

I Am Charlotte Simmons Study Guide

I Am Charlotte Simmons by Tom Wolfe

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Plot Summary

I Am Charlotte Simmons opens at Ivy League Dupont College with two juniors, Hoyt and Vance, coming across the Governor of California (who is at Dupont to speak at commencement) engaged in oral sex with a student. Hoyt fights off the bodyguard, causing him serious injury and brags to Vance what a great story this will make.

Charlotte Simmons is a recent high-school graduate from Sparta, North Carolina. Nestled high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Lost Province is a quiet, unassuming place where aspirations do not include attending an ivy league university, so when Charlotte receives a scholarship to Dupont, it makes front page news. Charlotte arrives at Dupont, encouraged by her English teacher to always look to the future.

Charlotte meets three other people who have an impact on her life. Jojo Johannsen is the only white starting player on the basketball team. Adam, Jojo's tutor, is a senior with hopes of winning a Rhodes scholarship. Hoyt Thorpe, also a senior, belongs to the Saint Ray fraternity and is very popular. Charlotte is attracted to the intelligence in Adam and finds in him the Dupont she had hoped for. Unfortunately, Adam is not among the popular crowd and Charlotte increasingly wants to be popular. Charlotte meets Hoyt at a party at Saint Ray house and is immediately attracted to him and his popularity, but she is also repulsed because he is rude and assuming.

At a tailgate party she is accosted by a drunken student and Hoyt comes to her rescue. In spite of her earlier mixed feelings, Charlotte becomes more attracted to him and she comes to see him as her protector. Although she knows that she should be in love with Adam, she begins to spend time with Hoyt at Saint Ray house; thrilled by the fact the popular senior likes her.

Adam had written a paper for Jojo, which Jojo handed in as his own. Mr. Quat believes that plagiarism is involved and decides to press charges, the result of which would be dire both to Adam and Jojo. Adam stands to lose his chances for a Rhodes scholarship and Jojo could lose his place on the basketball team with finals coming up.

Charlotte goes with Hoyt to the Saint Ray formal, ends up drunk, and sleeps with him. Charlotte is disgusted with herself and falls into a deep depression. She feels guilty and lonely, knowing that she cannot talk to her mother who has deep moral convictions. In desperation, she turns to Adam. Adam becomes her protector and pulls her through, encouraging her to take her final exams and not give up entirely.

At the Gay Day demonstration Mr. Quat wins the respect of Adam. Adam prints an article in the school's alternative newspaper about the governor's sexual encounter mentioned at the beginning of the book. This bold move helps Mr. Quat decide to drop the academic charges he had planned to bring against Adam.



Charlotte, who throughout most of the book believed strongly in her identity as Charlotte Simmons, ends the book as Jojo's girlfriend. She may have gotten what she wanted (popularity and prestige), but she paid a high price to receive it.



Prologue "The Dupont Man"

Prologue "The Dupont Man" Summary

The narrative begins in the men's washroom of the theatre at Dupont College. Hoyt is having an alcohol-induced surreal experience in which he sees himself. He admires himself in the mirror and receives affirmation from fellow fraternity member Vance. On the way back to their fraternity house, they pass through The Grove. The author steps back from the narrative momentarily to describe for the reader Dupont College. Dupont College is a famous, old school with a valued reputation. Graduates of Dupont College earn respect from those around them from being able to claim they are from Dupont College. Dupont is a highly planned university microcosm that exists in sharp contrast to the slums that surround it. The original planner constructed a highly planned environment that promoted a classic university atmosphere.

The author returns back to the narrative with the two frat boys running through the Grove. On their way through, they come across a man and a woman amongst the trees. They recognize the man as the Governor of California, and who is to speak at commencement. Although she is not named, they also recognize the girl. They pause momentarily in shock but are startled by the Governor's bodyguard. The bodyguard swings at Hoyt who ducks the punch and the bodyguard's fist hits the tree and he falls to the ground in pain. Hoyt and Vance run away. Vance suggests they don't mention the incident to anybody, but Hoyt is proud of himself.

Prologue "The Dupont Man" Analysis

Although the prologue takes place months before the main action in the book, it ends up affecting each of the main characters. The author hints at each of the main themes of the book. In his description of the college campus he shows that it is a world unto itself in that it is highly orchestrated to be different than the rest of the world. However the University's highly planned environment has several broad hints that it is merely a facade, and not the academic epicenter it once was. Moreover, the Governor's shocking act immediately throws into question his own identity as a leader.



Chapter 1 "That Single Promise"

Chapter 1 "That Single Promise" Summary

Chapter one begins with a description of Alleghany County. Nestled high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, it has been called the Lost Province, because it was cut off from the rest of North Carolina. There is one town in Alleghany County: Sparta. The fact that a high school senior decides to attend Dupont makes front-page news. Charlotte Simmons, the valedictorian of her graduating class, is introduced by Mr. Thoms, the principal. Before giving her speech, Charlotte is not worried about that but rather about her looks and her classmates. Although the adults in the crowd admire her intelligence and listen closely to her words, she is thinking about what her classmates are thinking about her. She analyzes every sentence by what her classmates would think of her if she said it. She leans on her intelligence to make herself feel better than her classmates.

Charlotte's mother invites a few people over, but not for a party as her staunch evangelical background would not allow her to call it a party. The house is described as tiny and countrified and the author spends some time describing Charlotte's father. He is forty-two and has been laid off from a couple of jobs. He now works as a fill-in caretaker. He is a typical mountain man who was raised never to show emotion. Miss Pennington, Charlotte's English teacher, is also described. Miss Pennington has taste; her house is decorated and she has a real yard. Charlotte's mother is described as intelligent and fervently religious. Charlotte feels that she can talk about things with Miss Pennington that she cannot with Mother.

Channing Reeves and his friends raid her party. Charlotte is humiliated and ashamed that they have seen where she lives. The sheriff and her father ask them to leave and eventually they do. Miss Pennington tells her that the boys resent her and that Charlotte needs to keep her eyes on the future and not look back. Miss Pennington asks her to promise not to look back. That evening, the family sees a news story on TV about Dupont. The news is covering commencement and the speech being made by the governor. He calls for the current generation of college students to create a new moral climate for themselves and the nation. Charlotte is relieved that she can leave cliques, "hook-ups," and drinking behind her as she moves forward at Dupont.

Chapter 1 "That Single Promise" Analysis

The theme of identity is introduced in this chapter. To Sparta, Charlotte is the star, the one to leave for a prestigious university. Charlotte, however, is looking for her identity in her classmates. The speech the governor gives at commencement allows Charlotte hope that her intelligence will find her friends and identity at Dupont where everyone has the same goal of pursuing knowledge and furthering their intellect. The reader

already knows from the prologue, though, that the Governor's authentic identity is thrown into question. His call for a new moral climate is hypocrisy.



Chapter 2 "The Whole Black Player Thing"

Chapter 2 "The Whole Black Player Thing" Summary

The chapter opens at a pre-season basketball scrimmage at Dupont. It is August and although the team can't actually practice, according to regulations, Coach Buster Roth strongly encourages pickup games between his players. In the middle of a game the reader is introduced to Jojo Johanssen: six-feet-ten and 250 pounds. He is also the only white starting player on the basketball team and feels that he has a lot to prove. His counterpart on the skins team is a freshman named Congers. He is black and almost as big as Jojo. The shirts are the starting five players and the skins are the backups. Congers was recruited out of high school by the coach Buster Roth. Congers is playing a very assertive game and Jojo doesn't like the pressure. He elbows Congers and slam-dunks the ball. Later, Jojo is elated when Charles comes over to talk to him about his slam-dunk. Approval by a black player is coveted. After the scrimmage, the team heads to the locker room for showers. On the way they are accosted by fans, many of whom are women who want to be noticed by the players. Jojo enters the locker room and into a conversation between the black players. They are teasing Charles, the captain, because he has good grades.

Chapter 2 "The Whole Black Player Thing" Analysis

Jojo is not black and therefore feels like he constantly has to prove himself. He feels threatened by Congers, not necessarily because he is a better player, but because he is black. The basketball players are described as a class unto themselves: they get better facilities than other students and nicer housing arrangements. Girls will do almost anything to be seen with a basketball player. This chapter sets up some of the inner conflict that Jojo will feel throughout the novel and also shows the basketball team to be one of the popular groups that the female students strive to "hook-up" with. The reader will see immediately that Dupont is exactly the opposite of what Charlotte expects it to be.



Chapter 3 "The Mermaid Blushed"

Chapter 3 "The Mermaid Blushed" Summary

Charlotte's parents drive her to Dupont in their pickup truck. It is a ten-hour trip and they arrive in the Little Yard to find a mass of students, parents, and boxes. Her father refuses help because he doesn't want to have to pay a tip. Charlotte's room is on the fifth floor. They bring her stuff up to her room and meet her roommate. They are relieved to discover that her roommate is also from a small town, but they soon discover the reality: her roommate's father is the CEO of a major company and had flown the family in on his jet. Her roommate's name is Beverly and she is completely different from Charlotte. She arrives with a massive load of boxes and suitcases and she has a computer and a cell phone. Beverly's father attended Dupont and her parents are wealthy. They decide to have lunch together and Charlotte's father suggests the Sizzlin' Skillet. Beverly and her parents are obviously out of place in the Sizzlin' Skillet, and although Mr. Amory and Mr. Simmons try to talk business, it becomes obvious quickly that Mr. Amory is way out of Charlotte's father's league.

Charlotte attends the freshman meeting led by the Resident Assistant who goes over the rules. Alcohol is not allowed in Edgerton House or any other house in Little Yard. Charlotte is relieved, although another issue is not addressed that she is worried about: the dorms are co-ed. She goes to the RA's room to talk to her about the issue that was not brought up but cannot find the words. The RA understands right away and assures Charlotte that although it is a coed dorm, sex in the dorm is looked down on because it is considered pathetic to hook-up with someone from your own house.

Feeling exhausted, Charlotte decides to shower and go to bed early, but when she reaches the bathroom she is reminded that it is coed. Embarrassed to find two boys in the bathroom, she leaves and finds a powder room off the common room and washes up. Later, despite the rules about alcohol, a party rages all night and she wakes up to find a drunken boy in her room.

Chapter 3 "The Mermaid Blushed" Analysis

Charlotte learns quickly that things are not as they seem. The RA gives the talk about no alcohol on campus, because she has to, but before the night is over Charlotte encounters people drunk and drinking in the dorm. She feels alone. Proud as she is of her mother and father, she already feels shame at their clothes.



Chapter 4 "The Dummy"

Chapter 4 "The Dummy" Summary

Chapter 4 begins with a description of Saint Ray house and the fraternity boys who reside in it. The house was built before World War I and had been intended to house generations of Saint Ray boys. The once elegant library now houses only the large screen TV. Hoyt, Vance, Julian, and a few other frat boys are sitting around and Hoyt is asked for his thoughts on their discussion. He realizes that this happens all the time now that word had spread about how he and Vance had beat up the bodyguard in the Grove. Ivy Peters, who is considered a mistake by some of the cooler frat boys, comes into the room. He is teased and leaves angry. The boys start a discussion about what Vance and Hoyt saw. Hoyt knows that Vance wants the whole thing to be dropped and thinks that they are lucky that no one had come looking for them.

Charlotte is enrolled in an advanced class called "The Modern French Novel: From Flaubert to Houellebecq." Charlotte is astonished to realize that her classmates have only read Madame Bovary in English. She is equally astonished to learn that the professor has an English translation as well. After answering a question, she is plagued by the familiar feeling that she made her classmates look bad by knowing the answer to the question. Jojo and a couple other basketball players are in the class and Jojo raises his hand to answer a question. He is in the middle of the answer when his teammates start bugging him because he actually read the book. They tell him that they already have a scholar on the team and don't need another one. He caves in and gives an answer that he knows is wrong. Charlotte is aghast that a student who is serious when answering a question, and who obviously knows the answer would play the fool. Charlotte stays after class to ask the professor why everyone was reading the book in the English translation. He tells her that she is overqualified for the class. The class was designed for upperclassmen (athletes, mainly), who need to fulfill their language requirements.

Jojo lingers outside Fiske Hall after class thinking about his eminence on campus. He sees Charlotte walking by and recognizes her as the girl from his class. He catches up to her and when she doesn't immediately recognize him, he tells her his name. There is still no response. He tells her that they are in the same class and that he was impressed by her. He asks her out to lunch. To anybody on the basketball team that is the prelude to hooking-up with a girl. She tells him that she can't and turns to leave. She asks him to tell her why he said something foolish when he knew the answer in class. He can't come up with an answer before she leaves for the library. He calls after her that he will see her next week, but she calls back that she is switching out because it's a class for dummies. He is stunned: not only did she reject him, but she had called him a dumb fool. He finds it attractive.



Chapter 4 "The Dummy" Analysis

The theme of identity is further discussed in this chapter. Hoyt is more popular in his frat house because of what happened in the Grove. He feels that it is a significant step in him becoming a man. Charlotte, whose identity is in her intelligence, is mortified that someone who knows the right answer would say a foolish answer. In their conversation after class, Jojo, whose identity is in being a basketball player, can't believe that she doesn't know who he is. He is attracted to her intelligence.



Chapter 5 "You the Man"

Chapter 5 "You the Man" Summary

Vance wants to have a serious talk with Hoyt about the event at the Grove. Hoyt knows that Vance is scared and rather than listening, he lets his mind wander. He is taking a course on Europe in the Middle Ages and his professor has told them that there were only three classes of people: warriors, clergy, and slaves. Most times the leader was a warrior. He thinks about his dad who had been in an elite force in the military and was in finances in New York. Then, as it turned out, his father was a con man who disappeared and was never seen again. Hoyt had to leave the private school he was in for public school. Before he left, his father taught him to defend himself. He taught him to fight and be left alone.

Hoyt received a partial scholarship to Dupont based on his "deserving poor" credentials, but he made sure that no one at Dupont knew about it. The frat houses clamored to have him in their fraternity but he chose Saint Ray house. He considers himself a knight among throngs of students trapped in their slave mentality. That makes him think of graduation and the fact that he needs a job and he wants one at an investment bank, but he is worried about his grades. He interrupts Vance to tell him that rather than wait and see what the governor is going to do; they should invite him to campus.

Most of the basketball team is in study hall, a required two-hour period, which is never spent studying. Charles is teasing Congers because he is a freshman and because he is an easy mark. Congers hurls a spit ball at Charles and hits him on the head. The two of them stand up but Congers backs down before it gets physical. Mike and Jojo go back to their room and Jojo complains about the point of study hall. Mike tells him that coach requires it because he needs to keep all the players focused, so they do everything together. Charlotte pops into his head and he thinks about how she is pure and therefore unattainable. Jojo remembers that he has a paper due the next day in American history with Professor Quat. He calls his tutor, even though it is midnight, and tells him he needs to see him right away. They decide to play video games while they wait for Adam. Adam arrives and doesn't look impressed. Jojo tells him what the paper is supposed to be about and that it is due the next morning at 10 am. Adam takes the information and leaves, and Jojo and Mike go back to their video games.

Adam knows that Jojo isn't stupid but he just doesn't want to break the student-athlete code, which decrees that it was not cool to act intelligent, so Adam is doomed to an "all-nighter." Adam is angry and humiliated. He thought he had come to terms with the student-master aspect of his job as tutor. The pay is crucial to his existence at Dupont. He also has a job delivering pizza, which he realizes has created a master-servant relationship as well.

Adams heads to the Charles Dupont Memorial Library, which never closes. Seeing girls dressed up just in case they see boys gives Adam a feeling of superiority. He and his



friends the Millennial Mutants are smart, but he can't kid himself. It is all about sex. Jojo and the rest of the basketball players can have sex anytime they want and Adam, a senior, is a virgin. He is superior in so many ways, yet he is still a virgin. He had moved off campus his sophomore year so that others wouldn't know that he was a virgin. The computers are busy, but he sees one available. As he moves toward the free computer, he sees that it is taken by a girl with long brown hair: Charlotte. He can't afford to wait for the computer so he marches up to her and tells her that he is going to use that computer. She doesn't budge. He says he'll wait and introduces himself.

Chapter 5 "You the Man" Analysis

This chapter sets up a major conflict in the story in which Adam and Jojo submit a plagiarized paper for which they will be caught. It also demonstrates Wolfe's theme of the decline of academia because it shows the priority placed on basketball students over real students. Also in this chapter, Charlotte meets Adam. Adam should be considered her peer in goals and intellect, however they both struggle with their identity and how popularity constantly pressures them, and in the end it will mean that they do not enjoy a relationship as equals.



Chapter 6 "The Most Ordinary Protocol"

Chapter 6 "The Most Ordinary Protocol" Summary

Charlotte is in her room thinking about Jojo and Adam. She had learned that Jojo is a basketball player. He had seemed so sure of himself. Adam, however, seemed manipulative and opportunistic. She is listening to the sounds of students outside the dorm and her room and she feels alone. She reminds herself that self-discipline is one of the things that makes her Charlotte Simmons, that and her power of concentration. She is supposed to be studying for a test in the morning in medieval history but she is distracted again thinking about how both the boys had been attracted to her. What can they do for a girl who is so lonely? Beverly enters the room with her friend Erica. She introduces them. Erica says hello and then doesn't look at Charlotte again. Charlotte hears Beverly talking on her cell phone and is shocked by the bad language and sexual bluntness used by her roommate. She knows that Beverly just puts up with her and one day they will berate themselves for not making friends with her when they had the chance.

In the middle of the night, Beverly awakens Charlotte and asks a favor of her. She needs the room. There is a boy she wants to bring up and wants to know if Charlotte can sleep next door in Joanne and Hillary's room. Charlotte tells her that she has a test and needs to sleep, but Beverly begs her. Charlotte gives in and goes to Hillary's room. She is not welcome there and ends up downstairs in the common room where she meets Bettina, who has also been kicked out of her room. Happy to stay in the common room with Bettina, she knows she will she will then not be alone.

Chapter 6 "The Most Ordinary Protocol" Analysis

Charlotte still has confidence in herself. She thinks about how Beverly and Erica are going to wish they had made friends with her when they had the chance. However, when she knocks on the door of Hillary and Joanne's room, she has to introduce herself as Beverly's roommate because they don't know who she is. In the common room she stays with Bettina to combat loneliness, however, can't help comparing herself to her.



"Lost Province Entr'acte"

"Lost Province Entr'acte" Summary

Charlotte writes a letter home to her parents. She has a hard time writing anything that doesn't sound quaint. She describes what life is like at Dupont, realizing that she is editing a lot. Mid-point in the letter she realizes that she has to decide whether to tell the truth or not. She wants help from her mother but in the end decides that her mother won't be able to handle the truth and would take her out of school. She doesn't want people to think that she quit because it was immoral. So she decides to lie to her parents.

She considers calling Miss Pennington, but feels that even Miss Pennington wouldn't understand. She could handle the pressures in Sparta because she had home to retreat to. She admits to herself that she felt superior to them even then, but she could retreat. However, at Dupont there is no escape. She decides to call Laurie at North Carolina State because she is mature and religious and has convictions. Almost from the beginning of the conversation, she can hear a difference in Laurie's manner of speech. They talk about their experiences at school. Laurie tells her that college is a time to experiment; it is a time to try what you want because no one will remember when you are done. Laurie tells her that she is a genius and there are other things to learn at college. She stops listening to Laurie after Laurie admits that she has had sex.

"Lost Province Entr'acte" Analysis

"Lost Province" is a break in the narrative. In fact, Wolfe calls it an "entr'acte," which is an interval between two acts in a performance. In this interval, Charlotte interacts with the world she came from which solidifies her realization that there is a distinction between the two worlds. There are three people she considers looking to for help, but then realizes that she cannot go to any of them. She feels that her mother's moral convictions would get in the way, that Miss Pennington wouldn't understand, and her last hope, Laurie, seems to have turned her back on her own convictions. The Lost Province entr'acte demonstrates Charlotte's struggle with her identity and with the conflict she feels between the world she lives in now and the Lost Province from which she came.



Chapter 7 "His Majesty the Baby"

Chapter 7 "His Majesty the Baby" Summary

Adam is on his way to a meeting at The Wave, Dupont's alternative newspaper. He is excited about pitching his idea for a story about the governor of California and what happened in the Grove last year. Adam feels entitled to the position of editor but knows that he can never have it because he has to work two jobs just to be able to afford to stay at college. His family is Jewish and his father worked himself up from nothing to somebody rich. When his father left Adam and his mother, he left them in poverty. After his father left, Adam's mother turned her attentions on Adam. He became all-important to her and he was going to grow up to be something. Adam grew up to believe that he was brilliant and a promising star that had been born to the wrong parents.

Adam pitches his story but it is not picked up so he leaves to go to his second job, delivering pizzas. He does not receive regular pay with this job; the only money he makes is from tips. Tonight, Adam has a large delivery to make to the basketball players. They almost completely ignore him and tip him twenty-six cents. Adam, who is worried and angry at the way they have treated him, tells them that he doesn't get paid and depends on the tips and they just laugh at him. Sitting in the car, he thinks about what he is entitled to and swears vengeance.

Chapter 7 "His Majesty the Baby" Analysis

The theme of identity is dealt with in this chapter specifically with the character Adam. He sees himself as brilliant and feels cheated that he has to work so hard, when the athletes do nothing and are given everything. This chapter deals largely with the concept of entitlement. Adam feels that he is brilliant and entitled to attain great things but he has to work so hard to get it while the basketball players seem to feel entitled to receive servitude from the other students and barely work at all.



Chapter 8 "The View up Mount Parnassus"

Chapter 8 "The View up Mount Parnassus" Summary

Charlotte has just finished her medieval history exam and wishes she could still be writing the exam because she would at least be with a group of people pursuing a common goal. She is thinking again of how lonely she is. She decides to go to the library where being alone wouldn't seem pathetic, when she sees Jojo trying to catch up with her. He tells her that he just wants to apologize and asks her to lunch. She agrees because she feels so lonely, but she doesn't entirely trust his motives. They head for Mr. Rayon, a restaurant and popular hangout for the students. Jojo gets a burger and Charlotte doesn't get anything. She is horrified that anyone might think that they are on a date. She wishes that she could let everyone know that he does not impress her. They sit down and Jojo tries to explain to her why he acted the way he did in class. He explains the pressures put on the athletes to not seem actually interested in any of the courses they are taking. He tells her that he feels he can talk to her because she seems to be untouched by usual expectations.

Charlotte feels like she should put a stop to their conversation, but she is feeling for the first time the power that women can hold over men and she likes it. He tells her that he doesn't know the basics and he feels like he should. She explains what liberal arts means and Jojo realizes that she is saying the athletes are like the slaves and they are not to think because it might distract them from what they have been hired for. Their conversation ends with Charlotte suggesting the Jojo take philosophy, starting with Socrates. What had begun with the inkling that she has some sort of power over him grows to a definite understanding.

Chapter 8 "The View up Mount Parnassus" Analysis

Charlotte, who feels lonely, suddenly discovers the potential power she can have over others. The idea of both Charlotte and Jojo searching for something will end up having a significant impact on both of them throughout the novel. Charlotte, who seems confident in her identity now, is beginning to discover that her loneliness is a result of her intelligence and moral standards and she sees in Jojo exactly the opposite: his popularity is the result of his pretending not to be intelligent. This undercurrent of a realization will cause Charlotte to question her own identity throughout the book. Meanwhile, Jojo is beginning his own quest to solidify his identity and he seems to oscillate between the popular basketball image and the knowledge that he needs to pursue a more intellectual and academic route. This chapter turns things in their head by having an athlete beg for the attention of a scholar and calling her cool.



Chapter 9 "Socrates"

Chapter 9 "Socrates" Summary

Jojo arrives at the Rotheneum for an appointment with Coach Roth. The Rotheneum is the office section of the Buster Bowl building and is described as opulent. The money is received from endorsements from major companies and has made this the nicest building on campus. Jojo tells Coach that his classes are all easy classes and he wants to take a high-level philosophy course. Coach tells him that it is the highest level and Jojo admits that he knows it will be hard, but he wants to learn something. Coach gets angry and reminds Jojo that he needs to be focused on basketball and shouldn't be distracting himself with other things that aren't important. Jojo gets equally upset and accuses Coach of thinking he's stupid just like everybody else. Coach reminds Jojo that he thinks of him as a son and starts stroking his ego. He reminds Jojo that the basketball played at Dupont is important and that Jojo is a leader at Dupont; a role model. Coach reminds him to think about his role on campus and Jojo leaves the meeting telling Coach that he is still going to take the philosophy course.

Chapter 9 "Socrates" Analysis

Since meeting Charlotte, Jojo has begun to react to the internal conflict of his own identity and how it has been pulled to a lower level in college because of his basketball abilities. Several chapters ago, Charlotte called Jojo on his attempt to answer a question properly in class and the incorrect answer he ultimately gave when he reverted to his "less intelligent" image. So in this chapter Jojo makes an attempt to return to his true self, perhaps one much more intelligent than he normally shows, but is rebuked by the coach. The coach's response to Jojo's request supports another theme in the novel, the diminishment of academia (in this case, in favor of winning basketball games).



Chapter 10 "Hot Guys"

Chapter 10 "Hot Guys" Summary

Charlotte, Bettina, and Mimi are hanging out on a Friday night. They decide to go to a frat party at Saint Ray house. Charlotte is very worried about how to get there, how they will get home, and what to wear. She puts her only dress on and then decides to raise the hem by two inches in order to show off her legs. She is worried about being faced with alcohol at the party and is reluctant to break the law to drink (because of her age). Then she decides that in life she wants to be a star and there is no point in it if nobody knows who she is. So she goes. They take Ladding Walk to Saint Ray house and are admitted. Mimi and Bettina both find other freshman that they know and Charlotte is left alone. She goes to stand in a line of girls so that she would not look like she is alone. She discovers that it is the line to the bathroom, but stays in it anyway so as not to be noticeable. She ends up with a drink; they are only serving soft drinks, which confuses Charlotte because there are a lot of drunken people at the party.

Hoyt touches her arm and asks her if she gets tired of people telling her she looks like Brittany Spears. He continues to flirt with her. She is impressed because he is very good-looking and must be an upperclassman. He asks her to dance but the style of dancing is shocking to her because of how sexual it appears, so she declines. He can't believe that she wouldn't want to dance and tries to pull her to the dance floor. She yells at him to let go of her. He lets go of her and tells her that he will take her on a house tour instead. He takes her downstairs to the secret chamber. There are a lot of people in the secret chamber and Charlotte discovers that it is where everyone is getting the alcohol. Feeling pressured to drink, Charlotte accepts some wine. She drinks it and starts to feel more relaxed. Hoyt continues the tour taking her upstairs. Hoyt puts his arm around her again, but Charlotte is no longer bothered by it, now he feels like her protector.

Charlotte hopes that Bettina and Mimi will see her with this good-looking guy. He takes her upstairs to show her the rooms; he opens the doors to a few rooms and they all have people in them. They enter a room that is empty. Hoyt is talking about the height of the windows and the cornices when the door opens and Vance enters with a girl. Vance asks Hoyt to let him know when they are through. Charlotte is horrified and tells Hoyt that they would never be through, because they wouldn't ever begin. She runs downstairs and outside. She arrives back at her dorm and tries to get to her room, but the hallway is full of girls sitting against the walls. They all ask her what is wrong and where she has been and she is humiliated because her embarrassment is their entertainment.



Chapter 10 "Hot Guys" Analysis

One of the key themes in the novel is the idea of the "Lost Province" and in this chapter the reader sees one of the clearest comparisons between Charlotte's "old world" and her "new world." The Lost Province has distinctly influenced Charlotte's ideas about morality, including drinking, drugs, and sex. In some ways, she is beginning to lose her identity already in that she raises the hem on her skirt and decides to go to a party that she doesn't want to attend. Once at the party she is surprised and revolted by what she sees because it seems to be so opposed to everything she knows. The chapter concludes for her in a less-than-redeeming way: as her internal conflict rises and she leaves the party, she is further embarrassed when she returns to her dorm by the other girls that are there. In spite of the internal conflict, she still has enough of the "Lost Province" within her to react negatively to Hoyt and his advancements and suggestions.



Chapter 11 "Onstage, A Star"

Chapter 11 "Onstage, A Star" Summary

Charlotte wakes up thinking about the frat party. She can't believe that she behaved the way she did. She lets herself believe that Hoyt was simply saving her from social oblivion. When she gets back to her room, Beverly is up and asking her about the party last night. Beverly knows that she was with Hoyt Thorpe. Beverly tells her the story of what happened in the Grove with Hoyt and the bodyguard and Charlotte realizes that this conversation is only the second time since the day they met that Beverly uses her name.

The dining hall stops serving breakfast at 9 am so Charlotte has to eat at Mr. Rayon. She finds a far away table and opens up her book. Bettina and Mimi find her and ask her about last night. Charlotte realizes that they are jealous of her. She tells them about the girls in the hallway and Bettina says they are called the Trolls. They sit there and gossip about everyone who goes out. Charlotte realizes that because she was pursued by an attractive and popular guy the night before, she is now a force to be reckoned with.

Jojo is at basketball practice and Coach comes onto the court very upset. He yells and curses at Jojo, making a lot of references to Socrates. Jojo gets the impression that the coach has planned this rant. He makes Jojo and Congers trade shirts, demoting Jojo to second-string. Jojo is shocked. When scrimmage resumes, Jojo knows that he has to prove himself, but he is humiliated and Congers outplays him. In order to try and maintain some level of superiority, Jojo makes a student manager clean up his spit on the court.

Adam approaches Hoyt and Vance in Mr. Rayon. He tells them that he is from The Daily Wave and wants to ask them some questions about the incident with the Governor of California last year. They think he is a dork and are not willing to tell him anything. Vance blurts out some information, letting Adam know that he is on the right track. Hoyt is not impressed with Vance for giving Adam any information. Adam tells them that he has already tried to reach the Governor for his opinion. Adam tells them that if they don't want to talk to him, he can go to the bodyguards for more information. Adam claims that his editor is running the story no matter what, and he just wants to talk to them to be fair. Adam gives them his card and leaves. Vance is worried but Hoyt is thinking again about how he is going to be a legend. That also makes him think of his grades and graduation coming up in June and he is worried.

Chapter 11 "Onstage, A Star" Analysis

Charlotte is initially worried about what everyone will think of her because of her actions the night before, but quickly realizes that the events have put her in a totally different



place in the social spectrum. Her roommate calls her by name and her friends are obviously jealous of her.

Coach feels that he has to put Jojo in his place and teach him a lesson for taking a real course and demotes him to second string. The event that brings all the characters together is moved along by Adam's attempt to interview Hoyt and Vance.



Chapter 12 "The H Word"

Chapter 12 "The H Word" Summary

The author describes male humiliation. Men won't talk about it, but they all feel it and the result is to seek vengeance. The result of Adam's humiliation is to build his muscles by working out in the college's fitness facilities. He wants to achieve a look that says, "Don't mess with me!" Adam knows he is small compared to the other guys working out, but he works out hard anyway and afterward is walking down the stairs and passes the cardiovascular room. He looks in at the girls working out and sees Charlotte on a treadmill and remembers her from the library. He decides that he has to go and talk to her. He gets on the treadmill beside hers and starts running but he doesn't know how to use the machine and he falls off.

Charlotte jumps off her machine to make sure he is okay and she recognizes him. He apologizes for his behavior at the library. He tells her that he was writing a paper for an athlete and he explains how being a tutor works. He tells her about the Millennial Mutants and invites her to meet them. He explains that they are a new type of intellectual, "the bad-ass intellectual," and they want to operate on a higher level. Adam tells her that he is aiming for a Rhodes scholarship. Charlotte enjoys the intellectual stimulation and agrees to meet the Millennial Mutants.

Mr. Quat asks Jojo to stay behind after class to discuss the paper he handed in. The reader learns that the athletes are accidentally put in his class and he is not one of the several professors who are sympathetic to them. Mr. Quat asks Jojo if he wrote the paper himself then asks him to define words that were used in his paper. Jojo panics. He can't remember anything his tutor told him about the paper. He tells his professor that he knows what the words mean but he can't explain it when he is put on the spot like this. Mr. Quat gives him an F and tells him that he is filing a violation. Jojo thinks that he will just get Coach to resolve it for him until he remembers that he is in Coach's bad books, too.

Chapter 12 "The H Word" Analysis

Broken up into two parts, this chapter shows two men's humiliation. Adam turns to working out in an effort to boost his own ego and probably his stature among other men after his humiliation in the previous chapter. Jojo's attempt to pass Adam's paper off as his own fails and he faces potential humiliation at receiving an F (and thus being put on academic probation and unable to play basketball). At first he thinks that he may be able to circumvent the problem by having the Coach "deal" with the problem for him, until he realizes that won't work either. In this chapter, Charlotte hears of the Millennial Mutants who could help her with pursuing academic interests, and potentially as a group that could counter the theme of the declining academia.



Chapter 13 "The Walk of Shame"

Chapter 13 "The Walk of Shame" Summary

Charlotte wakes up to find Beverly on all fours crawling around their room asking where the lacrosse players are. She is desperate to find a particular one because even though he said he wasn't interested, he was drunk and talking to her. Beverly begs Charlotte to drive her back to the dance club the I.M. Charlotte refuses at first but relents when she sees that Beverly will drive herself if Charlotte doesn't. Charlotte waits outside while Beverly goes back into the I.M. to look for her lacrosse player, whose name she doesn't know. She comes out alone and gets into the car. She begs Charlotte to take her to Lapham, the dorm, because she knows his room number. Charlotte insists on going inside with Beverly. Beverly bangs on his door until he comes out and he tells her to go home.

Charlotte tries to get Beverly to leave and the lacrosse player, Harrison, notices her for the first time. He tells her that they have to try and help her. He invites her to the tailgate on Saturday. Charlotte gets Beverly back to their room and puts her to bed. She is awoken again at Beverly leaving the room, but this time Charlotte is too tired to get up again. She wakes up late and realizes that she has missed a class and Beverly is not in her bed. She looks out the window to see Beverly walking back to the dorm still drunk. She has heard the term "Walk of Shame" and realizes that she is now witnessing it. She feels sympathy and then revulsion and decides that she doesn't need to wait for her and runs off to class.

Jojo confronts Adam about the paper and blames him for putting difficult words in it. Adam reminds Jojo that he had given him the assignment the night before it was due. Jojo eventually admits that it isn't Adam's fault, but lets him know that they are both in trouble. Adam agrees to go over the paper with Jojo and make sure he understands it in case he is asked again.

Chapter 13 "The Walk of Shame" Analysis

In this chapter all three themes are again reflected, this time in the interaction between Beverly and Charlotte. Charlotte's identity has yet to be "tainted" by the world, she still has high hopes and expectations for academia, and she is still influenced by her Lost Province mindset. Beverly, on the other hand, is the antithesis: she seems to have lost her separate identity (or perhaps never had one at all), she is not at school for high academic pursuits (but rather because of her father's influence and the "good name" that Dupont can give), and she comes from a small town but it is not a Lost Province. So the reader sees how Charlotte conflicts with Beverly, which provides a narrative example of the conflict between all three themes.

Although it is not necessarily evident in this chapter, the plagiarized essay is becoming a larger problem. The author reminds the reader about its existence because it will reappear later and affect many characters.



Chapter 14 "Millennial Mutants"

Chapter 14 "Millennial Mutants" Summary

Charlotte is sitting in Mr. Sterling's class. The discussion is about Darwin and evolution. She is amazed to be a freshman in an advanced level course taught by a Nobel Prize winner. She answers a question and is validated by the professor. As Charlotte is leaving the class he asks her if she has actually read *The Origin of the Species*. He encourages her to keep using the primary sources. She leaves the class ecstatic that he has singled her out.

Walking back from class she comes across Adam and his friends, the Millennial Mutants. Adam and Greg are debating the governor story and Greg is still not convinced that it is current news. Adam feels that Greg is just too scared to run such a story. Adam sees Charlotte, calls her over and introduces her to the others. Adam wants Charlotte to tell them about Jojo in the French class and they get off onto a discussion about knights and tournaments. Historically, leaders were warriors, but the sports heroes at Dupont are just entertainers. Charlotte is enthralled by the discussion; thinking that these are the types of people she has been looking for. Everyone is so into their discussion that they don't notice the other group of students that has exited the building and are on the stairs above them. Charlotte notices the difference between the two groups almost immediately.

One of the members of the others group stands up and asks if they are holding a seminar. Adam tells him that they are just chilling. The other group continues to tease the Mutants and one of them notices Charlotte and winks at her calling her babe. Camille has had enough and stands up and tells them to leave. She baits the other group who takes the bait and calls her a racially derogatory name. She is thrilled, she claims, and she will bring charges for racial insults. The other group knows they are beat and leaves. Adam is thinking that he should have done something. Adam looks at Charlotte and she feels like she should put her arm around him; he looks so forlorn. She breaks the look and thinks about the guy who had noticed her and called her a babe.

Chapter 14 "Millennial Mutants" Analysis

In this chapter, Charlotte meets the group known as the Millennial Mutants. At first they seem to be the very thing she is looking for. In a sense they are the opposite of the theme of declining academia. They provide promise and hope to both the intellectuals on campus, but more specifically to Charlotte. In them she sees an opportunity to be the intelligent person she actually is. Unfortunately, the worlds between the intellectual and the "cool" students (in this case, the lacrosse players) collide and Charlotte feels herself torn between the two. On the one hand, she feels empathy for Adam and wants to be a part of an academic/intellectual community. But on the other hand, she is pleased to be noticed (and called "babe") by a member of the "cool" group. This chapter continues to

suggest the internal conflict she feels between her true identity (and its influence by the Lost Province) and the popular person she wants to be.



Chapter 15 "The Tailgaters"

Chapter 15 "The Tailgaters" Summary

Archer Miles is an alumnus of Dupont and he has brought his family early to a football game because he wants his boys to experience a tailgate party. He reminisces about what Dupont was like but the actual party is nothing like he remembers. Students are drunk and act inappropriately.

Charlotte has convinced Bettina and Mimi to come with her to the tailgate party. She is looking for Harrison, who invited her. Bettina and Mimi are reluctant; each vehicle seems to be having a private party and it smells like urine. They come across the truck that Harrison is in and he invites her up into the bed of the truck. A couple other guys in the truck are the ones that had confronted the Millennial Mutants recently and they are very drunk. One grabs her and frightens her, she screams at him to put her down. Harrison comes to her rescue and the two guys get into a fight. Vance and Hoyt are in Julian's truck nearby and they hear the fight. Hoyt finds out that they are fighting over Charlotte and since Harrison is a frat brother, Hoyt is prepared to help if necessary. The fight ends with Harrison unconscious and the other guy going after Charlotte again. Hoyt tells him to stay away from her and they start fighting. The campus police break up the fight.

In the locker room, Jojo gets dressed for practice. He feels his entire purpose for being on earth is to play in the league, and because of Conger's increasing status, Jojo feels that his purpose had just been deleted. Coach enters the locker room; he tells them that Cincinnati has two new players and outlines some strategy for their next game. Without any flair, Coach puts Jojo back on the starting five for practice. On the way to the court, Coach motions Jojo to join him off to the side for a moment. Coach tells him that he has been hard on him but it has been for a purpose. Jojo needs to get serious about the game and now he needs to keep showing it to the coach. On the court, Jojo sees that Coach has pulled Congers over for a talk. Jojo feels manipulated because he can imagine the talk Coach is giving Congers about Jojo being an old player and Congers will get his turn.

Chapter 15 "The Tailgaters" Analysis

The author breaks from the interaction among main characters for a moment to take the reader into a Lincoln Navigator at a tailgate party. In the expensive SUV is a successful Dupont alumnus, Archer Miles, who has brought his second wife and his two sons to be a part of his college nostalgia. His reaction to the tailgate party is the reaction that the author wants readers to have to the party as well: surprise and revulsion and the presentation of the question about what happened to the way things used to be. Wolfe does not pander to traditionalism, but rather asks the reader to consider the decline of Dupont (and, in fact, the academic world in general).



Another important point to note in this chapter is how Charlotte is no longer cajoled by Bettina and Mimi to attend a party (unlike the previous Saint Ray's party to which she reacted so negatively), but she rather cajoles them to go. At the tailgate party, Hoyt (who Charlotte had rejected at the Saint Ray's party) comes to her aid and even though he is injured, Charlotte comes to see him as her protector. This will have a significant impact on their relationship for the rest of the book. Lastly, Jojo continues to have his own struggles with his identity and his desire to be cool, play basketball, and still be an academic, especially when his position on the basketball team is reinstated. However, he then feels disillusioned by watching Coach and Congers on the court.



Chapter 16 "The Sublime"

Chapter 16 "The Sublime" Summary

It is game night and Jojo can't hear anything but the taunts of the Cincinnati player he is paired up with. Jojo is paired against a player named Jamal who knows that Coach had previously pulled Jojo in favor of Congers. Although bad mouthing is part of the game (to try and distract the other player), Jojo feels his game is thrown off because Jamal knows of the switch and is able to get to him by mentioning it. A timeout is called and Coach puts in Congers and tells Jojo to take a seat. It is the first game of the season and he has been benched after five minutes of play.

Charlotte asks Adam to walk her to Saint Ray house because it is dark and she is nervous going alone. She wants to thank Hoyt for protecting her at the tailgate party. Adam notices that she is wearing new jeans. He asks her to tell him again what she wants to thank this guy for. She tries to explain. He is amazed to find out it is Hoyt Thorpe. He tells her about the story he wants to do. He tells her that he should come in with her because he wants to talk to Hoyt, too. Charlotte tells him that she doesn't want any complications; she just wants to thank him and leave. For walking her to Saint Ray house, Charlotte thanks Adam with a kiss on the cheek and goes inside.

Chapter 16 "The Sublime" Analysis

This is a fairly simple chapter in which the characters are further developed without a lot of interaction with the theme. However, the events in this chapter set into motion changes that will take place for several of the main characters. Jojo continues to struggle with his own identity as a starting basketball player and his frustration grows when he is pulled from the game, especially to be replaced by Congers. The faltering relationship between Adam and Charlotte goes nowhere in spite of their interaction in this chapter. Charlotte's Lost Province identity realizes that she should like Adam, even though this conflicts with her developing identity, which longs for acceptance. Adam's interest in the potential news story about the governor, although not acted on in this chapter, will go on to affect the characters' lives dramatically in chapters to come.



Chapter 17 "The Conscious Little Rock"

Chapter 17 "The Conscious Little Rock" Summary

Standing in the entryway of Saint Ray house, Charlotte is feeling guilty about the way she treated Adam and awed at the prospect of seeing Hoyt. She is unsure why she lied to Adam about her jeans not being new. She still can't believe that she spent \$80 on a pair of jeans. She had only \$320 for the rest of the semester and she had spent \$80 on a pair of jeans just so she could thank Hoyt. She admits to herself that the main reason she didn't want Adam to come in was because she didn't want Hoyt to see her with a dork.

Hoyt comes out to meet her and he looks awful. She blurts out that she just came to thank him. He invites to come and meet some of the guys. He introduces her to Vance and Julian. He tells her that he will show her the house again but she says that she has to go and so he offers to drive her home. He holds her hand as they walk to his SUV. She thanks him again and leans forward and kisses him. She convinces herself that there is more in his looks than is actually there and is thrilled when he uses her name in saying goodnight.

Chapter 17 "The Conscious Little Rock" Analysis

Charlotte's inner conflict between her Lost Province identity and her desire to be "cool" and accepted is brought further to the forefront in this chapter. Charlotte feels conflicted about spending so much money on Diesel Jeans in order to fit in. As well, the kind, intellectual Charlotte would likely have not sent Adam away and acted so foolishly around Hoyt.



Chapter 18 "Lifeguard"

Chapter 18 "Lifeguard" Summary

Mr. Sterling has asked to see Charlotte to discuss the paper she handed in. His office is in the Dupont Centre for Neuroscience. Charlotte, not knowing why he wants to speak with her, tries to decipher every look, every move that he makes as he scans her paper. He asks her some questions about the assignment and then attempts to summarize her paper. Charlotte is worried that she has done something wrong and has failed the paper. He tells her that he is not interested in her attempt to undermine evolution; that has been done before. What impresses him is her use of the literature out there and the way she is able to project her theory. He tells her that it is an impressive piece of work. He suggests that she spend a few hours a week working in his labs. Charlotte is ecstatic.

Later, Charlotte, Bettina, and Mimi use fake IDs to get into the I.M. Charlotte thinks about what her mother would say about her using fake IDs to get into a bar, and knows that she would be very unhappy. When they finally get into the famed bar, Charlotte sees that it is filthy and packed with people. Bettina and Mimi get a drink and they find a table to sit down. Charlotte has not bought a drink. She thinks about what she is doing there and admits that it is all about finding boyfriends. Charlotte sees Hoyt and gets excited to see him making his way to their table. Instead he goes past Charlotte and talks to a blond girl at another table. Charlotte hears remnants of the conversation and she hears the mention of Britney Spears. Hoyt and the blond girl move to the dance floor, after a short time they leave the I.M. Bettina and Mimi, who have been calling Hoyt her lifeguard, can't believe he would behave like that. Charlotte feels betrayed.

Chapter 18 "Lifeguard" Analysis

Charlotte's meeting with Mr. Sterling validates her and gives her an opportunity to shore up her Lost Province identity. Mr. Sterling is a fellow intellectual and Charlotte should see that she has a lot to learn from him and that his job offer is a great opportunity for her. Contrasted with that is her decision to go against her Lost Province morals and use a fake ID to get into a bar where she struggles with her identity conflict between intellect and popularity. At first she sees Hoyt and is thrilled that he is walking toward her, but is soon disillusioned because he passes her, meets another girl, and uses the same line on her that he used on Charlotte in an earlier chapter. At this point she is beginning to feel a sense of entitlement when she sees Hoyt, as if she is giving up her intellect in favor of popularity in order to be entitled to Hoyt's attention.



Chapter 19 "The Hand"

Chapter 19 "The Hand" Summary

Jojo has asked for another meeting with Coach Roth. Jojo tells him about Mr. Quat and his paper. Coach is mad and Jojo defends himself by saying that the paper was before his attitude turnaround. Jojo feels he deserves a break because of his earlier decision to take a class seriously. Coach asks for the name of the tutor and decides that he will have to see him.

Charlotte has been seeing a lot of Adam. He would call her and ask her out. His feelings for her are obvious and Charlotte wants to fall in love with him, but she would feel awkward in public; worrying that people would see her cuddling with a dork. She wants to like Adam because he is intellectual. She compares the Millennial Mutants with the frat boys of Saint Ray house. That makes her think of Hoyt. She is also seeing him once or twice a week now, at his invitation. He would drive her back to Little Yard and they would kiss in his SUV. Charlotte wants romance and she wants Hoyt to love her. So, one night when a parking space is available in Little Yard, Hoyt pulls in and parks the car. Their kissing goes farther than usual and Charlotte finally tells Hoyt to stop. Hoyt is obviously not impressed and she leaves. Even though she doesn't want things to go any farther, she wonders if it would seem like begging if she called him.

Hoyt goes back to the frat house and tells Vance and Julian that he is going to ask Charlotte to the formal. They ask him why he isn't taking the girl he is having sex with and he admits that she won't talk to him anymore because his a "player."

Chapter 19 "The Hand" Analysis

Charlotte's Lost Province seems farther and farther away as she struggles with who she is, and with the desire to be accepted and popular. She knows that the right thing to do is to fall in love with Adam and spend time with the intellectual Millennial Mutants, but she also wants to be popular and accepted, which means spending more time with Hoyt, which pushes the boundaries of her new identity. When Hoyt goes too far with Charlotte in the SUV, her Lost Province identity makes a stand, but is it too little too late?



Chapter 20 "Cool"

Chapter 20 "Cool" Summary

The Millennial Mutants are meeting in Edgar's apartment. They are dissecting the word "cool." Adam gets involved in the conversation, not because he wants to contribute, but because he wants to trump the others, especially Greg. Adam says that he believes being cool has everything to do with confidence. Adam wants to impress Charlotte. He also wants to continue idolizing her. Edgar drives everyone back to campus. Adam insists on walking Charlotte back to Little Yard. Charlotte is happy since she enjoys spending time with people who converse intellectually, but Adam misinterprets her happiness and starts to kiss her. She finds it awkward and is embarrassed. Adam invites her back to his apartment and she declines. She tells him it is because she has to study. As she walks to her house she looks back and Adam mouths "I love you." She wants to fall in love with Adam: he is exactly the sort of person she should like; but again she thinks of Hoyt and the fact that he does care about things if they were important enough (after all, she reasons, he fought another guy to protect her). Her feelings confuse her.

Chapter 20 "Cool" Analysis

Charlotte is confused. If her identity is in her intelligence then she should be falling for Adam; but instead she is falling for Hoyt who is nothing like Adam. This chapter really brings to light her internal struggle between the intellectual and moral Charlotte Simmons of the Lost Province and the lonely girl who wants to be accepted and popular. Charlotte knows the right thing to do, but she also knows that her other feelings exist as well and the feelings of popularity and acceptance seem to be eclipsing her feelings of intellect and the right thing. Although on other occasions she has wavered back and forth between the two identities, Charlotte seems to be at a breaking point in which she may sell out her intellect in favor of being popular.



Chapter 21 "Get What?"

Chapter 21 "Get What?" Summary

Charlotte is on her way to class when Jojo stops her. He wants to talk to her and she agrees to meet him at Mr. Rayon after class. She attends Mr. Sterling's class. The lecture is on Jose Delgado and his assumption that you can't understand human behavior if you don't understand how the brain works. Charlotte meets Jojo at Mr. Rayon for lunch. He tells her about his problem with Mr. Quat and his history paper. She is surprised to learn of Adam's involvement in the affair. He asks her to testify for him if it goes before the panel. She agrees. She thinks about what everyone in Mr. Rayon will think of her having lunch with Jojo Johanssen.

Hoyt is in the library of Saint Ray house with his frat brothers and he is thinking about what a disaster his transcript is going to look like. He assumed that he would somehow get a job at an investment bank but he is realizing that he has not put in the work like others have. Although Vance is cool he has spent secret time studying as well. Hoyt leaves for the I.M. and Vance goes with him.

He notices a girl looking at him so he goes over to talk to her. He uses his Brittany Spears line on her and she responds by asking him if he gets tired of people saying he looks like Hoyt Thorpe. She is with Pierce & Pierce, an investment bank, and they are there to speak with Hoyt. The bank is in town on a recruiting trip and they want to arrange an interview with him. He arranges a time to meet and goes back to sit with Vance.

Chapter 21 "Get What?" Analysis

Jojo struggles with his own identity and in his own way he conflicts (and participates) in the demise of academia. Adam, as well, in spite of his intellect, has also participated in the demise of the academia and this chapter details the potential consequences of that action for Jojo. It also paints Adam in a new light for Charlotte, who is surprised by a seemingly anti-intellectual thing to do. Even though Jojo is having his own internal struggles, and he will come to play a larger role in Charlotte's life in upcoming chapters, Charlotte has tuned him out as she spends more time considering how her eating with him will positively affect her popularity. Hoyt is having his own struggle and for a moment the reader wonders if he is about to make a change for the better as he considers how he has painted himself into a corner in his schooling. Then, in spite of his school marks, the promise of a job is offered to Hoyt, which furthers the entitlement aspect of the identity theme in the book. Is Hoyt offered an interview simply because he is entitled to a prestigious job?



Chapter 22 "Shaking Hands With Fortune"

Chapter 22 "Shaking Hands With Fortune" Summary

Bettina and Mimi are invited to Charlotte's room for the first time to discuss the formal that Hoyt has invited Charlotte to. It is overnight in Washington, D.C. In the middle of their conversation, Beverly and Erica come in. Charlotte introduces them to Bettina and Mimi. They laugh when they find out about the formal. They tease her that only frat whores get invited to formals.

Hoyt goes to the Inn at Chester to meet Rachel. She brings out some reports they have on Hoyt and she reads portions of them. She tells him that the source of their reports is the Governor of California. She offers him a job starting at \$95,000 and they shake hands on the deal. Hoyt tells Vance about the job at Pierce & Pierce as soon as he walks into the library.

Adam goes to a meeting with Coach Roth at the Buster Bowl. Coach begins by asking him how long he has been a tutor. He tells Adam that whatever happens to Jojo, Adam runs the risk of the same penalty. Adam claims that he was only doing his job; it is what the athletic department wanted him to do. Phrasing it more as a command-and-a-wink rather than a request, the Coach tells him to think carefully over the next couple days and try to remember what happened. He tells him that Jojo says he wrote the paper with some help from Adam.

Chapter 22 "Shaking Hands With Fortune" Analysis

Charlotte learns peoples' true opinion about who gets invited to the formal and readers will recognize that this is so far away from the naive, intellectual Charlotte who started at Dupont straight out of the Lost Province. Charlotte should have heeded the "frat whore" warning, but does not. Readers will also recognize that the glowing report from the Governor of California, on Hoyt's behalf, is simply a disguised bribe to ensure his silence. It comes with a lucrative offer to work at an investment bank, which further suggests that the decline of the academia is fueled by an identity crisis: the governor's hypocrisy!



Chapter 23 "Model on a Runway"

Chapter 23 "Model on a Runway" Summary

Charlotte meets Hoyt and the others at Saint Ray house to travel to Washington D.C., for the formal. They all travel in Hoyt's SUV. Traveling together are Hoyt, Charlotte, Vance, Julian, Nicole, and Crissy. Charlotte feels very uncomfortable with the group as a whole. She feels out of place because she does not get their jokes and banter. The trip is uncomfortable but periodically Hoyt will touch Charlotte's arm or hold her hand or look at her and she feels better. They arrive at the hotel, the Hyatt Ambassador, and go to check in. Charlotte is surprised to find out that Hoyt, Julian, Nicole, and herself will all be rooming together in a room with two queen size beds. She wonders where the hotel is going to put the cots. As soon as they get into the room, the alcohol is brought out and Charlotte, feeling pressured, agrees to an orange juice with a little vodka. She finishes her drink and passes it over for another and realizes that she has just drunk more than she has her entire time at college.

Nicole goes into the bathroom to get ready and to Charlotte's amazement Hoyt and Julian start undressing right in front of her. Charlotte goes into the bathroom to change into the red dress she borrowed from Mimi. She looks at herself in the mirror and is surprised at how short the dress is. She enjoys the looks on Hoyt and Julian's faces as she emerges from the bathroom. She enjoys even more the look on Nicole's face.

Chapter 23 "Model on a Runway" Analysis

This chapter shows how far Charlotte has come (in her decision to wear such a short dress) and yet, how much of the Lost Province she has still been able to maintain within herself. In the lobby of the hotel, for example, a fountain that no one else seems to care about amazes her. In the hotel room her naivety shows through when she has yet to realize that there are two couples and two beds, when instead she expects four beds for four people. While readers have seen her slowly sell herself out, she has been able to maintain enough of the Lost Province in her to still be set apart from the other students.



Chapter 24 "To ... Us"

Chapter 24 "To ... Us" Summary

A room has been reserved at the hotel for the formal and has been decorated in Saint Ray colors and banners. Once inside, Charlotte accepts another drink, amazed at how attentive everyone is being to her. She thinks it is because she looks so good. Charlotte drinks quickly and accepts another, then notices Julian flirting with a girl that is not his date. Charlotte becomes drunk very fast and although everyone else at the party is getting drunk as well, she is drunk before everyone else and they notice it. They go to dinner.

Hoyt introduces her to those sitting around her and notices that I.P.'s date is the girl that Julian had been flirting with. Vance stands up to make his speech as president of Saint Ray house. He makes a toast to the ladies. Charlotte is worried that Hoyt is spending too much time talking to Gloria, so she gets up to go to the ladies room and makes sure he sees her walking away; she even bends over to adjust her shoe. Sure enough, when she returns from the bathroom, Hoyt focuses his attentions solely on her. After dessert, Vance rises to make another toast; this time to the men of Saint Ray house.

After dinner, they head to the dance floor and begin dancing; the exact dancing that Charlotte refused to do at Saint Ray house. To her it looks like an imitation of sex. She is intoxicated by everything: the drinks, the dancing, and, of course, Hoyt, the coolest guy who also wants her. Hoyt asks her if she wants to go upstairs and she debates it. She knows what he wants and the truth is that she wants to "hook-up" with him without going all the way. She wants the control of knowing that he wants her and that she would let him do what she chooses. They head out to the elevator.

Chapter 24 "To ... Us" Analysis

Readers will quickly see the change in Charlotte when they compare these chapters with the very first party Charlotte attends at the Saint Ray house in Chapter 10. Her only dress had to be hemmed slightly higher and she was appalled at Hoyt and the dancing and drinking. Now, beginning in the previous chapter and continuing into this chapter, Charlotte wears a dress that is very short and uses it to get Hoyt's attention. Then she drinks enough to get drunk and participates in the dancing she found repulsive several chapters earlier. Her Lost Province is almost completely lost. Her identity has been pulled so far down from where it was when she arrived at Dupont, and she is reaching a critical point where she will have to choose to return to who she was or stay on the new path she has chosen. Her new identity is one that uses her sexuality to control other men while at the same time promoting herself by being with a popular guy.

Although readers don't hear much more about I.P. after this chapter (until the very end of the book), the flirting that Julian does with I.P.'s date will play a larger role in the unfolding drama than some readers might first realize.



Chapter 25 "You Okay?"

Chapter 25 "You Okay?" Summary

The elevator doors aren't even closed before Hoyt starts kissing Charlotte. In the room, Hoyt locks the door and starts kissing her again. She feels his hand reaching for her underwear and she pushes him away. Suddenly she finds herself on the bed with Hoyt on top of her. He starts undressing and Charlotte is impressed by how muscular his body is. When she finds herself wearing only her underwear, she realizes that this is the time to say something, but she also realizes that she wants this, as long as his pants stay on. For the next few minutes she wrestles in her mind over whether or not she should say something, while Hoyt continues to kiss her and take off his own clothes. Then she realizes that saying something at this point would seem prudish.

When she discovers that they are both completely naked she stops Hoyt and explains that she doesn't want to have sex and he tells her that he really wants to make love with her. She tells him that she is a virgin and he responds by saying he won't hurt her. She thinks about what it would look like if she stops it now and she is worried about her reputation. Then she thinks that maybe he does love her and that they will be a couple and suddenly they are having sex. It is quite painful for her and she wants to tell him that it hurts but she sees his face and realizes that he is completely under her control. He is hers, and that is what she wanted. Afterward, he doesn't look at her.

There is a knock on the door and Hoyt lets Julian and Gloria in. He offers them drinks. Charlotte runs to the bathroom and begins to cry and tries to clean herself up. As she leaves the bathroom, Julian asks her if she is okay and she tells them that that she had a little too much to drink and feels a little sick. She lies down on the bed and when the others think that she has passed out, Hoyt tells Julian that she was a virgin. They laugh and talk about her and Charlotte, who is not passed out, hears everything. They decide to go to Harrison's room and leave Charlotte in the dark. She wakes up sometime in the night to see Julian and Gloria in the other bed. Sometime later, Hoyt crawls into bed beside her, but stays far away from her. The ride home is very long.

Chapter 25 "You Okay?" Analysis

This is the turning point for Charlotte when she has to make the decision between returning to her Lost Province identity or adopting her new identity. Throughout their entire encounter in the hotel room, Charlotte is under the impression that she is still in control and will only allow Hoyt to proceed a little further in their intimacy before she puts a stop to it. Unfortunately, she fails. There is a combination of reasons why she fails: she is drunk, she is still naive, she thinks she is in control but is not, and she is still desperate to be accepted and loved by Hoyt. It is only during sex, in spite of her discomfort, that she feels totally accepted by Hoyt. Unfortunately, the feeling does not last because once Hoyt has finished, the conquest for him is over and he doesn't look at



her again. Instead, Charlotte is left to feel ashamed and used and the readers will see that the Lost Province is now completely lost in Charlotte. Confused and saddened by her decision (or lack thereof), Charlotte hears Hoyt and Julian talk about her and that seems to make the pain worse and shines a spotlight on how far she has come from who she was.



Chapter 26 "How Was It?"

Chapter 26 "How Was It?" Summary

Charlotte walks back to her dorm, feeling humiliated, wondering what she is going to tell everyone. She has to pass by the Trolls in the hallway and one asks her how her weekend was, she manages to get out "good." She makes it to her room, throws herself on the bed and starts to cry. She gets up and puts a CD of Beverly's on so she can listen to a particular song and she wonders if Hoyt will call her. She realizes that she had gambled and lost. She has let her studies slide; she has forgotten her promise to Miss Pennington. She starts to cry again as she thinks about the fact the Hoyt will not call her; he probably will not even think of her again. Charlotte hears Beverly talking on her cell phone and rolls over and pretends to be asleep. Beverly asks her about the weekend. Charlotte tells her that it was fun. Beverly keeps asking her for more information and Charlotte tells her that nothing happened and she wants some sleep because she has to write a paper.

Charlotte wakes up to the phone ringing. It is Bettina. Charlotte tells her that she can't talk and ignores the phone ringing for the rest of the evening. Remembering the paper she has to write, she scrawls three pages and falls back into bed. She walks up late realizing that she has ten minutes to get to her class. She rushes to the library and types out her paper and runs to class. She is late and looks awful, but she hands in her paper and sits through the rest of the class.

She goes to Mr. Rayon for a coffee after class. She sees Gloria talking to a sorority girl, Lucy Page Turner, and leaves the lineup and runs to the bathroom. She spends the rest of the day worrying that every person she sees knows what happened. After classes, she returns to her room to pick up her notebooks and go hide out in the library. As she passes Bettina's room, she overhears a conversation between Bettina and Mimi. They are talking about her. They know everything. She keeps walking past her room and down the stairs. It is only Monday night and already everyone knows. As she reaches the bottom of the stairs she realizes that she has nowhere to go.

The President of Dupont is meeting with Mr. Quat and Coach Roth in his office. They are discussing the paper that Jojo handed in to Mr. Quat. President Cutler considers these two men to be the worst extremists in campus. Mr. Quat is saying that he will not give this up until he knows the truth of what happened. President Cutler tells Mr. Quat that he doesn't want him to stop, but he does want him to consider the repercussions, but Mr. Quat says that he is not willing to stop. They discuss the SAT scores of the athletes and Adam. President Cutler has been forced to side with Coach Roth on this issue because the basketball team makes so much money for the school and offers the school some level of prestige. Coach tells Mr. Quat that before this incident, Jojo had enrolled in the philosophy course and Coach had never been more proud of him. Mr. Quat leaves the meeting still adamant about following up with an investigation into this incident.



Meanwhile, Adam and Greg are in the Daily Wave office. Adam is telling Greg that Hoyt called him to tell him that he didn't want them to run the story. Greg is still not convinced that it is a story, but Adam thinks that if Hoyt is calling him then there has to be something there.

Charlotte is grateful for the solitude that comes with Thanksgiving weekend. She had already agreed with her family that it wouldn't be financially feasible to go home for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now, all she has to worry about is Christmas.

Chapter 26 "How Was It?" Analysis

This chapter is the beginning of the aftermath. Charlotte now feels the full brunt of shame for her decision to sleep with Hoyt and realizes further how much she has given up by leaving the Lost Province part of herself behind in pursuit of acceptance and popularity. To make matters worse, her desire for popularity has now gone to the opposite side of the spectrum and she has now become a point of gossip and derision. Did she give up so much that she has become a hyperbole of the person she wanted to be? Readers would say yes, particularly in how she halfheartedly writes the paper for her class, then shows up late and disheveled. It's as if she has given up.

Charlotte's pursuit of a popular identity has led to the decline of the academia in her own life. That decline is further shown in the conversation between President Cutler, Mr. Quat, and Coach Roth when Cutler sides with the coach because of the prestige that the basketball team brings to the college. Cutler simply wants the problem to go away and the college's identity is at stake, even though it is simply a facade. On the other side of the argument is Mr. Quat, who fights the decline of academia as much as he can.



Chapter 27 "In the Dead of the Night"

Chapter 27 "In the Dead of the Night" Summary

Charlotte's family picks her up at the bus station for Christmas break and drives her the rest of the way home on the dangerous road through the mountains. Her brothers, Buddy and Sam, are asking her questions about the basketball players and she is short with her answers to them. Her family has been asking her all kinds of questions about Dupont and they all make her nervous. Her mother notices that Charlotte is deflecting the questions and Charlotte is so worried about her mother finding out what she has done that she wishes they would have an accident on the road. They arrive home and pretending to be tired, Charlotte goes to bed, but she cannot sleep. She wonders how long it will take Miss Pennington to find out.

The next day Charlotte finds out that her mother has invited a few people over for dinner and she shows her their new table that her father has fixed up for them. The picnic table they used to eat at is now outside where it belongs. She has a chance to tell her mother the truth but just tells her that it is the stress that is affecting her. Everyone arrives for dinner and they ask Charlotte many questions about Dupont. Mrs. Thoms tells Charlotte that a friend's daughter goes to Dupont and knows her: Lucy Page Tucker. That is the girl Charlotte had seen Gloria talking to in Mr. Rayon. Charlotte is mortified that Mrs. Thoms knows and is going to humiliate Charlotte in front of everybody. Her father seats Charlotte at the head of the table, to her utter horror. She answers the questions they ask her with the shortest answers possible. Miss Pennington invites her to stop by her house if she wants to talk to somebody while she is home. Laurie asks Charlotte about what they talked about on the phone nearly three months ago. Charlotte tells her that there is nothing to report. Laurie doesn't believe her and tells her that they need to get together.

Charlotte cannot sleep and has not called either Miss Pennington or Laurie. She drives into Sparta one day and sees Channing. He apologizes for how he acted at graduation and Charlotte tells him that she always liked him and that he knows it. One morning, Charlotte's mom pulls her aside and tells her that she knows something is wrong and that Charlotte can tell her anything. Charlotte wants to tell her but doesn't know how. She knows that her mother has such strong opinions on this subject so she tells her that she is just so tired from studying. Charlotte's family gives her a computer for Christmas that her dad and brothers put together for her. At the end of Christmas break, her family drives her back to the bus station to go back to school.

Chapter 27 "In the Dead of the Night" Analysis

Charlotte is now paying the consequences for the decisions she made to turn her back on her former identity. In previous chapters she gave up her Lost Province self and now returns to Sparta (the Lost Province) and has to face her dilemma of identity: other

people's expectations of who she is. She doesn't want people to find out about her previous decisions, but her actions at home display that she is a changed person in spite of her efforts otherwise.



Chapter 28 "The Exquisite Dilemma"

Chapter 28 "The Exquisite Dilemma" Summary

Back at school, Charlotte hides herself away in the library. A group of girls at the table in front of hers are talking about the lacrosse team. Hearing it makes Charlotte think of Harrison and then Hoyt and she starts to cry. She doesn't want to leave the library, because she is studying for neuroscience and the books she needs are here, but she can't stop crying. She gets up to leave and runs into somebody as she exits the room. It turns out to be Adam. He asks her what is wrong and she starts crying again so he leads her to a private area of the library with his arm gently around her.

Charlotte has only been back for a day and she is already overcome by loneliness. Adam, who calls her honey, is all she has. Sitting on the floor in the library she tells Adam everything. He says nothing but puts his arms around her and holds her. He finally responds by saying that Hoyt and his friends are so far beneath her and she deserves real adventure, not fraternity formals. He tells her that she is different; she is unique. She is so depressed that his words go right over her head and the only comfort she receives is from being held by him. She curls up with him and stays that way for a long time.

Adam holds her until he starts to feel really uncomfortable. He tells her that they should get up. Not wanting to go back to her room she asks Adam if she can stay with him. He is excited that Charlotte wants to move in with him. He takes her back to his apartment. It is small and dirty and the bathroom is a shared room down the hall, but Charlotte doesn't seem to notice any of it. She goes to sleep on his bed and Adam spends the night on his futon.

Charlotte wakes Adam up in the middle of the night. She is scared and she wants him to hold her. So he crawls into bed with her and holds her until she falls asleep again. He imagines what he would do to Hoyt for doing this to Charlotte. Meanwhile, Hoyt is in the library of Saint Ray house with Vance and Julian. They are talking about an upcoming demonstration: Stand Up Straight for Gay Day. Students are supposed to wear blue jeans for solidarity. Hoyt decides that they should wear Khaki shorts.

Chapter 28 "The Exquisite Dilemma" Analysis

Charlotte's return to Dupont has prompted deep feelings of loneliness. This is ironic because of how much of her identity she had given up in order to be popular. In the library she interacts with Adam, the person she probably could have had a real, meaningful relationship with if she had maintained her Lost Province identity. Adam draws the same conclusion about Charlotte that her former mentor (Miss Pennington) had drawn before she left for Dupont: that she is unique, that she is Charlotte Simmons. No longer caring about her popularity, and in a crisis of identity, Charlotte looks to Adam

for the comfort and acceptance she has not received from Hoyt. Readers should note that their time in the library, their meaningful conversation, and the time in Adam's apartment stand in sharp contrast to when she was in the hotel room with Hoyt.



Chapter 29 "Stand Up Straight for Gay Day"

Chapter 29 "Stand Up Straight for Gay Day" Summary

Adam spends all his time with Charlotte. He is also worried about the Jojo plagiarism case; it has been dormant for a while, but Adam knows that it is not over yet. It is also final exam week and Adam needs to do well on the exams if he wants a Rhodes scholarship. Adam, realizing that Charlotte is depressed, forces her into a routine. He forces her to clean herself up and take her exams. The day she leaves for her first exam he cleans up his room and the bathroom down the halls. When she gets back, he is happy to show her what he did for her but she is upset because she knows that she did not do well on the exam.

Jojo and the basketball team have arrived at the hotel in Lexington. As usual there are a lot of fans waiting for them, including girls who consider themselves groupies. Jojo usually revels in the attention, but tonight he has too many worries. He is no longer a starter and the plagiarism issue has not been resolved. Mike and Jojo are sharing a room and whereas Mike immediately turns on the TV, Jojo opens his books to study. Mike teases him for studying. Mike can't believe that he is studying when they know that there are groupies waiting for them downstairs after bed check. Jojo asks Mike why groupies do what they do. Mike responds by saying that he doesn't know why, but they seem to like it. Just before midnight the phone rings; it is an assistant coach making sure they are in their rooms.

After the call, Jojo tells Mike that he is not going out, because he needs to study. Mike leaves him in the room. Jojo is enjoying studying Socrates when there is a knock at the door. At the door is a girl named Marilyn. She tells him that his teammates told her that he has been studying hard and needs a break. He tells her that he needs to study and she asks if she can watch. He gives in without much thought and spends then next few hours with her. He wakes up when Mike and a blond girl enter the room. Jojo wakes up again in the night and asks Marilyn why she does this and she tells him that it is because he is a star. He loathes himself for not being able to resist her.

A platform and speakers are set up in the Great Yard for Stand Up Straight for Gay Day and Randy of the Millennial Mutants, is speaking. Adam, wearing blue jeans, is standing at the front of the crowd holding a placard. Although Adam has agreed to be here to support Randy, he is aware that others will be thinking about his sexual orientation and he is embarrassed because he does not want them thinking he is a homosexual. A group of people in the crowd starts booing and chanting a bigoted phrase. It is Hoyt and the frat boys from Saint Ray wearing Khaki shorts. As they get closer, Adam realizes that they are saying "God's Yuccas" in order to trick everyone into thinking they were saying "cocksuckers," but without them actually saying it.



From the podium, Randy is shouting at them. The group of frat boys is now at the podium and when Adam looks up, Randy is gone. Camille starts shouting at them, trying to intimidate them. Hoyt leads his group back through the crowd, continuing to yell. Adam slips away, but then feeling guilty because of his promise to Randy, goes back to the podium. When he arrives back at the demonstration a new speaker is at the podium. It is Professor Quat. Adam is shocked to learn that it is the same professor that wants to press plagiarism charges against him. He wants to leave, but the guilt he feels because of Randy makes him stay. Adam gets an idea and at the end of the speech, follows Camille straight to Mr. Quat. She introduces Adam as one of the Millennial Mutants and Mr. Quat struggles to remind himself why he recognizes Adam's name. Adam tells Mr. Quat that he was Jojo's tutor.

Later that afternoon, Adam calls Greg and tells him that he has an angle for the governor story. He says that he has a source in Saint Ray house, who says that Hoyt took a bribe from the governor of California to stay quiet and that just a few minutes ago, Hoyt called Adam to tell him that he has changed his mind and doesn't want them to run the story.

Chapter 29 "Stand Up Straight for Gay Day" Analysis

There are three major movements in this chapter. The first is Charlotte's continuing regret as she suffers the consequences of her decision to ultimately give up her identity. Specifically, she knows how poorly she did on an exam, something she would not have done had she maintained her Lost Province identity. The second thing that happens in this chapter is Jojo's struggle in the opposite direction, to forge a new identity that honors scholarship over popularity. Unfortunately he succumbs to the temptation of the groupies and turns away from studying. Finally, at the Gay Day demonstration, there is conflict between the homosexuals in the group and the frat boys, however the more significant moment is when Adam (who himself is struggling with a popularity issue of not wanting to be labeled as "gay" just because he is at a Gay Day demonstration) and Mr. Quat talk briefly.

Mr. Quat gains Adam's respect by participating in the demonstration without being a homosexual himself and winning the trust of the demonstrators in his speech. The moment of truth arrives for Adam when Mr. Quat recognizes Adam but can't remember why and Adam does the right thing by admitting how Mr. Quat knows him. Because of the newfound respect that Adam has for Mr. Quat, he makes a telephone call which sets into motion a major change that will affect all the major characters.



Chapter 30 "A Different Proposition"

Chapter 30 "A Different Proposition" Summary

Adam, knowing that Charlotte is depressed, takes it upon himself to force her to get up in the morning and take care of her responsibilities. It being exam week means getting her to her exams. When she complains about getting up, Adam starts yelling at her that she can't throw everything away. He demands that she get up and something in Charlotte responds to Adam taking control and it is a turning point for her. She goes to the exam. Adam continues to go to bed with her every night, highly aware of the irony of that phrase. Unexpectedly, one night Charlotte falls asleep within a minute of their going to bed and has her first full night of sleep since before Christmas. After that she sleeps full nights and soon suggests to Adam that they go back to their original arrangement of him sleeping on the futon.

When second semester begins, Charlotte decides that it is time for her to go back to her room and Adam walks her back. She invites him into her room and introduces him to Beverly. The look on Beverly's face is obvious that she feels Adam is a person of no consequence and Charlotte gives him a little hug to say goodbye.

Adam calls in the morning to invite Charlotte to breakfast. Charlotte agrees because she feels guilty that she had cared what Beverly thought of Adam. Beverly is angry that the phone woke her up and Charlotte looks at her and realizes something. She is no longer intimidated by her; she feels that she has risen from the ashes and is not ashamed to let people know that. She asks Beverly if she heard what happened at the Saint Ray formal. Beverly tells her that she heard something and Charlotte tells her that it is all true.

Charlotte and Adam go to the Mr. Rayon for breakfast. In the line, Charlotte tells Adam that she is grateful to him for what he did for her. She feels like she can show her face again because of him. Although Charlotte means what she said, she also has said it because she wanted anyone looking to see her in animated conversation. Adam tells her that he just reminded her of who she was. Charlotte is acting it up because she wants to make sure that anyone who sees her would realize that she is back and she is happy. She sees Bettina, who asks her to sit with her and Mimi, but Charlotte tells her that she is with her friend Adam. Charlotte, cautious of Bettina's reaction to Adam, starts to think of ways to make him look a little more cool. During breakfast, Adam talks and Charlotte lets her mind wander. She wants to love him, but again, the thought comes unbidden and ridden with guilt that he isn't cool. He walks her to class and waits until she sits down in the amphitheater. He mouths "I love you honey" and Charlotte is totally embarrassed.

Mr. Sterling begins his lecture and Charlotte is filled with guilt again because she ruined the opportunity she had to learn from this man. She worries about the grades from first semester that will be out soon. She hasn't read the book, so she is unable to answer



questions in class. Another girl answers questions with a southern accent and reminds Charlotte how far she had fallen.

After class, Charlotte runs into Jojo. Her first reaction is to think that he is not much better than Adam. He tells her that he is enrolled in a French poetry class and is proud because the reading is actually done in French. He then tells her that he got a C+ in his Socrates class. She is horrified to think that the grades are posted and her parents will soon find out. He asks her to go to Mr. Rayon to celebrate and she accepts because she thinks her reputation can be salvaged if she shows up with Jojo. She suggests a table right out in the middle. Jojo asks Charlotte to tutor him, but tells her that she is more than a tutor; she was and is his inspiration. Charlotte sees Lucy Page Tucker and Gloria and hopes that they will see her with Jojo. She engages in the conversation and leans toward him when she notices them looking her way. Jojo is being sincere and Charlotte is only thinking of what Lucy and Gloria will think of her being with Jojo.

Adam and Greg are at the *Wave* office and Adam is convincing Greg that the story is free of libel and going to be the biggest story that Greg has been editor of. Adam feels that finally something is going right for him.

Chapter 30 "A Different Proposition" Analysis

Charlotte feels like she has risen from the ashes. She feels like she is Charlotte Simmons again, but she spends the whole chapter worrying what other people will think of her. Now that she is back, she feels that fixing her reputation is paramount and so spending time with Adam is not going to help and she should monopolize the interest Jojo has in her.

Adam takes a gamble in the chapter and tells Mr. Quat that he is the tutor that Jojo used for his story. Adam is gaining confidence with the plagiarism problem and the story he is writing for the *Wave*. Both of these men in Charlotte's life are trying to improve their position and readers will be quick to detect the irony that the only man she has loved up until this moment is exactly the opposite. Unfortunately, Charlotte's men are interested in bettering themselves while she is only concerned with bettering her reputation.



Chapter 31 "To Be A Man"

Chapter 31 "To Be A Man" Summary

Adam is in Mr. Quat's office. Mr. Quat talks about the 60s and protests and how the protest that was Stand Up Straight for Gay Day was fairly mild. He noticed that Adam was there and that Adam is not gay. Mr. Quat tells him that that showed courage. He then asks Adam to talk about the Johanssen case. Adam begins by giving some background. He tells Mr. Quat about the Millennial Mutants and how they worked hard to take over the *Wave*, and then he tells him about his background and how he needs two jobs to stay at school because he did not get a scholarship. Then he tells him about his dream of receiving a Rhodes scholarship. Having established his background and view of entitlement, Adam then tells him what has been expected of him as a tutor and then what happened the night he wrote Jojo's paper for him. Mr. Quat considers what Adam has told him and then decides that he needs to make an example of this case. Adam begs him not to and Mr. Quat tells him that begging is not becoming and to be a man.

Chapter 31 "To Be A Man" Analysis

Adam takes a huge gamble in this chapter. He is too quick to judge Mr. Quat and his motives for being at the rally and assumes that Mr. Quat will understand him and stand up for him. Mr. Quat has his own motivations, however, and decides to move ahead with the plagiarism case to the downfall of Adam. In this chapter, Adam's identity and Mr. Quat's identity conflict. Adam's problem is his impoverished background and how it has led to his needing to take on a tutoring job and his entire identity is wrapped up in intellectual pursuits, which are hampered by his not being popular. However Mr. Quat's identity is closely tied to the theme of the decline of academia so he is single-minded in his pursuit of stopping its demise.



Chapter 32 "The Hair from Lenin's Goatee"

Chapter 32 "The Hair from Lenin's Goatee" Summary

Charlotte has accessed her grades online and is in shock. Even Beverly notices that something is wrong. Charlotte's grades are B, B-, C-, and D. She knows that she should call her mother to tell her about her grades before she receives them in the mail. In the midst of her thoughts, Adam calls desperate for her help. He begs her to come to his apartment. She is worried about her grades, but knows that she cannot say no to Adam after everything he has done for her. Adam wants to hug Charlotte, but she grabs a chair and asks him what is wrong. He tells her about his conversation with Mr. Quat and how his story in the *Wave* tomorrow will be discredited because of it. She asks him to tell her what the story is and when she finds out it is about Hoyt she is shocked. She tries to figure out what it will mean for Hoyt and Jojo. She tells Adam that he has to tell Jojo, who doesn't know yet. Adam asks her to hold him, so Charlotte gets a blanket and sits with him. In a reverse of a few days ago, Charlotte spends the night holding Adam. She thinks about how Adam has destroyed everything for everyone.

Hoyt comes out of class where he has had a confrontation with Mr. Quat and he is angry. He comes across a crowd of students in front of Mr. Rayon and stops to see what is going on. They all are reading the *Wave*. He soon finds out they are reading the story Adam wrote about him. He senses trouble from the article but he gets wrapped up in the picture of himself that has been published and how good he thinks he looks in it.

After spending fourteen hours with Adam, Charlotte tells him that she has to go back to her room because she needs to call home. He won't let her leave so she asks to use his cell phone and he gets so upset that she finally gives up. She does see that he has thirty-two messages. He is so afraid at how mad people will be that he doesn't want to listen to the messages. Charlotte, seeing his laptop, tells him that she is going to at least check his emails. She threatens to leave if he doesn't give her his password and she goes online. He has so many new emails that the list runs to another screen. She clicks on an email from Mr. Quat. She prints it out and tells Adam that this one he is going to want to read. Mr. Quat, who has been watching the story on CNN, doesn't want to do anything that will compromise Adam's excellent work and so is dropping the whole case. He encourages Adam to continue the battle.

Jojo is in the library when his cell phone rings. It is Coach Roth telling him that Professor Quat is dropping the plagiarism case. He smiles when he thinks about what Coach must have done to get Mr. Quat off his back; Coach is loyal, a real man.



Chapter 32 "The Hair from Lenin's Goatee" Analysis

This chapter continues Charlotte's downfall and she suffers the consequences of past actions and also continues down a path that seems to be selfish and completely unconcerned about the feelings of others. This chapter also shatters Hoyt's idea of entitlement to the investment bank job, but he becomes preoccupied with his own image in the newspaper that he does not realize the full implications. Mr. Quat decides that pressing the case against Adam and Jojo would not serve the greater good so he drops it.



Chapter 33 "The Soul Without Quotation Marks"

Chapter 33 "The Soul Without Quotation Marks" Summary

Charlotte leaves Adam's apartment that evening. He is so busy returning phone calls and emails that he barely has time to say goodbye. She is dreading going back to her room because she knows that she has to call her mother. Beverly and Erica are both there when she gets back to her room and Beverly tells her that the phone has been ringing nonstop. They ask her if she has read the story in the *Wave* and she tells them that she hasn't. She sits down and starts reading some material for a class and they finally leave the room. Charlotte picks up the phone and calls home. They engage in small talk for a minute and then Charlotte tells her mother her grades and says the reason is because she got a boyfriend right after midterm. She also tells her mother that her boyfriend is Adam.

Adam calls I.P., who turns out to be his source in Saint Ray house. He thanks him for the information and hangs up. Adam is elated and yet knows that it hasn't been enough to win Charlotte. Rather than think about that he decides to think about the press conference and TV shows that are coming up. Hoyt is alone at the IM thinking about how the story has just made people idolize him more. Vance shows up and Hoyt tells him that he has three more months to become a legend in his own time and he tells Vance that he is lucky because he can get any job he wants after graduation. He then shows him a letter he just received from Pierce & Pierce telling him that he is not a fit with the company and that they will not be offering him a job. He admits to Vance that he is in big trouble. His transcript is awful and he now doesn't have a job when he graduates and it is unlikely that any company is going to want to give him a job.

Chapter 33 "The Soul Without Quotation Marks" Analysis

Charlotte brings herself to call home and admits to her mother that she has bad marks. Unfortunately, it also means that she has to tell her mother why her marks are so bad. She makes up lie as to who it is. Her mother, the moral pillar, does not believe her because it is so unlike Charlotte for that to be the excuse. However she is simply comparing the results to the Charlotte that she knew in the Lost Province, and that is not the Charlotte she is talking to on the phone. Meanwhile, although Hoyt is still considered cool at Dupont, he has finally realized that it means nothing for him after graduation. He realizes that the decisions he's made have meant that future prospects for him do not look good.



Chapter 34 "The Ghost in the Machine"

Chapter 34 "The Ghost in the Machine" Summary

The final chapter begins a month after the story breaks in the *Wave*. It is March Madness, the NCAA national basketball tournament. It is an hour before game time and the Buster Bowl is full of fans. Charlotte, who is sitting directly behind the Dupont bench at mid-court still can't believe that she is here. Charlotte, who has no money at all, is sitting in the best seats in the house. She has become known as Jojo Johanssen's girlfriend and even Coach has taken to calling her "Char." Coach has told her that she is the best thing that has happened to Jojo. He has turned himself around and is playing the best game ever. He is back in starting position. Mike, his roommate, has even noticed that she is not only a girlfriend but mentor and teacher. Jojo calls her his catalyst and agrees to any rules she lays down. She agrees to be known as his girlfriend, but he has to win her affections.

Sitting in the Buster Bowl, Charlotte sees Mr. Sterling and he notices her to. He acknowledges her, but only briefly, and she desperately wants to tell him everything that happened, but he continues to his seat. Just then, the teams arrive on the court and she can see Jojo.

Charlotte finds herself wishing that Bettina and Mimi were there so that she could publicly ignore them. She thinks of Hoyt, who she knows won't be there. She admits that Hoyt is cool and that he hadn't betrayed her because that is just who he was. She doesn't want Adam to be there because he would just feel more hurt. She realizes that even now after all that has happened, she has no one to talk to, only Jojo. She wonders if she can ever have that conversation with herself that her mother suggested. She asks herself who is Charlotte Simmons and then tells herself that you can't define a person who is unique. She stops her discussion with herself, because the game is on. She joins in the clapping chorus of the crowds, "go go, Jojo."

Chapter 34 "The Ghost in the Machine" Analysis

Charlotte ends the book in total abdication of her original identity. She is no longer Charlotte Simmons; she is Jojo's girlfriend. She starts a frank talk with herself but doesn't finish it. Who is Charlotte Simmons? Did she really want a life of the mind or did she just want to be considered special and to be admired and accepted among whom she thought was the cool crowd? In the end she has completely sold out to everything she came to Dupont with: standards, intellect, and a promising future. The theme of identity resonates once more as she refers to herself in the third person as "Jojo's girlfriend" rather than as the distinct and unique "Charlotte Simmons" she had been throughout the year. In a sense, the popularity associated with dating the basketball player has eclipsed the very thing that she had initially: individuality.



Characters

Charlotte Simmons

Charlotte Simmons is a naive eighteen-year-old girl from Sparta, North Carolina (called "the Lost Province"). She comes from a poor family: her father is a well-meaning unemployed caretaker and her mother is a person who holds strict moral boundaries. She also has two younger brothers. A perfect SAT score of 1600 earned her the distinction of being one of North Carolina's two Presidential Scholars, so she is able to attend the university of her choice. Her choice to attend Ivy League Dupont, no less, made front-page news in the small town of Sparta. Charlotte is described as athletic with long straight brown hair.

Among her key features is her identity. She views herself as distinct and unique and this is echoed continually through the book as she says, "I am Charlotte Simmons" as if it is a reminder to her, her listeners, and the readers that she is a special and unique individual. It is no accident that Wolfe places her origin in a special and unique town called the "Lost Province" and there are many aspects of this place that reside in her: innocence, moral standards, and a desire to be unique and genuine. Unfortunately, the desire to be accepted and popular becomes a greater draw than her desire to be unique and it costs her the very identity she so bravely defends throughout the book.

In fact, her desire for popularity becomes an irresistible magnetic draw for her and she ends up becoming the very person she was repulsed by at the beginning of the book in order to achieve it. All the while, as she sells out her identity and is eclipsed by the need to become popular, she moves farther and farther away from the person she was and closer and closer to the person she did not want to be. Along the way she drives out the people who care for her the most and exchanges those genuine relationships with genuine people for advantageous relationships with hypocritical people. In the last chapter of the book, her feeling of vicarious popularity has filled the hole of loneliness that motivated her so that she is now glad that she doesn't see certain people at the game and the only people she wants to see at the game are the ones she wants to shun. In a sense, she has become a comic hyperbole of the opposite of who she was when she arrived at Dupont.

Hoyt Thorpe

Hoyt is a popular senior at Dupont. From Greenwich, Connecticut, he has thick, light brown hair, hazel eyes, and a muscular build. His father, George Thorpe, was a con-artist who eventually left Hoyt and his mother, leaving them in poverty. Even after his father left and he learned the truth, Hoyt preferred to believe the lies his father told. While his father was with them and bringing in good money, Hoyt had attended a private school, but after his father left, he had to go to public school. During that time he was bullied by a group of boys. He broke the nose of one of the bullies and he was never



bothered again, teaching him hard lessons. Hoyt attends Dupont on a partial scholarship, which he received for being a "deserving poor" student, but that's a fact, which he makes sure no one knows about. In fact, he tries to live a high life and drives an SUV. He revels in his popular status on campus, which he uses to get girls. Even though he faces graduation with no job and poor marks, he is happy with his status.

In spite of his father being a conman, which is another facet of Wolfe's theme of identity and hypocrisy, Hoyt feels entitled and deserving of wealth and status. Having lived a good life before his father left, he was later forced to live a hard life, which taught him that it was better to lie and appear wealthy than to be authentic, genuine, and honest. Hoyt seems to be merely a shell and has very little substance throughout the novel. The interactions he has with other people make him seem to be an archetype of a typical popular college student: all flash and no substance.

Hoyt's very personality (or lack thereof) make it ironic for Charlotte to pursue him so vigorously through the book, but readers will realize that it is his popularity that attracts her and little else. Although Charlotte feels lonely in the book and looks to have that loneliness abated, she does not find fulfillment in her interaction with Hoyt, only the selling out of her own Lost Province identity. Yet she sacrifices so much of herself to be with him because he is popular rather than to spend time with the less cool but far more substantial relationship with Adam.

Hoyt's only job prospect is taken away at the end and even though readers may feel that Charlotte has failed, there is a small sense of justice knowing that Hoyt will not get what he feels he deserves when he loses the job at the investment bank.

Joseph J. Johanssen (Jojo)

Jojo is a senior at Dupont. He has blond hair, he's 6 feet 10 inches, and weighs 250 pounds. He is also white and a basketball player, which is a topic he thinks about at great length because of his opinion that he has something to prove against black basketball players. On the basketball court he plays in the starting five as a power forward, and he does feel special at being the only white starter on Dupont's team.

Jojo received a scholarship to play basketball and even though he wants to make it big as a basketball player, he also wants to fight expectations that surround all the basketball players at Dupont. Unfortunately, he doesn't have the willpower to resist the peer pressure or adulation. Jojo is intelligent and wants to learn, however he also loves the attention of being a basketball star brings and doesn't want to give it up.

While Charlotte unwittingly sells herself out, Jojo struggles to improve himself and pull himself out of the stereotype he has found himself in: the expectation of being a dumb basketball player. Early in the book Charlotte confronts Jojo in regards to the dumbed-down answer he gave in the French literature class and her confrontation along with her not knowing who he was made him feel attraction toward her. It is because of her challenge that he enrolls in a philosophy class and tries to deny the sexual advances of



a groupie at a basketball game. Unfortunately, Coach wants to see him play and win basketball games so Jojo ends up fighting a losing battle.

At the end of the book, however, Jojo is a redeeming character attempting to improve himself for Charlotte, who also acts as his mentor and teacher. It is interesting to note that Charlotte seems to be dating Jojo for the prestige while Jojo seems to be dating Charlotte because of her intellect and neither one wants in themselves what the other is attracted to.

Adam Gellin

Adam is a senior at Dupont, a member of the Millennial Mutants, and a virgin. He is described as delicate, with glasses, and longer curly parted hair. A poor student, he has to maintain two jobs to pay for school, tutoring and delivering pizza, but he is also bright. Attending Dupont for its prestige as an Ivy League school, he has big plans for his life and wants a Rhodes scholarship.

Although Adam is an intelligent character, and for the most part seems to be free of the pressures Charlotte faces to sell out, he is faced with some of the discord between the intellectual and the popular groups. For example, he admits to moving off campus so that no one would find out he is a virgin, and during the Gay Day demonstration he reluctantly attends for fear that people will think he is a homosexual.

His job as a tutor puts him in a compromising position early on in the novel and he writes a paper that is handed in by another student. Plagiarism charges are threatened, which mean his Rhodes scholarship is at risk, as is his future. He approaches Mr. Quat as an intellectual (feeling him to be an intellectual equal), but Mr. Quat's desire to shore up the demise of academia means that he is willing to sacrifice Adam's future.

Fortunately for Adam, also an editor at Dupont's alternative newspaper the *Daily Wave*, he publishes an article exposing the governor of California and his hypocrisy of moral standards. Mr. Quat drops the academic charge, believing the governor's story would be undermined if Adam's academic record were blemished.

Adam has strong feelings for Charlotte, who does not return those feelings. Although the reader wants to shout to Charlotte that Adam is her true soul mate, she denies those feelings as she sells her identity out to be part of the popular crowd. In spite of her constantly pushing him away and using him (as seen when she lives at his house and makes him sleep on the futon), he keeps pursuing her. Their relationship wavers between embarrassing her and providing her with the things she needs to survive (companionship and comfort). Ultimately, she denies the true relationship that she and Adam could have in favor of being used by Hoyt, then using Jojo for popularity.



Mother

Elizabeth Simmons, also called "Lizbeth" (and whom Charlotte calls "Momma"), is deeply religious and a pillar of moral standards. Charlotte's family is poor but her Momma works hard to earn what she can to take care of her family. She contrasts with Charlotte, and for the readers she acts as a measuring anchor: at the beginning, Charlotte was very much like her mother, but by the end readers will be shocked to see how far Charlotte has come.

Miss Pennington

Miss Pennington is a unique person in the Lost Province. She is a teacher in the English department of Charlotte's high school. She's in her 60s and believes in Charlotte, motivates her, and pushes her to fulfill her potential. She feels that Charlotte's success validates her forty years in education and also that Charlotte now owes her something. Miss Pennington encourages Charlotte to attend university and believes she is destined for greatness. Charlotte thinks she has taste and cultivation and Miss Pennington stands as someone that Charlotte can aspire to when she leaves the Lost Province. Everything about Miss Pennington, including her yard, shows that she could live in the Lost Province and still be cultured and refined and readers would do well to consider Miss Pennington as the person that Charlotte could have been in the future had she not sold herself out in the novel.

Laurie McDowell

Laurie McDowell is Charlotte's best friend in the twelfth grade she is a fellow graduate, and also a member of the honors society. Tall, slim, with curly blond hair, Laurie goes to North Carolina State University when Charlotte goes to Dupont. Charlotte considers her level headed, mature, and religious, but this estimation of her character changes drastically when they contact each other in the Entr'acte. Laurie is now willing to experiment with anything and believes that college is a period where you can try anything and there are no consequences. Once Charlotte's peer, she appears in the entr'acte as someone Charlotte no longer respects. Ironically, Charlotte becomes her over the course of the rest of the novel. Like Charlotte's Momma and Miss Pennington, Laurie should serve also as a measuring tool for readers. By the entr'acte, Charlotte is still very much like her mother and Laurie has moved quite a distance away. However, by the end of the book, in spite of her initial feelings to the contrary, Charlotte has moved closer to Laurie and farther from her mother.

Buster Roth

Buster Roth is the basketball coach at Dupont. In spite of the regulations surrounding the basketball players and games, Coach Roth is able to circumvent those rules in order to provide his players with an opulent living and easy classes. He stands as one of the



Wolfe's proofs of the demise of academia since Roth makes more than a million dollars in salary plus twice that in endorsements, public appearances, and motivational speeches.

Beverly Amory

Beverly is Charlotte's roommate. She, too, is a freshman with long brown hair, and is from a small town but that is where the similarity ends. She is from a rich family so she is able to afford such things as a computer and cell phone. She is sarcastic, focused more on popularity and sex than on academics. In every way she is the opposite of Charlotte and barely notices Charlotte at all except when she needs her, and after Charlotte sleeps with Hoyt. Charlotte unwittingly becomes exactly like Beverly by the end of the book.

Governor of California

The Governor of California, although not actually a character that interacts in the book, is observed through the story with appearances witnessed by others. He demonstrates the theme of identity by receiving oral sex early in the book from a college student then lecturing on television about the morality of the modern university. His identity seems to be wrapped up in hypocrisy and in order to keep his sexual encounter quiet he bribes Hoyt with a recommendation for a high-paying job at an investment bank. Ultimately, it is the article printed in the *Daily Wave* that exposes the governor and redeems Adam in Mr. Quat's eyes.

Mr. Quat

Mr. Quat rails against the decline of academia by maintaining a high standard in his class. While other professors offer "bird courses" to allow basketball players to breeze through their classes, Mr. Quat expects the same from every student. When he receives a paper written by Adam but submitted by Jojo, he decides to make an example of the two students. Adam, normally a good student, risks losing his Rhodes scholarship and Jojo, who is earnestly trying to improve risks losing his spot on the basketball team. Mr. Quat's speech at the Gay Day Demonstration wins the respect of Adam, who then publishes the expose on the governor. That bold move by Adam, in turn, wins the respect of Mr. Quat who decides that the greater good wins if Adam is not scandalized by revealing the improperly submitted paper.



Objects/Places

Dupont College

Dupont College is a fictional Ivy League university in Chester, Pennsylvania. It was once ranked with Harvard as one of the great schools of the nation, but at the point that the novel begins, it is simply living off of its reputation and now does little to support the development of knowledge or young minds. Many times throughout the book the contrast is shown between the academic and the athletic sides of Dupont, the latter receiving a lot of money and prestige for the college. Even the description of the college in the prologue shows the school's identity to be quite different. It is located in a slightly impoverished area, almost slum-like, but it is strategically designed to appear academic, right down to the grove of trees. However, this appearance of academia is largely constructed and (with the exception of Mr. Quat's efforts) largely a facade.

The Grove

The book's narrative opens with two of the characters walking through the grove where they come across the governor who is engaged in a sexual act with a student. This event in the grove sets into motion the primary events that will redeem Adam and curse Hoyt, which helps to counter Wolfe's concern about the decline of the academia.

Saint Ray House

Saint Ray House is the home to Dupont College's popular fraternity. It is a big, old, beautiful home with rooms named "billiard room" and "front parlor." Like many other buildings in the story, Saint Ray House demonstrates the demise of academia through its own degradation. The beautifully crafted, ancient furniture is demolished and the library (once filled with great works of literature) now contains only a television, since the books were destroyed when a bathtub flooded.

Sparta, Alleghany County, North Carolina, "The Lost Province"

The Lost Province, an actual place, stands in sharp contrast with Dupont University. It is high in the mountains and Sparta is the only town in the entire county. In the winter, there is a treacherous road to get there (and, in fact, Charlotte wishes there would be an accident so that she wouldn't have to face the people at home). There are no malls and no theatres in Sparta. It really has a back-woods feel with people aspiring to live comfortable lives. Charlotte's decision to leave Sparta and go to Dupont made front-page news. Early in the book, a naive Charlotte Simmons leaves the Lost Province and heads to the university. The Lost Province is also a deep part of who she is: unique,



different, intelligent, moral. She turns her back on who she is and where she's from in order to pursue a fleeting feeling of popularity.

Crowninshield College

Although the basketball players are supposed to be housed with the other students, they are given a beautiful place to live: the sumptuous fifth floor of Crowninshield College, part of the benefits of bringing in a large amount of money and prestige for Dupont. The rooms are larger than other dorms, and each room is air conditioned with its own bathroom. Like most of the buildings at Dupont, Crowninshield College demonstrates the decline of the academia in its attempt to put athletics over academics.

Saint Ray Library

The Saint Ray library demonstrates the demise of the academia through its lack of books. It used to be filled with great works of literature but they were all ruined when a bathtub overflowed. The library now has a big screen TV as its only point of interest.

Madame Bovary

Madame Bovary is the book that the students read in the class named, "The Modern French Novel: From Flaubert to Houellebecq." Charlotte, who has read *Madame Bovary* in the original French translation, becomes disillusioned when she encounters the demise of academia as she discovers that the students only read *Madame Bovary* in the English translation. It is also in this class that Charlotte interacts with Jojo and Jojo's desire to become more than just an athlete comes through. For a brief moment, readers glimpse Jojo's academic side in which he begins to give an insightful answer to a question from the professor but the other basketball players in the class (who do not expect such insight from one of their own) make fun of him and he changes his answer from an insightful one to one that is more in line with the image of the "dumb athlete."

Charles Dupont Memorial Library

The Charles Dupont Memorial Library still clings to life. While most of the buildings have fallen prey to the decline of the academia, the library attempts to remain steadfast. Of course, Wolfe's point about the decline of the academia means that the library's decline is inevitable, and many students go to the library to meet other people rather than to do work. However, the library serves as a location between a tender moment for Adam and Charlotte shortly after she slept with Hoyt, so the library also stands in contrast to the world of Hoyt and "the cool people." Unfortunately, the tender moment between the two is not enough to turn Charlotte's identity around.



The Daily Wave

The *Daily Wave* is a newspaper published by the Millennial Mutants. For most of the book it does not play a significant role, until the end. Toward the end of the book, however, it steps to the forefront as a major catalyst of change for the characters, for this is the student newspaper that publishes the exposes about the Governor of California. Until this point, Hoyt received a lucrative job offer from an investment bank and Adam was about to be punished for his part in writing a paper for Jojo. Most readers would disagree with this, as a sense of upset justice would be the result. However, after the article is printed, Hoyt loses his job offer and the academic charges against Adam are dropped.

Adam's Essay Written for Jojo

Adam was coerced into writing Jojo's essay, entitled "The Personal Psychology of George the Third as a Catalyst of the American Revolution" for Mr. Quat's class. Although Adam was mindful of the content and tried to make it seem like it would have been written by Jojo, he was not given a lot of time to complete the project, so some words and concepts made their way into the paper, which clearly did not come from Jojo. Mr. Quat, passionate about intellectual morals, decides to address the issue and see that Jojo and Adam are punished. However, Adam's bold move to publish a story that exposes the Governor of California helps Mr. Quat to change his mind in favor of the greater good.

Millennial Mutants

The Millennial Mutants are a group of studious students attending Dupont. They stand in sharp contrast to the boys of Saint Ray house. Readers will recognize that they are the true peers of Charlotte Simmons (and her Lost Province identity), however, she gives up a true friendship with fellow intellectuals to pursue a fleeting and shallow relationship in pursuit of popularity.

DieselJeans

Charlotte's purchase of Diesel jeans, the most popular brand in the novel, uses up a quarter of her semester's budget but she wears them in order to be noticed by Hoyt when she goes to thank him for rescuing her at the tailgate party.

Basketball Team

The basketball team stands as the living proof of the demise of academia. They earn a lot of prestige for the school, which forces President Cutler to make decisions in favor of the athletic department and against the academic side of the school. The team earns



money and enjoys perks that other students do not, so the basketball team has a lavish lifestyle and the school (with the exception of Mr. Quat) turns a blind eye toward the half-hearted academic efforts of the players.



Themes

Identity

Identity is a major theme in this book. The main character, Charlotte Simmons, believes strongly in her identity and yet sells out in the end in order to attain popularity. All the major characters in the book have a strong sense of their identity. Charlotte had strong role models as a child and was told that she was destined for great things. When Charlotte arrives at Dupont, she reminds herself constantly that she is Charlotte Simmons. By the end of the book, she rarely tells herself that and she ends up being Jojo's girlfriend. Charlotte, ultimately, does not believe that she, as herself, could attain the popularity she desired and so she has to give up much of what makes her unique. Charlotte doesn't drink, for example, because she is underage. Yet when she meets Hoyt, she accepts a drink in order to ensure his continued attentions and in the climax of the book, she drinks far too much, gets drunk and loses the willpower to tell Hoyt to stop and gives up her virginity. She uses a quarter of her funds for the semester to buy an expensive pair of jeans so that she can feel properly dressed when she goes to visit Hoyt.

Hoyt revels in his identity as a cool senior. He loves the notoriety the story of what happened with the governor gives him. He hopes to use his identity on campus to get him a job after he graduates. Preferring to believe the false identity of his father rather than accept that he lied to his family and left, Hoyt wants to ensure that no one finds out that he had to bank on his deserving poor status to get a scholarship to Dupont. Rather than working for it, he believes he is entitled to notoriety and a good job after graduation simply because he is Hoyt Thorpe.

Jojo Johanssen revels in his identity as the only white starter on the basketball team. He loves being a star. Even though he doesn't always agree with things that happen, he cannot resist the temptations of being a basketball star. He does have some inner strength in that he stands up to Coach and takes the Socrates course, even though it means losing his starter status.

Adam Gellin comes from a poor family and finds his identity in his intelligence and his potential to wow the academic world. Although he doesn't like it, he accepts his status on campus. He doesn't want anything to stand in the way of his gaining a Rhodes scholarship.

Hypocrisy is a sub-topic in the theme of identity. Many of the characters display this trait. Charlotte, in writing a letter home, lies to her parents about life at Dupont. She can't stand disappointing her mother who has absolute morality and therefore chooses to lie. The Governor of California, who is at Dupont to speak at Commencement, gives a speech calling for a new moral order among the students at Dupont just two days after he was caught in a sexual situation with one of the students. Hoyt wants to live the rich



life but is actually quite poor. Even minor characters like Vance have to secretly study to avoid mockery in an attempt to get good grades and stay cool.

All the major characters feel a level of entitlement due to their views of their identities. Charlotte feels entitled to popularity due to her intelligence, even though she knows that that is not the case. Hoyt, because of his popularity, feels entitled to a good job after he graduates. Adam, because of his intelligence, feels entitled to a Rhodes scholarship and the acknowledgement of his peers. Jojo feels entitled to his popularity because he is the only white starter and because he worked so hard to get where he is.

Dilution of identity and selling out is another sub-theme in Wolfe's work. Charlotte dilutes her identity in order to become popular. She leaves off studying and her classes in order to spend time with popular people and she gives in on issues she felt strongly about to maintain her popularity. For all the characters, popularity is a major part of their identity. It is something none of them can resist. The choice is popularity or loneliness and the characters will do almost anything to combat loneliness. For example, Charlotte gives up her identity in order to attain popularity, only to find that she is still lonely. Hoyt revels in his popularity, comparing it to a master/slave relationship and understanding that his popularity puts him in a master role on campus.

Adam, who needs to work to stay at school, understands that both his jobs put him in a slave role and the people he serves in a master role. There is also the student athlete aspect of popularity. If you are an athlete, you cannot be a student. Even the captain of the basketball team has to hide his efforts at being a student from the general population to maintain his popularity. The rest of the team, who he can't hide it from, tease him about it constantly. Jojo does not hide his efforts to become a better student and not only is he teased for it, but he was also demoted by the coach to second string. He is told that he was a leader on campus because he plays basketball, not because he is a good student and he should not let his student responsibilities get in the way of his basketball playing.

Demise of Academic Culture

Wolfe's next theme is the demise or decline of academia. Dupont was built as a place apart, a sanctuary for young students before they were let loose to change the world. It meant something to say you were a graduate of Dupont, which was an Ivy League school on par with Harvard. However, the focus on campus is no longer academics, it is experimentation. Laurie tells Charlotte that college is the perfect place to try anything she wants because everyone would forget about it as soon as you leave. The students are depicted as focusing their attention on three things: drinking, sex, and being cool. Even the library, a place that should symbolize learning, has become a place to "hook-up."

The President of Dupont gives in to the pressure and encourages Mr. Quat to stop his investigation into the plagiarism case because it is centered on a basketball player and the basketball team brings in a lot of money for the college, and more importantly,



prestige. Mr. Quat stands alone as one who fights against the demise of academia. He wants school and intellect to mean what it used to mean and he doesn't want to see college courses made easier in order to accommodate the income-generating basketball players.

Wolfe's book serves as a warning to readers that the academic world is in danger of selling out, just as so many of the students are, in an effort to be popular and wealthy rather than to stand as an intellectual and academic beacon in the world. So in many ways, the decline of the academic world is a parallel theme to identity but on an academic rather than personal level.

Lost Province

Charlotte goes from being a big fish in a small sea, to being a small fish in a big sea. In Sparta, she was a star. It is believed that she has potential to do great things. Encouraged by her mother, she has a strong belief and value system that has not been shaken until she is taken out of her protected environment. The Lost Province, in Wolfe's book, stands for the many good, moral, authentic, and virtuous things in life that are not tainted by the hustle and bustle of the city or the pursuit of popularity. The Lost Province is a special place that can actually be difficult to get to (the treacherous road leading to it) and it can be a comfortable microcosm to live in.

In a sense, when Charlotte starts attending Dupont, she is considered special and unique and a big part of this is the Lost Province aspect of her personality. However, over time, she gives it up to pursue popularity. She loses the good, moral, authentic, and virtuous side of herself in pursuit of something she discovers to be shallow and fleeting. She turns her back on the Lost Province (both her home and that part of her) and becomes a completely different person in pursuit of popularity and acceptance.



Style

Point of View

The book is mostly written from an omnipotent third person point of view. The reader is able to hear the thoughts of some of the characters and the author is able to jump in and out of the narrative to specific characters (both primary and secondary characters) to hear what they are thinking and feeling. This allows the reader to become part of the action and it is most significantly noted when Charlotte refers to herself in the first person as "I am Charlotte Simmons," and in the final lines of the book in the third person as "Jojo's girlfriend."

Setting

Setting plays an important part of the book because it shows through the buildings and landscaping the very theme that Wolfe tries to relate to his audience. Wolfe wants to tell the readers about identity and warn them about the decline of the academia. He sets Dupont in the middle of a slum-like area of town and creates Dupont as a school that lives off of its past reputation. Formerly a Harvard-quality school, it now favors athletics over academics. The beautiful old buildings were designed to create an academic oasis, but even that gives way as buildings such as the Saint Ray house are slowly run down through the abuse of uncaring students. What was once beautiful about Dupont now seems shabby, with the exception of the dorm where the basketball team lives and the entire athletic department. Because they have an income, they live and work in plush surroundings; quite different from the rest of the school

Language and Meaning

Language plays an interesting part in the book. A key phrase used throughout the book is the title, "I am Charlotte Simmons." Charlotte thinks that phrase quite regularly (or other people tell her that) as a substantiation of her uniqueness. Unfortunately, at the end of the book, the reader reads that she now considers herself "Jojo's girlfriend," which is almost a third person description of herself! She is no longer the unique and special girl from the Lost Province, but she has become one of the masses seeking popularity and leaving behind the things that made her different. Wolfe also uses language in unique ways, quite apart from normal accepted practices. For example, he combines words, such as "rutrutrutrutting" when he's writes of Charlotte observing the students dancing who look like cows engaged in a sexual act. During Charlotte's first sexual encounter with Hoyt, Wolfe shows a lot of discord by writing several phrases like



this: ":::::the Doubts:::::more time:::::" (chapter 25, page 480) with an excessive use of colons beyond their intended use.

Structure

The book is structured chronologically, beginning with the precipitating incident (of the governor in the grove with a girl) that would eventually affect several of the main characters. It follows a fairly standard development of rising tension as Charlotte slowly sheds her innocence until she completely gives it all up to Hoyt. One important item to note is that between chapter 6 and chapter 7 is a brief section called an Entre'Act, in which Charlotte interacts with the Lost Province. Readers who are studying this work would be wise to take special note of this section, which is clearly set apart from the rest of the book, to see how it shows Charlotte's internal struggle with identity.



Quotes

"The Dupont campus ... The moon had turned the university's buildings into a vast chiaroscuro of dark shapes brought out in all their sumptuousness by a wash of pale white gold. The towers, the turrets, the spires, the heavy slate roofs-all of it ineffably beautiful and ineffably grand. Walls thick as a castle's! It was a stronghold. He, Hoyt, was one of a charmed circle, that happy few who could enter the stronghold at will ... and feel its invincibility in their bones. Not only that, he was in the innermost ring of that charmed circle, namely Saint Ray, the fraternity of those who have been chosen to hold dominion over ... well, over everybody." (Prologue, pg. 11)

"Not all that long ago the mountains were a wall that cut Alleghany County off from people in the rest of North Carolina so completely, they called it the Lost Province, when they thought of it at all." (Chapter 1, pg.13, 14)

"And if you're so fortunate as to find a student, one student, a single student - like Charlotte Simmons - and you spend four years working with that student and seeing that student become what you are today - Charlotte, that justifies all the struggle and frustration of forty years of teaching. That makes an entire career a success. So I'm not going to let you look back. You've got to keep your eyes on the future. You've got to promise me that. That's all you owe me - that single promise." (Chapter 1, pg. 30)

"That wasn't the local news, that was the national network news, and that wasn't just any commencement speaker, it was a famous politician the whole country was talking about, and he was a Dupont alumnus speaking there, in the Great Yard! - robed in Dupont mauve! - calling for a new moral order to be created by this generation of college students-her generation! A surge of optimism revived her depleted spirits." (Chapter 1, pg 32,33).

"I'm sick of the whole black player thing. Coach - now he's white. Most of the coaches are white. But they just assume that if two players have equal ability and one's black and the other's white - they just assume the black player's better." (Chapter 2, pg. 51)

"Mother said, 'Don't you worry, little darling, I'll be thinking of you every minute of the day. I'm real proud of you, and you're gonna do real well here. But you know what I'm the proudest of? I'm the proudest of who you are, no matter whirr you're at. I spec there's ways Dupont iddn' gon' be good enough for you.'" (Chapter 3, pg. 77)

"I'm Charlotte Simmons ... You are unique. You ... are Charlotte Simmons ... Mother's and Miss Pennington's words gave her a spurt of confidence. She had faced envy and resentment and social isolation at Alleghany High, hadn't she ... and been imperiously uncool ... and gone her own way ... and never let any of it hold her back in her destined ascension to one of the finest universities in the world. And nothing was going to hold her back now ... nothing. If she had to do everything by herself, then she would do everything by herself. But God ... she felt so alone." (Chapter 3, pg. 78)



"'I'm sorry, tell me your name again?'" 'Charlotte Simmons.' 'Well, Charlotte, I'll tell you something. This isn't Sparta, North Carolina, but I think you're gonna find it isn't Sodom and Gomorrah, either.'" (Chapter 3, pg. 83)

"A fraternity like Saint Ray, if you truly understood it, forged you into a man who stood apart from the ordinary run of passive, compliant American college boys. Saint Ray was a MasterCard that gave you carte blanche to assert yourself - he loved that metaphor." (Chapter 4, pg. 97)

"He became more convinced than ever that his role in life was to be a knight riding through throngs of students trapped by their own slave mentality ... " (Chapter 5, pg. 114)

"Self-discipline was one of the things that had always made Charlotte Simmons... Charlotte Simmons ... that, and her power of concentration." (Chapter 6, pg. 131)

"The invincible truth was, she possessed a brilliance unparalleled here or anywhere else. The day would come, in due course, when Beverly and the cold fish with her would look up to Charlotte Simmons in awe and berate themselves for not having made friends with her when they had the chance." (Chapter 6, pg.135)

"Charlotte Simmons! Her own name cried out inside her skull. Nothing! All that was ... Charlotte Simmons ... had been scoured out, and all that was left was this ... this ... this husk...dead but too helpless to fall down the way it should...it stands here to be mocked! Utter defeat ... a feeling that immediately gave way to desperate loneliness ... not mere emotion but a condition, an affliction ... Lethe! Oblivion! Not one soul to turn to." (Chapter 6, pg.139)

"That revived her a bit. So gutted, disemboweled, scoured out had she been, by loneliness, she had all but forgotten the Force: I am Charlotte Simmons." (Chapter 6, pg. 147)

"Laurie's voice rose. 'Charlotte! That's not the end of the world! This is the time to cut loose! To really learn about everything! To learn about guys, to really get to know them! Really find out what goes on in the world! You just have to let yourself fly for once, without constantly thinking about what you left behind on the ground! You're a genius. Everybody knows that. I'm being sincere, Charlotte. Totally. Now there's other things to learn, and this is the perfect time to do it. Take a chance! That's one reason people go to college! It's not the only reason, but it's a big reason.'" ("Lost Province" Entr'acte, pg. 157,158)

"Destiny's Adam Gellin. In that very moment, he made himself a promise, the sweetest promise the human beast can make to himself: vengeance is mine, and I shall be repaid." (Chapter 7, pg.174)

"Charlotte only wished she were still in the middle of the test! At least for that hour she was part of a group of human beings all doing the same thing. At least she had been



completely engrossed in a task that made it impossible to think of ... how lonesome she was." (Chapter 8, pg.176)

"Jojo looked at her with arched eyebrows and a compressed smile, a smile of resignation, and began nodding nodding nodding nodding. Dawn was breaking inside that big head of his. 'So that's what we are ... athletes - we're like slaves. They don't even want us to think. All that thinking might distract us from what we were hired for.' He was still nodding. 'That's kind of cool, Charlotte.' It was the first time he had called her by name. Now he gave her an entirely different kind of smile. 'You're kind of cool.'" (Chapter 8, pg. 182)

"One of the things that made Charlotte Simmons Charlotte Simmons was the fact that she had never let herself be bent by peer pressure. Nobody could commit her to doing anything." (Chapter 10, pg.199)

"She had no idea what to say to this big guy who kept directing questions to her - or supposedly to her. Her face was aflame with embarrassment over the proprietary hugs Hoyt was giving her in front of everybody. She wanted to show everybody she didn't belong to him - but did she dare make a scene in this secret cellar or wherever she was? Worst of all, she could feel one of her greatest strengths, the fact that Charlotte Simmons was one of those rare young people who never caved in to peer pressure, ebbing away moment by moment. She couldn't have all these people, these sophisticated upper-classmen, staring at her as if she were some naive freshman oddity. In the next moment, she heard herself saying to Hoyt, 'Maybe some wine.'" (Chapter 10, pg. 216)

"This really rounds it out, " Charlotte said to herself amid the tears. The wreck of Charlotte Simmons was their Friday night." (Chapter 10, pg. 223)

"It occurred to Charlotte that this was only the second time since the day they met that Beverly had addressed her by name." (Chapter 11, pg. 227)

"When this is averaged in with your other grades, Mr. Johanssen, you are in deep trouble in this course. But that's a secondary problem. I have the grounds here for filing a serious honors violation ... and I intend to file it immediately. I have no idea how much you have enjoyed making a mockery of the academic life of this university, but your fun is over. Do I make myself clear? Over ... And if you try to get anybody to intervene on your behalf - anybody - can you possibly imagine who I mean by anybody? - that will only make it worse. Do I make myself clear?" (Chapter 12, pg. 266)

"She was among the elite of the youth of America! Back home in Sparta, she was known as the Girl Who Went to Dupont. Here at Dupont she would be known as, in the fullness of time, as ... she didn't know precisely what, but a radiant dawn had arisen ... " (Chapter 14, pg. 285)

"The knights who fought in the tournaments also happened to be lord and master of everybody else. There was no such thing as a leader who wasn't also a warrior. But



these 'sport heroes' we've got at Dupont, they're nothing by entertainers. What are they going to do when they leave here?" (Chapter 14, pg. 290)

"In all of Dupont, only she was Charlotte Simmons!" (Chapter 17, pg. 342)

"An impulse had begun wriggling inside her central nervous system, a tiny impulse, which, if it could have spoken, would have asked: was there some pretext, any pretext, on which she could call him without seeming to be begging?" (Chapter 19, pg. 371)

"He who would lead her to the innermost secret of life - and to the utmost brilliance of the glow on the other side of the mountains Miss Pennington had called her attention to four years ago." (Chapter 21, pg. 394)

"Did anybody tell you you're beautiful? And different? You're not like the other girls on this campus?" (Chapter 21, pg. 400)

"In that respect she had gotten absolutely nowhere since Alleghany High. Self-disappointment, self-pity, abject capitulation to a stronger foe, and that pathetic form of inverse aggression that goes along the lines of Now don't you feel guilty for what you have reduced me to? - some of which she was quite conscious of - commandeered Charlotte Simmons - she who had been sent forth to do great things - not only to give herself up to an ignorant Lost Province but, with conscious inverse aggression, to exaggerate it." (Chapter 23, pg. 442)

"She couldn't tell him to stop, couldn't even tell him to slow down, because ... because that look of rapture on his face was what she wanted, was what she had wanted from the beginning, and what she did not want to go away. She was at this moment all that life could hold or mean for him. He was ... Charlotte Simmons's, down to the last molecule. (Chapter 25, pg. 480)

"Every inch of Ms. Charlotte Simmons gave off waves and waves of shiftlessness, incompetence, irresponsibility, sloth, flabby character, and the noxious funk of flesh abloom with heat, sweat, fear, and adrenaline." (Chapter 26, pg. 502)

"When was Momma to learn that she was unclean, polluted beyond all redemption? When was Miss Pennington to learn that her special creation, the girl who was the glory of her career, anointed in her name to keep her eye on the future and create a glory that would light up the world - when was poor Miss Pennington to learn that her prize pupil had thrown away her future, wrecked it in four short months in the most sordid and juvenile way, besotted with a frat boy - a frat boy! - the epitome of all that is immoral, mindless, childish, cruel, irresponsible, affectless, and vile among American youth?" (Chapter 27, pg. 527-8)

"She looked down on the face before her. She existed on a different plane. She had risen from the ashes. I am Charlotte Simmons again, but a Charlotte Simmons who has walked over the coals and through the flames and emerged with the strength to let you know that and, for the first time, to be candid." (Chapter 30, pg. 613)



"You're a lot more than a tutor ... to me ... You're the girl who turned me around! You were the only person who had the guts to stand up to me and tell me the truth! I thought I was cool ... and all the time I was playing the fool. You're the one who ... inspired me." (Chapter 30, pg. 626)

"For reasons she couldn't have explained, if asked, she no longer felt cowed or intimidated by these people. They were what they were, and she was Charlotte Simmons. I am Charlotte Simmons. And in that moment it also occurred to her how rarely she had said that to herself over the past couple of months, and how even more rarely did it come burning into her mind with the old fire of defiance." (Chapter 33, pg. 658)

"So the little country girl from the Lost Province had become quite a campus presence, of sorts, in a remarkably short time, a mere six months ... " (Chapter 34, pg. 672)

"You can't define a person who is unique, said Charlotte Simmons. It, the little ghost who wasn't there, said, 'well, then, why don't you mention some of the attributes that set her apart from every other girl at Dupont, some of the dreams, the ambitions? Wasn't it Charlotte Simmons who wanted a life of the mind? Or was what she wanted all along was to be considered special and to be admired for that in itself, no matter how she achieved it?'" (Chapter 34, pg. 675)

"It obviously behooved Jojo Johanssen's girlfriend to join in." (Chapter 34, pg. 676)



Topics for Discussion

Wolfe writes about the demise of academia and he suggests several factors that contribute to the problem at Dupont. What are those factors and how accurate would you say Wolfe is of his diagnosis of real-life academia?

The buildings and grounds of Dupont University all contribute to Wolfe's themes of identity and the decline of academia. Choose one of those themes and describe several aspects of the university that contribute to that theme.

Choose a person from Dupont and a person from the Lost Province and compare them.

Discuss how the fictional quote from the Nobel Prize winner impacts your reading of the rest of the book. How and where do his observations appear true?

Charlotte slowly loses her identity through the book, in her effort to become one of the popular people. Compare her decline to Hoyt, Jojo, and Adam. Do they strive to improve their identity? If so, are they successful? What happens to each of them in the end?

Compare Mr. Quat and Coach Roth. How do they fight or contribute to the decline of academia?

Mr. Starling and Miss Pennington were both teachers who believed in Charlotte and wanted her to succeed. Describe her interactions with them. Did she live up to their expectations?

In many ways, Charlotte is an anti-hero in this novel in that she does not become a better person. What other novels have an anti-hero? What do you think the challenges are of writing a book with an anti-hero?

Charlotte does not grow as a character but she does develop as a character. Did you like her or identify with her as you read? How does the author keep you reading?

Using Wolfe's descriptions and Charlotte's interactions with the Lost Province, describe how it supports the theme of the book.

Charlotte's Mother has really strong moral convictions. These convictions are so strong that Charlotte is afraid to talk to her. Describe Charlotte's Mother's convictions and determine whether Charlotte's fears were legitimate or not.

Aside from Adam, Hoyt, and Jojo, Charlotte develops relationships with other people in the book. These include Laurie, Bettina, Mimi, and Beverly. Would you say these were friendships? How do these people compare with each other and with Charlotte?