Chapter 1

1. Describe the following characters:
   - Todd Buckley
   - Nelson Jaworski
   - Didi Ray
   - Dipsy
   - Jake Garrett
   - Rick Paradis
   - Melissa Fantino
   - Jennifer Belanger
   - Coach Hammer
   - Mrs. Appleford

2. Who is the narrator of this novel?

3. How is Jake able to host a party of this magnitude?

4. Have you ever been to an unsupervised party? What were the circumstances? Did anything go wrong?

5. Who is Todd messing around with at the party?

6. Why is Rick shocked that Todd would do this?
7. How is Dipsy treated by his “so called” friends?

8. Why do you think he puts up with it?

9. In what way(s) is the setting of this story similar to or different than Park View? Explain.

Chapter 2
1. What is the name of the high school they attend and why do you think the author of the book chose it?

2. Why does Todd tell Rick that they need to ‘play to the front row’ and what does it show about him?

3. Why is Rick bewildered by this and what does it show about him?

4. What is unusual about the fact that Jake is only a long-snapper on the team?

5. What makes Jake different than all the other players on the team?

6. Where does Jake take Rick before they go home and why did they go there?

7. How was Jake treated and what might have been going on?

8. Who does Jake want Rick to bring to his next party and why?

9. What is Rick’s response to his request and why?

10. Who is Mrs. Appleford and what is she concerned with?

Chapter 3
1. Describe Jennifer Belanger and her relationship with Rick. What other novels/movies does this remind you of?

2. Why does Didi decide to go to the party and how will this create a problem?

3. Why shouldn’t we be surprised that Didi will attend with Jennifer and Rick? What does this prove about Rick?
4. How does Rick react to the news that Didi is going and why?

5. What does he do to help that situation once they arrive at the party?

6. Who was Todd with and how does he respond to Rick when he tells him that Didi is there? Does his reaction surprise you?

7. How does Todd explain his presence at the party to Didi?

8. How does Didi react when Jennifer questions Todd’s story and why?

9. Describe Jake’s reaction when he learns Didi is there and what is apparent when they are introduced?

10. What evidence do we have that Jake has a lot of money? Where do you think all this money comes from?

Chapter 4

1. What is the connection between Didi and Jake?

2. What does Didi say that gives the impression that Jake has changed?

3. What is Todd worried about?

4. What do we learn about Todd and Rick’s relationship?

5. In what ways is this party different from the previous one?

6. Describe what happened to Dipsy’s pants.

7. Describe one instance that highlights the power that Todd holds over his peers.

8. Describe another instance that highlights the power that Todd holds over his peers.

9. Describe what Mrs. Appleford has seen and what she might think.

10. Where has Didi been and how will Todd react to it?
Chapter 5 and 6

1. What does Rick notice as he jogs by Jake’s house the next day? Why is he shocked by this?

2. What is Jake’s story about it and is it believable? Why?

3. How does Rick prove himself to be a good friend to Jake?

4. How does Jake offer to repay him?

5. Why do you think Jake wants Rick to bring Jennifer to the next party?

6. Describe what happened between Jennifer and Rick sophomore year at apple-picking.

7. What does this incident tell us about Todd?

8. What Dipsy’s behavior afterwards does it say about the type of person he is?

Chapter 7

1. What does Rick’s mom do for a living?

2. How was she involved with Jake and his father?

3. What do we learn about Jake from his mother?

4. Why do you think he did that?

5. Who shows up unexpectedly at Rick’s house?

6. What is unusual about this? What does she want?

7. Describe what happened at the mall.

8. What happened to Jake and Didi?

9. Why did Didi really stop over at Rick’s?

10. What does this say about her?
11. What is Rick beginning to suspect?

12. What does he do to prove his suspicions are true?

Chapter 8
1. What is going on between Didi and Jake?

2. Does Todd know anything about it?

3. What changes regarding Todd’s status is Rick expecting to see in school?

4. Does it ever happen? Why?

5. What does this say about Didi?

6. Why wasn’t Jake in any of Rick’s classes? How does Rick find out where to find Jake?

7. How does Jake explain the situation to Rick?

8. What does this say about Jake?

9. Describe Dipsy’s behavior at a Bronco event?

10. How does Rick explain Dipsy’s behavior?

11. How does Didi’s view of their relationship differ from Jake’s?

12. Why do you think Didi stays with Todd?

Chapter 9
1. Describe Jake’s relationship with Rick. How does Rick feel about it?

2. What do we learn about how Jake earns his money?

3. How does Jake feel about his intelligence? Why?

4. Why is Jake behind on his work?
5. Describe how the party finally got started. Why doesn’t anyone want to be the first to arrive?

6. How does Didi treat Rick when she sees him and when she leaves the dance floor? What is he to her?

7. What is Jennifer’s theory on why Didi cheats with Jake? Do you agree or disagree?

8. How will Jake react if Rick is right? If Jennifer is right?

9. What is different about this party as compared to the others? Why might this be a problem?

10. What happened between Todd and Didi? What is unusual about this?

11. How does Todd respond to the situation? Why do you think he does this?

12. How does Rick feel about Jake’s parties now?

Chapter 10

1. Describe what happens in the locker room before the game.

2. Why is Nelson upset? How does the coach respond?

3. How does Todd try to manipulate Rick? Is Rick willing to comply with Todd’s wishes? Why?

4. How has Jake’s relationship with Todd changed? How are the other players responding to this? Why?

5. Who won the game? Who is responsible for the win? Who actually gets credit for the win?

6. What happens to Dipsy at every Bronco game? Why?

7. What does Jake see that upsets him? How does he explain it?

Chapter 11

1. How is Jake viewed at school now? How has his reputation changed?

2. What are THREE rumors circulating about Jake?

3. Who is spreading the rumors? Why?
4. What does Todd say when Rick confronts him?

5. Where do Jake and Rick go when they take the afternoon off?

6. What realization does Rick have while they are parking near Lake Michigan?

Chapter 12
1. What has Nelson learned? How is he dealing with the news? How does Todd explain the situation?

2. Rick proves himself to have some good moral qualities. Cite THREE examples form the text to support this.

3. What does Todd learn about Jake from the McKinley guys?

4. Provide TWO examples of FORESHADOWING that the author has used which indicates that something terribly wrong is likely to happen.

5. How does Rick stand up to Todd? Why is this such a huge risk for him?

6. What does Rick do to try to avoid trouble?

Chapter 13
1. Why wasn’t the party ‘fun anymore” for Rick?

2. Who were the ‘sanest ones here?’

3. What was Didi doing that was different at this party and why do you think she was doing it?

4. Why does Jake always act “completely unconcerned?”

5. What was the single headlight and “express train” and how is it a metaphor?

6. Who were the only people concerned about the mess and what did they do?

7. Why did Jennifer and Rick need to wash up and what did it lead to?

8. What does Rick remember about Jennifer’s birthday and what does he do about it when he remembers?
9. How does Jennifer explain the fact that Didi is hanging with a ‘mathlete’?

10. What does Jennifer mean when she says “he almost pulled it off?”

Chapter 14

1. Why did the crowd part for Todd even though the strangers did not know him?

2. Why was Jake so confident and ‘reinvented’ when he faced Todd?

3. How did people react to the confrontation between Todd and Jake?

4. What happened to Rick when he tried to warn Jake to run from Nelson?

5. Who stops Nelson and what is her motivation?

6. How did Jake and Rick react when the house started to burn?

7. Why won’t the kids answer the cop’s questions?

8. What would have happened if Didi had confessed?

9. What is it that is really keeping her from confessing?

10. Why did Jake confess and what will happen?

Chapter 15

1. What does it say about Didi that she saved Jake from Nelson but won’t save him from the law?

2. Why is it ironic that Jake’s first question is ‘How is Didi?’

3. What consequences does Jake face and how does Rick react to them?

4. What does Rick finally realize Jake was doing all along when he discovers the mementos of Jake’s past life?

5. What was he trying to become and why did Didi reject him?

6. Who does Rick talk to about the case and what is her advice?
7. What does he do to get the other students to show up the day of the trial and why?

8. Why would he have no luck with the Throckmorton Hall crowd?

9. What difference could it make that a lot of students show up?

10. What is ironic about what Rick had done to help Jake?

Chapter 16
1. What did all the students do with the sixty-three passes they got to go to the court with?

2. How did Dipsy compare Jake to a manta ray and why?

3. Why does Dipsy always refer himself as a remora?

4. How does Rick explain Dipsy’s ability to put up with the mistreatment from the cool kids?

5. What does Rick do to Dipsy’s hair before court and why?

6. What about the trial upsets Rick and what does he do about it?

7. How does Jake explain the way the trial went?

8. What was the sentence?

9. Why did Jake give Rick his number and what do you predict will happen?

10. Who else was at the trial and how well does it fit her character?

Chapter 17
1. Why did Rick quit the Broncos?

2. Why did he continue playing anyway?

3. What was ironic about Todd saying, “After all we did for him!”

4. Who came to the game and why?
5. How is it ironic?

6. What is it saying about the Todd’s and the Jakes of the world?

7. What does Jen finally apologize for?

8. What excuse does she give?

9. Who is she concerned with and what does it show about her?

10. How well does the ending with Rick and Jen satisfy the reader’s need for denouement?