

Different Seasons Study Guide

Different Seasons by Stephen King

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Contents

Different Seasons Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 1.....	4
Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 2.....	6
Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 3.....	8
Apt Pupil, Chapters 1 to 7.....	9
Apt Pupil, Chapters 8 to 11.....	11
Apt Pupil, Chapters 12 to 20.....	13
Apt Pupil, Chapters 21 to 29.....	15
The Body, Chapters 1 to 7.....	17
The Body, Chapters 8 to 17.....	19
Chapters 18 to 33.....	21
The Breathing Method, Part 1.....	23
The Breathing Method, Part 2 and Part 3.....	25
Characters.....	27
Objects/Places.....	37
Themes.....	39
Style.....	41
Quotes.....	43
Topics for Discussion.....	46

Plot Summary

Different Seasons is a collection of four fiction novellas by Stephen King. *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption* concerns Andy Dufresne, a banker wrongly accused of killing his wife and her lover. He is sent to Shawshank Prison, where he befriends Red Smith. Red gets Andy a rock hammer since Andy is interested in geology, and later gets him a poster of Rita Hayworth for his cell wall. Andy begins laundering money for the warden. A new prisoner named Tommy Williams realizes he knows who really killed Andy's wife. Andy goes to the warden, Sam Norton, but the warden refuses to help him. Norton sends Williams to another prison to keep him quiet. Andy soon escapes and flees to Mexico, and once Red is paroled, he joins him.

In *Apt Pupil*, Todd Bowden, a thirteen year old boy discovers a man named Arthur Denker is really a Nazi, Kurt Dussander, who ran the Patin concentration camp. He blackmails Dussander into telling him about the concentration camps. Todd's grades start slipping since he is spending so much time with Dussander, and his parents are called to meet with guidance counselor Ed French. Dussander pretends to be Todd's grandfather and convinces Ed French that Todd will bring up his grades. Both Todd and Dussander start killing winos to relieve their bad dreams, brought on by the talk of the concentration camps. Dussander has a heart attack while burying a wino in his basement. He is taken to the hospital, where his roommate recognizes him as a Nazi. Dussander commits suicide to avoid prosecution. Ed French comes to Todd, asking why a Nazi pretended to be his grandfather, and Todd shoots him. Todd takes a gun to the highway overpass and is taken down by police.

In *The Body*, Gordon LaChance, Chris Chambers, Teddy Duchamp, and Vern Tessio learn the location of the body of a missing boy. The boys plan to hike to where the body is and discover it so they can be heroes. They arrive at the body to find that Ace Merrill, leader of the gang Billy belongs to, also wants to claim the body. Chris threatens Ace with a gun and Ace leaves, although his gang later beats up the boys. The boys don't take the body, and Ace eventually places an anonymous call about the body's location. Chris, Teddy, and Vern all die in the years after their adventure.

In *The Breathing Method*, David Adley is a member of a mysterious club, where the members tell stories. One member, Emlyn McCarron, is a doctor and tells a story about an unwed woman who got pregnant. She was killed while arriving at the hospital on an icy night. Although she was decapitated, she kept breathing for several minutes until the baby was delivered.



Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 1

Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 1 Summary

Red Smith is a man in Shawshank Prison, located in Maine. He was sent to prison for cutting the brakes on his wife's car; their neighbor and her baby were also in the car when it crashed. He is known as the man who can get things, since he gets the prisoners whatever they request except guns and weapons. Red meets Andy Dufresne, a banker who is unjustly convicted of killing his wife, Linda. Linda was having an affair with a golf pro, Glenn Quentin. Someone broke into Quentin's home and shot them. Andy bought a gun several days before and cigarette butts and tire tracks show he was outside Quentin's home. A convenience store clerk testifies Andy bought dishtowels, which were used to muffle the gun shots. Andy claims he didn't buy them. He claims he threw the gun in the river before murder, but it hasn't been found. He is convicted and sent to prison for life.

Andy first comes over to Red Smith to ask for a rock hammer. Red is skeptical because he thinks it may be used as a weapon, but Andy Dufresne convinces him he just wants to use it on rocks he finds in the exercise yard since he is interested in geology. Red gets it for him, hoping he doesn't use it on the sisters, a group of vicious men who gang-rape the other prisoners. They attack Andy several times, but he fights back as much as he can. In one incident, the men try to make him perform fellatio, but Andy threatens to bite them if they try to make him do that. They continue to harass Andy until someone beats up Bogs in his cell. Red believes Andy paid someone to do it.

Several months later, Andy Dufresne comes to Red Smith asking him to get a poster of Rita Hayworth. Red notices Andy seems very excited about it. Red and Andy are both on a crew of prisoners who are putting new tar on the roof. Byron Hadley, a mean-tempered guard, is talking about an inheritance he received and how much taxes he will have to pay on it. Andy comes over and asks Hadley if he trusts his wife. Hadley gets ready to throw Andy off the roof, but Andy says he can keep all the inheritance by giving it to his wife. Andy asks for a few beers for each of the prisoners working on the roof as payment. Hadley takes his advice, and soon Andy is giving tax advice to all the guards. This allows him to have private cell for most of his stay.

Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 1 Analysis

Andy looks like he is guilty because of many coincidences, but his cool and controlled demeanor convince the jury of his guilt. If he had shown emotion or vehemently denied



being guilty, he may have shown the jury he is innocent. Andy is calm and collected by nature, however, and the jury believes he is a heartless killer. When Andy arrives at Shawshank, he and Red Smith begin to get closer. Red respects Andy, who is able to keep his cool even in prison. Andy refuses to back down to the sisters, knowing that if he backs down once, they will always rule over him. Red also respects the way Andy handles himself with the sisters and with the guards. Andy is able to take chances and take control of the situation in order to get what he wants. He sees there is an opening with guard Byron Hadley and he is able to use his financial know-how to bargain with the guards. This gives him a private cell while he is in prison, which becomes necessary to Andy's greater plan, although that is not revealed here.



Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 2

Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 2 Summary

Andy Dufresne also takes over the prison library from Brooks Hatlen. Andy works hard to improve the library and repeatedly requests funding from the state until he starts getting money from them. When Greg Stammers takes over as warden, Andy goes to work laundering money from illicit income, such as the sale of pills and a discount auto repair service. He and Red become closer friends over time, and Andy tells Red Andy knows the work he is doing is bad, but he's just trying to get by as best he can, since the library is helping other prisoners get their high school diplomas. Andy changes the poster in his cell through the years, but it is always of a beautiful woman.

Sam Norton takes over as warden of the prison. He is a religious man, but that doesn't stop him from taking kickbacks and skimming money. He begins an Inside-Out program, which puts the prisoners to work outside the prison. Tommy Williams comes to the prison. Tommy works with Andy Dufresne to get Tommy's high school diploma. When he learns Andy is in prison for killing his wife, Linda, Tommy realizes the true killer is an old cellmate of his, Elwood Blatch. Blatch told Tommy about the murder while they shared a cell, saying he did it to steal money. Andy goes to Norton with this information, but Norton won't do anything with it. Norton says Tommy is probably lying to get on Andy's good side. Andy doesn't understand why Norton won't help him, saying he would never reveal anything about the money laundering. Norton gets angry and sends Andy to solitary. When he gets out, he learns Tommy has been transferred to a minimum security prison. Andy falls into a depression for several months after this.

After his depression lifts, Andy Dufresne tells Red about Peter Stevens, the false identity Andy set up with money that he could use if he gets out of prison. The key to the safety deposit box with documents for the identity is hidden in a field in Buxton. Andy's friend, Jim, who helped him set up the identity, has died so there is no way to get at the money in the accounts while Andy is in prison. Even though he knows who really killed his wife, he has no way to use his money to defend himself. He tells Red he wants to go to Zihuatanejo, Mexico, and open a small hotel. Andy says he can use a man who knows how to get things, but Red says he's been inside too long and couldn't cope on the outside.



Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 2 Analysis

Andy Dufresne gets his first real glimpse of freedom when Tommy Williams says he knows who the real killer is. Tommy knows enough details about the case to show that Andy wasn't the killer, and Andy wants Tommy to testify for him so Andy can go free. Andy believes that the system is legitimate and will work for him now that there is proof that he is innocent. However, Sam Norton refuses to let Andy go, not wanting to lose the man who launders his money. Norton gets angry when Andy mentions this and orders Andy to solitary. Norton, who professes to be a religious man, does not want to be confronted with the dirty things he does. Norton transfers Tommy to a minimum security prison to buy his silence. Andy tells Red how even without Norton's cooperation, there might have been a chance if his friend, Jim, hadn't died. Jim had set up a false identity for Andy, but after Jim's death, Andy has no way of reaching the money in Peter Stevens' name while still inside prison. Red learns that Andy is so close to freedom but can't quite touch it, and this is what sends Andy into a depression that lasts several months. When he recovers, he talks to Red about fleeing to Mexico, but Red believes this is just a dream.



Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 3

Redemption, Part 3

Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 3 Summary

Red Smith discusses several different types of jailbreaks, some more successful than others. After he and Andy Dufresne talk about Mexico, he begins to guess that Andy wants to escape. Andy escapes in 1975. That morning, the guards discover Andy is missing from his locked cell. No one can figure out how he got out and the warden is called. Warden Sam Norton arrives, furious that Andy escaped. He pulls down Andy's poster, now of Linda Ronstadt, and finds a giant hole. Norton sends a guard, Rory Tremont, down through the hole, and he finds out that Andy cut through a sewer pipe and crawled down it to escape. Red believes Andy first started thinking about escaping when he asked Red for the poster. Since Andy knew a lot about geology, he must have discovered the cement was easy to crumble.

Red Smith estimates it took Andy Dufresne about seventeen years to tunnel through and escape. He believes Andy did all the work for the warden and guards so he could keep his cell to himself. He thinks Andy could have escaped sooner, but the thought of actually escaping unnerved him for a while. He gets a unsigned postcard from McNary, Texas, and believes that is where Andy crossed into Mexico. Red is eventually paroled. He gets a job in a grocery store, but travels to Buxton on his days off to search for the field where Andy hid the key to the safety deposit box. He finds it and discovers a note from Andy, telling him to come to him. Red takes his things and gets on a bus, hoping to drift across the border and join Andy in his new life.

Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 3 Analysis

Andy Dufresne has been planning an escape for most of the time he has been in prison. He has used the rock hammers, first bought from Red early on in his stay, to tunnel through the wall. Once in the wall space, he crawled down to a sewer pipe and through that to get outside the prison. Andy was so determined to get out of prison, he was able to withstand the foulness of the pipe. Red believes Andy used his knowledge of rocks to figure out the concrete in the prison was brittle and easy broken. He believes Andy got through the wall several years before he escaped. He attributes this to the feeling of being institutionalized, meaning that prisoners get so used to the routine inside prison, they are afraid to face the outside world again. Once out, Red finds that he also feels this way, but the hope of sharing Andy's dream life in Mexico keeps him going. Red perseveres until he finds directions from Andy, and he has hope of a new life along the Mexican coast.



Apt Pupil, Chapters 1 to 7

Apt Pupil, Chapters 1 to 7 Summary

Todd Bowden, a thirteen-year-old All-American boy and good student living in Santo Donato, California, goes to Arthur Denker's house. When Denker answers the door, Todd calls him Kurt Dussander, the name of a Nazi who ran a concentration camp at Patin in World War II. Denker tries to say he is not and threatens to call the police, saying he was a worker in a motor factory during the war and did not fight. Todd calls his bluff, and Denker admits he is really Dussander. Todd tells Dussander about his interest in World War II, which began when he found old magazines describing the war. He recognized Dussander on the bus one day and began following him, even taking his fingerprints. Todd shows Dussander pictures he had taken of him. Dussander asks Todd what he wants, assuming Todd will blackmail him. Todd says he wants to hear about the war from Dussander, including all the parts that the media censors.

Kurt Dussander tells Todd Bowden about the concentration camps and life in Germany, including how men were killed for conspiring to assassinate Hitler and their deaths were taped. Todd tells him he sent a letter to a friend in case Dussander does anything to him. Todd visits Dussander again and makes Dussander tell him about the uniforms of the guards and inmates. When Todd returns home, his mom, Monica Bowden, asks him how reading books to Dussander is going. She says it is sweet he's doing something for the old man. Todd goes to Dussander, who tells Todd about a nerve gas they used on the inmates at the concentration camp. It didn't kill the inmates, but made them laugh and yodel terribly, until Dussander has the guards shoot the inmates.

Todd's dad, Dick Bowden, talks to him about his slipping grades. Todd promises to do better. Dick asks if he should stop seeing Dussander, but Todd reacts vehemently, unnerving his father. Dick dismisses it when Todd says he just don't want to punish Dussander, since he enjoys being read to. Todd brings Dussander, who has begun to look haggard, a Nazi uniform from a costume shop and makes him wear it. Dussander does and marches around the kitchen, scaring Todd for a moment. Todd gets his grades again and is failing several subjects. He has been having bad dreams about what Dussander tells him about the camps. He changes the grades so his parents won't find out. Dussander has also been having bad dreams. He wakes up in the middle of the night, realizing he is enjoying talking about the camps. He puts the Nazi uniform on and goes back to sleep without dreaming.

Apt Pupil, Chapters 1 to 7 Analysis

Todd Bowden appears to be an ordinary, All-American boy. He is a good student and has never been in serious trouble, as his parents are always ready to point out. Todd, however, seems to have an undercurrent of something disturbing, since his first instinct on discovering Kurt Dussander is not to turn him in. Instead, Todd blackmails



Dussander into describing the concentration camps for him, including the experiments and how they killed the Jews. Despite the former atrocities he has committed, Dussander is disturbed by Todd, not believing a young boy would want to hear about those things. Dussander complies and tells Todd about the camps. Todd and Dussander both begin to show signs that their talks are disturbing them. They both begin to have bad dreams, and Todd finds that his grades are suffering. Dick Bowden, Todd's father, almost notices something is wrong with his son, but dismisses it since Todd has always been such a good kid. Dussander finds the stories are stirring up old feelings and desires, reflected in his dreams. He uses the uniform to comfort himself and protect against the dreams. This is the first indication that going back into the concentration camp mentality seems to soothe Dussander.



Apt Pupil, Chapters 8 to 11

Apt Pupil, Chapters 8 to 11 Summary

Kurt Dussander goes to dinner at Todd Bowden's house. Todd's parents, Dick and Monica, are charmed by Dussander, which unnerves Todd. Dussander dreams that inmates of the camp are coming back for him. He lures a cat to him using milk. He thinks about how prisoners at Patin sneaked in items with them, and how he used stew to tempt the inmates into ratting out the others. He catches the cat and cooks it in his oven, thinking the cat's yowling sounds like a young boy. Todd comes to Dussander with a letter from Ed French, the school's guidance counselor, to Todd's parents. French wants to meet with them because of Todd's grades. He tells him they will be caught, since his parents know the visits to Dussander are the only thing that's changed in Todd's life. Dussander gets angry, since while Todd will be punished, Dussander will most likely be sent to Israel and put on trial for his crimes during the war.

Todd Bowden uses ink eradicator to fix the grades on his report card. Dussander tells Todd he will meet with Ed French and pretend to be Todd's grandfather, Victor Bowden. He tells Ed that Todd's parents are having trouble at home, and promises the boy will bring up his grades by April, when the school gives out cards indicating if the students pass or fail each subject. Dussander says if Todd receives even one bad grade, he will let Ed talk to Todd's parents. Todd is angry, since he is so far behind it will be near impossible to bring up his grades. Dussander tells Todd he will study at Dussander's house every day after school, starting immediately. Todd is very angry, but does it. On the way home, he rides his bike over a hurt bird on the sidewalk. Kurt Dussander goes to the pound to adopt a dog. Todd Bowden gets an algebra test back, getting a C+. Dick and Monica Bowden talk about Todd. Monica is worried about Todd, since he seems to be having bad dreams. Dick says Todd is a good kid and they don't have to worry about him.

Dussander keeps forcing Todd to study. Todd's dream start to become sexual. When the cards are handed out at school, Todd gets only one bad grade from his algebra teacher, Mr. Storrman, but it turns out to be a joke and Todd passed. Todd goes to tell Dussander that he didn't get any failing cards. Todd plans to push Dussander down the cellar stairs when he goes to get more alcohol, but Dussander hears him and tells him he has put a letter detailing his relationship with Todd in a bank deposit box. If Dussander dies, the box will be opened and everything will come out. Todd goes through the old train yard, where he encounters a wino. He thinks about using his Swiss Army knife on the wino, but throws some change at him instead and runs away.

Apt Pupil, Chapters 8 to 11 Analysis

Todd Bowden shows that the concentration camp stories are having more of an effect on him, poisoning his mind and his dreams. Todd is unable to concentrate in school,



and as a result his grades slip to the point where his parents must be notified. Todd knows his parents will discover the true nature of his relationship with Dussander. Dussander knows his life is on the line as well, since if Todd's parents learn he is a Nazi, they will certainly turn him in. Dussander pretends to be Todd's grandfather, pulling them into a deeper conspiracy together. Todd parents are worried about him, but choose to look at his track record rather than follow their instincts and realize something is wrong with him. They are assured because Todd's grades haven't slipped, but in reality Todd has been changing them.

When Todd successfully brings his grades up, he goes to Dussander and plans to kill him, hoping this will end his misery and their relationship. However, Dussander is a step ahead of Todd, telling him he has written a document describing their relationship. If Dussander is already dead, it does not matter if it comes out that he was a Nazi, but Dussander's death would hurt Todd's reputation tremendously. If Todd tries to threaten Dussander now, Dussander does have some proof that Todd knew about him, and holds this over Todd's head. Todd feels trapped and doesn't know how he can get out of the situation. This shows that he did not think of the consequences of getting in so deeply with a Nazi.



Apt Pupil, Chapters 12 to 20

Apt Pupil, Chapters 12 to 20 Summary

Todd Bowden goes to see Kurt Dussander to tell him they got away with their deception and he probably won't be around much because his family is going to Hawaii for the summer and then he will be going to high school. He tells Dussander they could each destroy their letters that tell about their relationship, but Dussander says that won't work because they could have extra copies hidden, and there is no way to be sure they are all destroyed. Todd says he is trapped then, because Dussander will die eventually. Todd goes back to the train yard with a knife and stabs a wino to death. He sends a postcard to Dussander from Hawaii. Dussander runs into a wino on the bus and asks him to come to his house.

Todd Bowden visits Kurt Dussander now and then. Both are still killing winos, although they haven't told each other about it. One wino almost escaped from Dussander's home, but Dussander managed to kill him in the end. Todd joins the rifle club at school. He takes his rifle to a spot by the highway and pretends to shoot at the passing cars. Dussander kills a wino at his home but has a heart attack when trying to bury him. He calls Todd, who pretends Mr. Denker wants him to read a letter to his parents. Todd goes over and buries the wino, Dussander saying he believes Todd has had experience with them before. Todd cleans up and calls his dad, saying Dussander has had a heart attack. He takes a letter from a box in Dussander's room, breaking the lock, to use as a decoy.

Morris Heisel is admitted to the hospital after breaking his back. His first wife and daughters were killed when they were in the concentration camps in World War II. Kurt Dussander is his roommate, and Morris keeps thinking Dussander is familiar. Todd visits Dussander and tells him he took care of everything at the house. He has just graduated as salutarian of his class. They discuss how they were both killing winos. They discuss their letters, and Dussander tells Todd he had none, but Todd knows he can't really believe him. Morris almost remembers who Dussander is, but he has feeling in his foot and is elated he is not paralyzed. He eventually recognizes him because Dussander had interrogated Heisel at Patin, the concentration camp.

Apt Pupil, Chapters 12 to 20 Analysis

Todd Bowden and Kurt Dussander have now become so corrupted they must turn to killing in order to appease their dreams. Both have begun killing winos, figuring they will go mostly unnoticed by the authorities. This killing seems to help soothe their dreams. However, they find that they must keep doing it with increasing frequency; otherwise, the dreams come back. Todd and Kurt are answering violence with violence, and in the end it is just taking them deeper into madness. When Dussander has a heart attack while burying a wino, they have no choice but to try and cover up what really happened.



Dussander is taken to the hospital, where he is recognized by his roommate, Morris Heisel. This recognition seems coincidental, but it is a result of Dussander's own actions. If he hadn't killed the wino, he wouldn't have been admitted to the hospital at that time and been recognized. This can be seen as Dussander getting his comeuppance and does not bode well for Todd Bowden.



Apt Pupil, Chapters 21 to 29

Apt Pupil, Chapters 21 to 29 Summary

Todd Bowden has breakfast with his dad, Dick Bowden. They talk about Todd's girlfriend, Betty Trask. Dick thinks Betty is a really nice girl, but Todd thinks that she is a slut. Todd has not wanted to have sex with any girl and always broke up with girls before they let him do it. Betty, however, wanted to have sex on the first day. Todd finds himself not being able to perform. Dick sees in the paper that Todd is named to the baseball all-stars. Ed French is away for a conference and finds Victor Bowden, Todd's grandfather. He visits him and learns he is not the man who came to see him about Todd's grades. A detective named Weiskopf comes to the hospital and tells Kurt Dussander they know his true identity. Ed French looks at Todd's old records and sees his report cards were doctored. Dussander goes to the hospital medicine closet and takes some pills. He takes them to kill himself. Todd and his parents see the news in the paper, as well as Ed French.

Richler, a detective, comes to talk to Todd, who says he knew nothing about Dussander. He does catch Todd in a few lies, including that Dussander got phone calls once in a while. Richler leaves and talks to Weiskopf. They both believe Todd knew about Dussander and about the winos. Hap, a wino, comes to the police station and shows Lt. Bozeman Todd's picture in the paper, saying he saw him with one of the winos who ended up dead later. Bozeman dismisses it until he hears Richler and Weiskopf come in. Todd is beginning to panic, but he thinks he can still get out of the situation. He cleans his gun at his house. Ed French comes to him and asks him why Dussander pretended to be his grandfather, and Todd knows Ed French is the only one who can show he and Dussander conspired together. Todd shoots Ed French, who dies. Todd then takes his rifle to the spot over the highway, where he is taken down by police several hours later.

Apt Pupil, Chapters 21 to 29 Analysis

When Kurt Dussander realizes his cover has been broken, he decides to take his own life. Dussander knows that if the Israelis get him back to their country, he will mostly likely be tortured and killed. Instead of submitting to them, Dussander takes his chance and kills himself, hoping to find peace in death. However, at the last seconds of his life, he realizes there may be dreams in death, dreams more horrible than any he's had to deal with so far. Dussander tries to struggle awake but is unsuccessful. This shows the dreams may be his hell, and he must suffer through them for eternity.

Todd Bowden at first believes he can get away with knowing the truth about Kurt Dussander, lying to the police about the nature of their relationship. However, after the police leave, Todd realizes there may be a few holes in his story but doesn't believe there is anything that can truly show he and Dussander were in a conspiracy. Todd's



mental state is slipping, and he becomes more and more obsessed with his gun. When Ed French comes and Todd realizes he can prove that Todd and Dussander conspired, Todd snaps and kills him. Once French is dead, Todd realizes there is nothing for him but the end and goes to the overpass. The end is ambiguous, but it appears Todd Bowden shot and killed several passing motorists before he was killed himself. His parents will be left to wonder how the perfect, apt pupil they raised could do something so horrible.



The Body, Chapters 1 to 7

The Body, Chapters 1 to 7 Summary

Gordon LaChance is hanging out with his friends, Chris Chambers and Teddy Duchamp, in their treehouse in Castle Rock, Maine, playing cards and reading comics. Teddy's ears are burnt because his father held them to the stove after Teddy broke a plate. His dad is now in a mental hospital for the military. Gordie's brother, Dennis, died a few months earlier. Vern Tessio, one of their other friends, comes and asks if they want to go see a dead body. A boy named Ray Brower has been missing for several days. Vern tells the boys he was digging under his porch, looking for a jar of pennies he had hidden a while ago and lost the map to the body. His brother, Billy, comes out with his friend, Charlie Hogan, talking about the body they found by the railroad tracks on the Back Harlow Road. Billy and Charlie stole a car and parked out on the Back Harlow Road with their girlfriends, and stumbled across Ray Brower's body.

Chris, Vern, Teddy and Gordie decide to find Ray Brower's body, so they can be heroes and will get on television. They plan to tell their parents they will be camping at Vern's house. Chris says his dad will probably beat him when he finds out. The boys go home to tell their parents. Gordie's father is disappointed he doesn't have better friends, calling Chris a thief and Vern and Teddy feeble. Gordie thinks about his brother, Dennis, who was good to him, but was ten years older, so they didn't have much in common. Gordie writes stories throughout his life, including one called Stud City. It is about a boy named Chico, whose brother Johnny died when he was hit by a car while working at a race track. Johnny had taken the job to get him out of the house when their stepmother, Virginia, keeps at Johnny to sleep with her. Their father, Sam, doesn't know about it. Chico hates Virginia for this and fights with her father about why he stays with her. Chico storms out, leaving them behind.

The Body, Chapters 1 to 7 Analysis

Chris Chambers, Gordie LaChance, Teddy Duchamp and Vern Tessio embark on a journey that will change their lives. The boys, like many boys their age, are curious about life and death, and plan to find Ray Brower's body. The boys want to get on television for discovering the body and daydream they will be famous for doing so. Each of the boys has their own difficult family issues. Vern is seen as simple and not as smart as the others. Teddy, whose father burnt his ears, is seen as a somewhat crazy by the others. Chris comes from a good-for-nothing family, and everyone expects him to turn out as bad as his brother, Eyeball Chambers, who is a member of Ace Merrill's gang.

Gordie must deal with the death of his brother, Dennis. Gordie's parents idolized Dennis, to the point of almost ignoring Gordie. When Dennis died, Gordie's parents were devastated, but Gordie was not affected as much because of the age difference between them. Gordie must deal with his parents grief, as well as their unfavorable

attitude to Gordie's friends. Gordie's story, *Stud City*, shows the relationship between two brothers, Johnny and Chico, but that relationship is closer than Gordie's real life relationship with Dennis. The fact that two brothers are included in the story does show how Dennis' death did have an effect on Gordie, who had to live in Dennis' shadow.



The Body, Chapters 8 to 17

The Body, Chapters 8 to 17 Summary

Gordie gets his things and goes to meet Chris. Chris shows him a gun he took from his father's dresser, saying it's unloaded. Gordie takes it and shoots it, hitting a garbage can. The boys run before anyone can catch them. They meet up with Vern and Teddy and begin walking down the train tracks. The boys realize no one brought food and plan to stop at the store. A train comes and they go to get off the tracks, but Teddy wants to dodge it. He gets angry when Gordie pulls him back. They go to the dump, run by a man named Milo Pressman, and his legendary vicious dog, Chopper, to fill their canteens. They flip coins to see who will go for food, and they get a goocher, or four tails, which is supposed to be extremely bad luck. They flip again and Gordie gets heads while the rest gets tails. Gordie goes to the store, where the store owner tries to cheat him by putting his thumb on the scale when measuring meat, and adding the items wrong. Gordie calls him on it. The owner gets mad and chases him out.

At the dump, Gordie sees his friends are climbing the fence on the opposite side. He goes after them, but is seen by Milo, who sics Chopper on him. Gordie runs and makes it over the fence, but the boys see the dog is only a terrier and laughs. Milo gets angry and yells at them, calling Teddy's father crazy. Teddy gets angry and wants to fight Milo, but the other boys pull him back. The boys leave and Teddy cries, but Chris calms him down. The boys come to a railroad trestle and argue about whether to cross it or go around. Teddy convinces them to go across. Vern is scared and goes slowly. Gordie stops to feel the rail when they are halfway across and realizes a train is coming. He yells to the others and they all run. Chris and Teddy make it, but Vern is slow and Gordie forces him along. They get to the other side safely. They sit down to take a rest, and Chris asks Gordie to tell a story. Gordie tells about Lard Ass Hogan, a very large boy who is teased for his weight. He enters a pie-eating contest but purposely drinks castor oil before it. He vomits during the contest, causing the other competitors and the audience to vomit as well. This is Lard Ass's revenge.

The Body, Chapters 8 to 17 Analysis

When flipping coins, Chris Chambers, Gordie LaChance, Teddy Duchamp and Vern Tessio get four tails, a sign of extremely bad luck. This makes Vern very nervous, but the rest of the boys dismiss it and flip again. When Gordie realizes he is the only one showing heads, he experiences a sense of doom for his friends, believing that fate has chosen them all to die young deaths. Teddy is also shown to take needless risks, a factor which may lead to his young death. He wants to dodge a train, which would surely have ended in his death if Gordie hadn't stopped him. He also has no problem crossing the train trestle and even wants to fight Milo when Milo insults Teddy's father. Gordie is struck by the difference between his relationship with his father, who hardly seems to care about Gordie, and Teddy's, who loves his father even though his father



mutilated him. Gordie's story about Lard Ass Hogan is more light-hearted and comedic than his previous story, although Teddy and Vern do not seem to understand the ending. This shows that they are much simpler in mind than Chris and Gordie. Chris is shown as hampered by his family's reputation, and Gordie and Chris both believe Chris will be dragged down by it and not succeed in life.



Chapters 18 to 33

Chapters 18 to 33 Summary

The boys start walking again. Teddy and Vern pull ahead. Chris says it won't be the same in school next year, since Gordie will be taking college prep courses unlike the rest of them. Gordie says he won't take the courses if it splits up their group, but Chris tells him that's stupid. He says he doesn't want Gordie to ruin his life just to hang out with them. Chris says he knows how everyone thinks his family is bad news, and when the milk money was missing at school, everyone thought he took it and didn't even ask. He says he did take it, but he tried to give it back. The money never turned up, and he still got blamed, but their teacher, Mrs. Simons, came in with a new skirt. Chris says she gave the money to her, and she took it and let him take the blame because she knew no one would believe him.

Gordie, Chris, Vern, and Teddy stop and make camp. They wake up in the middle of the night after hearing a scream, probably from a wildcat. They take turns standing guard. Gordie dreams that he is in a pool with Chris and they are asked questions about a poem. Chris tries to answer, but he is pulled under the water. Gordie sees the corpses of Teddy and Vern are pulling Chris down. Teddy wakes Gordie up for his turn at guard duty. Gordie sees a deer in the woods but doesn't tell anyone about it. The boys come upon a pool of water near the tracks and go swimming. They discover leeches in the pool and jump out, pulling them off one another. Gordie finds one has attached itself to his testicles, and pulls it off. A little while after they resume walking, he faints. When he recovers, the boys go on.

The route Gordie, Chris, Vern and Teddy have taken is longer than they thought. Gordie thinks maybe they should have hitchhiked to the spot but knows they others would have shot that down as wimpy. Ace Merrill and his gang leave Castle Rock to claim Ray Brower's body for themselves. Billy Tessio and Charlie Hogan told Ace what they had found, and Ace wants to find the body so the gang will be heroes. The boys reach the place where the body should be. They look as it begins to rain, and eventually Vern finds it. They look at the body and plan to make a stretcher to take him out. However, Ace Merrill and his gang turns up and says they are going to take him. The two groups have a stand off until Chris pulls out the gun and threatens Ace. Ace tells him they will get them back, and his gang leaves.

The boys decide to leave Ray Brower's body where it is and return home. The story doesn't get out, although the body is found. Gordie believes Ace made an anonymous call to report it. None of their parents have found out they were gone. In the next few weeks, all get beaten up by members of Ace Merrill's gang; Chris and Gordie get hurt the worst. The boys grow up; Vern is killed in a house fire, Teddy in a car crash, and Chris is stabbed while trying to break up a fight in a restaurant. Chris had applied himself in school and was going to law school when he was killed. Gordie becomes a



writer, with a wife and kids. He sees Ace Merrill is still alive as well and still living in Castle Rock.

Chapters 18 to 33 Analysis

The younger boys successfully keep the older boys at bay, thanks to the gun Chris Chambers has, and are free to claim Ray Brower's body for themselves. However, Chris Chambers and Gordie LaChance know they won't gain anything by taking the body out of the woods. The boys seem to know that doing so would cheapen themselves, showing they do not have sympathy for Ray Brower, only that they are concerned about getting famous. Chris and Gordie seem to have a deeper understanding of death at this point, although Teddy Duchamp needs to be convinced to leave the body behind. Vern Tessio, who is a born follower, has no say in the matter. Their journey has become much more than a simple trip to see a dead body. In the process, the boys have uncovered truths about life, death, and themselves.

Although Chris Chambers is from a low-class family, he shows that he is wise beyond his years in his analysis of the future. He shows that he is a true friend by sticking by Gordie LaChance and forcing him to see he must leave his other friends behind if he wants to make something of his life. Gordie also helps Chris by showing him it is possible to rise above his station in life. Chris knows how the townspeople view him, and he must struggle against this. Gordie sticks by Chris and helps him get through school, both knowing they are leaving Vern Tessio and Teddy DuChamp behind. In the end, Gordie's sense of doom after the second coin flip that day is proved to be accurate. Teddy, Vern and Chris all die—Chris' death is most tragic since he was trying to make something of his life. Gordie believes their journey that day was a pivotal point in their lives, and that perhaps the others might be alive today if they did not go after Ray Brower's body.



The Breathing Method, Part 1

The Breathing Method, Part 1 Summary

David Adley lives in New York City. He takes a cab to a club in New York, which he calls 249B, after the address. Stevens the butler, lets him in. David first heard about the club through his boss, George Waterhouse. George invites David seemingly out of the blue, yet David feels it was almost fate. David goes and finds it to be a mysterious club, with the legend "It is the tale, not he who tells it" engraved above the fireplace. He peruses the library and finds several strange books and authors he has never heard of before. Later on, someone throws a packet into the fire, and the fire flares different colors. A couple of the men tell stories, one a morbid tale about a man who drowned in a phone booth, and a funny tale told by George Waterhouse about a teacher who was stuck in a privy. David leaves the club soon after George Waterhouse, and they share a taxi. George tells David to come again whenever he likes.

David Adley doesn't tell his wife, Ellen, about the night, for reasons he can't explain. When they see each other at work the next day, George is again cool and reserved, as he has been their entire working relationship, and George doesn't mention the club. David investigates the authors he found at the club, only to discover no one has heard of them. He is nervous about going back without a concrete invite but decides to return one night. Stevens, the butler, seems not to recognize him at first, but then welcomes him. David has an enjoyable evening at the club. Stevens asks the men who will bring a Christmas story, and one of the men volunteers. Stevens tells David that they meet the week before Christmas, and the tale told then is always one of the uncanny. David thinks about asking more about the club, but the look in Stevens' eyes warns him not to.

David Adley returns home, still not telling his wife about what happens at the club. David returns to the club for the Christmas tale. Stevens goes around the room, collecting tips, and David gives him \$50 he had hidden in his wallet for emergencies, even though he is not rich. The Christmas tale, told by Peter Andrews, is about a man who finds something terrible he can't kill. David has nightmares that night about the gruesome tale. Soon after, David is made a junior partner in his law firm. One of the regulars at the club dies a few months later, and the club members take up a collection for his wife, given anonymously. Ellen mentions it to David, who pretends not to know anything about it. David keeps researching the authors and publishing companies found in the library at the club, but finds no trace of them in the outside world. The years go by and Stevens never seems to age, and eventually Emlyn McCarron tells a Christmas tale called The Breathing Method.

The Breathing Method, Part 1 Analysis

David Adley describes how he first discovered and joined the club in order to show how strange the club really is. His experience shows this club is unlike any other and does



not follow the usually traditions of gentlemen's clubs. He discovers one of the main purposes of the club is to share stories, and the members of the club band together without seeming to. David's promotion shows this, for while his boss George Waterhouse is not as friendly outside the club, David's attendance there definitely plays a part in his promotion. The group also bands together when the wife of a member dies, giving her several thousand dollars anonymously. David does investigate some of the strange aspects of the club, such as the books by an author that doesn't seem to exist. However, David is not yet willing to risk his position in the club by asking about it, and he senses Stevens does not want him to. David also does not tell his wife the true nature of the club, fearing she will ask him to stay away from it. David finds himself disturbed by some of the stories he hears at the club, but one that sticks in his mind the most is told by Dr. Emlyn McCarron.



The Breathing Method, Part 2 and Part 3

The Breathing Method, Part 2 and Part 3 Summary

Emlyn McCarron is a doctor in New York City, who became a doctor after serving as a medic in World War I. He opens a general practice in the city, and one day in 1935 a woman named Sandra Stansfield comes to see him. She gives him a fake name, Jane Smith. McCarron determines she is pregnant. Sandra does not cry when she finds out but asks McCarron to be her doctor, if he doesn't mind she isn't married. He agrees, as long as she tells him her real name, which she does. She asks McCarron what she should do for the baby, and he gives her a pamphlet with recommendations, including vitamins and breathing exercises. McCarron says most physicians at the time frowned on these pamphlets and their advice.

After Sandra Stansfield leaves, McCarron's secretary, Mrs. Davidson, tells him that Sandra paid her bill in full. This pleases Mrs. Davidson, but not McCarron. At Sandra's next appointment, she tells the doctor she plans to work as long as she can, and she wanted to pay the bill up front in case she can't later. He tells her that if she needs her money back, to just let him know. One of the men interrupts the story to ask if McCarron loved her, but he says no; he admired her. He says Sandra was a small-town girl who came to the city to make it big. He describes the breathing method he tells women to use, what is now called the Lamaze method. The last part of the breathing method is when the woman takes short breaths, almost like panting or making the sound of a train.

Sandra Stansfield comes to Emlyn McCarron and tells him she was fired from her job at a perfume counter. The manager, Mrs. Kelly, has realized Sandra is pregnant, and insinuates that she is a good-for-nothing slut. Sandra gets angry and begins the third part of the breathing method, saying she began to locomotive. She said it helped her not to get really angry at Mrs. Kelly. Sandra shows McCarron a wedding ring she bought at a pawn shop, so she can pretend her husband died when she finds a new job. Sandra's due date is in early December. She gets worried that McCarron won't be available over Christmas, but he assures her he will. She tells him she sometimes feels doomed. A short while before Christmas, Sandra Stansfield and Emlyn McCarron exchange gifts. She gets him a tie clasp, and he gets her a photo album for baby pictures.

Sandra's labor begins on Christmas Eve. She calls McCarron and takes a taxi to the hospital, leaving early because of the bad weather, which has left the streets icy. The taxi driver arrives, nervous when he sees his passenger is about to have a baby. Sandra does the breathing method, which unnerves the driver, who always thought women should be yelling when in labor. The cab arrives at the hospital the same time as McCarron. The cab slides on the ice into the statue of Harriet White in front of the Harriet White Memorial Hospital. Sandra is decapitated in the accident. McCarron rushes to Sandra's side and finds she is still breathing. She continues to locomotive while McCarron delivers her son. Although her head is separated from her body, Sandra



holds on for several minutes, even thanking McCarron after her son is delivered. He tells her it's a boy, and she finally dies. He takes the baby inside. McCarron tells the men listening to his story that the baby was adopted and is now the head of the English department at a respected university.

Stevens sees the men out of the club after McCarron's story. David Adley stops him and says he has a question. Stevens leads him to a separate room, away from the others. Stevens warns him not to ask too much, if he wants to keep coming to the club. David brings up the books that are unknown to the outside world, as well as the brands of other items in the club, like the pool table. Stevens asks what David's question is. David wants to ask where everything comes from and how Stevens stays so young. Sensing doom if he asks what he wants to, David asks if there are many more rooms upstairs. Stevens confirms that there are, as well as many entrances and exits. David asks if there will always be more tales, and Stevens says yes. David leaves the club.

The Breathing Method, Part 2 and Part 3 Analysis

Sandra Stansfield is forced to deal with the narrow attitudes of people at that time, who viewed unmarried, pregnant women, as loose trollops. Sandra tries to deal with it as best she can, but she can only do so much and ends up buying a wedding ring to pretend she is a widow. She admits to feeling dirty while doing this, showing that she knows she has done nothing wrong, but she is bound by the perceptions of society. Emlyn McCarron understands that Sandra is a strong, self-possessed woman, and feels a special affinity for her, wanting to help her out any way he can. Sandra also breaks down perceptions of most women of the day, proving herself to not be flighty or weak-willed. He appreciates her dedication to the Breathing Method, even though it is not accepted by most physicians. They become close as she continues to come in for appointments, and Sandra eventually confides that she feels doomed. McCarron tries to comfort her, but he also begins to worry.

When Sandra's cab crashes, an eerie and medically impossible event happens. Her body continues to breathe after she is decapitated and up until her baby is delivered, which takes several minutes. McCarron is able to rescue the baby and believes that Sandra's strength of will and her dedication to the Breathing Method enabled her to hang on as long as possible. His tale is truly uncanny. As the men leave the club, David considers asking Stevens about the strange facts he has uncovered about the club. He believes the club is somehow a doorway into another world and desperately wants to know the truth. However, he knows if he asks Stevens, he will never be a part of the club again and may face even more dire consequences. In the end, he believes not knowing is better and leaves without getting a further explanation. This seems to indicate that there is a mysterious power or element behind the club, but there is no confirmation.



Characters

Andy Dufresne

Andy Dufresne is a banker who is wrongly convicted of killing his wife, Linda Dufresne, and her lover, Glenn Quentin. A series of coincidences make him look like the likely killer, and Andy's calm, collected banker attitude does not win over the jury. He is sent to Shawshank Prison, where he befriends Red. He is a geology buff who has Red obtain several things for him while in jail, including a rock hammer and a poster of Rita Hayworth. Red and Andy get to be friends over the years. Andy shows the guards and the warden he is a financial wizard and helps them with financial advice and eventually with laundering money. He is always collected until Tommy Williams reveals he knows who killed Dufresne's wife. The warden, Sam Norton, won't help Andy clear his name, sending Andy into a depression. Andy eventually escapes using his hammer to tunnel through the wall and goes to Mexico.

Red Smith

Red Smith is the narrator of Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption. He is in prison for murdering his wife, his neighbor, and the neighbor's baby. He is the connection to the outside world for the inmates and gets them whatever they want, for a price. He describes his relationship with Andy Dufresne throughout the novel, including Andy's escape. Red and Andy become good friends, and Andy confides in him several times, including about the money he is laundering for the prison's wardens. Red is paroled a few years after Andy escapes and, after finding money Andy left him, plans to go to Mexico and join Andy.

Todd Bowden

Todd Bowden is a thirteen-year-old boy who discovers a former Nazi, Kurt Dussander, living in his town. Dussander ran the Patin concentration camp during World War II. Todd blackmails Dussander into telling him about the camps. The two enter into a love-hate relationship, where neither wants to deal with each other but are bound together. Both experience bad dreams about the concentration camps, and both turn to killing winos to make the dreams stop. Todd has Dussander pretend to be his grandfather during a conference with the guidance counselor, Ed French, about Todd's grades. When Dussander is recognized as a Nazi and the guidance counselor Ed French comes to confront Todd, Todd shoots him then takes the gun to a highway overpass, where he presumably starts shooting passing motorists. He is shot down by police several hours later.



Kurt Dussander

Kurt Dussander is a Nazi hiding in America. Todd Bowden discovers his true identity and forces Dussander to tell him stories about the concentration camps in World War II. The two enter into a love-hate relationship, where neither wants to deal with the other but are bound together. Both experience bad dreams about the concentration camps, and both turn to killing winos to make the dreams stop. Todd has Dussander pretend to be his grandfather during a conference with the guidance counselor, Ed French, about Todd's grades. Dussander has a heart attack after killing one of the winos and trying to bury him in his basement. Dussander's roommate in the hospital recognizes him as a Nazi and turns him in. Dussander commits suicide to avoid prosecution.

Chris Chambers

Chris Chambers is one of four friends who go to find Ray Browers' dead body, along with Gordon LaChance, Vern Tessio, and Teddy DuChamp. Chris is from a family that is regarded as white trash by the townspeople. His brother, Eyeball Chambers, is a member of Ace Merrill's gang, and his father is a drunk who beats him. Chris is Gordie's best friend, and Gordie is the only one who believes in Chris. Once they find the body, Chris stands up to Ace Merrill when his gang tries to claim the body for themselves. With Gordie's help, Chris applies himself in school and redeems himself, wanting to go on to law school. He is killed while trying to break up a fight as a restaurant between two other customers.

Gordon LaChance

Gordon LaChance is one of four friends who go to find Ray Browers' dead body. Gordon's brother, Dennis, died not too long ago, and Gordie is still dealing with his parents' grief over Dennis. Dennis was ten years older than Gordie, so Gordie has always felt invisible next to his brother. Gordon and Chris are best friends. Chris talks Gordie out of taking shop classes just to stay with his friends. When Ace Merrill's gang tries to claim Ray Browers' body, Gordie stands up to him with Chris. Gordie helps Chris get into the college courses and college. Gordie becomes a writer and gets married. He is the only one of the friends who is alive at the end of the novel.

Teddy Duchamp

Teddy Duchamp is one of four friends who go to find Ray Browers' dead body. Teddy's father stormed the beach at Normandy during World War II but seemed to go crazy when he returned home. He held Teddy's ears to a hot plate and was sent to a military hospital. Teddy is very devoted to his father and gets angry if anyone talks bad about him. Teddy takes crazy risks, like trying to dodge a train, and is regarded as a little crazy himself by his friends. Teddy tries to enroll in the service, but his glasses and his ears keep him out. He gets a job with the street department in Castle Rock and dies when his



car, full of his friends, crashes into a telephone pole after they were drinking and smoking marijuana.

Vern Tessio

Vern Tessio is one of four friends who go to find Ray Browers' dead body. Vern first learns about the body when he hears his brother, Billy, talking about finding it after stealing a car. Billy and his friend, Charlie, don't want to turn it in in case they get in trouble for stealing the car. Vern tells his friends, and they leave to find the body. Vern is regarded as simple by his friends and is called feeble by Gordie's father. Vern is easily scared during their adventure. He grows up and eventually dies in a fire when someone leaves a cigarette burning at a party.

Emlyn McCarron

Emlyn McCarron is a doctor in New York City in the 1930s, and a member of the club at 249B. He became a doctor after serving as a medic in World War I, and though he is general practitioner, he takes a special interest in gynecology. He tells the story of Sandra Stansfield, a pregnant woman who comes to him for treatment in the 1930s. He admired Sandra for her strength, since single pregnant women were shunned at that time. McCarron was present when Sandra got in a car accident and was decapitated while coming to the hospital to deliver her baby. McCarron delivers the baby, noticing that Sandra keeps breathing even without her head. He keeps tabs on the baby after Sandra dies and it is adopted.

Sandra Stansfield

Sandra Stansfield is a young, single woman who finds herself pregnant and goes to Dr. Emlyn McCarron for treatment. Sandra is headstrong and proud and tries to remain strong in the face of those who will shun her for being pregnant. She is fired by her employer and told to leave by her landlord. During one of her last appointments with Dr. McCarron, she tells him she feels like she is doomed. While on the way to the hospital to deliver her baby, the cab slides on the ice and careens into a statue, decapitating her. Sandra manages to keep breathing for several minutes while Dr. McCarron delivers her baby, a medical impossibility. She dies soon after the baby is delivered.

David Adley

David is the husband of Ellen Adley and a member of the club at 249B East Thirty-fifth Street. He is brought into the mysterious club by George Waterhouse, his boss. David is curious as to the origins of the club, but never gets up the nerve to ask Stevens about it, fearing retribution. He believes the club is in a separate dimension or alternate world.



Ace Merrill

Ace Merrill is the leader of a gang of delinquents in Castle Rock. When his friends, Billy Tessio and Charlie Hogan, tell him they know where Ray Browers' body is, Ace decides the gang will be the ones to find it. When they arrive, they discover Chris Chambers, Gordie LaChance, Teddy Duchamp and Vern Tessio are already there. The two groups have a stand off until Chris pulls a gun and threatens Ace, and the gang leaves. Ace and his friends later track down the younger boys and beat them up. Ace is still alive, working at the mill and spending his nights at the bar in Castle Rock when Gordie writes the story as an adult.

Ed French

Ed French is a guidance counselor at Todd Bowden's school. He sends a letter requesting to meet with Todd's parents, but Kurt Dussander meets with him instead, pretending to be Todd's grandfather, Victor. Ed French believes Dussander and gives Todd another chance, but eventually gets suspicious when he meets Todd's real grandfather. When Kurt Dussander is revealed to be a Nazi, Ed goes to see Todd and ask what happened, and Todd shoots him.

Monica Bowden

Monica Bowden is Todd's mother and Dick Bowden's wife. She believes Todd is a good student and a good boy. She frequently congratulates herself and her husband for raising him right. She and her husband have no idea about Todd's descent into madness.

Dick Bowden

Dick Bowden is Todd's father and Monica Bowden's husband. He is proud of Todd's accomplishments and how well he and his wife have raised Todd. He confronts Todd about his failing grades but is satisfied when it appears Todd is doing better. He and his wife have no idea about Todd's descent into madness.

Dennis LaChance

Dennis LaChance is Gordon's brother. He was killed in the Vietnam War. Gordon's parents cared a lot about Dennis, especially his father. Gordon feels invisible at home after his brother's death.



Morris Heisel

Morris Heisel is Kurt Dussander's roommate when they are in the hospital. Heisel was an inmate at Patin, and he recognizes Mr. Denker is really Kurt Dussander. Dussander interrogated Heisel at Patin, and Heisel's wife and daughters were killed there. He turns Dussander into the police.

Arthur Denker

Arthur Denker is the assumed name of Kurt Dussander, a Nazi hiding in America. Todd Bowden cracks his true identity and blackmails him into telling Todd about the concentration camps.

Sam Norton

Sam Norton is a warden at Shawshank Prison. A religious but corrupt man, he doesn't believe Andy Dufresne when Andy tells him Tommy Williams has proof that Andy is innocent. He has Tommy transferred to another prison to buy his silence, not wanting to lose Andy's financial genius.

Tommy Williams

Tommy Williams is a prisoner at Shawshank Prison. When he hears that Andy supposedly killed his wife, he realizes he used to share a cell with Elwood Blatch, the man who actually killed Linda Dufresne and her lover, Glenn Quentin. Tommy tells Andy that he knows Andy is innocent. Tommy is transferred to another prison by Sam Norton in order to buy Tommy's silence.

Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens is a name Andy Dufresne uses to set up accounts and a false identity he uses when he gets out of prison.

Rita Hayworth

Rita Hayworth is a movie star whose poster is very popular. Andy Dufresne uses it to hide the hole he is digging in his wall.



Eyeball Chambers

Eyeball Chambers is Chris Chambers' brother. He is a member of Ace Merrill's gang. After the boys chase the gang away from Ray Brower's body, Eyeball beats up his brother, Chris, as punishment.

Lard Ass Hogan

Lard Ass Hogan is a character in Gordon LaChance's story, *The Revenge of Lard Ass Hogan*. He enters a pie eating contest, but takes castor oil before it so he gets sick and vomits, causing everyone at the contest to vomit as well.

Bill Travis

Bill Travis is a character in Gordon LaChance's story, "The Revenge of Lard Ass Hogan." He usually wins the pie eating contest and is favored to win this year.

Mayor Charbonneau

Mayor Charbonneau is a character in Gordon LaChance's story, "The Revenge of Lard Ass Hogan." He runs the pie-eating contest.

Milo Pressman

Milo Pressman runs the dump in Castle Rock, Maine. He catches Chris, Gordie, Teddy, and Vern in the dump and chases them out, insulting Teddy's father.

Chopper

Chopper is Milo's dog at the dump. The kids in Castle Rock are scared of Milo, but Gordie, Chris, Vern and Teddy find out he is just a terrier.

Byron Hadley

Byron Hadley is a guard at Shawshank Prison. He is a mean-tempered, corrupt man. He inherits some money, and Andy tells him how to invest it. In return, Hadley and the other guards protect Andy from the sisters.



Ray Brower

Ray Brower is a boy who is hit by a train after getting lost. Chris Chambers, Gordon LaChance, Teddy Duchamp and Vern Tessio go to find his body.

Charlie Hogan

Charlie Hogan is a member of Ace Merrill's gang. He and Billy Tessio discover Ray Brower's body. They eventually tell Ace about it and the gang goes to find it.

Billy Tessio

Billy Tessio is a member of Ace Merrill's gang. He and Charlie Hogan discover Ray Brower's body. They eventually tell Ace about it and the gang goes to find it.

Linda Collins Dufresne

Linda Collins Dufresne is Andy's wife. She has an affair with Glenn Quentin, a golf pro at a country club. She and Glenn are killed by Elwood Blatch, but Andy is convicted of their murder.

Glenn Quentin

Glenn Quentin is a gold pro who has an affair with Linda Dufresne, Andy's wife. He and Linda are killed by Elwood Blatch, but Andy is convicted of the murder.

Bogs Diamond

Bogs Diamond is a prisoner at Shawshank prison and one of the "sisters," vicious men who gang-rape other prisoners. He and his friends rape Andy Dufresne, until Andy pays someone to have Bogs beaten up.

Rooster McBride

Rooster McBride is one of the "sisters," vicious men who gang-rape other prisoners. Andy fights him and breaks his nose.



Stevens

Stevens is the butler at the mysterious club. He appears to have been there for several lifetimes, although he pretends his post runs in the family. He cautions David about asking too much about the club.

Weiskopf

Weiskopf is a detective who comes to get Kurt Dussander once his identity as a Nazi is revealed. He also suspects Todd knows much more about Dussander than Todd lets on.

Richler

Richler is a detective who interviews Todd after Dussander's death. He suspects Todd knows much more about Dussander than he lets on.

Hap

Hap is a wino who recognizes Todd from his all-star picture in the paper as the one who's been killing winos.

Bozeman

Bozeman is the police detective who Hap comes to see about the dead winos.

Chico

Chico is a character in Gordon LaChance's story, Stud City. He misses his brother, Johnny, who died while working at a racetrack, and hates his stepmother, Virginia, who forced Johnny to work there because she kept trying to sleep with him. He fights with his father, Sam and leaves home.

Johnny

Johnny is a character in Gordon LaChance's story, Stud City. He is killed while working at a race track after being hit by a car. He took the job to get away from his stepmother, who kept trying to sleep with him.



Virginia

Virginia is a character in Gordon LaChance's story, Stud City. She is married to Chico's father, Sam, but sleeps with Johnny until Johnny takes a job to get away from her.

Sam

Sam is Chico and Johnny's father. He doesn't know that Virginia and Johnny have been sleeping together. Chico fights with Sam because Chico tells Sam that Virginia is a bad person, but Sam can't see it.

Mrs. Simons

Mrs. Simons is Chris Chamber's teacher. After he steals the milk money, he gives it back to her, but she uses it to buy a skirt instead of turning it in, knowing no one will believe Chris gave the money back.

Rory Tremont

Rory Tremont is a guard at Shawshank Prison. He goes through the hole in Andy Dufresne's cell wall to see how Andy escaped.

Jim

Jim is a friend of Andy Dufresne who helps him set up a false identity. He dies and is unable to help Andy get at the money while Andy is still in prison.

Richard Goynar

Richard Goynar is a guard at Shawshank Prison.

Normaden

Normaden is an Indian prisoner who was Andy's only cellmate.

George Dunahy

George Dunahy was a corrupt warden of Shawshank prison.



Greg Stammers

Greg Stammers was a corrupt warden of Shawshank prison.

Tim Youngblood

Tim Youngblood is a guard at Shawshank prison.

Ellen Adley

Ellen Adley is the wife of David, who belongs to the mysterious club. David loves her but doesn't tell her about the goings-on at the club.

Betty Trask

Betty Trask is Todd's girlfriend. She highly enjoys sex, to Todd's dismay.

Mr. Storman

Mr. Storman is Todd Bowden's math teacher. He gives Todd a flunk card, but it is only a joke since Todd has pulled his average up enough to pass.

The sisters

The sisters are a gang of vicious men at Shawshank prison who gang-rape the other prisoners. Andy has trouble with them when he first comes to Shawshank.

Mrs. Davidson

Mrs. Davidson is Emlyn McCarron's secretary. She is a reserved, older woman, who looks down upon unmarried pregnant women, but warms up to Sandra Stansfield.

Mrs. Kelly

Mrs. Kelly is Sandra Stansfield's manager at the department store perfume counter. She fires Sandra when she finds out she is pregnant.

Peter Andrews

Peter Andrews is a member of the mysterious club.



Objects/Places

Shawshank Prison

Shawshank Prison is in Maine. Andy Dufresne and Red are incarcerated there.

Rock Hammer

The rock hammer is a small hammer used in geology. Andy Dufresne uses it to tunnel out of his cell.

Zihuatanejo, Mexico

Zihuatanejo, Mexico is the town Andy Dufresne goes to when he escapes from prison.

The Club

The club is a mysterious club that has no name and seems to exist in a slightly different plane or dimension.

Buxton

Buxton is the town with a field where Andy Dufresne hides the key to a safety deposit box containing papers for his false identity, Peter Stevens. When Red Smith is paroled, he finds a note and money from Andy.

Santo Donato

Santo Donato is a town in California where Todd Bowden and Kurt Dussander live.

Patin

Patin was a concentration camp in German during World War II under the command of Kurt Dussander.

Castle Rock

Castle Rock is the town where Gordon LaChance, Chris Chambers, Vern Tessio, and Teddy Duchamp live and leave from to find Ray Brower's body.



The Back Harlow Road

The Back Harlow Road is in Harlow, near where Ray Brower's body is found.

Harlow

Harlow is a town near Castle Rock, Maine, and where Ray Brower's body is found.

249B

249B East Thirty-fifth Street is the address of the mysterious club.

Sukey's Tavern.

Sukey's Tavern is a bar in Castle Rock.

The Mellow Tiger

The Mellow Tiger is a bar in Castle Rock.

Harriet White Memorial Hospital

Harriet White Memorial Hospital is a hospital in New York City where Sandra Stansfield's cab crashes and she dies.

Gretna

Gretna is the town where the pie-eating contest takes place in the short story, "The Revenge of Lard Ass Hogan."

Themes

Death

Death is a theme throughout three of the four novellas in *Different Seasons*. In *Apt Pupil*, Todd Bowden is fascinated by the gruesome deaths of millions of people in the Holocaust. He blackmails Kurt Dussander to tell him about these deaths. The stories upset both so much that they both begin killing to stop their bad dreams. When their world begins to fall apart, both turn to death to get them out of it. Dussander kills himself when it is discovered he is a Nazi. Todd Bowden takes his shotgun and starts shooting people on a highway, where he is eventually shot down. The story shows that murder can only lead to more murder and that killing will not solve problems.

In *The Body*, the purpose of the journey of Gordie LaChance, Chris Chambers, Vern Tessio, and Teddy DuChamp is to find the body of Ray Brower. In doing this, the boys confront death and the fact that they will one day die. Gordie also has to deal with the death of his friends, since each dies before he does. Gordie feels that their deaths are directly related to their journey to find Ray Brower's body, as the journey represented a turning point in their lives. When the boys flip coins to go get food, Gordie is the only one who does not show tails a second time, and he believes fate has singled out his friends for doom. Gordie is hit hardest by Chris' death, knowing his friend is lost, and everything he loves will also eventually be lost.

In the last novella, *The Breathing Method*, Sandra Stansfield feels she is doomed, a prophecy that is fulfilled when she is decapitated in a car accident on the way to the hospital to deliver her baby. However, her character is so strong she is able to defeat death for several minutes, until she can be sure her baby is safe. This shows how a woman's love and strength can help overcome death for a short time, but it cannot defeat it.

Freedom

The first novella in *Different Seasons*, *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, is highly concerned with the idea of freedom. Andy Dufresne has been imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit, and his freedom has been taken away from him. Andy eventually finds he can earn his own freedom by tunneling through his cell, a project which he commences a few years after being imprisoned. This knowledge helps Andy remain stable, calm and collected. Andy is not shaken until warden Sam Norton denies Andy the chance to prove his innocence with Tommy Williams' knowledge of the real killer. Andy sees this as an immediate chance for freedom and is devastated when it slips away. The loss of freedom is the first thing that truly shakes him up in prison, and it takes him some time to recover. Andy does continue to dig his tunnel and eventually gains his freedom that way.



However, once the tunnel through the wall is complete, Andy does not escape prison immediately, according to Red Smith's calculations. Red believes Andy lost his nerve for a time, explaining that prisoners become institutionalized after so long behind bars. Prisoners get used to the routine and come to depend on it, and eventually the desire for freedom can fade. Andy eventually overcomes this, as does Red Smith when he is paroled. Red would probably have tried to get back into prison if it wasn't for Andy and the hope of joining him in Mexico. This shows that the will for freedom can be strong, as long as there is hope to guide the way.

Corruption

Several characters in the novellas *Rita Hayworth* and *the Shawshank Redemption* and *Apt Pupil* are subject to corruption. In the first novella, several of the wardens at Shawshank prison operate schemes to launder money, which increase when Andy arrives and can help them hide the illicit money. Sam Norton is a prime example of this, and also presents a contrast to the other wardens, since he professes to be a religious man. He also refuses to help Andy Dufresne when Andy presents him with evidence that could free Andy. Norton only thinks of the money he needs to launder and does not consider granting Andy's freedom. This shows that money has corrupted his thoughts and his soul, in contrast to the God-fearing man he professes to be.

In *Apt Pupil*, Todd Bowden and Kurt Dussander can be seen as corrupt characters. Kurt Dussander, a former Nazi, is now an old man living out his days quietly in California. However, once he begins describing the concentration camps to Todd Bowden, he finds that his black, corrupt soul has awakened, and the only way to quiet his bad dreams is to begin killing. Todd Bowden also seems to be a normal boy, but he becomes more and more corrupt through his relationship with Dussander. He also turns to killing to relieve his bad dreams. It seems the bad dreams are part of their consciences trying to force them to realize how bad and corrupt they have become, but they believe there is a different reason for the dreams and that killing will stop the dreams. The killing only leads them deeper into corruption, as they graduate from killing animals to winos, and eventually to regular people, in Todd's case. In the end, both are dead, showing how corruption has corroded their souls.

Style

Point of View

The point of view used in *Different Seasons* differs in each of the novellas. In *Apt Pupil*, the story is told using third-person omniscient point of view, meaning that a narrator who is not a character describes everyone's thoughts and actions. This allows the reader to see the psychotic descent of both Kurt Dussander and Todd Bowdon. The other three stories are told using first person, meaning one or more of the characters take up a direct narration. In *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, the story is told through the first-person limited point of view of Red Smith. In *The Body*, the story is told through the first-person limited point-of-view of Gordon LaChance. In *The Breathing Method*, the story is told using the first-person limited point of view of David Adley, and then Emlyn McCarron in the tale-within-a-tale. The narrators of each of the sections using first-person point of view are giving a personal account of events that are important to them in their lives, especially in the case of Red Smith and Gordon LaChance. The technique lets the reader understand the narrator more; whereas, the third person point of view helps to keep the reader distant, as in the two characters Kurt Dussander and Todd Bowden. Each point of view used helps to enhance the feelings of closeness or distance to the characters as appropriate.

Setting

Each of the four novellas in *Different Seasons* has different settings, which sets each story apart from the others and gives each a unique perspective. In *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, most of the story takes place in Shawshank Prison in Maine, which is appropriate since it is a story of a prison escape. In *Apt Pupil*, the action is set in the beautiful town of Santo Donato, California. The setting presents a contrast to the corrupted relationship of Todd Bowden and Kurt Dussander. In *The Body*, the setting is the small town of Castle Rock. This plays a part in showing how everyone knows everyone else in small towns and how most of the characters are connected. To Gordon LaChance, Chris Chambers, Vern Tessio, and Teddy DuChamp, Castle Rock is the whole world. In *The Breathing Method*, the setting is New York City, which is appropriate for such a mysterious club like 249B. The club would be more noticeable in a small town, and the anything-goes atmosphere of New York City enables the club to be believably placed there. Each setting is unique and is appropriate to the plot of each novella. The settings therefore also help to emphasize the main themes of each of the novellas.

Language and Meaning

Each of the four novellas in *Different Seasons* has its own type of language. In the first novella, *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, the characters use terms that



would be appropriate in a prison, such as calling the guards screws, and calling new prisoners "fish." The overall language tends to be somewhat rough, but not as obscenity-laced as prison-talk might be in actuality. In *Apt Pupil*, Kurt Dussander is a Nazi, and some of the terms and phrases he uses are in German. Todd Bowden becomes more corrupted as the story continues, and both he and Dussander use obscenities regularly. The language used in *The Body* is typical of twelve-year-old boys and tends to be easily understandable, although sometimes vulgar. During the parts narrated by the older Gordon LaChance, the language matures and shows the difference between the adult and the child. *The Breathing Method* is primarily narrated by cultured, professional men, and so the language they used is more refined and the vocabulary used is broader. When Dr. Emlyn McCarron narrates, he uses medical terminology that relates to the practice of delivering babies. The language used by each set of protagonists is appropriate to their upbringing and stations in life.

Structure

Different Seasons is comprised of four novellas, each with its own title, each called a different season, which relates to the theme of the novella. *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption* is also referred to as *Hopes Spring Eternal*. This reflects the hope Andy Dufresne has about escaping from prison. *Apt Pupil* is also referred to as *Summer of Corruption*, since Todd Bowden is corrupted by the stories Nazi Kurt Dussander tells him. In *The Body*, the boys lose their childhood innocence on their journey, reflecting the title *Fall from Innocence*. *The Breathing Method* is called *A Winter's Tale*, which reflects the tales told by members of the mysterious club. These secondary titles link the stories together with the title of the book, *Different Seasons*. There is also a link between the first story, *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, and the next two, *Apt Pupil* and *The Body*. In *Apt Pupil*, Kurt Dussander mentions that a man named Andy Dufresne, the protagonist of the first story, helped him set up some accounts before going to jail. In *The Body*, the boys mention Shawshank Prison. This tie among the three stories shows how they are linked and part of the same world. Stephen King frequently uses these kind of links in his stories, and characters from these stories are also mentioned in other Stephen King novels creating a sense that all tales told are part of the same world.



Quotes

"There's a guy like me in every state and federal prison in America, I guess - I'm the guy who can get it for you." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, Part 1, pg. 1.

"I was beginning to enjoy his quiet, low-key style. When you've spent ten years in stir, as I had then, you can get awfully tired of the bellowers and the braggarts and the loudmouths. Yes, I think it would be fair to say I like Andy from the first." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 30

"A little while later, as they filed us out for morning chow, I glanced into his cell and saw Rita over his bunk in all her swimsuited glory, one hand behind her head, her eyes half-closed, those soft, satiny lips parted. It was over his bunk where he could look at her nights, after lights out, in the glow of the arc sodiums in the exercise yard. But in the bright morning sunlight, there was dark slashes across her face - the shadow of the bars on his single slit window." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 38.

"Suddenly it was Andy who had the upper hand. It was Hadley who had the gun on his hip and the billy in his hand, Hadley who has his friend Greg Stammers behind him and the whole prison administration behind Stammers, the whole power of the state behind that, but all at once in that golden sunshine it didn't matter, and I felt my heart leap up in my chest as it never had since that truck drove me and four others through the gate back in 1938 and I stepped out into the exercise yard." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 47.

"So there was a need for Andy's services. They took him out of the laundry and installed him in the library, but if you wanted to look at it another way, they never took him out of the laundry at all. They just set him to work washing dirty money instead of dirty sheets." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 52.

"Didn't you ever feel that way about a picture, Red? That you could almost step right through it?" Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 56.

"Peter Stevens is locked in a safe deposit box at the Casco Bank in Portland and Andy Dufresne is locked in a safe deposit box at Shawshank ... Tit for tat. And the key that unlocks box and the money and the money and the new life is under a hunk of black glass in a Buxton hayfield." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 78.

"In 1975, Andy Dufresne escaped from Shawshank. He hasn't been recaptured, and I don't think he ever will be. In fact, I don't think Andy Dufresne even exists anymore. But I think there's a man down in Zihuatanejo, Mexico, named Peter Stevens." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 84.

"Some birds are not meant to be caged, that's all. Their feathers are too bright, their songs too sweet and wild. So you let them go, or when you open the cage to feed them



they somehow fly out past you. And the part of you that knows its wrong to imprison them in the first place rejoices, but still, the place where you live is that much more drab and empty for their departure." Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, pg. 100-101.

"Todd is an extremely apt pupil." Apt Pupil, Ch. 1, pg. 111.

"He remembered thinking: I want to know about everything that happened in those places. Everything. And I want to know which is more true - the words, or the ads they put beside the words." Apt Pupil, Ch. 1, pg. 121.

"And as Richard liked to say, for a kid the whole world's a laboratory. You have to let them poke around in it. And if the kid in question has a healthy home life and loving parents, he'll be all the stronger for having knocked around a few strange corners." Apt Pupil, Ch. 3, pg. 136

"He stared at the grades, unbelieving. He had known it was going to be bad, but this was a disaster. Maybe that's best, an inner voice spoke up suddenly. Maybe you even did it on purpose, because a part of you wants it to end. Need for it to end. Before something bad happens." Apt Pupil, Ch. 7, pg. 145.

"But what would they feel for you boy, when I told them you have known about me for eight months ... and you said nothing?" Apt Pupil, Ch. 8, pg. 154.

"You yourself have become enmeshed, but do I pity you because of that? Gott im Himmel! You have made your bed, should I pity you if you sleep badly in it?" Apt Pupil, Ch. 12, pg. 201-202.

"Morris fell deeply asleep. He awoke sometime between 3:00 and 4 A.M. with a scream locked behind his lips." Ch. 20, pg. 249.

"Dussander reached out with a hand that seemed to stretch for miles, got the glass of water, and took another three pills. He put the glass back, closed his eyes, and settled deeper into his soft, soft pillow. He had never felt so much like sleeping, and his sleep would be long. It would be restful.

Unless there were dreams.

The thought shocked him. Dreams? Please God, no. Not those dreams. Not for eternity, not with all possibility of awakening gone. Not -

In sudden terror, he tried to struggle awake. It seemed that hands were reaching eagerly up out of the bed to grab him, hands with hungry fingers.

(! NO !)

His thoughts broke up in a steepening spiral of darkness, and he rode down that spiral as if down a greased slide, down and down, to whatever dreams there are." Apt Pupil, Ch. 25, pg. 270.

"I was twelve going on thirteen when I first saw a dead human being. It happened in 1960, a long time ago ... although sometimes it doesn't seem that long to me. Especially



on the nights I wake up from dreams where the hail falls into his open eyes." *The Body*, Ch. 1, pg. 293.

"You guys want to go see a dead body?" *The Body*, Ch. 2, pg. 299.

"Vern flipped, but with obvious reluctance. This time he, Chris, and Teddy all had tails. I was showing Thomas Jefferson on a nickel. And I was suddenly scared. It was as if a shadow had crossed some inner sun. They still had a goocher, the three of them, as if dumb fate still pointed at them a second time." *The Body*, Ch. 11, pg. 340.

"At last, when the force of his crying had trailed off a little, it was Chris who went to him. He was the toughest guy in our gang ... but he was also the guy who made the best peace." *The Body*, Ch. 13, pg. 351.

"It would have been better to see the whole body, all at once, but instead there was only that limp outstretched hand, horribly white, with the fingers limply splayed, like the hand of a drowned boy. It told us the truth of the whole matter. It explained every graveyard in the world. The image of that hand came back to me every time I heard or read of an atrocity. Somewhere, attached to that hand, was the rest of Ray Brower." *The Body*, Ch. 25, pg. 406.

"The big kids advanced in a line, their feet splashing through the bog, which was now one big sludgy pile because of the storm. The body of Ray Brower lay at our feet like a waterlogged barrel. I got ready to fight ... and that was when Chris fired the pistol he had hawked out of his old man's dresser." *The Body*, Ch. 26, pg. 413.

"Friends come in and out of your life like busboys in a restaurant, did you ever notice that? But when I think of that dream, the corpses under the water puling implacably at my legs, it seems right that it should be that way. Some people drown, that's all. It's not fair but it happens. Some people drown." *The Body*, Ch. 32, pg. 432.

"In my own mind I think of it as a 'gentlemen's club,' that amusing pre-Gloria Steinem antiquity. But even now I am not sure that's what it really is, or how it came to be in the first place." *The Breathing Method*, Part 1, pg. 441.

"It is the tale, not he who tells it." *The Breathing Method*, Part 1, pg. 444.

"At last, looking into the fire, bent slightly forward so that his forearms rested on his thighs and his clasped hands hung in a knot between his knees, McCarron began to speak." *The Breathing Method*, Part 1, pg. 462.

"I have a feeling Dr. McCarron, sometimes quite a strong feeling, that I am doomed." *The Breathing Method*, Part 2, pg. 485.

"Still I heard that whistle of breath as her headless body did 'locomotive' breathing. I sometimes hear it still, gentlemen. In my dreams." *The Breathing Method*, Part 2, pg. 493.



Topics for Discussion

In *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, warden, Sam Norton, refuses to help Andy Dufresne prove his innocence. How does this break Andy's spirit? How important is hope to a man in prison? If Andy has already been tunneling through the wall, why does this affect him so strongly?

Discuss freedom and the idea of being institutionalized. How does this affect both Red Smith and Andy Dufresne? Are they able to overcome it? Why or why not? Can the desire for freedom ever be totally taken away? Why or why not?

Sam Norton is a religious man, yet he is not above obtaining money illegally through several ventures. How might he reconcile this with his religious beliefs? Why does he get angry when Andy Dufresne promises not to tell about the money? Why does he not allow Andy to defend himself using Tommy Williams' evidence? Does he justify this to himself and Andy? How?

In *Apt Pupil*, Todd Bowden's parents frequently congratulate themselves on the good upbringing they've given Todd and how well he does in school. How does this contrast with Todd's actual thoughts and feelings, as well as his relationship with Dussander? If environment and/or genetics have an effect on a person's nature, how can Todd's nature be explained?

Dreams of the concentration camps haunt both Kurt Dussander and Todd Bowden. What does this say about their psyche and the effect their conversations are having on them? Are the dreams a way for their consciences to reach out to them? Why or why not? How would killing winos help dispel the dreams?

Discuss friendship as it relates to the four main characters in *The Body*: Gordon LaChance, Chris Chambers, Teddy DuChamp and Vern Tessio. How does their friendship enable them to make such an arduous journey? Does their friendship help them stand up to Ace Merrill's gang? Why or why not? How does status and education affect their friendships in the years after their adventure?

Chris Chambers, Vern Tessio and Teddy DuChamp are regarded as a "thief and two feebs" by Gordon LaChance's father. Are any of the boys aware of how others view them? Why or why not? How do they change or not change their lives after their trip to find Ray Brower's body?

Death is a prominent theme in *The Body*. How does facing Ray Brower's body allow Gordon LaChance to confront death? Has he ever truly confronted the death of his brother, Dennis? Why or why not? Chris Chambers, Vern Tessio and Teddy DuChamp all die by the end of the novel, but how is Chris Chambers' death different from the others?



In the Breathing Method, how are perceptions of women different in the 1930s than they are today? Would Sandra Stansfield have been treated differently by her landlord and employer today? How does the advice given by most doctors of that time contrast with Dr. McCarron's advice to Sandra?

Why does the club at 249B East Thirty-fifth Street contain books by authors unheard of in the outside world? Does it appear to be from a different dimension or alternate universe? Why or why not? Why does Stevens not want David Adley to ask more about the existence of the club? What does the main purpose of the club appear to be?