's biological mother had died.
5. Lia had been placed in a foster home.

Chapter Eight

1. Laurie had forgotten to go to a birthday party.
2. Gordon had told Mary Beth that Laurie was adopted.
3. Laurie caught Gordon kissing another girl.
4. Gordon and Laurie had a fight at the ferry.
5. Lia did not appear to Laurie despite Laurie's requests.

Chapter Nine

1. Laurie spent much of her time in her room.
2. Laurie's biological mother fell in love with a trader who came to the village.
3. Lia was raised by her mother.
4. Lia's mother used astral projection.
5. Helen encouraged Laurie to try astral projection.

Chapter Ten

1. Helen was in a car accident.
2. Helen's mother blamed Jeff for the accident.
3. Laurie felt she had been a good friend to Helen.
4. Helen spoke to Laurie and told her not to feel guilty.
5. Lia told Laurie that now there were just the two of them.

Chapter Eleven

1. Helen and her parents were moving to North Carolina.
2. Helen regained consciousness and asked for Laurie.
3. Helen had bought books on astral projection.
4. Laurie and Jeff held hands.
5. Laurie tried astral projection, but she failed.

Chapter Twelve

1. Laurie turned down Natalie's party invitation.
2. Lia wanted Jeff and Laurie to be good friends.
3. Lia was evil.
4. Lia was responsible for what happened to Helen.
5. Jeff and Laurie had a nice Christmas Eve dinner.

Chapter Thirteen

1. Jeff called and apologized for not showing up.
2. Helen's gift was the turquoise eagle made for her by the Navajo boy.
3. Laurie found the books that Jeff had promised to bring.
4. Laurie walked out onto the slippery rocks.
5. Laurie took a long fall into a cavern in the rocks.

Chapter Fourteen

1. Laurie broke her leg when she fell into the cavern.
2. Jeff hurt his shoulder when he fell into the cavern.
3. Jeff told Laurie that he loved her.
4. Jeff's mother had been very supportive of Jeff after his accident.
5. Laurie's mother found the two in the cavern.

Chapter Fifteen

1. Jeff called Laurie as soon as he could.
2. Laurie did not have to stay in the hospital.
3. Jeff's house was beautifully decorated.
4. Jeff told Laurie she should practice her astral projection.
5. Jeff and Laurie became close again.

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

Chapter Sixteen

1. Laurie went to a party for New Year's Eve.
2. Laurie was able to project herself to Helen's bedside.
3. Helen saw her and was scared.
4. Helen's father lied to Helen about her having lived in New England.
5. Neal was scared because Laurie was not breathing.

Chapter Seventeen

1. Everyone was interested in hearing about Jeff and Laurie's accident.
2. Jeff told Gordon that Laurie now belonged to Jeff.
3. Jeff believed that he and Laurie should jog Helen's memory.
4. Laurie projected herself to the Abbott house somewhere out West.
5. Lia's last name had been changed to Abbott.

Chapter Eighteen

1. Laurie had a rough day at school the next day.
2. Laurie was able to talk with the Abbotts by phone.
3. Mr. Abbott said that Lia was in a hospital.
4. Mr. Abbott said he would take Laurie to the hospital to see Lia.
5. The Abbotts lived in New Mexico.

Chapter Nineteen

1. Laurie told an interesting story which delighted her mother.
2. Only Megan believed that Laurie's story was true.
3. Lia had been responsible for the accident which killed Kathy Abbott.
4. Lia was in a mental hospital.
5. Laurie was not able to return to her body at Cliff House.

Chapter Twenty

1. Mrs. Stratton apologized for reacting to Laurie's story.
2. Only Megan noticed the difference in Laurie.
3. Mr. Rankin's girlfriend wouldn't allow him to spend money to fix Jeff's face.
4. Lia arranged accidents so she would inherit the money of her foster families.
5. Without her body, Laurie would eventually fade away.

Chapter Twenty-One

1. Jeff's father remarries.
2. Laurie's life is saved by the turquoise eagle Helen gave her.
3. Laurie and Helen are finally reunited.
4. Lia's body was cremated.
5. Laurie will go to college.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. The plot of *Stranger with My Face* centers around a case of mistaken identity. List other stories, books, or movies which use this plot element.
2. The turquoise eagle pendant is reputed to protect its owner from evil spirits. List other items which are said to provide the owner with luck or power or protection.
3. Use the library to prepare a paper on astral projection as well as other out-of-body experiences.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Psychology

1. Discuss evidence that Jeff and Laurie have a more mature relationship than Gordon and Laurie have.
2. Jeff was left alone on Christmas Eve. Prepare a short paper on findings regarding holiday depression.
3. Laurie becomes obsessed with thinking about her adopted sister. Find and report a definition of *obsessive behavior*.
4. Physical appearances play important roles in the lives of Laurie, Helen, and Jeff. Write a paper discussing your opinions as to how important appearances are.

Sociology

1. Laurie's school had cliques which separated certain students from others, for example, the island students from the mainlanders. Interview five students you do not know. Ask these students to make statements about cliques in your school. Report your findings to the class.
2. Check out a book on genealogy and trace your family tree as far as possible.

Current Events

1. Ask your librarian to help you find articles and information on societies which help adopted persons find their biological families.
2. Check the *Reader's Guide* for stories about legal battles between adoptive and biological parents or between children and either set of parents.
3. Research any laws your state might have which give adoptive persons access to their biological family's medical records.

Health

1. Prepare a short report on Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina. Why do you suppose Helen's parents chose this hospital for Helen's treatment?
2. Jeff needed cosmetic surgery. Prepare a short report on the successes of cosmetic surgery for people who have had disfiguring accidents.

Social Studies

Research the culture of the Navajo Indians. Include an overview of their beliefs.

Cinema

1. List some of the problem scenes one might have in realistically depicting *Stranger with My Face*.
2. If you were the casting director, what stars would you give the roles of Laurie, Lia, Gordon, Jeff, and Helen?

Art

1. Design your own book jacket for *Stranger with My Face*.
2. Draw a picture of what the eagle pendant might have looked like.

Language Arts

1. Write a letter from Gordon to Laurie telling why Gordon is a better choice for a boyfriend, or write a letter from Laurie to Gordon telling him why you do not wish to be his girlfriend any longer.

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

2. Write a letter from Helen's parents to Helen explaining why they lied to her about her having lived in New England.

TEACHING NOTES

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. The element of romance is interwoven throughout the book. Discuss the relationships between the following characters: Mr. and Mrs. Stratton; Laurie and Jeff; Helen and Luis Nez.
2. Parents and their decisions play key roles in the story. Describe the relationships between the following sets of parents and their children: the Strattons and Laurie; the Tuttles and Helen; the Rankins and Jeff.
3. Lia is a most complicated character. Describe what her life might have been like with her mother, and relate this early childhood experience to her evil actions. It is also alluded to that Lia was born evil. Do you think a tendency toward doing evil is of nature or nurture?

OTHER BOOKS BY LOIS DUNCAN

Chapters: My Growth as a Writer
Don't Look Behind You
Down a Dark Hall
A Gift of Magic
I Know What You Did Last Summer
Killing Mr. Griffin
Locked in Time
Ransom
Summer of Fear
The Third Eye
The Twisted Window
Wonder Kid Meets the Evil Lunch Snatcher

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publisher's Weekly, 7 Aug. 1981, p. 78.
Something About the Author. Vol. 36. Detroit: Gale, 1984.

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

VOCABULARY TEST

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the quotes. Choose your words from the list below.

dismantled	restraints	torrent	canopy	souvenir	meteorological
blared	inmate	influx	solemn	exodus	emerging
solace	sage	crevices	saga	deboarded	resemblance
imposter	cavern	accentuating	enunciated	incessant	illuminated
manipulate	reverberating	predecessor	parka	silhouetted	eons
ransack	piranha	illusion			

1. Even the beauty of the ocean is no _____.
2. This was a mental institution, and the girl on the bed – my sister, Lia – was an _____.
3. In the summer, of course, there was an _____ of tourists...
4. We _____ at the landing and walked side by side along the pier to the road.
5. ...my father's head and shoulders appeared above us _____ against the sky.
6. "Oh, not too bad," Dad said _____ from the office hallway.
7. When had she discovered her _____ to me?
8. Between the rocks were _____ which led to hollows and caves...
9. From my bed I could see every inch of the balcony _____ by moonlight.
10. This day was just as beautiful as its _____.
11. But when the ferry docked there was such a hectic mass _____ that no one could have found anybody...
12. How many _____ would pass before these rocks were gone?
13. "Megan is my *adoptive* sister," I said bitterly, _____ the word.
14. The _____ shops and the art gallery closed...
15. I found his silent company more to my liking than the _____ chatter of the group below.
16. Neal...went off to the kitchen to _____ the refrigerator.
17. Was she, in truth, there by the window, or was the sight of her an _____...
18. Carols _____ gaily from loudspeakers.
19. He was leaning against the wall with his hands crammed into the pockets of his _____.
20. "Free of _____. Just lift – and go!"
21. Her _____ advice was interrupted by the ring of the telephone.
22. She _____ the names with exaggerated care.
23. Investigation later revealed that the French government had built a _____ station.
24. I was colder than I had been in the underground _____.
25. Neal and I _____ the Christmas tree and packed away the ornaments.
26. ...the sound of the tardy bell _____ through the empty hall came as no surprise to either of us.
27. I held the door for Jeff to _____ through with his crutches.
28. ...the sky had arched above me in a _____ of stars.
29. ...I could imagine them, slick and black beneath an icy _____ of rushing water.
30. The round face, raised to mine, was _____ and worried.
31. "You don't put a _____ in with a bowlful of goldfish."
32. Couldn't he tell his own sister from an _____?
33. What is the true meaning of this _____?

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (60 points)

Match the phrase to the letter of the correct character. Some answers will be used more than once.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| A. Laurie | D. Mrs. Stratton | G. Natalie | J. Mr. Rankin | M. Mr. Tuttle |
| B. Lia | E. Jeff | H. Megan | K. Helen | N. Arthur Abbott |
| C. Mr. Stratton | F. Gordon | I. Neal | L. Kathy Abbott | O. Luis Nez |

- _____ 1. a successful artist
- _____ 2. gave lots of parties
- _____ 3. a red-haired girl
- _____ 4. believed in mermaids
- _____ 5. carved the eagle
- _____ 6. suffered a burn accident
- _____ 7. last name was Ahearn
- _____ 8. the evil twin
- _____ 9. a successful science fiction writer
- _____ 10. liked to draw like his mother
- _____ 11. gave Laurie the Christmas present from Helen
- _____ 12. caused people to have accidents
- _____ 13. Jeff's girlfriend
- _____ 14. spent little time with his son
- _____ 15. Helen's past boyfriend
- _____ 16. made a D in algebra
- _____ 17. fell in the park
- _____ 18. Laurie's little brother
- _____ 19. found Laurie and Jeff in the cavern
- _____ 20. denied telling Laurie he loved her
- _____ 21. tried to adopt Lia
- _____ 22. kissed Natalie
- _____ 23. became upset at Laurie's story
- _____ 24. last name was Coleson
- _____ 25. knew Lia was not Laurie
- _____ 26. moved his daughter to New Mexico
- _____ 27. wouldn't pay for his son's operation
- _____ 28. had a horseback riding accident
- _____ 29. calmed his wife after her nightmare
- _____ 30. had an annual lying on her bed

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

Part II: Short Answer (10 points)

Write the correct answer in the blanks provided.

1. The name of Laurie's home is _____.
2. Laurie is half _____ Indian.
3. Lia left her body by _____.
4. Laurie lives in a section of the United States called _____.
5. The pendant that saved Laurie's life was the turquoise _____.

Part III: Essay (30 points)

Choose TWO and answer in complete sentences.

1. *Stranger with My Face* makes the reader think about how one's appearance affects one's life. Describe the personal appearances of Laurie, Jeff, and Helen.
2. Name three people Lia physically harmed and tell specifically how she harmed each one.
3. Tell what happens to the following characters at the end of the book: Lia, Laurie, Jeff.

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (60 points)

Match the phrase to the letter of the correct character. Some answers will be used more than once.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| A. Laurie | D. Mrs. Stratton | G. Natalie | J. Mrs. Rankin | M. Mr. Tuttle |
| B. Lia | E. Jeff | H. Megan | K. Helen | N. Arthur Abbott |
| C. Mr. Stratton | F. Gordon | I. Neal | L. Kathy Abbott | O. Luis Nez |

- _____ 1. Laurie's first boyfriend
- _____ 2. brought the books in from the scene of the accident
- _____ 3. couldn't stand to look at her son
- _____ 4. asked Laurie not to contact Helen
- _____ 5. caused accidents to happen
- _____ 6. fixed the eagle pendant when it broke
- _____ 7. a young Navajo boy
- _____ 8. gave Laurie the pendant
- _____ 9. was a teacher on an Indian reservation
- _____ 10. was a good-looking boy before his accident
- _____ 11. had her picture next to Lia's in the annual
- _____ 12. gave the eagle pendant to Helen
- _____ 13. was adopted by the Strattons
- _____ 14. shared a locker with Laurie
- _____ 15. Laurie's adopted sister
- _____ 16. told Mr. Stratton that Lia had died
- _____ 17. went to college at the end of the book
- _____ 18. took her son back at the end of the book
- _____ 19. told Laurie that Lia had died
- _____ 20. Laurie's adopted brother
- _____ 21. Laurie's twin sister
- _____ 22. held Lia and knew she could never love her
- _____ 23. cheated on Laurie by kissing Natalie
- _____ 24. her father owned the Brighton Inn
- _____ 25. he wrote science fiction novels
- _____ 26. fell off a horse
- _____ 27. was a successful artist
- _____ 28. gave lots of parties
- _____ 29. adored his big sister
- _____ 30. told Laurie to go on with her life and forget Lia

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

Part II: Short Answer (10 points)

Write the correct answer in the blanks provided.

1. The name of Laurie's home is _____.
2. Her home is on an island called _____.
3. The Abbotts live in the state of _____.
4. Laurie lives in a section of the United States called _____.
5. Lia leaves her body by means of _____.

Part III: Essay (30 points)

Choose TWO and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain Lia's reason for causing accidents to happen to the children of her foster families. Tell about one accident she caused to happen to a foster brother or sister.
2. Tell about Jeff's personality before the lighter accident as compared to his personality after the accident.
3. Tell about the life of Lia and Laurie's biological mother.

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

ANSWER KEY

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Chapter One

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. F

Chapter Two

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T

Chapter Three

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T

Chapter Four

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. F
5. T

Chapter Five

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. F

Chapter Six

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T

Chapter Seven

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T

Chapter Eight

1. F
2. F
3. F
4. F
5. F

Chapter Nine

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. F

Chapter Ten

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T

Chapter Eleven

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T

Chapter Twelve

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. F

Chapter Thirteen

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T

Chapter Fourteen

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. F

Chapter Fifteen

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T

Chapter Sixteen

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T

Chapter Seventeen

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T

Chapter Eighteen

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T

Chapter Nineteen

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T

Chapter Twenty

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T

Chapter Twenty-One

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T

STRANGER WITH MY FACE

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. solace | 18. blared |
| 2. inmate | 19. parka |
| 3. influx | 20. restraints |
| 4. debarked | 21. sage |
| 5. silhouetted | 22. enunciated |
| 6. emerging | 23. meteorological |
| 7. resemblance | 24. cavern |
| 8. crevices | 25. dismantled |
| 9. illuminated | 26. reverberating |
| 10. predecessor | 27. manipulating |
| 11. exodus | 28. canopy |
| 12. eons | 29. torrent |
| 13. accentuating | 30. solemn |
| 14. souvenir | 31. piranha |
| 15. incessant | 32. imposter |
| 16. ransack | 33. saga |
| 17. illusion | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (60 points)

- | | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. E | 11. M | 16. A | 21. N | 26. L |
| 2. G | 7. F | 12. B | 17. K | 22. F | 27. J |
| 3. K | 8. B | 13. A | 18. I | 23. D | 28. L |
| 4. H | 9. C | 14. J | 19. C | 24. G | 29. N |
| 5. O | 10. I | 15. O | 20. E | 25. H | 30. L |

Part II: Short Answer (10 points)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Cliff House | 4. New England |
| 2. Navajo | 5. an eagle |
| 3. astral projection | |

Part III: Essay (30 points)

1. Laurie is slim and attractive; Jeff had a burn making half of his face hideous; Helen is red-haired and plain.
2. Helen's fall in the park; Kathy's horseback riding accident; Jeff's fall on the rocks; Laurie's fall on the rocks.
3. Lia's body is cremated. Jeff has an operation and goes to live with his mother. Laurie goes to college.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (60 points)

- | | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. E | 11. L | 16. N | 21. B | 26. L |
| 2. I | 7. O | 12. O | 17. A | 22. D | 27. D |
| 3. J | 8. K | 13. A | 18. J | 23. F | 28. G |
| 4. M | 9. M | 14. K | 19. C | 24. G | 29. H |
| 5. B | 10. E | 15. H | 20. I | 25. C | 30. N |

Part II: Short Answer (10 points)

1. Cliff House
2. Brighton Island
3. New Mexico
4. New England
5. astral projection

Part III: Essay (30 points)

1. Lia wanted to be the sole heir to her foster family's money. She caused the death of Kathy during a horseback riding excursion.
2. Jeff was a playboy before the accident. Afterward, he became surly and introverted.
3. Lia and Laurie's mother was married to the chief's son. She ran away with a white trader who deserted her. She gave birth to the twins, put them up for adoption, and supported herself by cleaning houses.



Vandalia Road • Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Toll free 1-800-637-6581 • Fax 1-800-551-1169
PERMA-BOUND CANADA • Box 517, Station A • Willowdale, Ontario
Toll free 1-800-461-1999 • Fax 1-705-876-9730