

Ghost World Study Guide

Ghost World by Daniel Clowes

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Plot Summary

Ghost World by Daniel Clowes is a graphic novel about Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer, two girls who have recently graduated from high school. Enid and Rebecca spend most of their time making fun of other people they encounter and occasionally playing mean tricks on them. Enid and Rebecca both become romantically interested in a young man named Josh, which causes tension between Enid and Rebecca. This tension is heightened by the possibility that Enid might leave for college.

In the first chapter, Enid and Rebecca sit in Rebecca's bedroom and watch television. Enid tells Rebecca about a diner named Angels where she always sees a Satanist couple whom she finds interesting. The last time Enid ate there she met a strange man named Bob Skeetes.

In chapter two, Enid is holding a garage sale, but does not appear interested in actually selling anything because she abandons the garage sale to go to Angels with Rebecca in the hopes of seeing the Satanists. Enid and Rebecca do not see the Satanists at Angels, but do randomly run into them at a grocery store. Enid and Rebecca makes fun of the male Satanist for only buying Lunchables.

Enid cuts her hair into a punk style in the third chapter and goes with Rebecca to Angels and another cafe. Enid complains about every guy there, but Enid tells Rebecca that she is planning to meet a cartoonist the next week whose work she enjoys. Upon seeing the cartoonist, Enid is disappointed. At the end of the chapter, Enid explains to Rebecca that she is so sexually frustrated that she cannot even masturbate.

In chapter four, Enid calls Rebecca to say that she went to a pornography store with their mutual friend Josh earlier that day. The store makes Josh very uncomfortable. Enid also explains the story of the first time she had sex. Enid seems far more concerned with Rebecca's reaction to her sexual experience than the experience itself.

In the fifth chapter, Enid and Rebecca go to a 1950s themed diner named Hubba Hubba. While eating there, they go through the personal advertisements in a magazine and decide to call one of the men, claiming to be the woman he is looking for, and tell him to meet at Hubba Hubba. Enid and Rebecca talk Josh into driving them back to Hubba Hubba to witness the man from the personal advertisement's humiliation. The man soon figures out a joke is being played and curses at Enid, Josh, and Rebecca as he leaves, which makes all three feel remorseful.

Enid and Rebecca are eating at Angels at the beginning of chapter six and see Josh walking by outside, and they talk to him briefly. Later, Enid and Rebecca see the female Satanist by herself at a movie theater. By eavesdropping, Enid and Rebecca discover that the Satanists are no longer a couple.

Chapter seven begins with Enid and Rebecca going through old photographs, which leads Enid on a search to find a record from her childhood. Enid and Rebecca search



the record stores but are unsuccessful, so they go to eat at Angels. Enid and Rebecca argue in the diner over the possibility of Enid leaving for college. Both girls cry over the fight, and Enid goes over to Josh's apartment and almost has sex with him before leaving.

In the eighth chapter, Enid prepares to take an entrance exam and move away to college. Enid tells Rebecca that Josh likes Rebecca more than Enid, and Rebecca begins seeing Josh. After Enid takes the entrance exam, she goes on a short trip with Rebecca to Cavetown, USA to relive Enid's only happy childhood memory. On the trip, Enid and Rebecca discuss the possibility of Rebecca moving away with Enid, but Rebecca ultimately rejects the idea. Back at home, Enid receives a letter from Strathmore College telling her that she did not pass the entrance exam. Enid visits Rebecca at work and goes to the beach where she gets an astrological reading done by Bob Skeetes. Enid leaves the beach and sees a woman painting "Ghost World" on a building, and Enid chases after this woman but cannot catch her. Enid boards a bus and leaves town.



Chapter One

Chapter One Summary

The story begins with Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer visiting with each other in one of their bedrooms.

Enid asks Rebecca why she has a magazine that Enid claims to hate because it is only meant to appeal to girls who attend preparatory schools and try to fit in by following the latest trends. Rebecca changes the channel on the television to a comedian who tells macabre jokes, but the girls both find him to be pathetic. Enid sarcastically refers to the comedian as their god and tells Rebecca that the comedian reminds her of one of Rebecca's former boyfriends. Rebecca denies the idea and responds by insinuating that Enid wants to have sex with John Ellis. Enid responds that she hates John Ellis and is reminded of an encounter she had with Ellis the day before.

Enid says that she was eating in the diner Angels when Ellis came in with a seemingly normal older man and sat down across from her. Ellis shows Enid some pictures he plans to run in the next issue of his magazine, and they contain child pornography. Ellis explains that the pictures belong to the older man, Tom, and are computer generated and thus legal. Tom tells Enid that although he has never touched a child in a sexual way, he can now satisfy his sexual desires through these images. Enid tells Rebecca that Ellis asked about her but incorrectly called her "Rebecca Doppelganger." Enid proceeds to tell Rebecca about a Satanist couple that also frequents Angels. After Ellis and Tom leave the diner, Enid sketches the couple and inquires to the cashier about them. The cashier tells Enid that they come in every day for breakfast and lunch and another patron tells Enid that he fantasizes that the couple are brother and sister leaving incestuously.

The chapter concludes with the girls watching television, and Enid again complaining about Rebecca's magazine.

Chapter One Analysis

Irony is a central theme in chapter one. A more cliched example is that Tom, who is attracted to small children, is also a former Catholic priest. Another fairly overt example is that a Satanist couple eats in a diner named "Angels" twice every day. Furthermore, Enid compares the Angels' patron who fantasizes that the Satanists are brother and sister to Don Knotts, an actor best known for his role as Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show." Knotts is considered a very wholesome person, while this customer is meant to be seen as at least somewhat disturbed.

However, perhaps the most important source of irony in the chapter is the girls themselves. Both Enid and Rebecca seem to pride themselves on some kind of outsider status, but they are not all that different from everyone else. Enid complains about



Rebecca's magazine and the girls who read it, but Rebecca reminds Enid that she is part of the magazine's demographic, and Enid does continue to read it despite her complaints. Enid also criticizes John Ellis for being unoriginal and compares his interests to those seen on a tabloid news show, but the girls seem equally interested in the same show, suggesting that they are not original in any way either.



Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary

Chapter two begins with Enid holding a yard sale and telling a potential customer that a toy monster doll is not for sale. Rebecca approaches and asks why Enid is selling the doll, but Enid assures Rebecca that she is not. Enid identifies the doll as "Goofie Gus" and says that she could not sell it to the man because she thinks he is a jerk. Enid tells Rebecca that the man who fantasizes that the Satanist couple live together incestuously was at the yard sale earlier. His name is Bob Skeetes, and he bought very little, but spent a great deal of time looking through the items. Bob claims to be an accomplished astrologer and tells Enid to call him for a free reading.

Enid tells Rebecca that they should go to Angels to find Bob and wait for the Satanist couple. Enid abandons her yard sale, claiming she does not care about any of the items. At Angels, the two girls encounter Melorra, who is attempting to become an actress and was recently in a commercial for a right-wing politician. Melorra also informs Enid and Rebecca that a fellow acquaintance, Carrie Vandenburg, has a cancerous tumor on her face. After the girls leave Angels, they go to a grocery store where they see the Satanist couple shopping. Enid decides to follow the couple to find out what they are buying. Rebecca becomes impatient waiting for Enid to return and finds Enid in another aisle, laughing to herself. Rebecca asks what is so funny, and Enid tells her to look for herself. Rebecca walks by the Satanist and discovers that all he is buying is Lunchables.

Later that evening, at Rebecca's house, the girls are watching television with one of Rebecca's grandmothers. During a commercial break in the show, Melorra's advertisement is shown and they immediately make fun of it. Rebecca asks how much money Enid made at her garage sale, and this prompts Enid to return home. Enid finds that Goofie Gus is still there and is relieved.

Chapter Two Analysis

Irony is again a theme in chapter two. Most importantly, when Enid and Rebecca follow the Satanist couple to find out what they are buying and discover that it is only Lunchables. This is ironic for a couple reasons. Most obviously, the Satanists eat lunch at Angels every day, so it is strange that they are buying a number of packages that are explicitly meant as lunches. However, this is also not the type of food a stereotypical Satanist is supposed to eat because it is so ordinary.

This chapter also reveals a great deal about Enid and Rebecca's personalities. The girls both seem to get most of their joy out of making fun of others. There is not a single person in the chapter that the girls do not judge in some way. Even when they are watching television back at Rebecca's house, they criticize Rebecca's "Oomie's" choice



of television show. Both girls also seem proud to be emotionally detached from all other people, but at least in Enid's case, this is a front. When Enid leaves her yard sale, she claims that she does not care about any of her possessions. Enid is attempting to prove that she is not emotionally attached to anyone or anything. However, at the end of the chapter, Enid returns home to see if Goofie Gus is still there, and is extremely grateful that it is. Although she wants to portray herself as emotionally detached and therefore strong, she has normal emotions.



Chapter Three

Chapter Three Summary

Chapter three begins with Enid watching television in her room. Enid's hair is now noticeably shorter than it was in the first two chapters. Rebecca enters the room and expresses horror at Enid's new haircut. Enid is angry that her father let Rachel in, and the two leave Enid's house. Enid and Rachel walk towards Angels and continue discussing Enid's hair. Arriving at the diner, Enid tells Rachel she is sure they will run into Bob Skeetes. However, Skeetes is not inside, but they sit down at a booth and watch a prostitute getting picked up by a john out on the street. After the prostitute is gone, a bald woman with a huge growth on her face approaches the window and says hello to Rebecca. The girls are confused at first and then mortified when they determine that the girl with the growth is Carrie Vandenburg.

Enid and Rebecca leave Angels, and Enid suggests they go try to find Bob Skeetes, but Rebecca rejects the idea. While walking, the girls run into John Crowley, who only knows Enid. Crowley tells Enid that he is in business school, and that Enid should get rid of her punk look and go to college and make money. After Crowley leaves, Enid explains to Rebecca that she knows him as "Johnny Apeshit," who was a "skinhead junkie."

That evening, Rebecca and Enid walk towards a cafe, and Enid expresses her anger at not being able to find a look to suit her. At the cafe, Rebecca expresses attraction for a number of the men, but Enid dismisses each of them as an idiot. Rebecca claims that Enid hates all men, but Enid says she is interested in a cartoonist named David Clowes, whose work she is familiar with. Leaving the cafe, the girls encounter a man who compares each person walking by to a character in popular culture.

A few days later, Enid finds Bob Skeetes' business card and suggests to Rebecca that they call him. Enid calls, but the answering machine picks up. Enid leaves an anonymous message implying that she knows Skeetes is conspiring in some way with the Satanists at Angels. Enid then tells Rebecca she is going to meet the cartoonist she likes the next week. The book then cuts to Enid walking into a comic book store and shows what she imagines Clowes will look like. When Enid sees Clowes, she is disappointed and never speaks to him.

Later that night, Enid is waiting for Rebecca at Angels and overhears two men discussing Bob Skeetes, and the men tell Enid she should not involve herself with Skeetes. After they leave the diner, Enid and Rebecca examine their bodies in a mirror, and Enid wonders why men do not ask them on dates. Enid suggests that the girls should be lesbians, which disturbs Rebecca. Enid complains that the kind of guy she wants does not exist and that she is acting out of sexual frustration. Rebecca tells Enid to try masturbating, but Enid says she can never get masturbation to work. Enid



explains that she frequently fantasizes about her former teacher Mr. Pierce, but she can never settle on a single fantasy and ends up falling asleep before achieving orgasm.

Chapter Three Analysis

As in chapter one, chapter three shows that although Rebecca and Enid pride themselves on being different from others, they are just like most of the people they encounter. For instance, when the two girls are eating at the cafe, Enid claims that she does not hate all men, just "obnoxious, extroverted, pseudo-bohemian art-school losers" (p. 26). However, Enid presents herself very much as a bohemian. Also, when the girls leave the cafe, they encounter a man who compares everyone to a figure in popular culture. This is very similar to Enid's comparison of Bob Skeetes to Don Knotts in the first chapter.

Furthermore, since the girls seem to hate everyone they encounter but are actually very similar to them, the book seems to argue that they also hate themselves and each other. This self-loathing is revealed to a degree in the fact that Enid cannot even masturbate because she cannot hold a constant fantasy. Enid finds herself so boring that she cannot be aroused by her own fantasies. Similarly, when Enid sees the ugly couple on the street and is disgusted by them, it might suggest that although she wants love, she purposefully resists it because she hates herself.

The fictional cartoonist David Clowes in this chapter is almost certainly a reference to the book's actual cartoonist Daniel Clowes. Enid's insults at the fictional Clowes likely reveal that the real Clowes finds himself inadequate.



Chapter Four

Chapter Four Summary

At the beginning of chapter four, Enid is wearing a leather mask and talking on the phone with Rebecca and asks Rebecca to guess where she went that day. Enid tells Rebecca that she went to a pornography store called Adam's II with a man named Josh. Enid runs into Josh at a record store and walks with him until they are in front of Adam's and begs him to come inside with her. Josh agrees only after Enid says she will go inside by herself if he does not. Inside the store, Enid embarrasses Josh by showing him a variety of sex toys. Enid is then intrigued by some leather shoes, and then discovers an unseen item that she begs Josh to lend her the money to buy.

Rebecca asks what the item is, but Enid tells her she will wear it tomorrow. Rebecca asks Enid if she thinks Josh is a virgin. Enid replies that she does, and this leads into Enid telling Rebecca that she told the story to Naomi last week of how she lost her virginity. Enid tells Naomi that at sixteen she wanted to lose her virginity, but could not find a suitable male partner. Enid loses her virginity to a young man named Allen Weinstein, who is a hippie who is more into his philosophy than girls. Enid and Allen frequently engage in all sorts of foreplay but never have sex until Enid decides with Rebecca that she wants to lose her virginity on a particular day. Enid does not seem to enjoy the sex very much and actually remembers more details about the room, such as what television show was on during the sex. After having sex with Allen, Enid watches a movie silently with him and walks home feeling like everyone on the street is watching her. Enid does not speak to Allen after that, but Allen leaves a lengthy note in her locker confessing his love for her.

The chapter ends with a single panel depicting Enid and Rebecca walking down the street the next day. Enid is wearing the leather mask, and Rebecca pleads with Enid to take it off.

Chapter Four Analysis

Chapter four suggests Enid has a longstanding lesbian attraction to Rebecca. This idea presents itself in other chapters, such as when Enid jokingly says that Rebecca and her should become lesbians, but as this chapter more explicitly deals with sex, it comes more to the fore here. For instance, Enid asks Rebecca to tell her the story of how Rebecca lost her virginity again, and Rebecca replies that Enid knows it better than her, which indicates that Enid is somewhat obsessed with Rebecca's sex life. Furthermore, Enid seems more concerned about how Rebecca will react to her losing her virginity or deciding to stop beforehand than with the sex itself. After the sex is over, Enid is still most concerned with how Rebecca will react to the news. Both of these facts indicate that Enid is more attracted to Rebecca than Allen.

However, despite Enid's apparent homosexual attraction to Rebecca, it is also fairly clear that Enid is attracted to Josh. Josh is the first male in the story with whom Enid seems to enjoy spending time. Rebecca also seems to like Josh insofar as she does not insult him. This seems to foreshadow a coming conflict between Enid and Rebecca over Josh.



Chapter Five

Chapter Five Summary

At the beginning of chapter five, Enid and Rebecca are walking down the street, and Enid tells Rebecca a racial joke. Rebecca asks Enid where they are going, and Enid reveals they are going to a 1950s themed diner called Hubba Hubba. Upon entering the restaurant, the girls immediately make fun of it, including the menu and their waiter whom they call Weird Al. After they order, Enid picks up a political magazine off another table and begins to look through it. Both girls question why people have such a great interest in politics and assume it must be because of some ulterior motive. As they continue to wait for their food, the girls begin to look through the magazine's personal advertisements, which they also mock. While eating, Enid reads one advertisement about a missed connection, and Rebecca suggests that they should call the man who placed the advertisement, claiming to be the girl he is looking for. When Weird Al returns to see if they want to dessert, the girls make fun of the song playing in the diner.

Back at Enid's house, Enid calls the man from the personal advertisement and leaves him a message in a fake accent, claiming to be the woman he is looking for and requesting that he meet her at Hubba Hubba. Enid and Rebecca both find this trick to be very funny but cannot decide how to get to the diner because Rebecca refuses to ride the bus again. The book cuts to the girls begging Josh to take them there. Although Josh initially refuses because he thinks it is a mean trick, he eventually gives them a ride. On the way to the restaurant, Josh drives by a homeless man and gives him some money, which both girls tell him not to do. While waiting for the man from the personal advertisement to arrive, Enid asks Josh about his political beliefs, and he responds that he opposes violence and cruelty. The man from the personal advertisement arrives, and his presence makes both girls and Josh feel very awkward. After twenty-five minutes, the man gets up to leave, and Rebecca realizes he knew a trick was being played upon him. As the man walks he away from the restaurant, he stops at the window by Enid, Rebecca, and Josh and curses at them. On the way home, Rebecca says that the trip was not as fun the first one.

Chapter Five Analysis

Chapter five reveals that Enid and Rebecca are simultaneously mean and sensitive. They are mean because they think it is funny to manipulate the man in the personal advertisement for their amusement. However, they are also sensitive because when they see the actual impact of their trick on the man, they feel badly about what they did. The girls are only capable of such horrible actions because they keep themselves emotionally detached from most of the outside world, but once forced to become emotionally engaged, they are not as insensitive as they project. This chapter also shows that Josh is the moral center of the story because he objects to the trick upon

first hearing about it, but he is also not completely blameless because he still took part in it, even if reluctantly.

Chapter five also deals deeply with the concept of authenticity. Enid and Rebecca mock Hubba Hubba for being very inauthentic as a 1950s diner. They are correct that it is inauthentic, but they also do not understand what the authentic 1950s are. For example, the girls hear four different songs played in the diner, and all four of them were hits in the 1960s, not the 1950s. Enid and Rebecca are completely unaware of this fact, however. Furthermore, when Enid and Rebecca first walk in they make a reference to the show "Happy Days" as if it were some authentic reflection of the 1950s, but the show was a 1970s idealization of the 1950s, just as inauthentic as Hubba Hubba.



Chapter Six

Chapter Six Summary

Chapter six begins with Enid and Rebecca walking down the street to Angels. The girls see notice a man at a bus stop bench who is always there, despite the fact that the bus line has been re-routed. Enid calls the man Norman because near the bench where he sits is a piece of sidewalk with Norman written all over it. At Angels, Enid and Rebecca again run into Melorra, who is now taking college classes and auditioning for more acting jobs. Melorra wishes Rebecca and Enid well but quickly leaves to meet several friends at another table. As soon as Melorra walks away, Enid and Rebecca begin to make fun of her and her friends. Enid and Rebecca see Josh walking by outside and leave to go talk to him, but on her way out Enid says goodbye to Melorra. Outside, the girls tell Josh that he is the only decent man they know, and Rebecca half-seriously asks Josh to marry both of them. Josh rejects their subtle advances.

Enid and Rebecca go back to Enid's house where they see Enid's father. Enid's father tells Enid that Strathmore College called to tell her about a possible entrance exam, and upon hearing this Enid retreats to her room with Rebecca. Rebecca is worried that Enid will go to college, but Enid is not sure what she will do. Enid tries to call Bob Skeetes for her astrological reading, but Skeetes' number is now disconnected.

A few days later, Enid and Rebecca are again on their way to Angels because Enid is determined not to let Melorra and her friends ruin the establishment. Both girls joke about sleeping with Josh. On the way, Enid sees the female Satanist standing at the ticket booth to a movie theater by herself. The girls eavesdrop on the Satanist's conversation and hear that the male Satanist is living in Florida, and the two are apparently split up. Enid and Rebecca fall asleep on the bus bench Norman usually occupies, and when they awake, Enid promises not to go to college.

Chapter Six Analysis

Chapter six brings out a large gap between the way Enid and Rebecca perceive themselves and reality. Enid and Rebecca pride themselves on being hip and superior to almost everyone, but they are actually very pathetic characters. In their interaction with Melorra, for example, Enid and Rebecca constantly belittle and demean Melorra, even more so when Melorra walks out of earshot. However, Melorra is taking college classes, pursuing her dream of being an actress, and seems to have a number of friends. Enid and Rebecca are neither going to college nor do they seem to be employed, and they almost exclusively socialize with each other. Clearly, Melorra is not the loser in the situation, Enid and Rebecca are. This point is made even more explicitly at the end of the chapter, when Enid and Rebecca fall asleep on the bench that Norman usually sits on. Norman is meant to be a phantom of existence, which is why Enid says



"Ghost World" just before encountering him, but by placing the girls on the same bench as Norman, the text suggests that they are also phantoms.

The scene with Enid's father also reveals a growing tension between Enid and Rebecca over the possibility of Enid attending Strathmore. Rebecca clearly does not want Enid to go, but Enid equally clearly does not want to discuss the topic as she attempts to change the subject multiple times when it comes up. At the end of the chapter, Enid does promise not to go to college, but this gesture seems made more out of desperation than true conviction.

The end of the chapter also reiterates the lesbian subplot of the book when one of the girls, presumably Rebecca, yells at the other to let go of her hand after falling asleep on the bus stop bench.

The term "JAP" used in this chapter is slang for "Jewish American Princess," not a racial epithet towards the Japanese



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary

Chapter seven opens with Enid and Rebecca looking through one of Enid's old picture albums. There is a picture of Enid's first stepmother Joanie, who Enid believes was nice, and there is also a picture of Enid's second stepmother, Carol, who Enid hates. The girls flip through the album, finding pictures of themselves as young girls until they see a picture of Enid with a record. Enid wants to find this old children's record, so the girls leave to look through several record stores. As they are about to go into the second record store, Enid uses the word "lachrymose," which confuses Rebecca. Enid and Rebecca cannot find the record at any of the record stores they visit but notice they are near Josh's apartment. Enid and Rebecca go to Josh's apartment in the hope that he knows where to find the old record, but they discover that Josh is not home. Enid leaves Josh a note claiming that two girls named Tiffany and Amber came by to have sex with him, but since he was not home at the time, he must be a homosexual.

Enid and Rebecca go to eat at a hot dog restaurant where they again discuss the possibility of having sex with Josh. During this conversation, Enid uses the word "taciturn," which prompts Rebecca to ask why Enid's vocabulary seems to be expanding. Enid explains that she is studying for the Strathmore exam. This angers Rebecca because she feels like Enid has not been honest with her about Enid's plans for college. The girls argue about their friendship until Rebecca drops the subject. Leaving the restaurant, Enid again uses a word Rebecca is unfamiliar with, and Rebecca again gets angry, but this time makes a rude gesture at Enid and walks away.

Both girls go home and cry. Enid's father attempts to comfort her, and Enid asks him where her all old records are. Instead of telling her father about the fight, Enid claims her emotions are due to hormones and leaves, claiming she is going to buy tampons. Enid actually goes to Josh's apartment. Enid and Josh start out the conversation argumentatively, with Josh telling Enid that he never says anything nice about her because he is afraid she will make fun of him. Enid tells Josh that this is just her attempt to get his attention and that she has romantic feelings for him. Enid and Josh almost have sex, but when Enid asks Josh if he has a condom, Enid breaks out crying again. Enid says that she is crying because she hates herself, and then she walks home from Josh's apartment. When Enid arrives home, she discovers that her father found the old record and put it on her bed. Enid listens to the record all night and calls Rebecca in the morning to tell her about the rest of the night.

Chapter Seven Analysis

Enid's obsession with her record from her childhood in chapter seven likely reflects a desire on her part to return to a time when she could experience pure joy without filtering it through her gruff persona. In fact, the mere search for the record seems to

return Enid to a more childlike emotionally receptive state. For instance, she is finally able to confess her feelings to Josh after the search for the record and Enid's fight with Rebecca. Also, just after the search for the record, Enid sees an old man who has just bought flowers for his wife at the grocery store. Despite the fact that Enid describes the flowers as "pathetic," the sight does seem to genuinely touch her, and Enid comes close to crying on the street.



Chapter Eight, Part One

Chapter Eight, Part One Summary

Chapter eight begins with Enid and Rebecca discussing Enid's plan to take Strathmore's entrance exam and how Enid will get there if she is accepted. Enid thinks she will drive, but Rebecca suggests that Enid talk Josh into driving her because he is in love with Enid.

Enid and Rebecca go to Angels, which is now full of people, much to the anger of the girls. At Angels, the girls see John Ellis, who informs them that he will be appearing a talk show. Ellis is appearing on the talk show to defend Tom, who has been arrested for molesting altar boys. The show is going to be on cable, so Enid and Rebecca go over to Josh's apartment to watch it because cable comes with his apartment. Enid and Josh discuss Ellis' psychology while Rebecca is more intent on watching the show.

Enid and Rebecca go bowling with Josh and discuss the possibility of Rebecca riding with Enid to Strathmore. Enid asks Rebecca if she should go out with Josh. Rebecca asks why Enid would not go out with Josh, and Enid tells Rebecca that she is sure Josh likes Rebecca more than her. Rebecca then shows up at Josh's apartment while Josh is sleeping.

Enid and her father are looking at a hearse to buy for Enid to drive to Strathmore. Her father attempts to talk her out of buying the hearse because it will require so much gas, but Enid insists upon buying it. Enid takes Josh for a drive in it, but Josh says the car is not her style. Enid tells her father that he was right that her friends dislike her car. Enid's father is preparing to go out on a date with Enid's former stepmother Carol, which angers Enid greatly.

Rebecca and Josh are walking down the street and discussing what they should tell Enid about their relationship. Rebecca tells Josh that she thought Josh did not really care about Enid, but Josh stutters through his answer, which convinces Rebecca that Josh likes Enid more than her. Rebecca discusses her belief that no boys like her more than Enid with her grandmother.

Rebecca meets Enid at a donut shop to tell Enid that she might move to Strathmore with Enid. This news shocks Enid, which Rebecca takes as a sign that Enid does not want Rebecca to come.

One panel shows Enid taking the entrance exam before the book cuts back to Enid at home with her father and Carol. Enid tells her father and Carol that she is going to take a short trip to Cavetown, USA with Rebecca as practice for the drive to Strathmore. Enid further says that her father and her first stepmother Joanie took her to Cavetown, USA, and it is her only happy childhood memory.



Chapter Eight, Part One Analysis

The theme of returning to childhood from chapter seven continues in chapter eight. On the first page of the chapter, Enid plays on playground equipment such as a swing and slide. However, Enid does not seem happy while doing these activities, which likely indicates that she is no longer capable of connecting to the innocent joy of childhood.

When Enid and Rebecca watch John Ellis on television at Josh's apartment, there is obviously some romantic tension between all three of them. When the three of them first start watching the program, Rebecca is sitting next to Josh, but then Enid takes a seat on the couch on the other side of Josh. Then when Enid starts discussing Ellis with Josh, Rebecca distances herself from both of them by claiming to be deeply interested in the show.

At the bowling alley, Enid deliberately sabotages any relationship she might have with Josh by telling Rebecca that Josh likes Rebecca more than her. There is no evidence in the text to indicate that this is true. It is likely that Enid did this because she hates herself and does not she deserves to be loved by Josh or anyone else.

Finally, when Enid tells her father and Carol that her trip to Cavetown, USA with her father and Joanie was her only happy childhood memory, it is a direct attack on Carol.] By praising her first stepmother, Enid is implying that Carol was a bad stepmother .



Chapter Eight, Part Two

Chapter Eight, Part Two Summary

Chapter eight continues with Enid and Rebecca driving to Cavetown, USA in Enid's hearse. Enid tells Rebecca that Strathmore is in a very dangerous neighborhood, and Rebecca talks about Mark Rubin, the only boy Rebecca believes liked her better than Enid. When Enid and Rebecca arrive at Cavetown, USA, Enid marvels at how large she remembers the dinosaurs being. Enid claims to have a spiritual experience reliving her childhood. Back at a hotel, Rebecca expresses her doubts about moving to Strathmore to live with Enid. Both Enid and Rebecca agree that they should not continue living the way they currently are indefinitely. Rebecca questions whether she might be a lesbian but quickly denies it. On the way back home, Rebecca says that even if Enid wants her to come to Strathmore, she does not want to leave because Rebecca wants things to be like high school. On the other hand, Enid expresses a desire to leave for another city to become a completely different person because she hates who she currently is.

At Enid's home, Enid's father brings her a piece of mail. Enid reads it and promptly tells her father and Carol that she did not pass the entrance exam for Strathmore. Enid goes to visit Rebecca, who is now working in a bagel shop. Enid and Rebecca visit momentarily before Josh comes to pick up Rebecca at the end of her shift. Enid tells Rebecca to call, and Rebecca agrees. Enid goes down to the beach, and curses at a small boy who is walking along the beach with his mother. Enid sees Bob Skeetes scanning the beach with a metal detector and chases after him. Bob gives Enid the free astrological reading he promised her. Bob tells Enid that he sees Enid chasing after an intellectual woman who has something to tell Enid, but the woman runs away. Enid leaves the beach and sees a woman painting "Ghost World" on a number of different surfaces, and Enid runs after the woman but cannot catch her. Enid walks by Angels and sees Rebecca and Josh inside. Enid remarks that Rebecca has become a beautiful woman, walks to a bus stop, and boards the bus.

Chapter Eight, Part Two Analysis

At the beginning of the second half of chapter eight, the book gives the strong impression that Enid does not want Rebecca to come with her to Strathmore. Enid tells Rebecca that Strathmore is in a very bad neighborhood where there were numerous rapes the previous year. Enid further claims that this statistic was advertised in a Strathmore pamphlet. While it is possible a great university would be located in a bad neighborhood, it seems beyond belief that the university would draw attention to the fact in their recruiting materials. Enid likely made this statistic up to scare Rebecca away from moving.

The theme of reversion to childhood is again apparent here in Enid and Rebecca's trip to Cavetown, USA. Enid is disappointed that the dinosaur and caveman statues no

longer seem as big and scary as they do in her memory. This shows that Enid is incapable of returning to her childhood. However, being at the place gives Enid a somewhat spiritual experience, so Enid can still open herself more emotionally by returning to childhood memories.

In Bob Skeetes' astrological reading of Enid, he tells Enid that there is a woman who wants to tell something but runs away. This woman is almost certainly the woman who has been painting "Ghost World" over different backgrounds throughout the text that Enid encounters after leaving the reading. The message seems to be that this place is a ghost for Enid in that she holds no real attachment to it, and this is why Enid ultimately boards a bus to leave the town and start a completely new life somewhere else.



Characters

Enid Coleslaw

Enid is an eighteen-year-old girl who has recently graduated from high school. Enid comes from a Jewish family, and her father changed his name from "Cohn" to "Coleslaw" before Enid was born. Enid spends most of her time mocking cultural figures and other people she knows. For instance, Enid frequently makes fun of her former classmates John Ellis and Melorra, and while John Ellis is often rude to Enid, Melorra does nothing to deserve such poor treatment from Enid. Melorra also does not seem to have a very good relationship with her father as she tries to avoid speaking to him or telling him about her problems. Enid also dislikes her second stepmother, Carol, whom Enid's father begins to date again near the end of the book. The only people Enid seems to really care about are Rebecca Doppelmeyer and Josh. Rebecca is Enid's best friend, but Enid is still frequently insulting towards Rebecca. The same is true of Enid's behavior towards Josh, despite the fact that Enid is romantically attracted to him. Enid often eats at a diner named Angels, where she sometimes encounters a Satanist couple and a strange man named Bob Skeetes, and Enid is somewhat obsessed with all three of these people. As the story develops, Enid is pressured by her father to take the entrance exam for Strathmore, a college thousands of miles away. Enid plans to move away to college but fails the exam. Enid hates herself and realizes it, which leads her to frequently fantasize about leaving her hometown to start a completely new life in some town where no one knows her, and at the end of the book, Enid appears to do exactly that.

Rebecca Doppelmeyer

Rebecca is a teenage girl and a recent high school graduate. Rebecca lives with her grandmother, or her "Oomie", as Rebecca calls her. Rebecca is Enid Coleslaw's best friend, although they frequently argue with each other and Enid frequently tells Rebecca what to do. Like Enid, Rebecca spends most of her time making fun of other people. Although Enid is convinced that boys find Rebecca more attractive than her, Rebecca is equally convinced that almost every boy likes Enid more than her. Near the end of the story, Enid tells Rebecca that Josh is more attracted to Rebecca than Enid, which causes Rebecca to pursue Josh romantically and begin a relationship with him. However, Rebecca remains suspicious that Josh still prefers Enid. When Rebecca learns that Enid is studying for Strathmore's entrance exam, it causes Rebecca to worry that she will be left by herself. This fear eventually causes a large fight between Enid and Rebecca. After the fight, Rebecca considers moving to Strathmore with Enid. Rebecca and Enid discuss this possibility, and both decide it is pathetic. Rebecca realizes that she does not want to leave, she wants her life to be like it was in high school. After Enid fails Strathmore's entrance exam, Rebecca takes a job at a bagel shop and continues to date Josh.



Josh

Josh is a young man and friend to both Enid and Rebecca. Josh is first introduced nearly halfway through the book when Enid begs him to accompany her into Adams II, a pornography store. The store makes Josh feel extremely uncomfortable, which shows that Josh is a very conventional person compared to Enid and Rebecca. Later, Enid and Rebecca ask Josh to help them play a trick on a man who placed a personal advertisement in a magazine. Josh eventually agrees to drive them to meeting place but does so only reluctantly, which shows that Josh is at least somewhat more moral than Enid and Rebecca. Both Enid and Rebecca are romantically interested in Josh, and Josh is romantically interested in both of them. However, Josh ultimately dates Rebecca.

Bob Skeetes

Enid meets Bob Skeetes at Angels Diner when she asks the cashier about the Satanist couple. Bob tells Enid that he imagines that the Satanists are brother and sister and live together incestuously. In the next chapter, Bob comes to Enid's garage sale and spends a lot of time talking to her, but he buys almost nothing. While at the garage sale, Bob tells Enid he is an astrologer and gives her his business card and an offer of a free astrological reading. Enid uses the card to call Bob and leave a vague but threatening message on his answering machine, which upsets Bob. In the last chapter, Enid sees Bob scanning the beach with a metal detector, and Bob gives Enid the free astrological reading. Bob tells Enid that there is a mysterious woman who is trying to communicate something to Enid but is also running away.

The Satanists

The Satanists are a couple that Enid frequently sees eating at Angels, and according to the diner's cashier, the Satanists eat breakfast and lunch there every day. Enid and Rebecca become somewhat obsessed with the Satanists. Both Satanists carry umbrellas on sunny days to protect their incredibly pale skin from the sun. Enid and Rebecca run into the Satanists at the grocery store and are amused to discover that they are only purchasing Lunchables. Later in the story, Enid and Rebecca see the female Satanist outside a movie theater and eavesdrop on her to discover that the couple has split up and the male Satanist has moved to Florida.

John Ellis

John Ellis is a former classmate of Enid and Rebecca. John prints a magazine called Mayhem, which is meant to be deliberately shocking and offensive. In the first chapter, John is preparing to print a number of digitally created images of child pornography. John obtains these pictures from Tom, a former Catholic priest. When Tom is arrested for having molested altar boys in the past, John goes on a cable talk show under an



assumed name to defend Tom's actions once again for the explicit purpose of offending people. Enid believes that John's obsession with the disgusting and bizarre is no different than the tastes of most normal Americans.

Melorra

Melorra is a former classmate of Enid and Rebecca who aspires to be an actress. At the beginning of the book, Melorra tells Enid and Rebecca that she is in an advertisement for right wing politician Hampton Hayes, which goes against Melorra's political beliefs. Melorra enrolls in college and makes a number of new friends, and they all eat at Angels frequently, which angers Enid and Rebecca. Melorra is always very nice to Enid and Rebecca, even though Enid and Rebecca make fun of her constantly.

Enid's Father

Enid's father is never identified by his first name, but he did change his last name from "Cohn" to "Coleslaw" to hide his Jewish heritage. Enid's father has been married three different times but is single during most of the book. Enid's father presses his daughter to attend college at Strathmore and is visibly disappointed when Enid fails the entrance exam. Enid's father is very accommodating of his daughter's unusual lifestyle choices. For instance, he purchases Enid a hearse because she believes that is what she wants to drive. Near the end of the story, Enid's father begins dating his third ex-wife Carol, whom Enid dislikes.

Allen Weinstein

Allen Weinstein is a high school classmate of Enid and Rebecca and the boy to whom Enid lost her virginity. Allen is a hippie and seems more interested in philosophy, marijuana, and reggae than girls, which is part of the reason Enid is initially attracted to him. After talking at a party, Allen and Enid go to Allen's house every day after school and kiss until Allen's mother comes home at five. After Allen and Enid have sex, Enid does not talk to Allen for several weeks, but Allen leaves a long note in Enid's locker confessing his love to her.

John

John is an old acquaintance of Enid who used to be a punk and heroin addict. John once spray painted "anarchy" on Enid's father's car but is now enrolled in business school. John plans to attack the system by making an obscene amount of money and retiring at thirty-five and tells Enid she should do the same.

Oomie

Oomie is Rebecca's grandmother with whom Rebecca lives. Oomie comforts Rebecca after Rebecca and Enid have a fight and when Rebecca is convinced every boy likes Enid better than her. Oomie loves Rebecca very much and wants Rebecca to live with her until she dies.



Objects/Places

Rebecca's House

This is where Rebecca Doppelmeyer lives with her grandmother Oomie.

Angels

Angels is a diner frequented by Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer. This diner is where Enid first sees the Satanist couple and Bob Skeetes.

Enid's House

This is where Enid Coleslaw lives with her father and where Enid and Rebecca spend much of their time.

Giant Supermarket

Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer go to Giant Supermarket to buy some food and see the Satanist couple buying nothing but Lunchables.

Zine-o-phobia

Zine-o-phobia is a book store where Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer shop and John Ellis works on Tuesdays.

Adam's II

Adam's II is a pornography store that Enid Coleslaw goes to with Josh.

Hubba Hubba

Hubba Hubba is a 1950s themed diner where Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer trick a man from a personal advertisement into going in the hopes of meeting a woman he saw at a movie theater.



The Norman Square

The Norman Square is sidewalk square with the name Norman written repeatedly into the concrete. A man constantly sits at a bus stop bench next to this square, and Enid Coleslaw refers to him as Norman.

Josh's Apartment

This is where Josh lives and where Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer watch John Ellis' appearance on a cable talk show.

Strathmore

Strathmore is a college located thousands of miles away that Enid Coleslaw attempts to attend but fails the entrance exam.

Cavetown, USA

Cavetown, USA is an amusement park featuring statues of dinosaurs and cavemen. Enid Coleslaw goes here as a child with her father and first stepmother Joanie, which is Enid's only happy childhood memory. Enid returns here with Rebecca Doppelmeyer but is disappointed by how unimpressive it now seems.

The Beach

This is where Enid Coleslaw sees Bob Skeetes and is given an astrological reading by him near the end of the book.

Themes

Irony

The book frequently employs irony to show that things are not always as they seem. For instance, the Satanist couple that Enid always sees at Angels are a very ironic couple because they defy the common expectations of what Satanists should be. The cashier at Angels tells Enid that the couple is very nice, while the common expectation of Satanists is that they are evil and mean. Furthermore, when Enid and Rebecca see the Satanists shopping at supermarket, the male Satanist has only Lunchables in his shopping cart. Lunchables are a very ordinary food, so this defies Enid and Rebecca's expectations, which is why they find it so funny. Bob Skeetes is also an ironic character because Enid assumes from his appearance and his fantasy that the Satanists are brother and sister living incestuously that Bob must be a disturbing person. However, Bob turns out to be one of the nicest individuals in the book. When Enid sees Bob on the beach at the end of the book, he remembers who she is and asks how she is and follows through on his promise to give her a free astrological reading.

The characters of Enid and Rebecca are also very ironic. Both girls seem to consider themselves very original and hip and complain that other characters like John Ellis are not original. In the first chapter, for example, Enid and Rebecca are watching a tabloid news show, and Enid says that John Ellis is interested in the same thing as normal Americans who watch the show. Clearly, Enid and Rebecca do not consider themselves part of the group who is interested in such things, but yet they continue to watch the show. The book uses irony to challenge preconceptions about each character.

Lack of Authenticity

The book suggests that most people and institutions are in some sense inauthentic or fake. The most obvious example of this is the 1950s themed diner Hubba Hubba. When Enid and Rebecca go there they immediately criticize it for not being authentic. Enid comments that their waiter's hairstyle is not from the 1950s and doubts that people in the 1950s called desserts "mind-benders" as the menu does. There is no doubt that the restaurant is inauthentic, but so are the girls' criticisms. In one case, the girls mock Hubba Hubba by referring to some of the characters from the show "Happy Days." However, "Happy Days" was a show from the 1970s about the 1950s, so it was just as inauthentic as Hubba Hubba. Furthermore, four different songs are played in the restaurant while the girls are eating, and every single one of them was recorded in the 1960s. The girls show no awareness of this fact, suggesting that they do not even know the difference between what is authentic and inauthentic.

In another scene, a man standing in his apartment's window is telling passersby that they resemble different fictional characters like Homer Simpson and Eddie Munster. This scene seems to suggest that most people have become incapable of thinking



outside of popular culture references and so have become inauthentic people. The same point is made when Enid says that Bob Skeetes looks like Don Knotts in the first chapter. Authenticity is clearly a great value to Clowes, but he does not see it in most of society.

The Impossibility of Returning to Childhood

Near the end of the book, Enid attempts in a variety of ways to return to what she sees as a somewhat happier time in her childhood, but ultimately Enid discovers that this is impossible. Enid begins this process in chapter seven when looking through a photograph album from her youth with Rebecca. Enid becomes obsessed with finding a record that she used to listen to frequently as a child and goes searching for it in several record stores. The mere process of searching for the record seems to make Enid more emotional. While Enid usually has an emotional wall around her, when she searches for the record her emotions are much more on display. For instance, when Enid sees an old man taking flowers home to his wife it almost reduces her to tears. Also, it is later that same night that Enid goes over to Josh's apartment and confesses her feelings to him.

Enid continues trying to recapture her childhood in chapter eight when she takes a trip to Cavetown, USA with Rebecca. Enid claims that her trip to the park with her father and stepmother Joanie is her only happy memory from childhood. Enid is initially amused by the statues of dinosaurs and cavemen at Cavetown, USA but is also amazed by how small and unimpressive it all seems now. This indicates that although her childhood remains an important emotional touchstone, Enid cannot actually return to those feelings.



Style

Point of View

The book is written from a third-person narrative point of view almost exclusively focused on Enid's perspective. Clowes does not use an omniscient point of view, however. Like all the other characters, Enid's thoughts are not known unless she speaks them, but Enid is the only character whose dialogue is used to narrate flashbacks. The flashbacks happen a number of times throughout the story and can involve an elaborate plot mechanism to setup. For instance, when Enid describes losing her virginity, it is done by Enid explaining to Rebecca that she told the story to their mutual acquaintance Naomi. Naomi only appears once again in the book and even then only in an old photograph, so the character exists almost entirely as a plot device that Clowes uses to allow Enid to tell an important story from her past.

Although the story focuses on Enid, it is also true that very little of the plot occurs without Rebecca present, so her point of view also figures into the story pretty heavily. Furthermore, there are a number of short scenes or even single panels that show the perspective of other minor characters. For example, after Enid leaves an anonymous, threatening message on Bob Skeetes' answering machine, a single panel shows Bob listening to the message and looking depressed, which is meant to give some insight into both Bob's sensitivity and the unknown damage done by Enid and Rebecca's prank.

Setting

The story is set almost entirely in a relatively large but unnamed city. The city must be large because there are numerous record shops and diners within walking distance of Enid and Rebecca's houses and there seems to be a large bus system in operation. Probably the most important single location in the entire story is Angels, a diner frequented by Enid and Rebecca. This diner is where Enid first encounters both the Satanist couple and Bob Skeetes and seems to be a preferred dining establishment for bohemian individuals. Throughout the story, Angels becomes steadily more popular to the point that Enid and Rebecca no longer enjoy eating there. Another important establishment in the story is Hubba Hubba, a 1950s themed diner that appears to be located in the city's suburbs given that Enid and Rebecca must ride the bus there. Hubba Hubba is almost the opposite of Angels in that it is in no way meant to appeal to a bohemian crowd, but it is for precisely that reason that Enid seeks it out. Near the end of the book, Enid and Rebecca take a trip to an amusement park called Cavetown, USA, which is located north of the city. This park features large statues of dinosaurs and cavemen which frightened Enid when she came there as a child but now simply seem absurd to her. Finally, the city also has a beach, which indicates that the city is likely located on the coast. At the beach Enid meets Bob Skeetes again and receives a free astrological reading from him.



Language and Meaning

Because almost all the text in the book is dialogue, and the primary characters are all young people, the language is frequently immature and crude. For instance, at the end of the first chapter Enid is complaining about the magazine she is reading and she yells, "God, look at these stupid cunts!" (p. 14). The phrase reveals Enid to be a fairly typical teenage girl by using colloquial and foul language. However, not every character uses such crass words, and Clowes often uses this difference to bring out differences in personality. Of all the young people in the story, only Josh and Melorra speak without nearly constant cursing, and it is likely not coincidental that they are shown to be two of the most moral characters in the story, especially in Josh's case. In the last chapter, Enid, Rebecca, and Josh watch John Ellis' appearance on a cable talk show, and Enid describes John as a "pathetic pussy." On the other hand, Josh calls John's opinions "contrived," his use of a more complex word in lieu of mere obscenities indicating a fundamental decency in his character (p. 65). Finally, a shift in Enid's style of language causes a fight between Enid and Rebecca. Enid studies for a college entrance exam, which causes her to begin using a number of advanced words such as "taciturn" and "contentious." The use of these words show a growing distance between Enid and Rebecca.

Structure

The book is divided into eight chapters, each of roughly equal length except for the final chapter. The first seven chapters are all between seven and eleven pages long, but the eighth chapter is nearly twice as long as any of the other chapters at eighteen pages in length. Although each chapter has an individual title, those titles are not at the beginning of the chapters. Instead, each chapter begins with the phrase "Ghost World," which is typically painted onto some building or other surface in the background. The first chapter introduces Enid Coleslaw and Rebecca Doppelmeyer and shows the girls talking to each other at Rebecca's house. In the second chapter, Enid holds a yard sale, and the girls try to find the Satanist couple. The third chapter deals with Enid's new punk look and her dislike of almost all men that she encounters. In the fourth chapter, Josh's character is introduced, and Enid describes how she lost her virginity. Enid takes Rebecca to the 1950s themed diner Hubba Hubba in chapter five, and Enid and Rebecca play a cruel trick on a man who left a personal advertisement in a magazine. In chapter six, Enid and Rebecca wander around the city aimlessly before falling asleep on a bus stop bench. Chapter seven details Enid's search for a record that she loved as a child and a fight between Enid and Rebecca. In chapter eight, Enid and Rebecca take a trip to Cavetown, USA, Enid fails to get into college, and Enid eventually boards a bus to leave town permanently.



Quotes

"Y'know, John Ellis thinks he's so 'out there' with that stupid Mayhem Magazine of his, but really he's just interested in the same shit the rest of America is interested in!" Chap. 1, Ghost World, p. 14

"That's okay—I don't want him to buy any of my sacred artifacts, anyway...I can't bear the thought of some jerk with a trendy haircut buying 'Goofie Gus!'" Chap. 2, Garage Sale, p. 15

"The trouble is the kind of guy I want to go out with doesn't even exist...like a rugged, chain-smoking, intellectual, adventurer guy who's really serious, but also really funny and mean..." Chap. 3, Punk Day, p. 31

"Once I got outside I started to feel really weird...Everybody was checking me out...I kept imagining Becky's reaction to everything. Especially The Jeffersons." Chap. 4, The First Time, p. 37

"I suppose I endorse policies that are opposed to stupidity and violence...cruelty in any form...censorship..." Chap. 5, Hubba Hubba, p. 44

"Why the fuck would she come here? She must think this place is 'hip' because she saw us here." Chap. 6, The Norman Square, p. 49

"That little old man bought those pathetic flowers at the grocery store to take home to his wife. Oh God, it's so cute, I'm dying!" Chap. 7, A Smile and a Ribbon, p. 55

"I always feel like you're going out of your way to make me feel uncomfortable so you can make fun of me..." Chap. 7, A Smile and a Ribbon, p. 60

"All of his 'offensive' opinions are so contrived it's hard to take him seriously...it's just a cheap, easy way to get attention." Chap. 8, October, p. 65

"Well maybe I don't! I don't want to go anywhere or do anything...I just want it to be like it was in high school!" Chap. 8, October, p. 74

"You've grown into a very beautiful young woman." Chap. 8, October, p. 80



Topics for Discussion

Most stories have some kind of hero. Is anyone in this story deserving of that title? Is any character even particularly moral? Explain your answer.

How does the book use irony to communicate its message?

Given that there is no textual basis for the statement, why does Enid tell Rebecca that Josh prefers Rebecca to Enid?

Why does Enid visit Cavetown, USA and what does she discover when she gets there? Does this tell us anything about life in general? If so, what?

Compare and contrast Enid and Rebecca to John Ellis.

What is the significance of the the title of this book?

Both Rebecca and Enid seem to pride themselves on being different from normal, American society. Are they different from most Americans? Why or why not?

What is the significance of Bob Skeetes astrological reading of Enid?