

It Study Guide

It by Stephen King

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Plot Summary

It by Stephen King is a novel about friendship and the magic of childhood. The novel centers around seven core characters, friends who bonded as children during a summer of darkness. Twenty-seven years later, they reunite to fulfill a promise made that terrible summer. Evil lives under their hometown and, for some reason they do not understand, these seven have been destined to bring an end to the terrible cycle of death and destruction. These friends fought it once before, but now it is back, and they must end the evil for good. It is a novel of magic, mystery, and horror that will entertain readers of all ages.

Georgie Dunbrough is bored. It has been raining for several days, and Georgie has been stuck inside the house. Georgie's older brother, Bill, is sick in bed, so Georgie tries to entertain himself by making a paper boat. However, Georgie cannot make the boat come out right, so he turns to Bill for help. Bill makes the boat for Georgie and waterproofs it so Georgie can sail his boat in the still flooded gutters outside. Georgie watches the boat sail down the street, excited by this simple game. Then, the boat sails into a drain. When Georgie tries to retrieve the boat, a clown appears in the drain. The clown offers Georgie his boat and, when Georgie tries to take it, the clown tears his arm off, killing him.

Twenty-seven years later, a gay man is beaten to death in the same town of Derry, Maine. Two of the witnesses report seeing a clown assault the man after his attackers throw him into the canal. These reports are buried by the cops investigating, but Mike Hanlon, the head librarian, hears about them and knows what they mean. Mike waits, but after nine children are killed, Mike cannot wait any longer. Mike begins calling his old childhood friends, bringing them back to Derry on the weight of a promise made during the summer of 1958.

Stan Uris, who has become a successful accountant, is the first person Mike calls. Stan does not appear to be upset after hanging up the phone, simply bemused. Stan tells his wife he is going to take a bath. When Stan's wife goes to check on him a short time later, she finds that he has committed suicide. Richie Tozier is a DJ in Los Angeles, a master of many voices. Richie takes the call and is surprised how little he remembers about his childhood. However, Richie begins to remember enough to know returning to Derry, as Mike wants him to, scares him to death. Ben Hanscom walks into a bar in Nebraska and drinks a beer stein of whiskey without showing signs of intoxication. Ben has also gotten a call from Mike asking him back to Derry. Moments after the call, Ben notices scars on his belly he had forgotten he had. Ben is frightened, afraid to go back but aware that he cannot refuse to honor his promise.

Eddie Kaspbrak, a hypochondriac, is packing every drug in his medicine cabinet. Mike's call has left Eddie confused and scared, but he knows he must return to Derry despite his wife's protests. Beverly Rogan is awakened in the middle of the night by Mike's call. Beverly begins to pack while still on the phone, unconsciously lighting a cigarette. Tom, Beverly's husband, is not happy with this as he has told Beverly not to smoke around



him. Tom grabs his belt and begins to beat Beverly. For the first time Beverly fights back, allowing Tom the excuse to give a good beating before she escapes the house. Bill Denbrough, Georgie's big brother, is now a popular novelist. Bill is in England when he gets the call. Bill tries to explain things to his wife, but cannot remember enough to explain why he needs to go back to Derry. Bill has begun to stutter, something he has not done since he was a child, and this frightens his wife, Audra.

As each person makes his way back to Derry, they begin to remember little snippets of their childhood. Ben remembers being chased by the town bully into the Barrens, a jungle-like area in the center of Derry. After hiding from the bully, Ben runs into Bill and Eddie. Eddie is having an asthma attack, and Bill needs to go to the pharmacy to get his asthma inhaler. Ben agrees to stay with Eddie while Bill goes. When Bill returns and Eddie has recovered from his attack, they tell Bill how they were trying to build a dam. Ben takes a look at their efforts and offers to show them how to make a better dam. Ben is surprised when they accept his offer and invite him to play with them the following day.

Ben, Eddie and Bill spend the next day building a dam that is highly advanced for their age and experience thanks to Ben's eye for construction. Late in the morning, they are joined by Richie and Stan. While taking a break, Bill tells his friends about a weird experience he had in his brother's room. Bill was looking through a photo album Georgie used to keep. In the album, there is Georgie's last school picture. As Bill is looking at the photo it suddenly winks at him. Eddie tells everyone how he went to the train yards, as he often did on the weekends. When he was walking past a house on Neibolt Street, he saw a leper. A few days later, Eddie returned to the house and went under the porch to peek inside the cellar windows. A leper climbed out of the windows and began to chase him. Eddie knew there was something alien about the leper as he saw orange pom poms, like a clown would wear, on its clothes.

Ben has a similar story! Ben was walking home from school late one winter day. When Ben was crossing the canal, he saw the mummy from a movie he had seen recently walking on the ice. The mummy was holding a bouquet of balloons that appeared to float against the wind. Richie denies ever having an experience like these, but Stan begins to tell a story when they are interrupted by Mr. Nell, a local beat cop. The cop tells them that because of the complicated drainage system in Derry, the dam that the children have built causes pipes to backup all over town. The children are told to dismantle the dam.

Richie talks Bill into showing him Georgie's picture album. They go to Bill's house and sit alone in the room with the album between them. The school picture of George is gone and in its place is an old photo of downtown Derry. As Richie and Bill watch, the picture begins to move. Bill is so fascinated by this phenomenon, he tries to touch the photo. Instead of touching the surface of something solid, Bill's fingers move into the picture. Richie pulls them out only to discover that Bill's fingers are cut where they entered the picture.



A few days later, Richie goes to the movies with Beverly and Ben. They watch a movie about a teenager who turns into a werewolf and one about a teenage Frankenstein. During the first movie, they see Henry Bowers, the town bully, and his friends below them. Ben is worried as Henry is angry at him for escaping into the Barrens the last day of school. Richie tells him not to worry. When the movies are over, they wait for Henry and his friends to leave. Richie leads Ben and Beverly out through a side door. However, Henry and his friends are waiting for them in the alley. Henry tries to beat up Ben, but for the first time, Ben and his new friends are able to get the better of Henry and escape.

Days later, Bill tells Richie he wants to investigate the house on Neibolt Street. Bill takes his dad's gun in case there is any trouble. Bill and Richie crawl under the porch and enter the cellar through the same window where Eddie said the leper come out. Once inside the cellar, Richie sees a werewolf come down the stairs. The werewolf chases the boys into the coal chute where Bill lifts Richie up to try to escape through the window. As Richie is trying to get the window open, he can hear Bill screaming at the werewolf and firing his father's gun. Richie climbs out the window and reaches back to help Bill. Just as Bill is about to come out the window, the werewolf grabs his leg. Richie manages to get Bill out, but the werewolf is not far behind. Richie blows sneezing power at the werewolf, which gives him and Bill enough time to reach Silver, Bill's bike. The werewolf comes after Bill and Richie as Bill attempts to get the enormous bike moving. The werewolf manages to grab Richie once, but somehow the two boys make it to a populated area without being injured.

The day after seeing the movies with Richie and Ben, Beverly is in her bathroom preparing for bed when she hears voices coming from the sink drain. Beverly bends over and speaks to the voice, thinking it must be a child playing in the building's basement. Suddenly, blood erupts from the drain, splattering the bathroom. Beverly screams, bringing her father into the room. However, Beverly's father cannot see the blood. The next morning, the blood is still there, but Beverly's mother cannot see it either. When both her parents have gone to work, Beverly goes and finds Richie, Ben and Stan. Beverly takes them to her apartment and shows them the blood. They can see it. Richie, Ben and Stan help Beverly clean up the bathroom. Afterward, Richie, Ben, Stan and Beverly go to a Laundromat to clean the rags. While they are waiting, Stan tells them how he was bird watching in Memorial Park and was nearly attacked by two dead teenagers in the Standpipe.

When everyone has arrived in Derry, Mike arranges a reunion lunch. During lunch, everyone catches up on their lives. Afterward, Mike tells them about the murders and his reasons for calling. One of those reasons is a message found near the body of the last victim, the words come home written over and over in the victim's blood. Everyone agrees that it has begun again even though they cannot really remember what it might be. The waitress comes in with fortune cookies for dessert. When they begin to crack open the cookies, strange things come out. Ben's has teeth, Eddie's a cricket, Richie's an eyeball. However, they are the only ones who can see these things.



After lunch, Mike suggests that everyone take a walk around Derry alone and then meet at the library after closing for another discussion. Ben goes to the library during his walk, a place where he spent a great deal of time as a child, and runs into the clown, Pennywise, there. Eddie goes to the field where a group of kids always played ball when he was a child. Eddie is nearly killed by the walking corpse of an old acquaintance. Richie walks downtown to Bassey Park and is pounced upon by the giant statue of Paul Bunyan. Beverly returns to the apartment where she and her parents lived only to find Pennywise waiting for her in the form of an old woman. Finally, Bill takes a walk, talking to a couple of kids, and happens upon a second hand store where he finds Silver for sale in the window.

That night when they meet in the library, each person begins to tell stories about the things they have begun to remember from that summer in 1958. Mike recalls the rock fight that brought him into the circle of friends. Mike was on his way to the church where he attended school when Henry Bowers and his friends began to chase him. Mike ran into the train yards near the town dump. Bill and the others were walking to the dump from the Barrens side and ran into Mike. Bill told everyone to gather rocks just as Henry Bowers and his friends appeared. Bill begin to throw rocks and, before anyone realized it, Henry and his friends were beat back. When it was over and Henry was gone, promising revenge, Bill realized that Mike was the last piece of their puzzle of friends. The Losers Club was now complete.

A few days later, the Losers began planning and building a clubhouse in the Barrens. They had wanted to build a treehouse, but Ben came up with the idea of digging a clubhouse out of the soft ground, creating a place hidden from outsiders. While they were building this clubhouse, Mike brought his father's album of historic pictures to the Barrens to show everyone. In it were many pictures of the clown they had all seen, at various times stretching over a hundred years. While they were looking at these pictures, one of them began to move much like the picture in Georgie's album had done.

Shortly after the clubhouse is finished, Ben tells everyone about a tradition he read about in which Indians would use a den such as their clubhouse and burn green wood in order to induce a vision. Bill decides that they should try this. Bill also decides that Beverly should remain above ground in order to help anyone who is overcome by the smoke. However, something else does not want anyone to remain outside. When Beverly insists they draw matches, the burnt match that is supposed to decide the loser somehow disappears. All seven go into the clubhouse and sit in the smoke until they cannot stand it any longer. Mike and Richie stay in the longest and have a vision in which they see the day that It came to Derry. It is a time long ago, perhaps the beginning of time, and It comes from the sky in something like a spaceship.

Bill decides they should do research on these phenomenon and try to find a way to kill It. Bill believes that a silver bullet can stop the creature, but does not know how to make one. Bill gets Ben to help. They decide that rather than make a silver bullet, they should make silver slugs that can be shot with a slingshot. Beverly is chosen to shoot the slingshot, because she is the best of them all. Everyone goes to Bill's house one night and watches as Ben makes the silver slugs. A few days later, the Losers go back to the



house on Neibolt Street to confront It. There they manage to make the creature emerge from the pipes in the bathroom. It attacks Ben, nearly disemboweling him. Beverly manages to get a shot off and injures It, causing it to run away.

The Losers know that they will have to confront It someday, but are not sure when or how. The decision is made for them in August when Henry Bowers comes after them once again. Bill has Ben lead them to a pumping-station where they can enter the tunnels that comprise the drainage system that runs under Derry. Once inside, Eddie is given the task of leading them to Its nest. Bill does not know what they will do once they arrive, but in his research, he came across a ritual called Chud. In this ritual, a person is supposed to bite into the tongue of the glamour, the shape changing creature, and tell jokes. The first one to laugh is killed by the other. When they reach Its nest, Bill does this, only with his mind rather than his body. Instead of telling jokes, Bill stands up to the creature, proving his lack of fear. This show of fearlessness causes It great injury, and it sneaks away to a deeper part of Its lair. Most of the others believe it is dead, but Bill has his doubts. When they leave the tunnels, Stan cuts each of their hands, and they make a blood oath to return if the killing starts again.

In the present time, Mike sends everyone to bed, because he knows they will have to reenter the tunnels very soon. While Mike is cleaning up, Henry Bowers enters the library and attacks him with a knife. Mike is mortally wounded, but manages to wound Bowers, as well. Bowers leaves the library and goes to the hotel where the Losers are staying. Bowers goes to Eddie's room and attacks him. Eddie manages to fight back and gets the better of Bowers, stabbing him in the belly with a broken Perrier bottle. Eddie calls Bill, and he makes the decision that they must return to the tunnels immediately.

Once in the tunnels, Bill realizes that It has somehow brought his wife there. Bill is upset, but manages to focus on the task ahead. Once in Its nest, Bill again begins the ritual of Chud. However, Bill is not strong enough alone. Richie joins in and then Eddie. Eddie attacks It and sprays It with his aspirator. It bites Eddie's arm off, but not before it is badly wounded from Eddie's aspirator. It retreats once again, but this time Ben, Bill and Richie follow. Ben sees that It has laid eggs and stops to kill them while Bill and Richie go after It. Bill and Richie attack It, and Bill manages to hit Its heart.

When everything is over, all six begin to lose their memories of the event, including Mike. Richie, Ben and Beverly return home. Bill stays in Derry with his wife who is in a catatonic state as a result of seeing It. Bill gets the strange idea to take her for a ride on Silver. Somehow, this ride brings Audra out of her catatonic state, returning her to the same healthy woman she was before.



Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 1, After the Flood (1957)

Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 1, After the Flood (1957) Summary

It by Stephen King is a novel about friendship and the magic of childhood. The novel centers around seven core characters, friends who bonded as children during a summer of darkness. Twenty-seven years later, they reunite to fulfill a promise made that terrible summer. Evil lives under their hometown and, for some reason they do not understand, these seven have been destined to bring an end to the terrible cycle of death and destruction. These friends fought it once before, but now it is back, and they must end the evil for good. It is a novel of magic, mystery, and horror that will entertain readers of all ages.

Bill Denbrough is sick in bed with the flu. Bill's little brother, Georgie, is bored as it has been raining for several days, there is a flood, and he has nothing to do. Georgie tries to build a paper sail boat out of a crafts book, but has no luck. George takes the boat to Bill and is thrilled when Bill is able to make the boat just like the book says it ought to be. Bill then waterproofs the boat and sends Georgie outside to play with it. Georgie sails the boat in the gutters, forgetting there is a drain at the end of the street. When the boat reaches the drain, it falls inside. Georgie leans down to retrieve the boat and sees a clown holding it. The clown tries to get Georgie to go into the drain with him, saying that there is a circus down there, and down there everyone floats. Georgie refuses, but reaches inside to take his boat. When he does this, the clown rips his arm from his body. Georgie is found moments later by a neighbor but it is already too late. Georgie is dead.

Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 1, After the Flood (1957) Analysis

Bill is sick in bed during a flood in his hometown of Derry, Maine. Georgie, his little brother, comes to him for help making a boat. Not suspecting anything malicious, Bill helps the boy as he is bored, and because it is the nice thing to do. Bill loves his brother and this is clear in his patience as he helps the boy build and waterproof the boat. Bill sends Georgie on his way, believing he is sending him outside to have fun. However, Georgie is killed when a clown rips his arm from his body.

This chapter introduces two important characters. The first is Bill Denbrough. Bill is an eleven-year-old boy, sick in bed, but still willing to help his little brother. Bill is patient and loving despite the typical sibling angst that goes on between him and his brother. The reader sees all this about Bill and must wonder what will happen to Bill after his



brother's death. The death of a sibling, especially in these circumstances, is difficult and will color the rest of Bill's life, including the time covered as the plot of the novel unfolds. The other important character introduced here is Pennywise the Clown. It is not common for a clown to have a circus in a sewer drain and for clowns to kill. Pennywise is a killer working in a clown suit in order to entice children to trust him. However, the reader must wonder what a man is doing in the sewer drain. This detail suggests something strange about Pennywise and leaves the reader wondering if there might not be something more about this clown that they do not yet understand.



Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 2, After the Festival, (1984)

Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 2, After the Festival, (1984) Summary

The police are investigating the death of a gay man in downtown Derry. The man's lover tells the police that they had had trouble with a group of young men a few days before when the gay man, Adrian, had been confronted about a hat he was wearing. The hat was a paper top hat that said,

'I love Derry'. Adrian had won it during the Canal Days Festival in downtown Derry. However, the leader of the young men felt it was a slap in the face of all the citizens in Derry for a gay man to be wearing such a hat. Before the young man could do anything about it, however, they were interrupted in the confrontation by a cop. The young man swore to find Adrian again and make him pay.

A few days later, Adrian and his lover were coming out of a bar when they ran into this group of young men again. The young men grabbed Adrian and began to beat him. Adrian's lover called for help, but no one seemed willing to intervene. Adrian's lover began to run away, still screaming for help, when the young men threw Adrian over the side of the canal. It is then that one of the young men claims to have seen a clown pull Adrian out of the water and take a bit out of his arm pit. Adrian's lover claims to have seen the same thing. However, the police believe that what they really saw was a homeless man who attempted to steal Adrian's wallet. The young men go on trial for murder, and there is no more mention of the clown.

Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 2, After the Festival, (1984) Analysis

A gay man is confronted by a group of young men for wearing a hat that offends their civic pride. The gay man, Adrian, is later attacked and killed by these same young men. It seems like a story that is completely unrelated to the previous chapter until the witnesses begin to mention a clown. The clown sounds remarkably like the one Georgie saw in the drain, the one who killed Georgie. The reader begins to wonder how a clown can still be around and young enough to be attacking young men more than twenty years after he first appeared in 1957. It is here that Pennywise begins to take on characteristics that the reader should find unusual. This clown looks exactly the same as the clown who killed Georgie.

Not only is the clown important to the plot of this novel at this point, but the violence with which the men reacted to Adrian seems to be important, as well. The violence, while



unfortunately common in most cities, seems over the top for the situation. The young men do not like gay men and do not like a gay man wearing a hat declaring his love for their hometown. At most, this might create a situation in which Adrian might get a black eye or two. However, these young men confront Adrian with excessive violence and then throw him to his death in the canal below. Afterwards, one of the young men confesses that the leader of the group seemed overly agitated, overly focused on Adrian. This obsession is important, because it is a characteristic about the people in Derry that will come up again later in the novel.



Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 3, Six Phone Calls (1985)

Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 3, Six Phone Calls (1985) Summary

Patricia Uris has a wonderful life and a wonderful husband. Patricia and Stanley met in college, married soon after graduation despite their parents' disapproval, and began to make a life. Stan is a successful accountant who has built a strong business seemingly through luck and his amazing sense of intuition. The only dark spot in their lives is the fact that they cannot conceive. Patricia and Stan have tried to get pregnant for many years. They even went to a specialist who told them there is no reason why they cannot have children. Patricia has learned to accept that there will never be a child, but Stan seems to feel guilt that he cannot give her what she wants.

On a quiet night, Stan and Patricia are watching television as they often do. Patricia is sewing a button on one of Stan's shirts when the phone rings. Stan answers and talks for a few minutes. When he hangs up, he seems a little disoriented, but calm. Stan goes upstairs to take a bath. After a while, Patricia begins to worry as Stan is taking too long. Patricia goes upstairs to check on him and finds the bathroom door locked, something Stan has never done before. Patricia retrieves the key, unlocks the door, and finds that Stan has killed himself by cutting his wrists. On the wall in his own blood, Stan has written, "It".

In Los Angeles, Richie Tozier, a popular DJ, is on the phone with his travel agent. Even as he makes arrangements to fly to Derry, Richie thinks over the phone call he just received from Mike Hanlon, trying to remember everything he can about his childhood. Richie is surprised to find that he can remember very little about his childhood and what he does remember scares him deeply. As Richie begins to pack, little things come back to him, like the names of his friends and memories of being tortured by the school bully, Henry Bowers. As the memories begin to come to him, Richie feels his fear rise until he begins to vomit uncontrollably.

Ben Hanscom, a successful architect, walks into the neighborhood bar a few days early, catching the bartender by surprise. The bartender likes Ben and always looks forward to his regular appearance every Friday and Saturday nights. However, tonight the bartender is frightened when he sees Ben. Ben is pale and clearly upset. The bartender asks Ben what he can do for him, and Ben says he wants whiskey in a beer stein. This is a lot of hard liquor for one man to drink, but the bartender does it as Ben is a good customer. As Ben drinks his beer, he tells the bartender that he got a strange phone call calling him back to his hometown. Ben says that he had forgotten most of his childhood until this phone call and now suddenly he is remembering things he would rather have remained forgotten. To prove the point, Ben lifts his shirt and shows the bartender a scare in the shape of an H on his stomach. Then Ben finishes his beer, leaves three



silver dollars on the bar for the bartender to give his children, and says goodnight. The bartender watches him leave, thinking that Ben is suicidal and that he will most likely never see him again.

Eddie Kaspbrask is packing every medication in his medicine chest. Eddie does not like to be too far from the medications that make life livable. Eddie's wife is following him through the house, crying, begging him to explain why he is leaving. Eddie cannot explain it to himself, only knowing that when Mike called he knew he had to return to Derry. Eddie carefully explains to his wife that she must take over driving duties in their limo business the following evening, something that upsets his wife more than his leaving. Eddie's wife is an ample woman who would rather not be forced into wearing a chauffeur's uniform that has grown too tight, especially since their customer that night is a famous actor. However, Eddie manages to calm his wife enough to sneak out the door.

Beverly Marsh Rogan is a fashion designer with a successful company that she runs with her husband, Tom. Beverly and Tom are in bed together when the phone rings. Tom is annoyed, because he has a hangover coming on and wants to sleep. Instead, Tom goes downstairs to get a drink of water. When he returns, Tom finds Beverly packing a bag and smoking a cigarette. Tom has told Beverly before not to smoke in front of him. Tom decides Beverly needs to learn a lesson. Tom gets his belt and begins to chase Beverly around the room. For the first time, Beverly fights back, defending herself. Beverly overturns a dressing table on Tom and runs out of the house.

Bill Denbrough, a successful novelist, is in England for the filming of a movie based on one of his books. Mike's call comes early in the morning. Bill is stunned to remember the death of his brother, stunned because he realizes he has not thought of George for more than twenty years. Bill packs and tries to explain things to Audra, his wife. However, Bill remembers so little he cannot explain things to Audra in a way that either of them can understand. Bill stresses to Audra that she cannot come with him, worried about her safety but unable to tell her why. Audra listens to Bill's story, becoming more and more upset as Bill begins to stutter, something he has not done since he was a child.

Part One, The Shadow Before: Chapter 3, Six Phone Calls (1985) Analysis

This chapter introduces the seven main characters of the novel. The first is Mike Hanlon. Mike is a librarian in Derry who has been given the task of calling his friends when the signs that they need to come home appear. Mike's phone calls are met by a group of friends who do not remember a whole lot about their childhoods, causing the reader to wonder why Mike remembers, and they do not. It is possible Mike remembers as he remained in Derry, but the reason Mike remained is also unknown to the reader at this point. In fact, there is a lot about Mike's phone calls that are not known to the reader just yet but will most likely be made clear later in the novel.



The first phone call is made to Stan Uris. Stan is an accountant with a perfect life that is marred only by the fact that he and his wife have not been able to have a child. Despite the fact that a doctor has tested them both and discovered that they are both healthy and should have no problem conceiving, Stan is convinced that whatever is causing this problem is his fault. However, Stan and his wife are perfectly content in all other areas of their lives. That is until Stan receives Mike's call. This phone call for some reason sends Stan upstairs where he kills himself in the bathtub. The only explanation for this action is a single word Stan wrote on the wall, "It". The reader is left wondering what Mike could have told Stan that would cause him, a perfectly happy man, to kill himself.

Richie Tozier is introduced next. Richie is a single man who is a successful DJ in Los Angeles, a notoriously difficult market to break into. However, despite the fact that Richie's success suggests he is a strong, solid man, Mike's phone call has him vomiting in fear. Ben Hanscom also meets this phone call with deep fear, drinking a great deal of alcohol at his local bar. The fear these two men display makes the reader wonder what could possibly have happened to these men as children that could cause such fear in an adult. The introduction of the homicidal clown in the first two chapters is the only clue the reader has at this point to the secrets of these men's past, causing a great deal of anticipation in regards to the unfolding plot in the following chapters.

Eddie Kaspbrak is introduced next. Eddie is a hypochondriac who is married to a woman who reminds him of his mother. These things alone tell a story to the reader about a man who is somewhat wimpy and weak, unable to stand up to the women in his life, let alone play the hero in any situation. Eddie too is afraid to go to Derry as Mike has requested, but he seems to welcome the opportunity to stand up to his wife and escape a marriage he is not even sure he wants. This is a contradiction of the immediate impression of Eddie, suggesting to the reader that there is strength in Eddie that the reader has not been allowed to see just yet but will at some point later in the novel.

Beverly Rogan is a successful fashion designer, but she is also a battered woman. Beverly has a history of demurring to her husband and taking the beatings he meets out without conscience. However, something about Mike's call empowers Beverly and allows her the strength to fight back. The strength the reader sees in Beverly here suggests a deeper strength and sense of self that will help her through whatever trouble might come up later in the novel. Finally, the reader is introduced to Bill Denbrough. Bill is a strong, soft spoken man who also appears to have his life together. Bill is married and has a successful writing career. In fact, Bill is in the middle of supervising the filming of a movie based on one of his books. When Mike calls, Bill drops everything and begins to pack, explaining things to his wife as best as he can. However, Bill can remember very little about his past and what he has remembered since Mike's call frightens him. Bill cannot understand why he has not thought about his dead brother in more than twenty years or why scars on his hands suddenly appeared within minutes of Mike's call. The most frightening thing is that Bill has begun to stutter, something he has not done since he was a child. This last also frightens Bill's wife who insists on going to Derry with him. Bill will not allow her, but Audra, Bill's wife, is so frightened and so

connected to Bill that the reader must wonder if it is not possible that she will make him change his mind.



Derry: The First Interlude

Derry: The First Interlude Summary

Mike writes in his diary that he believes that Derry is haunted. Strange things happen in Derry, violent things, in cycles that seem to span twenty-five to twenty-seven years. Mike is an amateur historian and spends a great deal of his time talking to the old folks in Derry. There seems to be a code of silence in Derry keeping people from talking about the darkest, strangest moments in Derry history. However, Mike has gotten a few people to speak and has learned about voices coming from drains, murders that were allowed to take place in town, and hate crimes that seemed to come out of the blue. All of these things happen in regular intervals, as though there is some force at work, some force that feeds off of violence and tragedy.

The death rate in Derry is much higher than other cities larger than Derry. This death rate is especially high during these cycles, especially among children. The last time a large number of children were murdered or went missing was a cycle between the fall of 1957, beginning with George Dunbrough's death, and ending in August of 1958. Mike believes it is beginning to happen again and if it is, he has to call his friends. However, Mike does not want to make the phone calls until he is absolutely sure.

Derry: The First Interlude Analysis

Mike keeps a diary in which he records his thoughts as well as history of Derry. Mike is frightened; this comes through clearly in his writings. The stories that Mike hears and reports in this diary are of violence and death that should not happen in a town as small as Derry. Mike learns about violence that has come in cycles as far back as the founding of the town. Derry has a high rate of child deaths, yet no one seems to be concerned about it. There is something basically wrong in Derry, and this makes the reader think about the clown in the first two chapters and the deaths of Adrian and George.

Mike believes that the cycle is beginning again. The death of Adrian reported in the second chapter seems to suggest this is possible. Not only this, but the previous chapter suggests that Mike will come to the conclusion soon that the cycle has begun as he has made the phone calls that he suggests he does not want to make in this diary. The reader does not know what happened after the writing of this diary entry that made Mike make the phone calls, but knows it must be something terrible, as suggested by the violence Mike has mentioned earlier in the diary entry.



Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 4, Ben Hanscom Takes a Fall

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 4, Ben Hanscom Takes a Fall Summary

Ben is flying to Derry. Ben stares out the window and begins to remember some of the details of his childhood. Ben remembers the day school let out for the summer. Ben runs out of the building to get away from Henry Bowers, because he knows Henry blames him for the fact that he will have to go to summer school. During the final exams, Henry asked Ben to allow him to cheat, but Ben refused so Henry failed. Ben makes it out of the building and goes to the library, one of his favorite places to go. Ben has no friends, so the library and the books he checks out fill the majority of his time. At the library, Ben sees a notice reminding everyone about the curfew. This makes Ben think about his mother's warnings to always be home by dinnertime and the watch she gave him to help him keep track of time. After choosing his books, Ben sees a display of postcards and decides to buy one. Ben writes a haiku on the postcard and mails it to Beverly Marsh.

Ben leaves the library and begins to walk home. Ben is thinking about Beverly, fantasizing about kissing her, so distracted by the fantasy that he does not notice the boys walking behind him. Henry Bowers, Victor Criss and Belch Huggins are quietly coming up behind Ben. Victor and Belch grab Ben and push him up against a fence that separates the road from the wild area known as the Barrens. Henry asks Ben what he will say the next time someone asks him to cheat. When Ben does not answer the way Henry wants, Henry decides to leave a reminder on Ben's stomach. Henry pulls out a knife and begins to carve his name in Ben's stomach. After Henry has cut an H on Ben's stomach, Ben is able to push back against the fence he is leaning against and cause it to break. Ben rolls into the Barrens, climbs to his feet and runs.

Ben runs into the Barrens, passes by a place where some kids are playing, and finds a cave created by a fallen tree in which he can hide. Ben lays there and listens to Henry and his friends search for him, hears them harass the other kids, scared of what might happen if Henry finds him. However, after a time, Ben falls asleep from the exhaustion of running through the Barrens. Ben has a dream that is more of a memory. Ben's dream is about a time in January right after school resumed after Christmas. Ben stayed after school to help his teacher. Afterward, Ben walked home alone in the freezing weather. When Ben reached the canal, he saw a mummy like the mummy in a movie he had seen recently, walking on the frozen water in the canal. The mummy called out to him and talked about things floating, inviting Ben to join him. Ben watched him, seemingly frozen in place, until he realized that the balloons the mummy was holding were floating against the wind. This fact frightened Ben so much that he ran away, barely escaping the mummy who had somehow reached the side of the canal much



faster than he should have. Ben wakes from this dream and begins to walk back the way he came, sure Henry and his friends have given up. When Ben reaches the place where the other boys were playing, he discovers that one of the boys is having a terrible asthma attack.

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 4, Ben Hanscom Takes a Fall Analysis

Ben Hanscom is excited that school is out. Ben escapes the school quickly to get ahead of the bully who is out to beat him up and goes to the library. Ben appears to be a happy young man, but the author points out that Ben is a lonely boy, because he has no friends. Ben does not seem to realize how lonely he really is, though, because he has his routines and his pastimes that make him happy. At the library, Ben reveals his deep feelings for a fellow classmate, Beverly Marsh. Ben writes Beverly a haiku and sends it to her anonymously, hoping it will bring her happiness even though Ben knows she will think someone else sent it to her. Ben's selflessness in this actions shows the reader what a compassionate and kind young man he already is at eleven-years-old.

Ben leaves the library and fantasizes about Beverly so long that he does not hear Henry Bowers and his friends come up behind him. Henry is upset, because Ben would not allow him to cheat on the final tests and decides to make Ben pay by carving his initials into his belly. Ben manages to escape after Henry has carved the H, leading Henry and his friends on a chase through the Barrens. Ben manages to get away, but Henry is so angry that the reader suspects this will not be the last time Ben or the reader will see him.

While hiding, Ben has a dream that is really a memory of something strange that happened to him the previous January. Ben was approached at the canal by a mummy that seemed straight out of the movies. Ben was not scared at first but soon became very frightened when he realized there was something unnatural about the mummy. Not only this, but Ben sees that the balloons the mummy is holding are floating against the wind. Ben's realization that this is impossible touches on the theme of magic, since magic can be the only explanation of why balloons are floating against the wind, not to mention how a movie monster happens to be walking on the ice in the middle of Derry, Maine. Ben's sighting of the mummy also causes the reader to remember Ben mentioning the curfew in Derry and his mother's concern about him being home by dinner every night. Something strange is going on in Derry. Perhaps, the reader will begin to find out what this is in the following chapters.



Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 5, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (I)

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 5, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (I) Summary

Bill Denbrough is on the Concord as he begins to recall the summer of 1958. Bill thinks about Silver, his bicycle, and how it saved Eddie's life the day they met Ben Hanscom. Bill asks Ben to stay with Eddie while he rides into town to get a refill on Eddie's asthma medication. Bill's bike is much bigger than he is, and difficult to control, until it begins to gain speed. The author speculates that Bill wanted the bike so badly because, in a way, he was courting death that summer as a reaction to his brother's death and his parents' coldness toward him. When Bill arrives at the pharmacy after a harrowing ride through town, he has to write his request town. In times of stress, he tends to stutter worse than at others. The pharmacy refills the medication without pause and sends Bill on his way.

After Eddie takes his medication and is breathing better, Ben introduces himself and explains why Henry was following him, apologizing for bringing Henry to where Eddie and Bill were playing. Bill does not allow Ben to apologize, because he and Eddie had been victims of Henry's before and feel that Henry's behavior is no one's fault but Henry's. Ben asks what they had been doing before Henry came and learns they were building a dam. Ben tells them how to build a better dam. Eddie and Bill invite Ben to come back the next day and help. Ben is excited as he has never had friends before.

That night, something bad happens to Bill. Bill goes into Georgie's room, something he does frequently as he feels close to him there, and decides to look through Georgie's photo album. On the last page of the album, there is a photograph of Georgie, the last school photo taken of him. As Bill is looking at this picture, it begins to move. The Georgie in the photo winks at Bill. Bill throws the book in surprise, and blood begins to flow from between its closed pages. Bill is so frightened that he runs from the room.

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 5, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (I) Analysis

Silver is introduced in this chapter as Bill's overly large bike and his attempt to court death. Silver gives the reader insight into Bill's state of mind. Bill's brother died the previous fall. A part of Bill feels responsible for this, because he sent him outside to play with his boat. The parents might also feel this way, at least Bill believes they do, because they have become cold toward their only son as they become more deeply sucked in by their own grief. Bill rides Silver in a dangerous fashion as a part of him wishes he had been the one to die. This mentality of Bill's gives the reader not only insight into his state of mind, but motivation for some of the actions he takes later in the



novel. Silver is also important, because it saves Eddie's life on this occasion by helping Bill get Eddie's medication quickly. Silver will also save someone else's life later as the plot continues to develop, giving the reader something to anticipate as the novel continues.

Bill and Eddie thank Ben for his help and invite him to join them the next day to help build a dam. The reader already knows that Ben grows up to be an architect, so it is no surprise that Ben knows how to build a dam. However, this invitation is not only about a dam to Ben, but it is the first offer of friendship he has ever had. Ben is excited by this. The invitation also begins a circle of friendship that will continue to grow until all seven have come together.

Bill goes into his brother's bedroom that night and takes a look at his picture album. Bill misses his brother and again the reader gets a good look at Bill's grief and his feeling of guilt associated with his brother's death. However, this touching scene goes wrong when one of the pictures in George's album winks at Bill, and then the album begins to bleed. Bill is horrified and runs from the room. Again, the theme of magic has entered the narration and leaves the reader wondering what is causing this strange phenomenon and what it might mean to the rest of the novel, especially to Bill's safety.



Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 6, One of the Missing: A Tale from the Summer of '58

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 6, One of the Missing: A Tale from the Summer of '58 Summary

Edward Corcoran has gone missing, one of many in Derry the police put down as runaways. His parents did not report him missing immediately as Edward has a difficult relationship with his stepfather. The mother suspected that since it was the last day of school, Eddie did not come home out of fear of his stepfather's reaction to his final report card. However, Eddie remains missing. Eddie's disappearance causes the police and local reporters to become curious about the death of Eddie's brother, Dorsey, the previous year. An examination of the body proved that Dorsey had been beaten to death with a blunt instrument, most likely a hammer. Dorsey and Eddie's father is arrested and put on trial for Dorsey's death.

Eddie is dead. Eddie intends to spend the night in Bassey Park, because his grades are bad. He knows his stepfather will beat him because of that. Eddie's stepfather routinely beats him, and Eddie suspects that he killed Dorsey with a hammer that their stepfather always insisted no one touch but him. Eddie knows he is safer staying anywhere but home tonight. However, while Eddie is in Bassey Park, he first sees Dorsey in the form of a rotting corpse and then is chased and eventually killed by a creature that looks like the Creature from the Black Lagoon. No one hears Eddie scream. The next morning, Mike Hanlon comes to Bassey Park, finds Eddie's pocket knife and sees evidence of the struggle between Eddie and the monster, but does not know what it is that he sees.

Mike Hanlon lives with his parents on a working farm. A working farm is a lot of work, and Mike is expected to put in several hours of work, even during the school year. However, on occasion, instead of a list of chores, Mike's father will leave permission for Mike to go fishing or will give him a place to go where his father believes Mike will learn something. Mike's father is an amateur historian and likes to share the things he knows about Derry with Mike, such as taking him to see the tramp chair the sheriff's office once used to discourage tramps from staying in Derry. Along these lines, Mike comes home one day and finds a note instructing him to explore the site of the Kitchener Ironworks explosion.

At the turn of the century, the largest employer in Derry was the Kitchener Ironworks. Easter of 1905, the Ironworks hosted an egg hunt for the children of Derry. The entire building was shut down for the day, and eggs were hidden within the safer areas of the plant. There was no reason for anyone to believe anything bad would happen. However, somehow the entire works exploded for unknown reasons and more than a hundred people were killed, the majority of which were children. It is here that Mike's father has



sent him. While exploring what is left of the site, Mike feels drawn to the hole in the ground that was once the cellar of the massive building. Inside, Mike discovers an impossibly huge bird.

The bird, similar to one in a movie Mike saw the night before, comes out of the cellar and chases after Mike. Mike runs to the smokestack and crawls in as deep as he can, out of reach of the massive bird. Mike then collects the tiles that once lined the inside of the smokestack and begins to throw them at the bird, scaring it off. Mike escapes and rushes home, frightened beyond words at the experience. However, Mike says nothing to his parents when he arrives home, sure they would not believe him if he did.

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 6, One of the Missing: A Tale from the Summer of '58 Analysis

Eddie Corcoran has gone missing, and the police begin to investigate his parents as possible suspects. Immediately, the police realize that the death of Eddie's brother, Dorsey, cannot be a coincidence. When it is discovered that Dorsey was beaten to death, the police assume Eddie is also a victim of his stepfather's terrible rage. This is common to the Derry police who have so many missing and dead children that they cannot imagine there is one entity causing their deaths. This is how the police keep from admitting to themselves that there is something wrong in their town.

Mike stumbles on the truth of Eddie's death even though he does not know what it is he sees. Mike is a simple young man, the son of a farmer and his wife, who does not have any experience with the violence of murder. However, the evidence of Eddie's death does cause Mike to recall a time when his father, an amateur historian, sends him to the Kitchener Ironworks, and he is nearly killed by a giant bird. This bird is similar to one that Mike saw recently in a movie, and it seems incredibly real. Mike can smell it and, when it tries to get him, Mike can feel its malice and determination. Mike manages to get away from this monster bird, but only because he became angry and fought back. Mike's reaction to the bird begins a pattern of behavior that the reader will soon begin to recognize in the other major characters of the novel. Mike's reaction is also unusual to a child of his age and maturity, suggesting something different about Mike that will again show itself in the other characters of the novel.



Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 7, The Dam in the Barrens

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 7, The Dam in the Barrens Summary

Eddie is driving toward Derry through Boston. Eddie thinks about the past and remembers meeting Ben in the Barrens and the morning Ben showed Eddie and Bill how to make a better dam. Ben shows Eddie and Bill what he has in mind. Ben wants to stand up two boards in the middle of the stream and put dirt and debris between them, shoring them up so the pressure of the water will not knock them over. Ben has brought two boards with which to do this, so the boys get to work right away. The dam really works, much to Eddie and Bill's amazement. The boys take a break to have their lunch, and this is how Richie and Stan find them. The boys explain to the newcomers what they are doing, and they agree to help out.

After lunch, the boys discover that their dam is no longer wide enough to keep the water under control. Ben sends the boys to the dump to gather more materials while he stays behind to reinforce the debris in the center. When they return, the boys create a wider dam that miraculously controls the flow of water until they have a huge pool forming where there was once nothing but vegetation. Again the boys take a break. Bill asks the boys if he can tell them something. Bill quietly tells them about the picture in his brother's album and how the book began to bleed. Afterward, instead of laughing, Eddie begins to tell a story of his own.

Eddie likes to spend his Saturdays down at the train yards. The yards are not that busy anymore, not since the trains had stopped running through Derry like they once had. Eddie was heading home after being in the train yards one day and saw what he thought was a leper on the lawn of one of the many houses abandoned when the train yard closed. The leper spoke to Eddie, trying to get some money out of him, but Eddie just ran home.

A few weeks later, Eddie was curious if the leper was still there. Eddie approached the house at 29 Neibolt Street and found himself drawn to the windows under the porch that opened into the cellar. Eddie crawled under the porch and approached one of those windows, and suddenly the leper appeared. However, the leper was different, looked different, more like a walking corpse than a sickly tramp. Eddie quickly crawled back out from under the porch, but the leper followed. The leper called out to him, repeating the same things he had said before, but adding things. This leper told Eddie that he should go with him as everyone floats down where he lives. Eddie saw the rose buses where the leper appeared from under the porch suddenly turn black and die. Eddie got on his bike and escaped, never looking back. Ben tells them all then about seeing the mummy on the frozen canal back in January. Bill asks Richie and Stan if either of them have



ever seen anything suspicious. Stan seems about to answer when they are interrupted by Mr. Nell, a local beat cop.

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 7, The Dam in the Barrens Analysis

Ben, Bill and Eddie begin to build a dam in the Barrens, becoming friends through their play. After lunch, Richie and Stan join them, introducing their characters to the reader once more, this time in their childhood form. Richie is a funny kid who is often speaking in voices, though as a child he is not very good at it. The reader already knows Richie will become good enough at it as an adult that he makes a living at it, so this little information is interesting to the reader as they might wonder how he became so much better at it. After Richie and Stan join the group, they join in the building of the dam and make a successful dam that floods a large section of the Barrens.

During a break, Bill tells his friends about his experience with the photo album in Georgie's room. Instead of laughing at him, Eddie adds his own story to Bill's. Eddie saw a leper at the house on 29 Neibolt Street, an address that will become important in the following chapters, and is chased by this leper. Later, Eddie returns and finds another leper, a strange leper, that also chases him. However, there is something more horrifying about this second leper. Not only that, but this second leper talks about floating where he lives, something the clown told George before he died and the mummy told Ben back in January. Ben tells his story too, and the boys begin to see the similarity in their different stories. Bill asks if anything strange has happened to the other two boys, and it seems Stan is about to say something when they are interrupted. The reader is left to wonder what Stan's story might be and when they will be allowed to hear the story. Stan appears frightened, so the reader knows it will be something very terrifying, just like Eddie's story. The reader also recalls Mike's story from the previous chapter, sees the similarities, and wonders when he will be connected to this growing circle of friends.



Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 8, Georgie's Room and the House on Neibolt Street

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 8, Georgie's Room and the House on Neibolt Street Summary

Richie arrives at the city limits of Derry. Richie pulls over at the sign marking entry into town and thinks about the memories that are slowly coming back to him. Richie remembers that day in the Barrens when Mr. Nell came upon them after they built the dam. Mr. Nell tells them that their dam is working so well that it is causing all the drains on the west side of town to backup. Mr. Nell explains that the entire drainage system of the town runs through the Barrens where there are dozens of pumping stations that pump water from waste, storms, and the two local rivers into the canal and away from the city. The dam is causing this system to malfunction. The kids apologize and promise to tear down the dam. Mr. Nell then reminds the boys about the curfew and warns them to never play in the Barrens alone.

After tearing down the dam, the boys head home. Bill and Richie end up walking together. Richie stops and tells Bill that he thinks they should go back to his house and take a look at Georgie's photo album. Bill agrees. At Bill's, they turn on the record player in Bill's room before going to Georgie's room, because Bill's parents do not like anyone going into Georgie's room. Richie picks up the album, which shows signs of the blood Bill had told him about. The album is cold despite having been lying in the sun. Richie turns the pages to the last page, but there is no picture of George there. Richie shows Bill the last picture in the book, an old picture of downtown Derry. While they are looking at the picture, it suddenly begins to move. In the center of the picture are two little boys whom they realize are them, Bill and Richie. Bill is so fascinated by this, he reaches out to touch the picture, as though to stop the two little boys from approaching the canal where he can see balloons beginning to float up over the wall. Richie cries out and pulls Bill's hand back as his fingers begin to enter the picture. When Bill's hand is free, they can see that he has rings of cuts where his fingers had entered the picture.

Richie and Bill are frightened by this experience, but like most little boys, it begins to lose its powers as soon as it is over. Richie goes home, and the following Saturday morning is worried only about convincing his father to give him money so he can go see a double feature of horror movies. Richie calls Ben and invites him to go along as Richie does not like to go to the movies alone, and all his other friends are busy. As Richie makes his way to the theater, he runs into Beverly outside the drug store. After Beverly shows Richie how to walk his yo-yo, he invites her to the movie, as well.

Richie and Beverly arrive at the theater in plenty of time for the movie, but Ben is nowhere to be seen. Ben finally shows up after everyone else has gone inside. Ben



says that he saw Henry and his friends go inside and is afraid to run into them as Henry is still mad about what happened in the Barrens the last day of school. Richie talks him into going anyway, promising they will sit in the balcony where Henry and his friends cannot see them. Ben agrees, mostly because he does not want to look like a wimp in front of Beverly. However, when the movies, which were horror flicks about Frankenstein and a werewolf, are over, Ben can see Henry down in the theater below. One of Henry's friends looks up and sees him. Richie thinks if they sneak out the side door, they can escape safely, but Henry and his friends are waiting there. Henry and his friends immediately attack Ben. However, instead of allowing himself to be beat up like he might have before, Ben fights back. Ben becomes angry when he sees one of Henry's friends pull Beverly's hair and becomes even more aggressive, managing to get the better of Henry. Beverly fights too, and before anyone knows it, Richie has helped them escape. All three run away, laughing at their sudden and surprising victory over the town bully.

Less than a week later, Bill goes to Richie and tells him that he wants to go to the house on Neibolt Street. Bill thinks the thing that killed his brother might live there, and he wants to kill it. Bill promises to get his dad's gun. Richie agrees. They meet at the Barrens and ride together on Silver. Bill parks Silver a few houses away, and pulls out his father's gun. Bill carefully loads the gun. Richie then shows Bill what he has brought for their protection, a bag of sneezing powder. Bill and Richie approach the house, sliding under the porch and entering the house through the same window where the leper escaped the day Eddie had been there. They look around for a minute. Bill suggests they separate, but Richie insists they stay together. They begin to look around. Before they see more than the coal bin, the door at the top of the stairs opens.

Richie sees a werewolf. Bill urges him back toward the coal bin, telling him to run. Richie climbs the coal and goes out the window. Richie can hear Bill behind him, firing his father's pistol. When the pistol is empty, Bill climbs the coal and reaches for Richie. Just as Richie is about to pull Bill out the window, the creature grabs Bill's pants cuff. Richie and the creature fight over Bill for a long few minutes, but Richie finally wins. Bill and Richie start to run around the house toward Silver. Richie finds the creature crawling out the window. Richie blows the sneezing powder on the creature, catching it by surprise. The creature stops in its pursuit for only a moment. Before Bill and Richie can get Silver going, the creature is in the street behind them. Bill concentrates on piloting the bike. Richie watches the werewolf chase them down the street and panics when the creature comes close. The creature grabs Richie's shirt, but cannot get a strong hold. Bill brings the bike close to the traffic flowing through the main street and finds that the creature has gone. Bill stops the bike, and Richie falls into a dead faint.

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 8, Georgie's Room and the House on Neibolt Street Analysis

Mr. Nell tells the boys about the strange drainage system that crosses through the Barrens. Derry was built in swamp land in the middle of two major rivers, causing it to have terrible drainage problems. The town's solution was to create a drainage system



that runs through the Barrens with pumping stations designed to siphon the waste water and the overflow of water from storms and the rivers into the canal and out of town. The information about the pumping stations is important because, later in the novel, the children will figure out that the creature haunting Derry lives within its many tunnels. They will use one of these pumping stations to gain entry into the tunnels.

Richie suggests that he and Bill go back to Bill's house to check out the photo album in Georgie's room. When they arrive, Richie discovers that Georgie's school picture is gone and has been replaced by a photograph of Derry from somewhere in the past. As they stare at the photo, it begins to move. Bill is so fascinated, he tries to touch the picture. Bill's fingers actually enter the picture and, when Richie pulls them back, they are ringed with cuts. The theme of magic once more enters the narration in this story as the reader tries to figure out how Bill's fingers could enter a picture and what caused the cuts. It is also important to note here the balloons that the boys see in the picture. Balloons and a clown seem to be a major theme of the creature that is haunting the town of Derry.

Richie goes to the movies with Beverly and Ben. Richie's invitation not only includes Beverly in the circle of friends that are forming, but also proves once more that Ben is a member of this exclusive circle. The invitation also explores the theme of friendship as these three outcasts find each other and begin to forge a bond that will play a major role in the continuing development of the novel. After the movies, the children sneak out the side door to avoid Henry Bowers, the town bully. However, Henry is waiting for them in the alley. Rather than be beat up, as they might have been before, they manage to outmaneuver Henry and his friends. Ben, Beverly and Richie's escape marks a change in the status quo of these characters, noting a change in their behavior and outlook on life.

Richie and Bill then decide to go to 29 Neibolt Street to check out Eddie's story and to find and kill the creature that killed Georgie. Bill and Richie confirm Eddie's story but still decide to go inside the house. Once inside, they are confronted by a creature that Richie sees as the werewolf from the movie he had seen a few days earlier. The creature comes after them, and Bill tries to kill it, but appears to not be successful. The creature continues to follow them, nearly ripping Richie off the back of Silver before it disappears the same way it appeared. Richie faints of fright, leaving the reader wondering if Richie will participate in any more of Bill's schemes to try to kill the creature that he believes killed his brother.



Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 9, Cleaning Up

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 9, Cleaning Up Summary

Beverly left her husband's home with only a suitcase. Beverly had to call a friend, Kay, to ask for transportation to Derry. Kay is a women's lib activist who has made a living selling books to empower women, so naturally she was willing to do anything she could to help Bev escape Tom. Beverly insists on going by bus at the beginning of her journey, sure Tom will go to the major airports to try and find her. From there, Beverly had Kay arrange a plane ticket. Now, Beverly is on that plane thinking about Derry and her good friends, remembering how one night she heard voices in the drain.

Beverly is getting ready for bed the night after she went to the movies with Ben and Richie. Beverly begins to hear voices in the drain. Thinking it might be someone playing in the basement of her apartment building, Beverly calls out to the voice. Suddenly, a new voice fills the room, a sinister voice, and then blood sprays out of the drain. Beverly screams, bringing her father into the room. Beverly's father is a man with a short temper who is not adverse to hitting his daughter. When it becomes apparent to Beverly that he cannot see the blood, she tells him she saw a spider to avoid a beating.

The next morning while Beverly is helping her mother clean the apartment, she discovers that her mother cannot see the blood either. However, Beverly can clearly see it and is spooked by it. Beverly leaves the apartment and finds her friends, Richie, Ben and Stan. Beverly brings them back to the apartment and is relieved when they can see the blood. Stan suggests that they clean the mess up. Afterward, Stan pays for them to wash the rags at the local Laundromat so Beverly's mother will not question the dirty rags, and Beverly does not have to see the blood on the rags.

While waiting for the rags to finish washing, Stan tells them about his encounter with the creature that Bill, Ben and Eddie have all seen. Stan was bird watching in Memorial Park when he heard a strange noise. While investigating this noise, Stan went to the door at the base of the Standpipe. The Standpipe is designed in such a way that people can walk up to a platform that hangs out over the water tank. It is rumored that several people have died from falling into the water, so the Standpipe has been closed except to guided tours for many years. However, Stan found that the door at its base was open. Stan went inside, and the door slammed behind him. In seconds, Stan could hear footsteps on the stairs. Stan knew it was the corpses of those who have died there, so he turned to leave but the door would not open. Frightened, Stan pulled out his bird watching guide book and began to recite the names of the birds inside. Suddenly, the door opened, and Stan was able to escape.



Beverly returns home, puts the rags away, and goes into the bathroom to reassure herself that the blood is finally gone. Beverly gets her father's measuring tape and begins to run it down the drain. When it is as far as Beverly believes it will go, something grabs hold of the end and begins to pull it, nearly ripping it out of Beverly's hands. Beverly struggles with the tape, finally pulling it out of the drain. Then, blood begins to spurt from the drain again, covering the sink and the walls like before. This time, Beverly cleans it up right away and incinerates the rag she used.

Part Two, June of 1958: Chapter 9, Cleaning Up Analysis

Beverly ran from her home without money with which to travel to Derry. Beverly turns to a friend who is a woman's liberation activist, a woman who has tried to get Beverly to leave Tom for a long time and failed. Kay is thrilled that Beverly has finally left Tom and pays for her to fly to Derry. Kay is a woman who has strong feelings against men like Tom and fights to help women like Beverly, giving the impression of a strong woman who has all the answers and would never find herself in the position Beverly was in. This description will come back to the reader later when Kay appears within the narration again.

Beverly is brushing her teeth when voices come out of the drain and then blood splatters all over the bathroom. Beverly screams for her father and is shocked to realize he does not see the blood that is clear to her. Beverly's father's inability to see the blood again touches on the theme of magic as the reader realizes that the things these children are seeing is something that only children can see. The idea that only kids can see these things suggests that there is something about the innocence and naivety of children that gives the creature responsible for these things power.

After cleaning up the mess with Beverly, Stan not only pays for washing the rags, touching on the theme of friendship, but he shares with Beverly, Richie and Ben his encounter with the creature. Stan was drawn into the Standpipe and then nearly attacked by corpses of drowned teenagers. Stan managed to get away by reciting the names of birds. Stan's escape causes the reader to raise eyebrows, curious how reciting these names could save him. However, if the reader considers Stan's deep belief in the protection of these birds, they might begin to have some understanding of the power of a child and an idea of how the children might be able to battle the creature later in the novel.



Derry: The Second Interlude

Derry: The Second Interlude Summary

Mike begins this diary entry by telling the reader that two more children have died. Mike is coming closer and closer to the decision to call his friends back, but wants to wait until he is absolutely sure. Mike turns the narration to the fire at the Black Spot in Derry in 1930. The Black Spot was a nightclub on the Derry military base that was only for the colored men stationed there. The colored men were not allowed to go to the NCO on base, and the mayor requested that they not be allowed in the bars in town, so they were given an old shed to turn into their own club. The soldiers cleaned the shed up, put in a kitchen, and formed a band for their small club. The band was so good, that soon people from town began coming to the Black Spot on weekends to listen.

One night, a group of people from town dressed in white sheets surrounded the Black Spot. They called the people out, but no one responded. The members of the group were holding burning torches and several of the torches were, possibly by accident, thrown onto the back of the building where the kitchen was housed. The entire building began to catch fire, and a stampede ensued. Mike's father was nearly trampled until a friend managed to get a hold of him and pull him out of harm's way. Another friend led them back toward the kitchen and helped them climb out a window. Mike's father's friend then stole a truck and ran it through the front of the building, making an opening the remaining survivors could get out of. When Mike's father finishes his story, Mike asks if he saw anything unusual that night. Mike's father tells him that he saw a huge bird with balloons tied to each of its wings.

Derry: The Second Interlude Analysis

Mike relates a story to the reader that at first seems personal and unrelated. The story is about a fire at a club on the Army Base in Derry in 1930. Mike's father was stationed at this base during the war, and it is how he learned about Derry and chose to live there. The fire was started by a racist group of men from Derry who were trying to save the virtues of the young women who chose to spend time there. Many people died that night and countless others murdered in what seemed to be a useless act. The club could have simply been shut down or its popularity ignored since no one was going there under any kind of duress. However, the town of Derry and some of its most respected citizens decided to take matters into their own hands and killed many of the town's citizens as well as the colored soldiers.

However, there was a presence there that Mike finds frightening. Mike's father saw a large bird with balloons attached to it, a theme that relates back to the clown that killed Georgie Denbrough. It seems that the same creature that is now haunting the main characters of the book also played some role in the fire at the Black Spot in 1930. This suggestion makes it seem as though the creature has been around for a long time,

perhaps killing children all this time, as well. Now in 1985, Mike seems to feel that whatever it is is back and that he and his friends are the only ones who are aware of it and can do something about it.



Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 10, The Reunion

Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 10, The Reunion Summary

Bill Denbrough is awakened by the phone. It is Mike. Mike wants Bill and the others to meet at a local restaurant for a reunion of sorts. Bill grabs a taxi and finds himself staring at the changes in Derry as he is driven to the restaurant. There is a huge mall where the Kitchener Ironworks once stood, and it seems that every other business downtown is now a bank. Derry has grown but it seems the underlying feel of the town is still basically the same.

When Bill arrives at the restaurant, Mike walks him into the dining room he has reserved for the event. Everyone is there except for Stan whom Mike explains has died. The group shares a meal and talks about their lives, with Ben explaining how he happened to lose all the excess weight he carried around as a child. After lunch, Mike tells the group about the events that caused him to call them back. There have been nine child murders. At the scene of one, there was found a picture of George Denbrough, the same picture that winked at Bill and then went missing. At the final scene, there was written on the wall, Come Home, over and over again. Mike believes the message was meant for them.

Mike also points out odd things that have happened to each of them that seem related to the events of 1958. Each of them is successful in their chosen careers, except Mike, even though several of them have chosen careers that are difficult to break into, and none of them have had children even though several of them have been tested by doctors and found to be fertile.

No one really remembers much about that summer of 1958, but the fear that permeated the summer is something they can all still feel. Mike gives them all the option of turning their backs and going home, but no one chooses to do that. Mike then suggests that they each take a walk through town alone, warning them that they might not all survive their walk. Then Mike arranges for them to all meet at the library at closing to continue discussing what they all remember and what they have to do to stop this cycle of violence.

Before they leave, the hostess brings a plate of fortune cookies. They all wait until everyone has one before they begin to open the cookies. Each cookie holds a surprise for each person. Beverly's has blood inside, Eddie's a cricket, Richie's a crawling eye. Ben's has teeth in it, and Bill's is pulsing and vibrating, finally bursting to reveal a fly. Beverly nearly screams, but Bill manages to keep everyone calm when the hostess returns to check on them. Bill knows the hostess cannot see what they see and that if they want to succeed at their mission, they cannot raise anyone's curiosity.



Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 10, The Reunion Analysis

Bill rides through Derry, and like any man returning to his hometown after a long absence, he sees the differences that would only be visible to someone with a connection to the town. Bill has some nostalgia for his hometown, but not the pleasant type that one might have for a home they were fond of. Bill himself has no idea why he is frightened of Derry, but he is frightened and wishes he had never made the promise that brought him back.

Bill meets his old friends and almost immediately they fall back into a pleasant camaraderie that is unusual with adults who were friends as children. It is as if no time has passed, and they are all the same people they were twenty-seven years before. This reunion explores the theme of friendship as these old friends fall back into the same roles they played as children, with Bill as the leader, Eddie the navigator, and Richie the class clown. They are friends, and the love they share for each other is evident to all around them, especially the reader.

Mike tells them about nine murders that have taken place in Derry in recent months, suggesting that a cycle has begun again, a cycle they swore to end if it ever began again. The promise to end the cycle suggests to the reader that something happened that summer of 1958, something related to the strange encounters each of the children had individually, except for Richie, and Bill and Richie experienced together. The reader still does not know what happened that summer, but neither do these characters as their memories seem to be coming back to them only a little at a time. However, they know enough to realize that they have a promise to fulfill, and none of them wants to turn their backs on that promise.

When dessert is brought in, each sees something different, something that seems to matter especially to that person, in their cookies. Eddie sees crickets, something he has struggled to get rid of in the basement of his house. Beverly sees blood which not only makes her think of the blood coming from her drain as a child, but also the blood Tom shed when they fought right before she left home. Each person is frightened by the things they see, but Bill will not allow them to react as they cannot appear to be unstable in front of the people of Derry. Bill says that Derry is part of it, and they cannot let the town stop them from what they have to do. The only problem is that none of them remember what it is they are supposed to do.



Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 11, Walking Tours

Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 11, Walking Tours Summary

None of them have a specific idea of where they want to go on their walking tours. They divide up outside the restaurant, each one going in a different direction. Ben goes to the library, a favorite destination of his as a child. Ben walks around and looks at the glass tunnel between the two buildings, still as fascinated with it now as he was as a child. Ben then goes inside and walks around both the child's and adult's libraries. Ben feels a sense of déjà vu when he sees the curfew notice in the children's library and hears the librarian telling the story of *The Three Billygoats Gruff*. Ben shakes the feeling and goes into the adult library where he asks for a library card to have a souvenir of his trip home. While speaking to the librarian, Pennywise the Clown suddenly appears in the stacks and begins yelling at Ben. Ben is the only one who can hear it, so he pretends he cannot. However, Pennywise tells Ben that he is going to die that night, something it is difficult for Ben to ignore. Ben rushes out of the library as quickly as he can, discovering he has accidentally checked out the same book he checked out at the beginning of that fateful summer twenty-seven years before. Just before he leaves, a balloon appears claiming responsibility for the death of a librarian Ben particularly liked.

Eddie walks through downtown and finds himself outside the Tracker Brothers' Truck Depot where the kids used to play baseball in the empty field behind. Eddie remembers a time when a boy hit a ball so hard that it slipped out of its cover and began to unwind as it flew over the fence and into the Barrens. As Eddie is standing at the fence thinking about this memory, the ball suddenly appears again. Eddie turns and begins to rush back across the field when he sees something moving under the ground. The boy who hit the original ball suddenly pops up and grabs Eddie's cuff. The boy's face changes and becomes the face of the leper, then of a girl Eddie once had a crush on. The thing disappears and then the canvas that they once used as bases flies out from under the back dock. Eddie begins to run away, and several balloons pop up in his way with the slogan, *Asthma Medicine Causes Cancer*, appearing before him.

Beverly goes to the apartment building where she once lived with her parents, wondering if her father still lives there. Beverly has not heard from her father in more than ten years, but is not surprised to see his name on the buzzer. Beverly rings the buzzer, but instead of her father, an attractive older woman comes to the door. Beverly apologizes when she realizes she has made a mistake. The woman says it is alright and apologizes for having to tell Beverly that her father is dead. The woman then invites Beverly inside for a cup of tea. Once inside, Beverly takes a look around, surprised by the changes in her old home. However, strange things begin to happen, and Beverly begins to realize that this woman is not what she seems. In fact, the woman slowly



begins to morph into the clown that haunted Beverly and her friends when they were children. Beverly runs from the building and turns one last time to see that it is not in fact a habitable building any longer, but a neglected, condemned old building. As Beverly runs, she sees a balloon floating beside her with a slogan Richie once might have said in one of his funny voices.

Richie goes downtown where he sits on a bench in Basse Park, remembering a time when he sat there in the spring of 1958. Richie's mouth had gotten out of control that afternoon as it often did and got Henry angry at him. Henry and his friends chased Richie through downtown until he lost them in the toy department of the local department store. Richie went to the park to recover from the excursion. As he sat there, the huge statue of Paul Bunyan behind him began to come to life. Richie can remember the statue trying to chop him to pieces with its huge ax. Richie thinks now, as he did then, that it was only a dream. However, it begins to happen again. The statue comes to life and chases Richie off the bench. It's over as quickly as it began, however, and Richie begins to walk away. However, a terrible pain comes into Richie's eyes, and he is forced to remove his contact lenses in favor of his old glasses.

Bill walks through his old neighborhood and runs into a child playing on the sidewalk. Bill talks to the boy for a few minutes, asking if the child has seen anything strange in Derry. The boy confides that a friend of his thinks he saw a shark in the canal. Bill warns the child to stay away from sewers and drains before moving on. Downtown, Bill asks a little girl what her favorite store is. The girl sends Bill to a thrift store. When Bill arrives, he finds Silver in the window. Bill buys his old bike and takes it to Mike's house. Mike helps Bill fix up the bike, revealing that he had bought a tire repair kit on impulse just the week before even though he had no use for it himself.

Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 11, Walking Tours Analysis

The five friends go on a walking tour alone through Derry, hoping to remember more about the summer of 1958. Each has a strange encounter that involves visions of strange people or clowns, and the balloons that have become a theme of these encounters. Richie reveals to the reader that he did in fact have a strange encounter that summer that he never told anyone about, because he believed he was dreaming. However, it happens again, convincing the reader if not Richie that it did happen. Each of these encounters warn the participants that their deaths are eminent, leaving the reader wondering what lies ahead for these friends and if they will survive.

Bill finds his old bike while on his walking tour. The bike is in poor shape, but is fixable. Bill takes it to Mike's and discovers that Mike has already bought the tire repair kit that they need to fix it. Mike cannot explain why he bought the kit just as Bill cannot explain why he would buy Silver again after all these years, considering its poor condition and the fact that he could buy any bike he wanted. Everything that is happening seems to have a reason, leading the main characters in a direction they are not yet aware of.



Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 12, Three Uninvited Guests

Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 12, Three Uninvited Guests Summary

Henry Bowers is in Juniper Hill, a psychiatric hospital for the criminally insane. Henry has been incarcerated since that summer of 1958 for the murder of his father and the murders of his two friends and several of the other children who died that summer. Henry began to hear a voice from the moon the same day Mike called his friends back to Derry. The voice tells Henry he must return to Derry and kill the members of the Losers Club. Henry does not know how to get out of the facility, until Victor Criss appears under his bed and helps him.

Kay was home alone when Tom broke in. Tom beat her horribly, asking repeatedly where Beverly was. Kay refused to tell until Tom threatened to cut her face. Kay could not allow him to disfigure her, so she told him where Beverly went. Now, Kay wants to warn Beverly before Tom can show up, so she spends the day calling all the hotels in Derry. When Kay finally finds Beverly's hotel, Beverly is not in.

Audra, Bill's wife, has decided she wants to be with Bill. Her director tries to talk her out of it, and Audra even spends a night thinking it over, but still decides she wants to be with Bill. Audra makes flight arrangements and arrives in Boston the following night, arriving just before Tom. Audra rents the last car left, leaving Tom forced to buy a car from some kid who was advertising it in the newspaper. When they arrive in Derry, Tom and Audra end up staying at adjacent hotels with their cars parked nose to nose in the parking lot.

Part Three, Grownups: Chapter 12, Three Uninvited Guests Analysis

The reader already knows that Henry Bowers is the town bully who tortured each of the members of the Losers Club. The fact that Henry is in a mental institute for killing nearly a half dozen people should not surprise the reader, but perhaps suggests that Henry's mental faculties are not good and that he might be a danger to the main characters. This is further underscored when Henry claims to be able to hear the moon talking to him, instructing him to return to Derry and kill the members of the Losers Club. The reader's tension increases when Henry finds a way to get out with the help of one of his murdered friends.

Kay has taken a terrible beating at the hands of Beverly's husband. Despite Kay's assertions that women are strong and do not have to take this sort of treatment, Kay



ironically caves in to Tom's demands and then refuses to call the police because of her fear that he might return. Kay is afraid that Tom will kill her or, worse, disfigure her. Kay does do the right thing by trying to warn Beverly, but the damage is already done as Tom is on his way to Derry.

Tom heads to Derry and is forced to buy a car in order to drive into town, where he finds himself parked nose to nose with Bill's wife even though he does not know who she is. However, the reader might find this interesting as these two characters might serve as pawns of some sort later in the novel when the creature Bill and his friends are there to stop learns of their presence.



Derry: The Third Interlude

Derry: The Third Interlude Summary

Mike writes in his diary that the cycle appears to need a huge event to begin and to end. Mike believes the fire at the Black Spot ended the cycle in 1930, and the death of the Bradley Gang in 1929 began that cycle. Mike went to the old pharmacist to ask about that event. The Bradley Gang was a notorious crime gang who traveled from town to town robbing banks and anything else that caught their attention. The Bradley Gang took a house outside of Derry to hide out. One afternoon, they came into Derry to buy a huge amount of ammunition. The owner of the store told them he could not supply all the ammunition and told them to come back a few days later.

Instead of telling the police, the owner of the store told all the men folk in town. On the appointed day, the men in town all went downtown with their guns loaded and laid in wait. When the gang showed up, the men opened fire without giving the gang a chance to defend themselves, killing them all. Later, the newspaper claimed that the FBI had been the ones to kill the gang. When Mike asked if anyone had seen anything strange that day, the old pharmacist reported that several people claimed to have seen a clown.

Derry: The Third Interlude Analysis

Mike suggests that the cycle of death that takes place in Derry every twenty-five to twenty-seven years appears to need a huge event to both begin and end it. Mike suggests that the fire at the Black Spot ended the cycle in 1930 and that the murders of the Bradley Gang began it the fall before. Mike's suggestion makes the reader wonder if Georgie's death and the flood that preceded it began the cycle in 1957. If so, the reader wonders what ended that cycle since Mike has not mentioned a catastrophic event that took place that summer.

Mike's search of Derry's history is beginning to show that the creature that the kids in Derry keep seeing has been around for a long time. Mike's research also shows that the adults of Derry participate in these cycles in some ways, by participating in the events that both precede and end the cycles. The people of Derry killed the Bradley Gang in cold blood without even attempting to arrest them, suggesting some lack of basic humanity among these good people of Derry. The reader wonders if this is something wrong with the people of Derry or if the creature who can change shape so easily also has the power to influence the behaviors of the grownups in Derry. If the reader thinks back to Bill's comment that It is Derry, then perhaps this will go a long way to explaining this possibility that It controls the adults as well as hunts the children.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 13, The Apocalyptic Rock Fight

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 13, The Apocalyptic Rock Fight Summary

The Losers Club gathers in the library after hours, each carrying with them some sort of alcoholic drink for the long night ahead. Bill is the first to arrive with Mike, and as he waits, he thinks about that summer once more. Bill remembers meeting with the other members of the Losers Club in the Barrens. Bill tells them about a conversation he had with his dad about the sewers that run through the Barrens. Bill's dad told him that there have been so many tunnels built under the city that it is almost impossible to go into them and not get lost. Bill then tells how he went to the library and did research on the strange things that have been happening that summer and came across the word glamour. A glamour is a creature that can appear to people as whatever they chose to see, including their darkest nightmares. Bill also learned that the only way to stop a glamour is a ritual called the ritual of Chud in which a person bites the glamour's tongue and the glamour bites the person's tongue. They then take turns telling jokes. The first one to laugh is then killed by the other.

Mike is on his way to the church where he attends school when Henry Bowers and his friends came across him. Henry Bowers dislikes Mike with a passion as his father blames all their bad luck on the Hanlon family. Henry begins to chase Mike into the train depot. Mike manages to stay ahead of Henry and his friends, but begins to lose his lead as he runs toward the edge of the Barrens where it touches the train depot near an old gravel pit. Mike runs for the cover of the vegetation in the Barrens and runs into the members of the Losers Club.

The Losers have decided to go play in the dump and shoot off some fireworks Stan has. They walk through the Barrens, and Bill stops when they reach the gravel pit, not for any obvious reason, but due to a feeling that something is about to happen. Bill tells everyone to gather as many rocks as they can. When Mike arrives, he does not even have time to explain things when Henry and his friends arrive. Bill tells Henry to leave, that the Barrens is their place. Henry laughs. A rock fight ensues. Despite the fact that Bill, Ben, and few others take some bad hits, the Losers Club manages to win the fight, besting Henry for only the second time.

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 13, The Apocalyptic Rock Fight Analysis

Bill is at the library awaiting the arrival of his childhood friends so they can discuss their slowly returning memories and make plans on how to fight something they still cannot



remember. Bill begins to remember some more about that summer, specifically the day Mike joined their group. That day, Bill told his fellow club members about the research he did that revealed the name of the creature they have all seen. Bill believes they are all seeing the same creature, it just appears differently to each of them as it appears as the thing each individual fears the most. Bill hypothesizes that now that they all know about it and have shared their stories, that it will begin to appear as one collective creature to them all, such as Richie's werewolf or Ben's mummy. Bill's hypothesis is important to the overall plot of the novel, because it begins to explain what might have appeared to the reader up to this point as a collection of odd but unrelated stories.

Bill also believes that he has learned how to kill this glamour. Bill believes that they can use a version of an ancient ritual, the Ritual of Chud, in which a person bites the glamour's tongue and tells jokes. The first to laugh is allowed to be killed by the other. The idea of this ritual seems absurd to the reader, but the children take it seriously and seem to believe it offers them a chance of killing this creature.

The kids decide to go to the dump to light firecrackers and run into Mike who happens to be running from Henry Bowers. A rock fight begins shortly after and for the second time that summer, the Losers win over Henry and his friends. This win is important to the Losers as it makes them feel powerful, capable of handling any situation no matter how scary. However, it also causes Henry to become enraged at this group of kids, more so than ever before, and leaves the reader with the impression that Henry will be looking for revenge very soon. This rock fight also brings Mike into the Losers Club, completing the circle of friends who have been brought together for some unknown reason.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 14, The Album

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 14, The Album Summary

Everyone has arrived now, and they share stories of their walking tours. Mike steps away from his friends and goes into his office. Alone there, Mike opens his refrigerator to get a beer and finds Stan's head, as he was as a child, sitting there. It looks like Stan, but Mike recognizes Pennywise's eyes in the familiar face. The head warns that they are all going to die. Mike calls the others, and they all see what has been waiting in the office for Mike.

Mike begins to think about his first few days as a member of the Losers Club. The club has decided they want to build a clubhouse, but instead of building a tree house as some of them suggested, Ben says they should build it in the ground. They will dig a hole five feet deep and five feet across. Then they will put a door on it that will disguise the hole from outsiders. On the door, they will glue grass pieces so no one will know it is even there.

Shortly after joining the group, everyone told Mike about their encounters with It. Mike tells them about the bird and then tells them about seeing the clown during the Fourth of July parade. Mike tells everyone that he recognized the clown from somewhere and finally realized that it is in some of the pictures in his father's album. The album is a collection of historical pictures of Derry, pictures Mike's dad, an amateur historian, has found or bought from other Derry residents. Mike tells them he will bring the album to show them some time later. About the same time, Bill has an idea how they might kill It. Bill takes Richie and Ben and goes to the library to do some research. Bill wants to learn how to make a silver bullet.

A few days later, while everyone is working on the clubhouse, Mike brings his father's photo album. As the children look through the pictures, they see the clown at various times during Derry history, reaching back as far as the turn of the century. One of these pictures begins to move like the picture in Georgie's album. This time, the clown seems to come out of the picture. The image shifts from a clown to a werewolf, a mummy, a drowned teenager. Stan becomes frightened and slams the album closed. Stan is nearly hysterical, unwilling to discuss the whole situation anymore. However, the club calms him down and helps him see that he is stronger than he thinks.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 14, The Album Analysis

Mike sees Stan's head, as he was as a child, in the refrigerator. This is a frightening thing for anyone to see, and Mike's adult mind does not handle the sight as well as he might have as a child. However, Mike manages to handle the situation maturely, ignoring the threat the head makes, knowing that it is not really Stan. In fact, the sight brings a memory back to the foreground of Mike's mind, taking him back to the first few days he spent as a member of the Losers Club. Mike, like Ben, is happy to be included in this group since he has been something of a loner most of his childhood. Mike's pleasure touches again on the theme of friendship, stressing again how important this circle of friends is to the plot of the novel.

Mike remembers back to when the Losers Club decided to build a clubhouse. Once again showing his architectural genius that will someday make him famous worldwide, Ben designs a clubhouse that is hidden underground. The group goes to work on it right away, not shying away from the hard work or shared expense of buying hinges for the door that will keep the clubhouse hidden. Again, these children seem somewhat more mature for their age. Even when the reader takes into account the fact that these children live in an age when things are different, they still appear more mature, more responsible than other children their same age. This maturity also shines through when Bill begins to try to find ways to kill the creature. Bill decides they must make a silver bullet. The bullet itself might come from a child's movie and might seem silly, but the idea to build it himself is very mature and shows Bill's determination to kill this thing that killed his brother.

Mike's album reveals to the kids that the clown has been a part of Derry history for many years, dating back nearly to Derry's beginning. The kids do not even have a chance to wrap their minds around this amazing idea before they come across a picture that begins to move just like the one in George's book did. This time, the clown is featured prominently and seems to attempt to come out of the picture. The clown changes forms, becoming the forms that each of the children have previously seen, confirming that it is the same creature that is haunting each of these children. Stan's reaction to the picture however is the most important aspect of this scene. Stan is afraid, as any other child might be faced with such a strange occurrence. Stan's reaction is stronger than the others, though, stronger than any of them has shown thus far and suggests that Stan might not be able to handle whatever these children are preparing to face and might also explain his suicide twenty-seven years later.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 15, The Smoke-Hole

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 15, The Smoke-Hole Summary

Richie tells everyone what he believes caused his eyes to hurt earlier in the day. Richie begins telling them the story of the smoke-hole, another memory that has come back to him. They were in the completed clubhouse talking about the silver bullets. They have decided that instead of making a bullet, they could make slugs that Beverly, because she is the best shot, can shoot from Bill's slingshot. Then, Ben begins to tell them about a ceremony he read about. The Indians would burn green wood in order to bring on visions. Ben suggests that they try this in the clubhouse.

Bill listens to the story Ben tells and thinks that perhaps it is something they are meant to do, something ordained by some power bigger than their free will. Bill agrees. They gather the wood and prepare the clubhouse. Bill wants Beverly to stay outside in case someone is overcome by the smoke, but Beverly feels that he is treating her differently as she is a girl and refuses. Instead, they draw matches, the one who picks the match with a burnt head has to stay outside. However, after everyone has picked a match, the burnt one is nowhere to be found. Bill again believes a higher power is at work, and they are all meant to participate.

Everyone settles down into the clubhouse, and the fire is lit. The smoke is overpowering from the beginning, but they all remain inside for a period of time. Stan is the first to leave, then Ben, Eddie, Bill and Beverly. Richie and Mike are the last two left inside. Richie begins to have the sensation that the clubhouse has grown extremely large, like a ballroom. Richie reaches for Mike's hand, afraid he will lose him if he does not find him now. Suddenly, Richie finds himself in a place not unlike the Barrens but the river is larger and the vegetation more dense. Richie realizes that it is the Barrens, only a long time ago, almost like the beginning of time.

Richie and Mike walk through the Barrens for a few minutes, aware of the wildlife around them. All of a sudden, darkness comes out of the sky, like a spaceship but not exactly. Richie knows instinctively that it is It. The darkness crashes, and Richie is overwhelmed with a sense of evil. Richie begins to scream, and he can hear Mike screaming. Then, Richie becomes aware that he has been pulled out of the clubhouse. Richie and Mike tell the others what they saw. The others become even more frightened, worried now that there is no way to stop such a creature.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 15, The Smoke-Hole Analysis

Richie remembers the smoke-hole and Ben's idea to copy an Indian tradition to induce visions. Bill feels that they are destined to participate in this activity, believing that something bigger than them is controlling their fate. This idea angers Bill who would rather have some freedom of choice, but he goes along with the situation just the same. Bill tries to keep Beverly out of the clubhouse, but again that higher power interferes and forces everyone to participate. Bill's actions show his feelings for Beverly and also reveal Beverly's strength of character, something that will come in handy later in the novel when this group of children is forced to confront the most frightening situation of their lives.

Richie and Mike end up being the final two left in the smoke-filled clubhouse. Richie sees It come to earth, landing not too far from where the clubhouse is located in the Barrens. It seems to the children that It has arrived almost at the beginning of time, suggesting that It has been in Derry since before it was Derry. The children are frightened by this prospect, because it seems that something that has been around so long will be impossible to stop. The reader sees this doubt and begins to wonder the same thing.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 16, Eddie's Big Break

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 16, Eddie's Big Break Summary

Eddie's arm has begun to ache, and the feeling brings back a memory that he cannot believe he forgot. The day began when Mr. Keene, the pharmacist, called Eddie back to his office. Eddie is supposed to be picking up his and his mother's medications, something he does every Saturday. However, Mr. Keene has never called him back to his office so Eddie wonders if maybe he is in trouble. Mr. Keene is nice enough, however, offering Eddie an ice cream soda. Mr. Keene begins to tell Eddie how sometimes a person who believes he is sick is really only imagining his illnesses. Mr. Keene tells Eddie that he does not really have asthma, that it is just an infliction his mother has forced on him. Mr. Keene says that Eddie's asthma medicine is only water and camphor.

Eddie does not want to believe Mr. Keene, but is smart enough to realize Mr. Keene has made some solid points. Eddie is still thinking about this when he comes out of the grocery store where he stopped to spend his allowance. Henry and his friends are outside. Henry immediately becomes aggressive toward Eddie, promising to make him pay for the rock fight. The owner of the store comes out and tells the boys to leave Eddie alone, but Henry pushes the adult and tells him to leave. However, the distraction allows Eddie to get away. Eddie runs through town, nearly outrunning the boys. Unfortunately, Eddie trips over the tricycle of a little boy playing on the sidewalk. Henry grabs him and pulls his arm behind his back, breaking it.

The store owner called the police and, moments later, the boys can hear the sirens. Henry and his friends run away, leaving Eddie in pain on the lawn. Eddie is laughing, however, because the pain is the first real pain he has ever felt and yet he is still alive. Eddie is taken to the hospital where his mother causes trouble insisting that her son is too delicate for the treatment the nurse wants to give. Eddie drifts in and out of consciousness, unable to fight his mother. However, when Eddie wakes later, he tells his mother that he knows she sent his friends away. He also knows the truth about his asthma medicine. Eddie tells his mother he will pretend he does not know the truth about the asthma if his mother will allow him to continue seeing his friends. Eddie's mother agrees. When Bill and the others come later, they tell Eddie that they have decided to make the silver slugs at Bill's later in the week. Eddie agrees to be there.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 16, Eddie's Big Break Analysis

Eddie remembers the day his arm was broken. It began with the pharmacist telling him that his asthma medicine is just water. Eddie is shocked by this, because his mother has told him almost all his life that he is a sickly child. The reader gets to see Eddie's mother later in the hospital, a hysterical woman who believes her son is too fragile to even survive the repair of his arm without her making sure everything is done properly. Eddie sees this in his mother for the first time, and for the only time in his life, Eddie stands up to her. Eddie tells his mother that he will continue to pretend he does not know about his asthma medicine if she will stay out of his relationship with Bill and the others. Eddie's mother, who has sent Bill and the others away, agrees with her son, anxious to keep her control over her only son. Eddie's mother lost her husband when Eddie was only a small child, and it is important to her to remain in control of his life.

Henry is angry at all the members of the Losers Club. When Henry sees Eddie alone, he decides to take out his anger on him. Henry's choice to do this shows his lack of morality as Eddie is the smallest and weakest of the losers. This also shows Henry's growing anger when it comes to the Losers Club. The reader is beginning to be concerned for the rest of the Losers, wondering if maybe the larger danger might be Henry rather than It. However, the Losers are not terribly concerned about Henry. Instead, the Losers are concentrating on making silver slugs with which they hope to kill It.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 17, Another One of the Missing: The Death of Patrick Hockstetter

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 17, Another One of the Missing: The Death of Patrick Hockstetter Summary

Beverly begins to tell her story to those gathered in the library. Beverly remembers an afternoon when she returns to the clubhouse after lunch before the others. Beverly is bored so she decides to go to the dump and practice shooting the slingshot. However, when Beverly arrives, she finds Henry, Belch Huggins, Victor Criss, and Patrick Hockstetter already there. They do not see her so she hides in one of the junk cars lined up there. Henry and his friends have their pants pulled down and are lighting their farts on fire. Beverly finds this very funny as she watches them carefully through the windshield.

Victor and Belch tell Henry they have to leave not long after Beverly arrives. Henry and Patrick stay, but soon grow tired of their game. Patrick suggests another game and then things become silent. Beverly peeks out the windshield again and sees Patrick touching himself and Henry in a sexual fashion. Henry seems to be enjoying it until Patrick suggests he use his mouth on Henry. Henry punches Patrick and leaves him sitting there alone. Beverly, who by this time needs to use the restroom, prays that Patrick will soon leave. When Patrick seems content to remain where he is, Beverly slips out of the car and rushes away.

Beverly stops to void her bladder as soon as she is in the cover of the Barrens. Patrick has followed, however, and Beverly is once more forced to stand still and hope he does not see her. Patrick seems only interested in a refrigerator that sits on the edge of the dump a few feet away from Beverly. Unbeknownst to Beverly or any of the other Losers, Patrick is a sociopath. Patrick killed his infant brother when he was in kindergarten, because the child's constant need for attention has caused his routine to be upset. Patrick felt a strange kind of excitement when he smothered the baby and began to search for other sources to receive that thrill. A few months previous, Patrick began taking neighborhood pets and locking them in the refrigerator, checking them regularly to see how long it takes for them to die. At that moment, Patrick is checking on his latest victim, a pigeon.

When Patrick opens the door, a clear, winged creature flies out. The creature hooks onto Patrick and begins to fill with blood. Patrick realizes it is a leech, the only thing in the world that Patrick is afraid of. More of these creatures begin to fly out of the refrigerator. Patrick screams and tries to run away, tearing each one off of him as he



goes. Patrick eventually falls and is dragged into the Barrens by some wax-like creature. Beverly watches this, unsure of what is happening until one of the leeches lands on her. Beverly pulls the leech off of her. When another flies toward her, Beverly pulls out the slingshot and fires at it. The ball nearly misses until it miraculously changes course mid-air. Beverly turns and follows the path that the killer has created dragging Patrick away. Beverly discovers that Patrick has been dragged into the drainage tunnels through one of the pumping stations that Ben calls Morlock holes. Later when Beverly tells the others, they go to the refrigerator where a message has been left for them in Patrick's blood. It warns them to stop before It kills them all.

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 17, Another One of the Missing: The Death of Patrick Hockstetter Analysis

Beverly remembers the day she saw Patrick Hockstetter die. Beverly goes to the dump to practice with the slingshot Bill wants her to use against It. Beverly sees Henry and his friends there and hides away, afraid after what happened to Eddie. While Beverly waits, she sees Henry and friends with their pants down, and this causes Beverly to learn a few things about sex she had not known before. Beverly thinks about Bill as she watches the boys play. Beverly is beginning to blossom in her own sexuality, and her infatuation with Bill plays a large part in this. All of Beverly's thoughts not only show her budding sexuality, but also opens the door to other sexual overtures later in the novel.

Patrick Hockstetter is among the boys playing with Henry. Patrick is a troubled boy who once killed his infant brother, because he interrupted his daily schedule. Patrick also likes to kill innocent animals for the thrill of it. It is this thrill that leads Patrick to the refrigerator that takes his life. Patrick opens the refrigerator and finds himself face-to-face with strange creatures that turn out to be leeches. Patrick is frightened, because these are the only thing in the world that could possibly scare him. Patrick runs, trips, and is dragged into the Barrens by It. Beverly witnesses all of this and follows the tracks to find that Patrick has been taken into the tunnels under the city that are part of the drainage system. Beverly's discovery is important later in the novel when the Losers Club try to find where It lives.

Also important in this chapter is the moment when Beverly fires the slingshot at one of the leeches, and it appears to miss and then shifts direction in the middle of its trajectory. This touches on the theme of magic as it seems something more powerful than Beverly has used its power to protect Beverly. The second important moment is the message that Pennywise has left for the Losers Club. The message warns them to back off or be killed. This frightens the children as they realize that It knows they want to kill it.



Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 18, The Bullseye

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 18, The Bullseye Summary

Ben tells the story of how he came to be nearly disemboweled. It began with the night the children made the silver slugs. Bill's parents have gone out for the night, so the children gather at Bill's house, supposedly to play a board game. They use Mr. Denbrough's workbench to melt and mold the slugs. Ben does most of the work as he seems to be the most confident using his hands and the tools. The other children stand around and watch, fascinated by the whole process. They clean up before Bill's parents get home and sit down to a rousing game of Monopoly.

A few days later, the Losers Club arrives at 29 Neibolt Street. Bill believes they can find It here and wants to confront it as a group rather than one on one like before. Everyone is afraid, but they gather strength from each other. The children enter the house through the same window Richie and Bill used before. They go upstairs, entering into the kitchen first. Beverly is frightened by a rat in the cupboard, nearly wasting one of their two silver slugs. Bill calms her down and leads the group out of the kitchen and into the living room. The house seems to change as they make their way through, first becoming larger and giving Ben the impression of being separated from his friends. In the hallway, the ceiling seems to fly into the sky, stretching so far that everything becomes distorted. Stan panics, telling everyone that he has nothing to protect himself with. Bill reminds him of the power of his birds whose names saved him in his first encounter with It. Bill touches the ceiling, crushing the illusion and bringing the house back into proper dimensions.

The Losers begin to hear a noise coming from one of the bedrooms. They are afraid, but when they open the door and reveal a can sitting in the middle of the room, Mike explains that it is nothing but a mooseblower, a device used on farms to scare away the crows. The Losers then turn their attention to the bathroom. The room is empty at first, but the toilet appears to have exploded recently. Just as the kids are beginning to think they will not see It today, a noise comes from the toilet drain. Suddenly, it appears in the shape of a werewolf. The werewolf goes after Bill. Beverly fires at it but misses. However, this causes It to turn Its attention to her. Ben jumps in the way, drawing its attention to him. The werewolf attacks Ben, cutting open his belly and throwing him in the bathtub. After it finishes with Ben, It turns its attention back to Bev. Beverly takes her time aiming, wanting to be sure to make a hit this time. Beverly does hit It, taking a chunk out of Its nose. It becomes enraged, crying out in pain.

Even though Beverly used the last silver slug with that final shot, the boys start yelling at her to kill it. Beverly prepares the slingshot as though she has another slug and is ready to fire. It stares at them for a long moment and then retreats back down the toilet drain.



The kids feel elated, as though they have won a great battle. They go back to the clubhouse to soak in what has happened, feeling powerful for the first time in their short lives. The Losers finally believe they might be able to kill It.

Part Four, July of 1958: Chapter 18, The Bullseye Analysis

Bill and his group of friends meet at his house while his parents are out and make two silver slugs with which they hope to kill It. The Losers believe, like most kids, that silver bullets will kill just about any monster as it works in the movies. The Losers put this theory to the test right away by going to the house at 29 Neibolt Street. This house is the same one where Eddie saw the leper and where Richie and Bill battled the werewolf. As they enter the house, they find an abandoned home that is rat infested. However, as they move through the rooms, the house begins to change. First it becomes larger, separating the children as It knows that they are stronger when they are together. Second, it changes the proportions of the house, making the hallway elongated. Again, this is used to frighten and cause the Losers to lose their determination to fight.

Stan's intense fear in this situation is of importance as the reader already knows that fright associated with this summer will cause Stan to kill himself twenty-seven years later. Stan appears to be the weak link in this group of friends. This makes the reader wonder if he caused the Losers to fail in their attempt to kill It and thus brought them back all these years later. However, the reader also already knows it was Stan who made all the Losers promise to come back, so perhaps this idea is false. Whatever the case, Stan appears to be more frightened than the others, and his behavior suggests a weakness that could have potential risk for the others.

When It finally shows itself, it comes in the shape of the werewolf Richie saw the last time he came to this house. It is faced with seven children. It picks Bill to attack first, perhaps aware that Bill is the leader of this group. Beverly jumps to Bill's defense, firing one of the silver slugs, and misses. This causes It to focus on her. Ben jumps in to defend Beverly, and It nearly disembowels him. This love triangle has now endangered the lives of two of the children who need not have jumped into the fray. Now, the reader must wonder what other situations this love triangle will cause or perhaps complicate.

The last slug does find its mark and injures It. It becomes enraged, but when the Losers pretend they still have more slugs and Beverly could kill It, It believes them and runs away. This power invigorates the Losers and makes them feel as though they could possibly win this fight. For the first time, they are empowered and excited. The reader sees this and begins to wonder why It believed them. It is a powerful entity that has been feeding on children and tragedy in Derry since the beginning of time. What is so different about these children that suddenly they have power over It?



Derry: The Fourth Interlude

Derry: The Fourth Interlude Summary

In this diary excerpt, Mike talks about the ax murders at a bar called the Silver Dollar. It happened in 1905 when lumber was still the biggest trade in Derry. During that year, a group of lumberjacks who were attempting to build up a strike against the industry for unsafe work conditions were kidnapped and murdered. One of their friends, a man named Claud Heroux was outraged, grief stricken, and angry that law officials knew who had done it but seemed unwilling to make anyone pay. Heroux decided he would take the law into his own hands. Heroux walked into the bar that night where the men responsible for his friends' deaths were playing cards. Heroux sat at the bar for a time drinking beer and conversing with a few of the local men. Then, Heroux simply got up and began using his ax on the men he felt were responsible for the deaths of his friends. No one in the bar seemed to notice what was going on, even when one of the men's heads rolled into the main room and stopped against another man's foot.

It was not until after everything was over that the town's people became enraged. They tracked down Heroux and killed him that very night by hanging him in the center of town. Mike believes this incident is further proof that It controls Derry and that it makes things like this happen in order to facilitate the beginning or end of Its killing cycles. Mike also thinks that this is proof that the adults in town do not really have a clear knowledge of what is going on around them, which is why many of the missing children are either forgotten or put down as runaways. Mike thinks that adults lose something, some sort of faith, from their childhoods that allow them to fight It. This realization makes Mike wonder if, as adults, the Losers will still be effective against It.

Derry: The Fourth Interlude Analysis

Mike writes about a brutal ax murder spree that was allowed to take place in Derry in 1905. Mike believes this murder spree is the result of It's control over the people in Derry. While the assault was taking place, the other men in the bar seem oblivious to it, as though they cannot see what is happening right in front of their eyes. It is eerily like the sheriff's reaction every time Mike asks him about the missing children of Derry. The sheriff seems unaware that so many children going missing is an unusual event. The sheriff feels all these children are simply runaways who are escaping a bad home life.

Mike is still trying to get up the courage to call his friends back in this diary entry. The reader knows he has already called them, but the doubts he expresses in this entry are still real and frightening. Based on the events of the last chapter, the reader knows that the Losers have gained some sort of advantage over It. However, Mike's concern that that advantage might have something to do with the blind faith all children possess and that as adults they will no longer have it, is a real concern. The reader wonders if maybe

Mike is not right, that as adults these people will be powerless against something as strong as It.



Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 19, The Watches of the Night

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 19, The Watches of the Night Summary

The party in the library breaks up with Mike insisting that everyone try to get a good night's sleep. Bill and Beverly leave together and rekindle some of the old infatuation they shared as children. As they walk, Beverly remembers a strange encounter with her father where he insisted on checking her body to make sure none of the boys she plays with have taken her virginity. Beverly becomes afraid when she realizes that this is not just her father, but it is somehow working through him. Beverly runs away, dodging her father and losing him in town. However, Beverly runs into Henry Bowers within minutes of escaping her father. Beverly struggles with Henry, who shows her a knife he has just come into possession of. Henry says he is going to kill Beverly and all her friends. A woman tries to stop the fight, but Henry scares her away. Another person, a man sitting on his porch, simply stands up and walks away. Beverly manages to kick Henry and get away, escaping into the Barrens. Beverly runs to the clubhouse where she finds Ben. The two of them close the top of the clubhouse and wait Henry out.

Back in the present, Bill takes Beverly back to his room at the Derry Townhouse, and they spend the evening making love. At the same time, Mike is now alone in the library where he intends to sit down and write some more in his diary after cleaning up their mess. However, before Mike can begin he hears a noise in the library. Unsure if it is a real person or it playing games again, Mike gets up and begins to search the library. Soon Mike sees someone standing just inside the glass tunnel that connects the adult library to the children's library. The visitor turns out to be Henry Bowers. Henry is older now, but somehow he still looks like the child he once was. Mike tries to talk to him, but Henry is intent on killing Mike. They struggle. Henry stabs Mike in the thigh, cutting his femoral artery. Mike fights back and stabs Henry in the stomach with a letter opener. Henry, wounded but satisfied that Mike will die, leaves the library. Mike calls the hospital after putting a tourniquet on his leg. Pennywise comes across the wire, blocking out the voice on the other end of the phone. Mike manages to ask for help anyway.

In 1958, Henry got a switchblade knife in the mail from someone named Pennywise. Henry takes the knife into the house where his father is sleeping and presses it against his neck. Henry hears the moon talking to him, telling him what he should do with the knife. Henry kills his father and then goes looking for the Losers. In 1985, Henry found the same knife in a drain where the moon told him to look. Now, bleeding profusely from his stomach wound, Henry is laying on the grass in front of the old seminary, wondering what to do next. A car suddenly shows up, a car just like the one his dad always said he would buy, with Belch Huggins driving. Henry is not upset by this, despite the fact that Belch has been dead since that summer in 1958. Belch takes Henry to the Derry



Townhouse. Henry finds a memo in the glove box that has the room numbers of all the Losers. Henry decides to start at the top, Eddie's room.

In 1958, Beverly and Ben decide Henry and his friends are far enough away that they can come out of the clubhouse and warn the others. Beverly and Ben find Richie and Stan outside the grocery store and quickly run into Bill and Mike on their way back from Bill's house. Beverly tells them what has happened. They all notice the unusual quiet of downtown, and Bill begins to remember his mother's aloofness at lunch, more so than usual. Bill knows that now is the time. Bill instructs the Losers into the Barrens and tells Ben to lead the way to the pumping station near where he hid that first day of summer.

Henry knocks on Eddie's door and claims to have a message from his wife. Eddie opens the door and finds himself face-to-face with a nightmare. Henry attacks him, and a fight ensues. Eddie breaks a bottle of Perrier on his nightstand but, before he can use it, Henry throws him against the dresser, causing him to break his arm again. When Henry comes toward Eddie again, Eddie stabs him with the Perrier bottle. Eddie then calls Bill's room.

Back in the Barrens that August day, Ben leads them the best that he can, but directions are not really his thing. When they pass the clubhouse, Henry and his friends pop out of the trees. A rock fight ensues. Somehow, the Losers manage to make it to the pumping station ahead of Henry of their friends and begin to climb down one at a time, beginning with Bill and Eddie. Henry tries to follow but, because of the tightness of the area, he cannot come down into the tunnel without facing the Losers alone. Henry is forced to stay outside until the Losers begin to move out of the original tunnel and into the maze that runs under Derry.

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 19, The Watches of the Night Analysis

The party at the library ends, and everyone returns to their hotel rooms for some well deserved sleep. Bill and Beverly end up going together and share a bed for a few hours. Beverly has had a crush on Bill since they were children and judging from the fact that Audra and Beverly look a lot alike, Bill has likewise. They share their first night of passion, at least what the reader believes is their first night of passion, and find a sexual compatibility that is amazing. The reader knows that Ben also has a crush on Beverly and wonders what will happen with that relationship as well as what will happen to Bill's marriage. However, those questions are overshadowed by other events within the night.

Mike is attacked by Henry Bowers and nearly killed. Mike calls for help, but Pennywise interrupts the phone connection leaving the reader wondering if he got help in time. Eddie is also attacked, but other than breaking his arm again, he comes out unscathed. Henry is dead. This death happens in the real world where there are laws and police officers. The reader wonders how Henry's death will reflect on Eddie and his friends and if it will end their pursuit of it.



Beverly recalls the events on a day in August when her father found out she was spending time with boys and decided he wanted to learn if she was still a virgin. The attack by her father is nothing unusual, but the intensity of her father's reaction is different. Beverly realizes that her father is not acting on his own, but It is working through him somehow. Beverly escapes the house and takes her father on a chase through town before finally losing him. Her victory is short lived, however, when Beverly runs into Henry Bowers. Henry is fresh from killing his father and believes that the moon has ordered him to kill all the Losers. Beverly fights him, and receives help from an old woman on the street, but this help is short lived when Henry intimidates the woman into running away. Not only this, but Beverly sees a man across the street simply go inside his house as though he has not seen anything. This behavior seems to be prevalent all through town as Bill realizes later that all the adults in Derry have apparently taken to their houses for the day and are not aware of the children at all. Even his own mother seemed to not notice his presence at home for lunch.

The day has come to face down It, Bill decides. Henry's reached a fever pitch in his insanity and his desire to kill the Losers. The town seems to have reached a point where they do not even notice the children, bringing to the readers mind the behavior of Derry's citizens when Claud Heroux axed several people to death in a crowded bar. Perhaps the Losers are meant to die today. However, Bill is determined that they will go down fighting. Bill has Ben lead them to a pumping station where they enter the tunnels where they believe It lives.



Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 20, The Circle Closes

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 20, The Circle Closes Summary

Tom Rogan has a nightmare in which he is Henry's body that first time in the tunnels. Tom wakes to find balloons in the bathroom that urge him to leave his room. Audra is also having a nightmare about the same tunnels. Audra wakes, and strange things begin to happen in her hotel room. The bathroom light and television come on. The TV shows a clown holding her director's head in his hand. Audra dresses in a hurry, determined to go to Bill's hotel and make him take her home. However, when Audra reaches her car, Tom Rogan kidnaps her.

In Eddie's room, the survivors of the Losers Club discuss what to do next. Beverly wants to call the police, but Bill says they will not believe that Eddie killed Henry in self-defense. The town is It, and It is the town. The sheriff will do all he can to stop them. Instead, they decide to call Mike and arrange to go into the Barrens tonight. When they call the library, the phone is answered by the sheriff. The Losers learn that Mike has been stabbed. Richie calls the hospital and learns that Mike might not make it through the night. Bill decides they must go into the tunnels now. They drive to the bridge where Bill used to park Silver. Ben leads them to the same pumping station where they entered the tunnels that summer. Next to the already open pumping station, Bill finds Audra's purse and nearly loses his focus. The others rally around him, however, and help him focus on what is most important now.

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 20, The Circle Closes Analysis

Tom Rogan has taken on the part of Henry Bowers while Audra is frightened out of her hotel room. Tom kidnaps Audra, suggesting that It wants Audra in order to take some of Bill's power away. The trick seems to work when Bill finds Audra's purse next to the pumping station. However, the others manage to get Bill under control and to help him concentrate on the job ahead.

Bill thinks that the Losers have no choice now that Henry is dead than to return to the tunnels. They attempted to defeat It once before, and now they must finish the job. They cannot turn to the town for help, because It seems to have power over the entire town. The police will stop the Losers from returning to the tunnels and ending this nightmare. They decide to go immediately. The reader nervously anticipates what will happen when these people, now adults without the same beliefs as children, face a child's nightmare.



Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 21, Under the City

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 21, Under the City Summary

In 1958, they began crawling through the tunnels with Eddie navigating. Eddie has never gotten lost before, and they have faith that he will lead them where they want to go. The tunnels are full of sewage and dark, but they manage to make their way without using too many of the precious few matches they have between them. When they enter one particularly large chamber, they see the body of Patrick Hockstetter, abandoned on the concrete floor. They make this same trip in 1985, Eddie once again navigating, and see the same abandoned body, now nothing more than a pile of rotting clothes and bones.

The deeper they went in 1958, the more unused the tunnels appear. They see another body that seems to be that of a water department employee who got lost, causing Bill to remember his father's warning about how easy it was to get lost in these tunnels. In a particularly tight tunnel, they suddenly hear movement ahead of them. It turns out to be a giant eye from a movie Richie once saw. Eddie sprays his asthma medicine at the eye and stops it before it can hurt Bill, who has moved into its path to keep it away from the others. They continue on and are attacked by a bird. Stan begins to recite the names of birds he believes exist even though he has never seen them. Somehow this recitation makes the bird retreat. This whole time, the Losers can hear Henry coming up behind them. Bill finally calls to him and warns him to get out, but Henry is too insane to take the warning seriously. Eventually, the Losers come upon a small, childlike door with a strange symbol on it. Each child sees the symbol as something different, just like they each saw It as some different creature before coming together.

In 1985, they retrace the steps they took in 1958. When they reach the place where they saw the huge eye, someone approaches. Bill thinks it might be Audra, but it is George. George accuses Bill of being responsible for his death. Bill believes this in his heart and begins to apologize. Beverly steps forward and tells Bill to fight it, that he cannot allow It to play on his emotions. Eddie yells for Bill to kill It. From some hidden reserve of strength, Bill screams a tongue twister at George that his mother had tried to teach him that summer and that he spoke the last time he was face-to-face with It, stopping it for a time. This causes George to disappear.

The Losers continue until Bill senses that something is not right with Mike. It has sent a nurse to kill Mike. The Losers move into a circle and concentrate their strength on Mike, giving him the power to fight off the nurse. When Mike is safe, the Losers continue on. They come to the small door they remember from their first time here. They enter the door and find themselves in Its nest. Bill walks up to It, locks eyes with It, and begins the



Ritual of Chud. Outside the tunnels, a freak rain storm has begun, causing intense flooding throughout the town.

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 21, Under the City Analysis

In 1958, the Losers make their way through the tunnels, followed by Henry and his friends. They encounter It twice, first in the form of a horror movie eye and the second time in the form of a bird. Eddie manages to stop the eye by spraying his asthma medicine on it. Stan stops the bird by reciting names of birds, not unlike what he did at the Standpipe. The children then come together at the door leading into Its inner chambers. They have made it this far and are confident they will survive the next step, making the reader wonder why they had to return twenty-seven years later if they were so strong and ready the first time. The second time they navigate the tunnels, they have a harder time fighting the obstacles It sends. It sends George to Bill to play on his guilt over his brother's death. Bill manages to see through this trick, with help from his friends, and recites a tongue twister that makes George go away. Then they must help Mike whose life is suddenly in danger in a hospital in Derry.

The Losers reach the door in 1985 and find that it enters upon the nest of It. Bill immediately steps forward and locks eyes with the creature, which looks like a spider to them, and begins the Ritual of Chud. It is time to attempt to kill It once again. How Bill will do this remains to be seen in the later chapters. In the meantime, the town of Derry is being besieged with a freak rain storm. The reader sees this and wonders if perhaps it has something to do with Its fear of dying and how it will affect the city above.



Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 22, The Ritual of Chud

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 22, The Ritual of Chud Summary

In 1958, Bill locks eyes with It and begins to battle with it telepathically. It sends him through some sort of darkness that Bill believes is the deadlights where its conscious really lives. On the way there, Bill sees a large turtle. It tells Bill that the turtle created the universe by vomiting it up. It has believed that the turtle was dead, but it appears to Bill as he goes by. The turtle tells Bill that it cannot help him, that there is another, but it too cannot help, but that Bill should be sure that he kills It now while he and his friends are still strong. Bill tries to fight It, tries to keep it from sending him into the deadlights. Bill begins to fight against It, thinking again and again that tongue twister that his mother had taught him. Suddenly, Bill screams the phrase in such a strong voice that It begins to let him go, bringing him back. Bill has hurt It. When Bill returns to the chamber, It has begun to retreat deeper into Its nest. Everyone believes It is dying, but Bill thinks they should follow it to make sure. However, Its web begins to fall and it is made of some sort of acid that burns through their clothes and skin. They retreat, leaving the nest with the assumption that It is dead.

Somehow, they become lost as they try to make their way out. Eddie can no longer tell which direction they should travel. Everyone is frightened, and their individual feelings are pulling them away from each other. Beverly thinks she knows how to bring them back together. Beverly undresses and invites each boy to make love to her. Eddie is the first, but Ben is the one who brings her the most pleasure. Afterward, they make their way out of the tunnels without any more trouble.

In 1985 Bill does the same as before, immediately locking eyes with It and beginning the ritual again. Bill learns that the Turtle is dead. When Richie sees that Bill is struggling, he joins in. Richie laughs while hooked to It, his laughter shaking Its strength and nearly sending them back. However, It is stronger this time. Eddie sees that Richie and Bill are struggling. Eddie runs forward and sprays his asthma medicine in Its eye. It tries to attack even as Its eye is suffering from the shot of medicine. Eddie's arm gets trapped inside Its mouth. Eddie sprays the medicine again just seconds before It bites off his arm. Eddie's effort is successful in bringing Richie and Bill back to reality, while outside the storm is causing havoc in Derry.



Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 22, The Ritual of Chud Analysis

Bill begins the Ritual of Chud with It using not his physical tongue, but his mental one. Bill and It begin to struggle as It tries to send Bill into the deadlights where his physical body will be separated from his mental one, and he will go insane. Bill fights it. On his trip through this mental tunnel, Bill sees a turtle which It says created the universe. The turtle tells Bill he must kill It now while he is still strong. The turtle also speaks of another that cannot help them now. Bill fights with all his strength, using a phrase his mother taught him to help with his stutter to force It to return him to sanity. When Bill returns, he sees that It is injured. Everyone else believes It is dead, so they leave.

On the way out of the tunnels, they lose sight of each other and get lost. Beverly brings them all back together by making love with each of them. This act helps them remember their love for each other and reinforces the magic, a theme of the novel, that brought them together in the first place. They get out of the tunnels without any further injury, without seeing Henry Bowers, though they do see the bodies of Henry's friends, Victor Criss and Belch Huggins.

In 1985, Bill attempts to do the same thing, but quickly discovers that Mike's fears that as adults they will not be strong enough have come true. Richie joins in, and seems to help at first, but soon begins to lose the battle. Eddie then joins in as well, shooting his asthma medicine at It. This works, bringing back Richie and Bill, but now Eddie is mortally wounded. Eddie has given his life to save his friends, the ultimate example of the theme of friendship.



Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 23, Out

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 23, Out Summary

Bill sees that It is suffering but still alive. Bill insists that this time they go after It. As Bill follows It, he sees Audra who is hanging from Its web. Bill falters, but Ben and Richie convince him to continue. The three men follow It while Beverly remains with Eddie. Along the path It has taken, Ben sees that it has laid eggs. This is the reason they made their pledge to return as Stan recognized in 1958 that It was pregnant. Ben stays behind to kill each of the eggs while Richie and Bill follow It. Bill and Richie attack It, beating it with their fists. Bill manages to make his way inside Its body, finds Its heart, and kills It. When it is all over, Bill finds Richie lying on the floor. Bill believes he is dead, but carries Richie out of the chamber anyway.

Richie regains consciousness from a blow he took to the head. Bill gathers up Audra and insists on taking her with him. Richie and Ben carry Eddie out of the nest and into the outer chamber, leaving him there. Unknown to them, the flooding on the streets above them has caused great sections of downtown Derry to collapse. Whole sections of the street has also collapsed. The Standpipe in Memorial Park collapses, sending even more water rushing toward the canal. Whole buildings have collapsed into the tunnels. Bill leads his friends through the tunnels, unaware of these things, but aware that water is pouring into the tunnels from somewhere. Bill is afraid of getting lost, but soon they begin to see light. Bill has led them to an area where the street has collapsed. Bill, Beverly, Ben and Richie climb out through the street, pulling Audra with them. Bill sends Audra to the hospital, and the rest of them return to the hotel for some much deserved rest.

In 1958, the Losers came out of the tunnels through one of the pumping stations in the Barrens. They gathered in a circle. Stan cuts each of their hands with a broken coke bottle. They hold hands and swear that if It ever comes back, if they did not kill It, they will come back. They continue to hold hands for a long time, not saying anything to each other. Then one by one, they begin to leave. They will never again be all together.

Part Five, The Ritual of Chud: Chapter 23, Out Analysis

Bill and Richie kill It while Ben kills Its children. They have returned to finish this and do as they promised. This time, Bill destroys Its heart with his bare hands. They all leave together, taking Eddie who has by then passed away. They leave Eddie in the chamber outside Its nest and make their way out of the tunnels, taking turns carrying Audra. The



city above them has begun to fall apart in the storm, the streets collapsing, buildings falling into sink holes, and the Standpipe collapsing. It is to this point where Bill leads them, allowing them to climb out through the hole the collapsed streets has caused. It is over.

In 1958, they left the tunnels in a less dramatic way and made a promise to return should It return. Stan believes that It is pregnant and that it is important they stop It before It can spread throughout the country. They make their promise and then hold hands for a long time before separating, as if they know this is the end of something magical, a theme of the book. These children will never be all together at once again, implying to the reader that the magic that brought them together in the first place has ended.



Derry: The Fifth Interlude and Epilogue, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (II)

Derry: The Fifth Interlude and Epilogue, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (II) Summary

Mike is still in the hospital. Richie has returned to California and has already forgotten most of the events of the past week. Ben and Beverly are returning to Nebraska together. Bill is still in Derry, hoping his wife, who is catatonic will have a miraculous recovery. When the hospital releases Audra before Mike, Mike suggests that Bill take her to his house and stick around a while. Bill agrees.

Mike is concerned that he will forget this time. Mike already cannot remember some of the details of the past week. The ink with which he wrote his friends names and numbers is fading. It is truly over this time. None of them will ever remember any of it, for better or for worse. Bill comes to visit, and Mike talks to him about this. Bill agrees.

Bill decides to take Audra for a ride on Silver. Bill feels he found Silver for a reason and thinks he should give it a try before the magic is gone. Bill dresses like a child, dresses Audra the same way, and then puts her on the bike. They begin outside Mike's house and race into downtown like Bill did the day he saved Eddie's life. At the end of the ride, Audra suddenly comes out of her catatonic state with no memory of anything that happened in Derry.

Derry: The Fifth Interlude and Epilogue, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (II) Analysis

It is over, and everyone is returning to their lives. Ben and Beverly go off together, fulfilling some of the romantic hopes of the readers. Richie returns to his life and does not remember much of what happened. Even Mike is losing his memory of the events even though he was the one to recall everything before. The ink is fading in his notebook. It seems It is truly over.

Bill's wife, however, is still in a catatonic state. Bill takes her on a ride on Silver. For some strange reason, perhaps the magic that brought the Losers Club together in the first place, this works. Audra returns to sanity. Audra remembers nothing of her time in Derry, for which Bill is grateful. Now, Bill's life can go on as it was before.



Characters

Bill Denbrough

When the novel begins, Bill Denbrough is a successful novelist in England for the filming of a movie version of one of his books. Bill's wife is a successful actress who is starring in this film. From the outside, Bill seems like a quiet, soft spoken man who has everything a person could possibly desire from life. However, a single phone call changes all of that. Bill takes a call from a childhood friend and suddenly memories begin coming back to him of a childhood that was less than perfect. Bill remembers the death of his brother, a life altering event that Bill has hardly thought about in more than twenty years. Bill remembers a promise made to a group of friends, but cannot remember what the promise is about. However, the mark of this promise suddenly appears on his hands in the form of a scar from cuts inflicted to seal the promise.

Bill decides he must go home and fulfill his end of the promise. Bill cannot tell his wife why he feels this way. Bill's wife is concerned, frightened even, when Bill begins to stutter. It seems that Bill stuttered badly as a child, but lost the stutter when he was a young man. Now, Bill cannot seem to control it any longer. Bill gets on a plane for Maine and begins to remember more about his childhood. Bill remembers the death of his brother and the guilt that consumed him when his grief stricken parents began to ignore his presence in their lives. Bill also begins to remember the circle of friends he made the summer after the death of his brother, six friends who helped him do something he still cannot remember.

Bill arrives in Derry and begins to relive that summer through stories with his old friends. Bill slowly remembers building a dam in the Barrens, remembers the picture in his brother's album that winked at him and another that began to move. Bill remembers going to a house on Neibolt street and being chased down the street by a monster. Bill remembers going into the sewers and attempting to kill a monster he believed was responsible for his brother's death. It is this monster that brings Bill and his friends back to Derry. The monster is not dead, and it is time that Bill and his friends finish the job.

Michael Hanlon

Michael Hanlon is the head librarian at the Derry Library. Mike is also an amateur historian, collecting stories about his hometown in order to preserve them for future generations. However, the things Mike uncovers in his research causes him to believe that something evil exists in Derry. Mike learns about mass murders, tragic explosions, and racially motivated fires that encircle periods of large amounts of child disappearances and deaths in Derry. All of these events cause Mike to recall the summer of 1958 when he was the member of a tight group of children who attempted to kill the monster they believed was responsible for the deaths of many of their classmates.



Mike has remained in Derry his entire life, the only one of the seven original children who has. Mike believes the reason he remained is because it was his preordained job to remain in order to call back the others should he discover the monster they tried to kill all those years before is still alive. When a gay man is murdered in downtown Derry, Mike begins to wonder if the time has come. Soon a child is killed, and another, until the number totals nine. When Mike sees a picture of the final crime scene, he knows beyond a doubt that the monster is back. At the site where the last child is found, there is a message written in blood calling someone home. Mike knows the message is meant for him and his friends. Mike calls each of his friends, reminding them of their promise to return and telling them it is time. All six return, except for Stan Uris.

Mike arranges a reunion lunch at which the members of the Losers Club reunite. During the lunch, Mike tells them what has been happening in Derry over the past few months. Then Mike sends his friends out on a walking tour of Derry, hoping they will begin to remember what happened that summer of 1958. Each person does begin to remember. That night, they share their memories in the library, recalling their friendship, their united front against the town bully, and the day they went into the sewers. However, they do not remember the details of that final story. Mike knows they will soon remember as he knows they must return to those dark tunnels. However, before this can happen, Mike is attacked by the old bully, Henry Bowers, and nearly dies of a knife wound.

Ben Hanscom

Ben Hanscom is a famous architect. Ben lives in Nebraska on a large ranch, flies his own plane, and owns his own company. Ben is highly successful, and it seems the only thing missing from his life is a family. Ben's life is perfect and peaceful, until the day Mike calls. Ben begins remembering almost immediately. In fact, Ben not only begins to remember, but his body begins to recall as scars from his past begin to appear on his hands and his belly. Ben goes to a local bar where he has been a regular visitor for many years and tells the bartender that he was once a fat child, a child who was often teased and tortured by bullies. Ben tells him that his life was difficult when he was a child, but none of that was as bad as what happened to him in the summer of 1958. However, Ben cannot clearly remember what happened to him that summer.

Ben flies to Derry and reunites with his old friends. Afterward, Ben goes to the local library where he spent a great deal of time when he was young. While walking through the library and requesting a new card, he sees the clown. Ben tries to ignore the clown, but it is difficult and causes him to become quite frightened. Later, when everyone returns to the library to share stories, Ben begins to remember more about the past, including the day he saw the mummy walking on the frozen canal downtown. Ben also remembers his deep love for Beverly, his gratefulness at being accepted as a part of the Losers Club, and his first experiences with the acceptance of his peers.



Eddie Kaspbrak

Eddie Kaspbrak is a hypochondriac who is married to a woman who is eerily similar to his mother. Eddie is a successful businessman, running a limo company in New York. Eddie has made a good life for himself despite his occasional unhappiness in his marriage. When the call comes from Mike to ask him to return to Derry, Eddie almost decides not to go because of the fear it causes his wife. However, Eddie finds a strength inside himself he did not know he had. He fights his wife and leaves for his hometown. Once on the road, Eddie begins to remember the summer of 1958 and the friends he has somehow forgotten.

Eddie was a sickly child who suffered from a bad case of asthma that was mostly in his head. Eddie's mother was a woman who was afraid of being alone and believed by making her boy sick that she could hold onto him a little tighter. Eddie is too young at eleven to understand all this, but when the pharmacist tells him the truth, Eddie chooses to ignore that truth. Eddie's inhaler is like a security blanket. The inhaler makes him feel safe, comforted. In fact, the inhaler has such strong powers in Eddie's mind that he uses it against It and hurts the monster enough to save Bill's life. However, the second time Eddie tries this trick, It bites off his arm. He dies in the tunnels under Derry.

Richie Tozier

Richie Tozier is a radio DJ who is the master of a hundred voices. Richie imitates people and creates character voices in order to entertain his listeners. Richie has always been a funny guy and has always had a mouth that tended to work before he could stop to think about what he is saying. This habit got him into trouble often as a child, especially when he would say things to Henry Bower, the local bully in his hometown of Derry. Richie has forgotten about Henry, but when Mike Hanlon calls and reminds him of a promise to return to Derry, Richie begins to remember. Not only does Richie remember Henry, but he remembers the friends he made the summer of 1958, the same friends he is returning to Derry to reunite with.

When Richie returns to Derry, he begins to remember the strange events of 1958. Richie remembers being attacked in Bassegy Park by the huge Paul Bunyan statue, being attacked by a werewolf in the house on Neibolt Street, and the rock fight he and his friends won against Henry Bowers. All of these memories quickly lead Richie and his friends to remember the day they went into the tunnels under the city to find the dark creature who they believe is responsible not only for the deaths of the children in Derry, but also for the death of Bill's brother George. Richie follows his friends into the tunnels not once, but twice. The first time is that summer of 1958, the second shortly after the reunion of the Losers Club. Richie survives the first trip unscathed, but the second trip leaves him with a minor head injury. Richie believes he will remember this last trip for the rest of his life, but shortly after returning to Los Angeles, he quickly begins to forget just like before.



Stan Uris

Stan Uris is a successful accountant. Stan is married and desperately wants a child, but he and his wife have been unable to conceive. Despite this disappointed, Stan is happy in his life, content with his wife and his home. However, when Mike calls, Stan begins to remember things that frighten him. Stan goes up to the bathroom, telling his wife he is going to take a bath, and kills himself. When his wife finds the body, she sees that Stan has written on the wall one word: "It".

Stan was a neat child who disliked disorder. When Stan became friends with Bill and the rest of the Losers Club, he was reluctant to admit that he had seen anything unusual as his new friends admitted they had because it was crazy, uncontrollable, and threatened his sense of order. However, Stan eventually tells his friends about his encounter with the clown in the form of a couple of dead kids at the Standpipe. This telling seals Stan's role in the drama that would unfold later that summer. Stan accompanied the Losers Club into the tunnels under the city that first time, helping to attack the monster. Stan is the one who recognized that the monster is female and that it is close to giving birth. Stan is also the one that makes everyone promise to come back if it turns out the monster is not dead. However, Stan's sense of order causes his fright over returning to those tunnels too much to handle, and he kills himself instead.

Beverly Marsh Rogan

Beverly Marsh Rogan is a successful fashion designer. On the night that Beverly gets the call from Mike, she is in bed with her husband, Tom Rogan. Tom does not like that Beverly is on the phone, especially since he has a hangover and is extremely tired. What makes Tom really mad, however, is the fact that Beverly is smoking. Tom decides to punish his wife by giving her a whooping just like his own mother had done to him many times. For the first time in their relationship, Beverly fights back. Beverly tells Tom she is going home to Derry and does not care what he has to say about it. Tom becomes incensed, and Beverly has to fight her way out of the house.

Beverly gets help from a friend and goes to Derry to reunite with her old friends. Beverly is the only girl in the group. Several of the boys are in love with her, but Ben is the only one who has nursed these feelings into adulthood. Beverly is in love with Bill, however, and it is with Bill whom she makes a physical connection. Later, though, Beverly finally realizes that Ben is the special man for her and when everything is over, she goes home with him.

Beverly remembers her past slowly, just as the rest of the Losers Club does. Beverly remembers that her father worried about her a lot, and slowly comes to recall that he beat her just as her husband does. Beverly also remembers Henry Bowers and the times he attempted to hurt her for one reason or another. Beverly remembers the blood that came out of the bathroom drain in her old apartment, the silver slugs she was entrusted to shoot into it, and the day she saw It kill Patrick Hockstetter. When everyone



remembers the summer of 1958, they return to the tunnels to kill It. Bill and Richie succeed where they had failed twenty-seven years before.

Henry Bowers

Henry Bowers is the son of a local Derry farmer. Henry's father is crazy. Henry's father disliked the Hanlons living so close to his farm because of their race and tried to scare them away by killing their chickens. The local sheriff knew it was Henry's father who did this and forced him to pay Mike's father restitution. This caused Henry's father to be bitter and filled with hatred, a hatred he gave to Henry. Henry, who was often beaten and verbally abused by his father, became a bully, picking on younger children. This included Mike and all the members of the Losers Club.

Henry will often follow the kids through town and beat them up when no one is looking. As the summer goes on, Henry's anger and hatred grow to the point that he attempts to carve his name into Ben's belly for not allowing him to cheat on a test. This hatred grows even more intense when the Losers Club bests Henry in a rock fight and manages to outrun him a few times. When Henry finds a knife in his mailbox and believes the moon tells him to kill the Losers Club, he follows these orders. Henry chases the Losers Club into the Barrens on the day they go into the tunnels, following them there as well. Henry's friends are killed, but Henry escapes, only to be arrested for his father's murder and the murders of the children in Derry.

Twenty-seven years later, Henry is a patient at a mental facility. The moon begins to talk to him again. Later, one of Henry's dead friends returns to help him escape the hospital. Henry returns to Derry where he finds his old knife. Henry goes after the Losers Club once again, beginning with Mike Hanlon. Henry and Mike fight. Mike is stabbed in the leg, causing him to bleed profusely from the femoral artery. Henry is stabbed as well, in the belly, but survives long enough to go to Eddie's hotel room. There Henry and Eddie fight, ending only when Eddie manages to stab Henry in the belly again with a broken Perrier bottle.

It aka Pennywise aka Robert 'Bob' Gray

It, or Pennywise the Clown, or Robert Gray, is the thing in Derry that kills the children. It has existed in Derry for many years, almost since the beginning of time. Every twenty-five to twenty-seven years, It awakes and feeds on the children of Derry. It likes to feed on children as they have simple fears, and it is easy for It to play on those fears. When It runs into a group of children who do not become frightened by Its tricks, It becomes afraid. It has never known fear, but when It realizes that it can be killed when in Its earthly form, It does become afraid. However, when It survives the first attack by the Losers Club, It believes that they cannot kill It. It thinks that as adults, the children have lost the magic they had when they were young that helped them survive. However, Bill and Richie will prove that It is wrong.



Belch Huggins, Victor Criss, and Patrick Hockstetter

Belch Huggins and Victor Criss are friends of Henry Bowers's. Belch and Victor accompany Henry when he chases the Losers Club, becoming involved in the rock fight that leaves them on the losing end and the other times in which Henry confronts the Losers. Belch and Victor also accompany Henry into the tunnels the day the Losers Club confronts It. Belch and Victor are afraid and think that Henry has begun to lose his sanity, but they are too afraid to walk away. Unfortunately, Belch and Victor are killed by It when they follow Henry into the tunnels.

Patrick Hockstetter is a friend of Henry's. Patrick is a psychopath who killed his baby brother when he was only in kindergarten, because the baby caused his dinner to be late most nights. Patrick also likes to kill animals by stuffing them in an abandoned refrigerator and allowing them to suffocate. One day when Patrick goes to clean out this refrigerator, he is attacked by flying leeches and then dragged into the Barrens by It.



Objects/Places

Paper Boat

Bill makes a newspaper boat for George on the last day of a record storm. George sails the boat in the gutter and loses it down a drain. George attempts to retrieve the boat and finds a clown in the drain. The clown grabs hold of Georgie's arm and rips it from his body, killing him.

George's Photo Album

George collected a group of pictures in an album before his death. After his death, Bill goes into George's room and looks through the album. One of the pictures in the album, a school photo of George, begins to move, winking at Bill. Later, Bill shows the album to Richie and the school photo is missing, but another picture of downtown Derry many years before George's death begins to move. When Bill tries to touch the picture, his fingers enter the photo and are cut.

Silver

Silver is Bill's very large, very fast bike. Silver saves Bill and Richie's life the day they go to 29 Neibolt Street to check out Eddie's story about the leper. Later, Bill takes his wife Audra for a ride on Silver, and it helps bring her out of a catatonic state.

Henry's Knife

Henry mysteriously receives a knife in the mail from Bob Gray. Henry uses this knife to kill his father before going after the members of the Losers Club with the intention of killing them, as well. Twenty-seven years later, Henry miraculously finds the knife again and uses it to stab Mike and to attempt to kill Eddie.

Mike's Diary

Mike begins keeping a diary when the cycle begins again in the eighties, writing down the unusual history of Derry. After Bill and Richie kill It, Mike believes the ink in the book will begin to fade just like his and the other member's fading memories.



Sink Drain

One night, Bev is in the bathroom when she hears voices coming from the sink drain. When Bev attempts to find out who is speaking, the drain suddenly spits blood all over the bathroom. Bev's parents cannot see the blood.

Large Bird

Mike Hanlon goes to explore the site of the Kitchener Ironworks and finds an enormous bird there. The bird begins to chase Mike around the site, forcing him to hide inside the smokestack.

Teen Werewolf

Richie sees a werewolf when he and Bill go to the house on Neibolt Street just like the werewolf in a movie he saw in the theater with Bev and Ben.

The Mummy

Ben believes he sees a mummy similar to the mummy in a horror movie he had seen walking on the frozen canal in the middle of winter. The mummy is holding a bunch of balloons that appear to be floating against the wind.

The Canal

A canal runs through downtown Derry in order to control the flow of the two rivers that run through town. It is under the canal that the Losers Club believes it has its nest. It is also at the canal where Ben sees the mummy, and Mike sees evidence of Eddie Corcoran's death.

The Library

Ben spends a great deal of his time in the library before he befriends the Losers Club. Later, when Ben returns to Derry, the library is one of the first places he goes to. Mike becomes the head librarian at the Derry Library as an adult, and it is here that he is attacked by Henry Bowers.

The Glass Bridge

There is a Glass Bridge that connects the children's library to the adult library. Ben finds a great deal of pleasure in this structure and will copy it as an adult when he builds the BBC Tower in London.



The Clubhouse

Ben guides his friends in the construction of an underground clubhouse where they can hide from Henry Bowers and his friends.

The Dump

The town dump in Derry is adjacent to the Barrens. The Losers Club goes here several times to play and to practice shooting Bill's slingshot. It is here that Beverly sees Henry and his friends playing one afternoon and sees Patrick Hockstetter taken by It.

Pumping-Station

Derry was constructed in a place where several rivers come together in their flow toward the ocean causing the town to be prone to flooding. In order to prevent floods, the town created a large drainage system to handle the river's overflow. Within the drainage system, there are many pumps to move the water enclosed in cylindrical pumping stations scattered throughout the Barrens. It is through one of these pumping stations that the Losers Club gains access to the tunnels where It has Its nest.

Derry Town House

When the five survivors of the Losers Club return to Derry, they stay at the Derry Town House. It is here that Henry attempts to kill Eddie and is instead killed himself.

The Standpipe

The Standpipe is a large water tower in the middle of Derry. Stan runs into It there in the form of two dead teens who had drowned inside the water tank. Later, when the Losers Club returns to kill It, the Standpipe falls during a record storm.

29 Neibolt Street

29 Neibolt Street is an abandoned house near the train yards where Eddie sees a leper. Later, Bill and Richie return to the house, and each sees a different monster that follows them out into the street and nearly kills Richie. After this, the entire Losers Club returns to the house to face It and manage to injure the creature.

The Barrens

The Barrens is a heavily vegetated area in the center of Derry where the Losers Club played most days during the summer. The Barrens is where the children built a dam and



their underground clubhouse. The Barrens is also where the pumping-station is located that the Losers Club uses to enter the tunnels underground where Pennywise made its home.

Derry, Maine

Derry, Maine is a small eastern town where the Losers Club members live and where the alien that calls itself Bob Gray lives and feeds.



Themes

Friendship

The most important element of this novel is friendship. Each one of the members of the Losers Club is a loner, a child with no significant friendships or siblings with whom to spend time or tell secrets to. Ben is a fat child who is mercilessly teased on a daily basis. Bill stutters, something that causes him great distress. Bill also lost his little brother the previous fall and feels as though his parents blame him. Beverly, the only girl in the group, is a tom girl who has few female friends as she tends to prefer to read comics and smoke than discuss boys and makeup. Richie wears glasses that leave him vulnerable to teasing and has a mouth that tends to speak before he can think, causing him a great deal of trouble with the bullies in his school. Eddie is a sickly child who suffers from a bad case of asthma. Eddie's worse ailment, however, is his mother who is overprotective and convinced her son is desperately fragile. Stan is one of a small number of Jewish boys living in Derry. Stan's unusual religious background also leaves him vulnerable to torture by the local bullies. Finally, there is Mike Hanlon. Mike is black, a member of one of the only black families living in Derry. Mike's father had trouble with Henry Bowers' father many years before Mike's birth, causing the elder Bowers to breed a hatred of the entire Hanlon family in his son, causing Mike a great deal of trouble with the local bully.

These similarities bring these seven children together in a group they dub the Losers Club. However, it is not only their isolation and their trouble with the local bully that brings them together. These children are drawn to each other because of shared experiences with an entity none of them fully understand. Each child has had a frightening experience with a creature that appears in a different form to each, but has the similar characteristics of a sinister clown. Each of these children survive their encounters with this strange creature and come to realize that it is this creature that not only killed many of the missing children in town, but also killed Bill's brother George. Bill decides he needs to track down this monster and kill it. The other members of the Losers Club decide they too must help, because it seems that this is their preordained purpose in life.

The children are bonded together so well that they manage to keep their fears at bay when they enter the tunnels under the city to search for it. However, after the confrontation, the children begin to give in to their fears, moving apart from one another. In order to bring them back together and to remind them how much they love each other, Beverly takes each one of them into herself. Beverly believes that by sharing with each of the boys her deep love for them, she can bring them together again and help them find their way out of the dark tunnels where they have become lost. This works. However, once the children come out of the tunnels, they do not ever come together as a whole again until twenty-seven years later.



When the children reunite as adults, they find that the love they shared for each other as children still exists. The children are adults now and no longer believe in the magic they believed in before. However, they believe in each other and the love they shared with each other. That bond of friendship is still strong between them and helps them survive the task that lays ahead. The children, as adults, return to the tunnels below the city and face the entity they know as It again. This time, they kill It. However, they pay a terrible price when two of their members die, and one is nearly killed.

Magic

Strange things happen in Derry, Maine. Ben sees a mummy walking across the canal in the dead of winter. Richie sees the Paul Bunyan statue move. Beverly sees blood spray out of her bathroom drain, but her parents cannot see it. Bill sees a picture wink at him. The children who have disappeared or died have seen similar things, as well. The Corcoran boy was dragged through Bassesey Park by a sea creature he once saw in a movie. The thing that is killing the children of Derry is somehow capable of becoming whatever scares his victims the most. Bill researches this phenomenon at the library and comes across the word glamour. Bill reads that a glamour is a creature that can become whatever a person most fears. Bill also reads that it is possible to kill a glamour through a ritual called Chud. Bill believes that this creature is what he and his friends have been seeing, and it is what killed his brother. Bill decides he must kill the glamour.

When Bill and his friends fight off It, they use a magic of their own that scares and confuses It. Bill and his friends use the magic of the innocence of childhood. These children believe in the tooth fairy, in Santa Claus, in justice, in all the things that adults come to see as innocent and naive. It is this naivety that gives the children an advantage against It, giving them the power to fight the fear and the insanity that causes the death of all the other children who come into contact with It. Not only this, but the children have the magic of friendship on their side, as well. These children love each other completely, without the conditions often applied to adult relationships. Again, this magic gives the children a power against It that It has never seen before. The author suggests at the end of the novel that childhood itself is magic, that children have a power over evil that as adults they lose. Magic is a theme of this book as it is the clue that holds these children together, that enables them to kill It, and propels the plot to its climactic ending.

Death

The book begins with the death of Georgie Denbrough. Georgie is the six-year-old brother of Bill Denbrough. Georgie is stir crazy after being stuck in the house due to a record rainfall and a flood in Derry. Georgie asks Bill, who is sick in bed, to make him a paper boat. When the boat is completed, Georgie takes it outside and sails it in the water that is flowing in the gutters. However, Georgie forgets that the water in the gutters will eventually go down a drain. When this happens to Georgie's boat, he looks in the drain to find it. Instead, he finds a clown there who wants to show him how



everyone floats down there. Georgie reaches for his boat, and his arm is torn from his body. Georgie's death begins a new cycle of child murders in Derry that culminates when Bill and his friends go into the sewer tunnels to find and kill the monster responsible.

Most children have an innate belief that they are immortal. Children have little understanding of the vulnerability of every human life. However, beginning with the death of his brother, Bill begins to understand this vulnerability. When the clown begins to visit him and his friends, Bill knows that the only way to stop it is by killing it. Bill suddenly has a more mature look at the world than a child his age should. This outlook helps Bill to understand that he and his friends are not the only potential victims of the clown, but that the missing children all throughout Derry were also its victims. It is this knowledge that helps Bill kill it.

The missing and murdered children in Derry are not the only victims of the clown. There are also events in Derry's history that involve the murders of adults by the citizens of Derry. The adults cannot see the clown, and there have been few adult victims of it. However, at the end of every cycle, and sometimes at the beginning, there is always a massive event involving the deaths of multiple people. One was the explosion of the Kitchener Ironworks in the early 1900s. Then, there were the murders of the entire Bradley gang by the good people of Derry in the 1930s. The fire at the Black Spot on the military base in Derry killed a great many people, also in the 1930s. The most alarming of these events, in Mike's mind, was the ax murders of several people in a crowded bar. The people were murdered while some of the good people of Derry drank their beer just a few feet away. It is evil and, when it is awake, death is a way of life in Derry. It is this that makes death a theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel has two different points of view. The first point of view is third person. The novel follows the narration of many different characters, most often the members of the Losers Club. The point of view jumps from present tense to past tense, moving back and forth through time as the narration tells the story of the reunion of a group of childhood friends as well as the events they shared in the summer of 1958. The second point of view is first person. Mike Hanlon, one of the members of the Losers Club, begins keeping a diary when the cycle of mysterious deaths begins again. Mike writes these passages in the first person, giving the reader an intimate look at his thoughts as he relates the horrific past of the town of Derry and prepares to call his friends home.

The point of view of this novel works as it allows the reader to see the story through the eyes of many of the characters, not only the main characters of the Losers Club, but also through the eyes of their nemesis and the monster they have been given the task of stopping. With so many main characters, the third person point of view also allows for the author to switch from narrator to narrator without causing any confusion for the reader. The use of the first person point of view in the Interlude sections gives the reader a break from the format of the preceding and following chapters as well as providing the reader with an intimate insight into the thoughts of Mike Hanlon and the story of Derry.

Setting

The setting of the novel is a small town in the state of Maine. Derry is a typical eastern small town, a place where everyone knows everyone else, and parents feel safe allowing their children to run wild in the streets. In Derry during the summer of 1958, children play baseball in empty fields, ride bikes through the streets, and buy candy at the local grocery store. In Derry in the 1980s, children still play in the streets though with a little more caution than before because of the growth of the town. On the outside, everything about Derry makes it seem like a pleasant place to raise a family. However, as the plot begins to unfold, the reader begins to learn about the disappearances of many of the children of Derry. It turns out that every twenty-five to twenty-seven years, Derry has a higher rate of child disappearances and deaths than many of the larger cities on the east coast. Not only this, but the adults in Derry tend toward violence in these same cycles, often participating in outrageous acts of violence or turning a blind eye while others participate.

The setting in this novel, Derry, Maine, becomes a character within the novel with as much importance to the plot as the members of the Losers Club. The creature that has come to live underneath Derry's downtown has somehow become a part of Derry, causing this cozy little town to become something malicious. It has infected all the



adults in town causing them to turn a blind eye as children disappear or are murdered right in the middle of the main thoroughfare. It is not just a strange creature, but also a part of Derry. By making Derry a character of the novel, the author enriches the story and increases the tension within the plot that drives the story along.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. The novel takes place in two decades, the fifties and the eighties. During the sections that take place in the fifties, the dialogue includes some slang that was prevalent during this time, giving the reader a better feel for the decade. The author does the same in the episodes that take place in the eighties, maturing the dialogue that is now spoken by adults and adding slang that was common to that period. The author also includes some vulgar language in the dialogue, using it to show emotion from his characters. This language is not overused, but shows up often enough that it may be offensive to some readers. Finally, the author uses the names of popular television shows, retail stores, and product brand names in order to add to the nostalgia of the time period in which the story is taking place. This use of popular names gives the reader a group of landmarks with which the reader can relate, pulling the reader deeper into the narration and better able to identify with the characters within the story.

The use of slang in this novel gives the dialogue a relaxed feel, the same sort of feel an overheard conversation on a bus might give a person. The slang also helps establish the time period in which the dialogue is taking place, helping the reader establish the time period of the specific chapter or passage to avoid confusion within the many changes in time that take place throughout the novel. The use of vulgar language reminds the reader of the age and emotional state of the characters, giving a more intimate look at the characters and their fears. Finally, the use of popular names and brands within the novel gives the reader something they can relate to, adding to the intimacy that draws the reader into the story and keeps the reader involved in the story. All of these techniques of language are important to the story and allows the reader to remain interested in a book whose length could possibly cause difficulty for the reader to remain engrossed.

Structure

The novel is more than a thousand pages long. The book is divided into five parts, twenty-three chapters, five Interludes, and an epilogue. Each part deals with a specific set of events that lead to the climax in a linear fashion. Each chapter is divided into several sections, breaking up the long chapters into smaller, easier to digest pieces. The five Interludes are entries in Mike Hanlon's diary that appear between each part. The Interludes tell the history of Derry, Maine and explain Mike's decision to call his childhood friends home. Finally, the epilogue concludes the story and leaves the reader with an optimistic outlook for the future of the characters the reader has come to care about.



The novel is written in two separate timelines. The first timeline is set in the summer of 1958. During this summer, seven eleven-year-olds come together and form a special friendship, bonded together because of shared experiences that they neither understand nor feel they can share with their parents. This friendship not only brings these children together physically, but spiritually as well in a way that makes them strong enough to fight an evil presence that has made Its home under their hometown, Derry, Maine. The second time line is twenty-seven years later, 1985. The children are all adults now, those who left Derry successful in their chosen careers. The friends are called home by a promise they made at the end of that summer in 1958 to face the same evil entity they fought that long ago summer. The timelines intertwine within the plot, moving the reader from one decade to the other sometimes within the stretch of a single chapter.

The novel has one main story line that follows the main characters, the Losers Club, from their first meeting, to the confrontation with It, to their reunion and the death of It. From the main storyline, there are many subplots, each following the personal lives of the members of the Losers Club, the life of Henry Bowers, the history of Derry and thus the lives of the people living there, and the story of It. Each story line interacts with the others, all entwining to create the main plot that propels the novel.



Quotes

"The terror, which would not end for another twenty-eight years—if it ever did end—began, so far as I know or can tell, with a boat made from a sheet of newspaper floating down a gutter swollen with rain." Part 1, The Shadow Before, Chapter 1, After the Flood (1957), pg. 3

"Rich felt like he was doing pretty good until the vomiting started."
Part 1, The Shadow Before, Chapter 3, Six Phone Calls (1985), pg. 56

"Can an entire city be haunted?
Haunted as some houses are supposed to be haunted?
Not just a single building in that city, or the corner of a single street, or a single basketball court in a single pocketpark, the netless basket jutting out at sunset like some obscure and bloody instrument of torture, not just one area—but everything. The whole works.
Can that be?" Derry: The First Interlude, pg. 139

"She went quickly down the steps and Ben saw everything with his lover's eye: the bright tartan of her skirt, the bounce of her red hair against the back of her sweater, her milky complexion, a small healing cut across the back of one calf, and (for some reason this last caused another wave of feeling to sweep him so powerfully he had to grope for the railing again; the feeling was huge, inarticulate, mercifully brief; perhaps a sexual pre-signal, meaningless to his body, where the endocrine glands still slept almost without dreaming, yet as bright as summer heat-lightening) a bright golden ankle bracelet she wore just above her right loafer, winking back the sun in brilliant little flashes."
Part 2, June of 1958, Chapter 4, Ben Hanscom Takes a Fall, pg. 167

"He saw the tips of Bill's fingers go through the surface of the photograph and into that other world. He saw the fingertips go from the warm pink of living flesh to the mummified cream color that passed for white in old photos. At the same time they became small and disconnected. It was like the peculiar optical illusion one sees when one thrusts a hand into a glass bowl of water: the part of the hand underwater seems to be floating, disembodied, inches away from the part which is still out of the water."
Part 2, June of 1958, Chapter 8, Georgie's Room and the House on Neibolt, pg. 324

"There was blood....blood everywhere....and her father didn't see it."
Part 2, June of 1958, Chapter 9, Cleaning Up, pg. 379

"It's come again. I know that now. I'll wait, but in my heart I know it. I'm not sure I can



stand it. As a kid I was able to deal with it, but it's different with kids. In some fundamental way it's different." Derry: The Second Interlude, pg. 449

"Bill did not see Pennywise that afternoon—but he did see a ghost. A real ghost. So Bill believed then, and no subsequent event caused him to change his mind."
Part 3, Grownups, Chapter 11, Walking Tours, pg. 565

"Bill looked from Mike to Richie. Richie met his eyes. And Bill seemed almost to hear the click—some final part fitting neatly into a machine of unknown intent. He felt ice-chips scatter up his back. We're all together now, he thought, and the idea was so strong, so right, that for a moment he thought he might have spoken it aloud. But of course there was no need to speak it aloud; he could see it in Richie's eyes, in Ben's, in Eddie's, in Beverly's, in Stan's."
Part 4, July 1958, Chapter 13, The Apocalyptic Rock Fight, pg. 667

"His hand came down, not slapping this time but clutching. It bit into her shoulder with furious strength. She screamed. He pulled her up, and for the first time looked directly into her eyes. She screamed again at what she saw there. It was...nothing. Her father was gone. And Beverly suddenly understood that she was alone in the apartment with It, alone with It on this dozey August morning. There was not the thick sense of power and the untinctured evil she had felt in the house on Neibolt Street a week and a half ago—it had been diluted somehow by her father's essential humanity—but It was here, working through him."
Part 5, The Ritual of Chud, Chapter 19, In the Watches of the Night, pgs. 866-867

"Suddenly he thought he understood: It existed as a titanic, glowing core which might be no more than the smallest mote in that Other's mind; he would see It naked, a thing of unshaped destroying light, and there he would either be mercifully annihilated or live forever, insane and yet conscious inside Its homicidal endless formless hungry being."
Part 5, The Ritual of Chud, Chapter 22, The Ritual of Chud, pgs. 1009-1010

"Or so Bill Denbrough sometimes thinks on those early mornings after dreaming, when he almost remembers his childhood, and the friends with whom he shared it."
Epilogue, Bill Denbrough Beats the Devil (II), pg. 1090



Topics for Discussion

What is the significance of George's death? In what way does George's death motivate the Losers into confronting It? How might the story have been different if George had not died? Is Bill responsible for George's death?

What brings the seven Losers together? Are there similarities between these seven children? What are they? What is the significance of the number seven? Does this significance have something to do with the mission these seven have in front of them?

Why does It not kill the seven members of the Losers Club? What is different about these seven that the other victims of It do not share? Why is It afraid of these children? Is there something magical about the children that It is aware of?

What is It? Is It alien or more like a mystical being, such as God? What is the Turtle? What is the significance of the Turtle to the story? What is the Other? Which of these creatures brings the seven Losers together? Is the Turtle benevolent? Is the Other benevolent? Do these creatures want the Losers to kill It? Do they help the seven kill It?

Why do the six who left Derry become successful? Why are they unable to have children? What magic causes this phenomenon? Why can the six who left not remember the events of the summer of 1958? Why does Mike remember? Why do they all begin to forget when It is dead?

Why does Stan kill himself? Did Stan remember It or was he simply afraid? Why did Stan write It on the bathroom wall? Was Stan weak?

Why does Beverly marry Tom Rogan? Does Beverly marry a man like her father? Or does Beverly marry a man like Henry Bowers? Does Beverly believe she deserves to be hurt? Why or why not? Why does Beverly have sex with all six of the male members of the Losers Club when they become lost in the tunnels? How does this act help the Losers get out of the tunnels? Does this act make Beverly a bad person?

Compare and contrast the characters Henry Bowers, Tom Rogan and Al Marsh. What are their similarities? Why do you think the writer introduced these three characters? What is their collective purpose? Do they succeed in their purpose?

Why does the author give each character a flaw? What are their flaws? Do these flaws make the characters weaker or stronger? What about Henry Bowers? Are his flaws his fault or the fault of his father? Does the fact that Henry's father is crazy make Henry a more sympathetic character?