

The Maze Runner Study Guide

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

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Plot Summary

“The Maze Runner” by James Dashner is the story of Thomas, a sixteen-year-old boy who finds himself in total blackness. He has no idea of how he got there or what the outcome will be. When the blackness begins to ascend, he realizes that he’s in some kind of eerie elevator. When the elevator stops, he is pulled out by boys around his own age. He does not know any of the boys.

Where is he and why is he there? All Thomas remembers is his first name. He doesn’t have any memories of his former life – his surname, his parents, his school, or his friends. He knows the meaning of all the words but cannot apply them to his former life. Despite the fact that he doesn’t know where he’s going or where he’s been, Thomas’s first thought is that he wants to get out and return to where he belongs.

Thomas is greeted by the two leaders of the Glade, which is the odd world into which he was thrust. Alby, the top man, is immediately suspicious of Thomas. He recalled seeing Thomas in the images and memories that were called forth during the Changing. Of course, Thomas has no idea what the Changing is or why this total stranger is suspicious of him. Newt, the second in command, is a wise and sensitive leader. He takes to Thomas immediately. Newt also becomes a great ally and advocate of the Greenbean which, along with Newbie, is the name given to the newest member of the Gladers society.

Thomas is handed over to Chuck who’s been in the Glade a month. Chuck is to show him around and find a place for him to sleep in the Homestead. Chuck is only twelve or thirteen. He becomes like a little brother to Thomas. Chuck looks up to Thomas who ultimately proves to be a savvy and brave young man. Thomas is plagued by the forgotten memories of yesterday. He knows it’s not normal and that someone must have been messing with his mind.

Thomas is shocked when he looks in on Ben who had just been stung by the Grievors. Ben is going through the Changing. After seeing how debilitating physically and emotionally the Changing is, Thomas knows that it’s something he never wants to be subjected to. But he’s curious about the Grievors – what in the world are the Grievors and why did they sting Ben and put him through so much misery.

This Greenbean quickly learns that there is another section of the Glade, a kind of anti-Glade section known as the Maze. The Maze is a series of eerie corridors, walls, and aisles that seem to lead nowhere. There is a rule against entering the Maze, especially at night when the Grievors are out. Thomas learns that the Grievors are huge bulbous blobs that are equipped with metal arms and needles that pursue the boys as their prey. Once their poison is injected into a boy he must be administered the Griever Serum immediately or he will die. The Grievors carry some of the boys away. No one wants to know what happens to them.



When a girl named Teresa arrives in the Box, everyone knows that things are definitely changing. She is the first girl in the two year history of the Glade. She and Thomas have a connection. They are both gifted with telepathy. Also, they eventually understand that they had a connection in their prior lives.

Thomas devises a way for everyone to escape; but, the pathway is not an easy one. After a huge battle with the Grievors and a dare-devil escape, the Gladers confront the Creators who snatched them from their real lives and placed them in their nightmare.

Thomas and Teresa and the others who made it out now feel they have the chance for a bright and normal future. While they are thinking that they can rest and relax, the Creators are “creating” phase 2, another challenge for the youngsters.



Chapters 1 - 3

Summary

Chapter One

All Thomas could remember was his first name. He was trapped in an elevator that jolted alive and lurched upward and knocked him over onto the floor. He heard the rasping sounds of the chains and pulleys. He pictured life as he knew it with grassy meadows and snowy landscapes. Yet, he didn't know how he got there and who he was or who his parents were. He wanted to know what was happening to him.

All at once, the lift stopped throwing him across the floor. There was only silence. He screamed for help and pounded on the walls to no avail. He waited. A light appeared on the roof of the lift. He heard voices. He was more confused than ever when he heard someone say that it was a one-way ticket and there was no ticket back. He didn't know what it meant. Suddenly, there was a group of boys above him; they were pointing and looking down on him. A rope was lowered which Thomas was initially reluctant to take. Finally, he grabbed hold of the rope. One of the boys greeted him, calling him a shank. He had just been welcomed to Glade.

Chapter Two

The kids, who were mainly teenagers, stared at him. Some poked at him. Thomas could see that there were fifty boys. They had dirty, sweaty clothes like workers. They were in a large courtyard surrounded by four huge stone walls that were hundreds of feet high. There were openings in each of the four walls that all led to passages and corridors.

As Thomas observed the diverse group of boys, he noticed that they were different in size and appearance. One boy mentioned that Thomas would be getting a "keeper." Another kid said that Thomas would be "slopper." None of it made any sense. One of the boys seemed to be in charge. Thomas saw livestock, crops, and fruit trees in the three corners of the courtyard. An odd, dilapidated building was in the last corner. The courtyard had no ceiling. There was a blue sky but no sign of the sun. From the sights and smells, Thomas knew that he was on a farm.

Although there appeared to be an underlying anger among them, his captors wore jeans and t-shirts and seemed normal. Alby, the leader of the boys, told Thomas that he would eventually learn all about where he had just found himself; but, it was a long story. Alby would be taking him on a tour of the place. Thomas refused to shake hands with Alby and told him to tell him the long story.

Alby warned Thomas not to pretend he wasn't afraid. He'd throw him off the cliff if he tried that. Alby told Thomas that he was the first Greenbean since Nick was killed. Newt told Alby he was hitting Thomas with too much. He'd learn plenty on the tour. Newt seemed nicer than Alby. Alby went ahead and explained some things to Thomas. The



place was called Glade. They lived and worked there and were called Gladers. Alby couldn't tell him everything at once, or else he'd die on the spot. But, his old life was over. Thomas would have his tour the next day. Alby promised he'd be happy with the place in a few weeks.

Thomas was sad and confused and frightened. He wondered what he'd done to deserve his current fate. Newt assured him that all the boys felt like he did when they first arrived. Newt wouldn't answer him when he asked if he was in a prison. He was to room with Chuck that night. Thomas wished he could wake from this terrible dream.

Chapter Three

While trying to make some sense of things, Thomas was drawn to the other side of the tree he was leaning against by the sound of clanging metal. He checked but didn't see anything. Chuck told him it was one of the beetle blades. He heard screams coming from the rundown building. Chuck told him that "they" got Ben and he was sicker than a dog. It would be better if Thomas never found out who "they" were. Chuck had been the Greenbean before Thomas showed up. The "Greenbean" was what the newest boy was always called.

The screams from the house continued. Chuck said that Ben would be all right. He'd survive as long as he got the serum in time. Ben was being stung by Griever's. Chuck told Thomas that he would get used to the place in a couple of weeks. The other boys, like Thomas, only seemed to remember their first names. Actually, Chuck had only been there a month. He couldn't tell Thomas much about the place; but, he could be his friend. Thomas responded that he didn't need a friend.

Thomas and Chuck reach the door of the shack. There were some boys inside. The house was dark and dusty and in disrepair. The boys recognized Thomas as the "Greenbean." Thomas didn't like being called "Greenbean" or the "shank" reference which everyone seemed to call each other. Thomas headed for the stairs but was stopped. Newbies weren't allowed to see someone who'd been taken. Another boy thought he recognized Thomas and knew him from somewhere. The boy, Gally, had been "stung" and knew what Ben was going through. He was sure that Ben had seen Thomas before, too, during the Changing.

Thomas insisted on talking with Newt who was upstairs. Gally, who wanted to be called Captain Gally, told him to go ahead; but, Thomas feared Gally was up to something. Chuck warned him not to go upstairs – Alby and Newt wouldn't like it. But, Thomas wanted to talk to Newt. Thomas went up the creaky stairs and found Alby and Newt crouching over someone lying on a bed. The boy was pale and writhing in agony. Bruises, hives, and blood scratches covered his body. As soon as Alby spotted Thomas, he angrily told him to get back downstairs. He again warned him that he'd throw him off the Cliff if he didn't obey him. Back downstairs, Chuck told Thomas to meet him back at the tree. He'd get some food for him. Thomas shuddered remembering what he'd seen.



Analysis

Chapter One

The story of “The Maze Runner” begins in total confusion. What is happening to Thomas, the protagonist, is unknown. The author begins the story in confusion so that the reader will be engaged and have to turn the pages to learn what is going on with the main character. When Thomas finally “lands” somewhere, it is even more perplexing. He is in the “Glade.” But, what and where is that?

Chapter Two

Thomas has forgotten everything, except his first name. He is suffering from severe amnesia, although he knows what things and beings are called. What has made him forget everything, including his parents and where he lives?

It is obvious that Thomas is an intelligent boy. He quickly assimilates his new environment and recognizes that there is a structure to the odd community. Two boys serve as the group’s leaders. None of the boys are happy with their fate. They have all suffered from the same memory loss as Thomas.

Danger lurks in Glade from Alby, one of the leaders, who threatens to throw Thomas off a cliff if he doesn’t follow orders. Just like any intelligent person, Thomas is curious and wants answers. He quickly learns to clam up. It is a very secretive place. As a Newbie, he has no rights to ask questions.

Chapter Three

Thomas comes to realize that the hints of danger are not just words. He sees for himself the horrible wounds that another boy, Ben, sustained. Gally, who does not take to Thomas, had been stung and been a victim of the Changing. Perhaps that’s why he is so bitter. All the boys have lost their memories but Gally feels that he has seen Thomas before, perhaps during the Changing.

The more Thomas learns the more confused he is. He’s not sure what a Changing is but judging from the looks of Ben, it’s not a good thing. The image of Ben lying nearly dead lingers with Thomas but will it make him forget his ambition to be a Runner? A strange clanging is the sound made by an elusive creature known as the Beetle Blade. Again, Thomas only knows that it’s something he should probably avoid but doesn’t know where or when it may strike and most importantly why.

Discussion Question 1

The story opens with Thomas in a pitch-black elevator not knowing where he is heading or what might lie in his future. How does this opening scene serve as a larger metaphor for Thomas’ life in general?



Discussion Question 2

How are the two leaders of the Glade, Alby and Newt, presented particularly relating to their reactions to the new arrival, Thomas? How could their diverse reactions to Thomas impact him in his future at Glade?

Discussion Question 3

How does Thomas convey his independent spirit when first arriving in Glade? When he disobeys a standing order of not going upstairs in the Homestead where Ben is hospitalized what message does that send to the leaders and to the other boys?

Vocabulary

lift, dilapidated, captors, menacing, malicious, adrenaline



Chapters 4 - 6

Summary

Chapter Four

Thomas waited for Chuck at a designated tree. He looked around again at the courtyard. The gaping hole of the Box where he'd come from was still open, inviting him to jump back in and go home. He noticed a smaller concrete building with a large iron door. He was curious as to what was inside, but he dreaded actually finding out. Chuck had invaded Frypan's kitchen and gotten a couple of sandwiches for them. Thomas asked what had happened to Ben – he didn't even look human. Chuck didn't know. Thomas asked Chuck what was beyond the courtyard. Chuck had never been outside of the Glade. Thomas confronted Chuck about being secretive, but Chuck responded that was just the way of things.

Thomas wanted to have a look around but Chuck warned him that the Doors were about to close. The large openings on each of the walls closed every night. As soon as the Runners returned, the Doors would close. Thomas didn't believe Chuck. The huge openings weren't doors. They were just vast open spaces. They walked to the East Door which was much larger up close. Thomas could see that the walls were moveable and that they would be able to close like doors. Chuck said that the same thing happened out in the Maze every night. Those walls shifted, too. Chuck refused to elaborate on what the "Maze" was. Looking out beyond the East Door, he saw what did appear to be a maze.

A boy was running toward the East Door; he was sweaty from running. He headed right for the concrete building. He noticed that other runners were entering the Glade from the other three Doors. They were all weary and worn. The runners gathered in front of the concrete building. The iron gate finally clanged open; and, the runners all disappeared inside. Chuck refused to discuss the runners.

Chuck told him it was time for him to go to sleep. He needed his rest. There was a loud explosion causing Thomas to stumble backward and fall. The walls were moving and closing. Thomas was amazed as he watched all four huge Doors close. There were so many unknowns about the Glade and even more in the Maze. Chuck told him that when nighttime came, he didn't want to be outside.

Chapter Five

Chuck led Thomas to the back of the Homestead which is what Chuck called the run-down structure. Chuck stopped at a bathroom window. He was apparently playing a trick on whoever was in the bathroom by standing on a box and repeatedly tapping on the window. A boy finally opened the window and demanded to know who was knocking. Chuck and Thomas hid in the shadows. Thomas recognized the voice as



belonging to Gally. Chuck popped up and screamed as loud as he could which brought on a litany of swear words and threats from Gally.

Gally burst out of the Homestead and spotted Thomas who immediately said that it was him knocking on the window. But, Gally knew it was Chuck. He warned Thomas to pick his friends wisely. Gally still swore that he knew Thomas in another time and place – in the Changing. Chuck emerged from the shadows apologizing to Thomas. Had he known it was Gally in the bathroom he would have never played a prank on him. Thomas told him that Gally, the shank, deserved it.

Thomas slept in a sleeping bag next to Chuck on grass near the gardens. Chuck was asleep, but Thomas couldn't drift off. He tried to recall his former life, remembering things like clothing, playing, and studying. He felt sad. Chuck woke and congratulated Thomas for making it through his first day. Thomas felt that Chuck knew more about the Glade than he admitted. As sleep began to overtake him, Thomas had a feeling of familiarity about the place and that things would be okay. He told Chuck that he had decided to be a runner. Chuck reminded him that he didn't even know what runners did.

Chapter Six

The next morning Newt shook Thomas awake. Newt shushed Thomas. He didn't want to wake Chuck. Newt needed to show Thomas something. They left the lawn area and stepped into the courtyard. Newt began running and Thomas followed suit. Thomas noticed little red lights flashing here and there on one of the large walls. Newt told him he'd learn what everything was in time.

A window was revealed when Newt dug his hands into thick ivy which covered the huge wall. An eerie light emanated from the window and encompassed Newt. He indicated that the Maze was out there and that everything they did revolved around the Maze. Newt warned him that the Maze was not to be bothered. Newt traded places with Thomas so he could look through the window. It took a few moments for Thomas' eyes to adjust to the light. He saw a large animal the size of a cow; but, it was somehow shapeless and moved along the corridor and climbed up the wall. It leaped at Thomas who shrieked and backed up. The window remained unbroken. The beast was a combination of animal and machine. Thomas sensed that the thing wanted to get inside and feast on human flesh.

Newt explained that the creature was a Griever. The Grievers were nasty things that only came out at night. Thomas was immediately rethinking his desire about becoming a runner. Yet, he knew that he would have to become one. Newt and the others depended on Thomas to help them do what they'd been sent there to do, which was to figure out the Maze and find their way home. At breakfast, Thomas was barely able to eat and remained silent, thinking about the Grievers. Nothing made much since in the Glade. The only thing Thomas was certain about was that he had to become a runner. Alby came by and told Thomas that it was time for his tour.



Analysis

Chapter Four

It is in a very curious place that Thomas has found himself. When he gets the chance to look around at his new surroundings, they hold no answers for him only more questions which the others refuse to answer. Thomas finds himself drawn to the Runners who are the only boys who are allowed to leave the main courtyard and venture out into the much feared Maze. Thomas does not understand why being a Runner appeals to him. He doesn't know what the Runners do; but, he does realize that it is a role that has many deadly risks. Chuck warns him of the dangers that lurk in the Maze and that nighttime was the most dangerous time of the day.

Chapter Five

Although Thomas doesn't know exactly what happened to one of the boys named Ben, he finds out why it's called – the "Changing." Just by virtue of the word. connotations of permanent and drastic changes surface in Thomas' mind. Again, Chuck warns Thomas against becoming a runner, hinting that it is the most dangerous job in Glade. Yet, Thomas can't get the idea out of his mind. What drives Thomas to pursue this risky role? Gally has surfaced as a boy who may be the antagonist of the story. He immediately doesn't like Thomas and shows it. It is not clear why Gally had such a strong reaction to Thomas.

Chapter Six

Thomas takes to Newt more than he does Alby, the other leader. Newt must have warm feelings toward Thomas because he wants him to get a hint of the danger that resides in the Maze. It is Thomas' first sighting of the deadly Grievers. It is a way to make sure that Thomas doesn't venture out in the Maze. Despite seeing the injuries that Ben sustained and catching a glance of the murderous Grievers, Thomas is more determined than ever to become a Runner which would put him at immediate risk. There is something within him that is compelling him to take on that risky position. It is not revealed yet why he wants to be a Runner – he doesn't know why and neither does the reader but it could have something to do with his past and why he is in Glade.

Discussion Question 1

Thomas first becomes aware of the Maze through a casual comment by Chuck. What hint is there that the Maze will play an integral part in the story and that there is a mystery that surrounds it? Why is the Maze aptly named?



Discussion Question 2

What is alarming about Gally's reaction to Thomas? What could that portend for Thomas' future at the Glade? What hint is there that Gally could be a part of Thomas' unknown past and how does it link with some of Thomas' private thoughts?

Discussion Question 3

Thomas has an inexplicable desire to become a "Runner" even before he knows exactly what it is. What might compel him to have such a desire? How is it linked to the mystery of the Maze? What demonstrates that his quest to become a Runner will undoubtedly remain undaunted no matter what?

Vocabulary

mammoth, litany, ferocious, epiphany, eradicate, bulbous



Chapters 7 - 8

Summary

Chapter Seven

The tour started at the Box which was closed. The day was bright, but Thomas still wasn't able to spot the sun. Alby explained that once a month they get a Newbie, supplies, and food from the Box. Alby explained that no one really knew anything else about the Box. The Glade was cut up into four sections: Gardens, Blood House, Homestead, and Deadheads. They grow crops in the Gardens and raise animals in the Blood House. The Homestead is where they live. The southwest corner was where the Deadheads were located. It was a place where the boys could hang out. Thomas was to work one day in the various jobs in the Glade to see where he belonged.

Alby pointed out a large barn which was where the Slicers worked. If Thomas liked blood, he could become a Slicer. Thomas noticed that trees in the Deadheads section grew thicker and denser the further back in the corner they traveled. It was an eerie, shadowy area. He was finally able to look up and see the sun although it looked odd – more orange than usual. When they reached the South Door, Thomas noticed the red flashing lights again. Alby pointed beyond the door telling Thomas that the Maze was out there. It looked the same as the Maze beyond the East Door he'd seen earlier.

Alby had been there two years and had been there the longest of anyone. He'd been trying to solve the mystery of the Glade for all two years. Alby told him not to venture out in the Maze. No one was allowed out there other than the Runners. Anyone else venturing out would be killed by the Grievers or the boys themselves. Still, the thought of becoming a Runner stayed in Thomas' mind. A silver thing flashed through the ivy on the wall and disappeared. It was apparently a Beetle Blade. Beetle Blades were used by the Creators to keep an eye on the boys. A loud blaring alarm sounded that seemed to confuse Alby.

The commotion had something to do with the Box, but Alby wouldn't be specific. Everyone, including Newt, was running around in a panic. As it turned out, a Newbie was coming up in the Box. The confusion everyone felt was the fact that they'd never had two Newbies in one month. Now two had shown up within a day of each other.

Chapter Eight

The alarm finally stopped after a few minutes. Chuck sought Thomas out. They were becoming friends, although Thomas was tired of Chuck calling him "Greenie" or "shank." He insisted if they were to be friends, he would have to call him Thomas. Chuck told Thomas not to even think of going down in the Box after someone came. They couldn't go down until it was completely empty. Chuck tried it. The Box was just a black and empty abyss after it delivered a Newbie. The new arrival would make it to the Glade in



thirty minutes. One boy tried lowering himself in the Box with a rope. He was cut in half by something that swooshed through the air.

Thomas and Chuck ran into Gally who glared at Thomas. Gally obviously didn't like Thomas. Chuck told him to ask Gally what his problem was. Thomas could easily take on Gally. Thomas told Chuck to drop it. Gally had more allies than he did. Chuck didn't know all the details about the Changing. However, once the Griever got hold of a boy, he was changed forever.

Everyone gathered around the Box. The sounds of the grinds and rattles of the lift were familiar to Thomas. He felt for whomever was being brought up. Alby and Newt looked down into the opened Box and were stunned. Finally, they announced that the Box was bringing a girl to the Glade. Everyone was interested in what she looked like. Alby said she looked like she was dead.

Several other boys helped lower Alby and Newt in the Box so they could bring the girl's body up. Gally was one of the boys holding onto the ropes. Thomas noticed a dark, sick fascination in Gally's eyes. Alby shouted that they were ready to hoist the girl's body up. Most of the boys ran up to get a good look at the girl, but Thomas stayed back. The whole thing was making him sick.

The girl was beautiful, thin, and frail. She looked to be about sixteen. Her skin was pale, white as pearls. Newt called Thomas over and asked if he knew the girl. Thomas responded that he did not. Alby pressed him further. Alby asked if she looked familiar to him. But, Thomas insisted that he had never seen her before. Suddenly, the girl shot up in a sitting position and took a huge breath scaring Alby and Newt to death. Her bright blue eyes darted about. Finally, she spoke saying that everything was going to change. The girl passed out again. There was a wadded up paper in her hand. Scrawled across it was "She's the last one. Ever."

Analysis

Chapter Seven

Thomas was not able to locate the sun on his first day, but he did see it at one point during his second day in Glade. However, the sun looked strange-- not like the one he remembered. Perhaps, this is a sign that the Glade is not on the earth as Thomas knew it.

Thomas has been a Newbie for only one day when an usual event occurs in Glade. There are signals that another Newbie is arriving. Normally, only one Newbie arrives per month. Alby has been in the Glade the longest – two years. This is the first time that two Newbies have arrived a day apart. He must sense that things are changing for this pattern to be broken. What does it mean for the boys? Will they remember their old lives and be able to return to them? Or, will this change be the precursor of their end?

Chapter Eight



A girl has arrived in Glade – the first ever – with a note that indicates she will be the last one ever to be sent to the Glade. What does her coming mean? How will her presence end the Glade? Is she a warrior with special powers? Or, will she lead the boys to fight against the dangers of the Glade and help them find their way home?

There is mention that Gally had been “stung” and had gone through the Changing. He apparently understood what Ben was going through because he had gone through it too. Gally had survived an attack by the Grievors but it apparently had changed him. Thomas notices a malicious look in his eye when the boys all thought that the girl in the lift was dead. There is growing suspicion that Gally will prove to be Thomas’ enemy. As such, he becomes the story’s antagonist.

Discussion Question 1

Although it is daytime, Thomas is initially unable to locate the sun in the sky. When he finally sees it, he notices that it doesn't look like the same sun. Its color is off. What could be the explanation for the “missing sun” and the “abnormal sun?” To what larger reality might these differences point?

Discussion Question 2

There is great curiosity and fascination when a girl is discovered in the Box. Why has a girl – the first one ever in the Glade – been chosen by the Creators as the “last one ever” to arrive in the Glade? How is the girl symbolic of both changes and endings?

Discussion Question 3

When the beetle blades are briefly explained to Thomas, it is the first mention of “the Creators” – the beetle blades serve as monitors for the Creators. What does the revelation that there are “Creators” tell Thomas about the Glade in general? “Creator” is a loaded term. Why does the author use the word “Creator” and what duality might that term suggest?

Vocabulary

lingering, frustration, maze, inexplicably, palpable



Chapters 9 - 10

Summary

Chapter Nine

Total silence fell over the Glade after Newt read the girl's message aloud. Everyone was dumbfounded. Alby called up to "med-jacks" who checked the girl's pulse and heartbeat. Some of the boys were making cracks about having first dibs on the girl. Thomas didn't think it was anything to joke about – the girl was half dead. Alby warned the boys that if anyone touched the girl, he'd be thrown out in the Maze with the Grievors. The med-jacks proclaimed the girl to be healthy; but she was, perhaps, in a coma. The two med-jacks carried her away. Thomas suddenly felt that there was something familiar about the girl. He felt a connection to her.

Newt figured there had to be something special about the girl or else she wouldn't have been sent there. Thomas remained silent, but he was sure that he knew the girl. The overwhelming desire to become a runner was growing stronger. Alby instructed the med-jacks to put her in the room next to Ben's and to watch her day and night. Alby and Newt still suspected that Thomas knew the girl. Thomas denied knowing her, at least that he could remember. Alby declared that something was whacky. He told Newt to call a Gathering of the Keepers.

Thomas and Chuck went to the kitchen to get some food. Thomas was realizing that someone had sent them all there – someone evil. Thomas asked Chuck what he had to do to become a runner. Chuck told him to ask Alby. Chuck did reveal that the Runners met at the stone building each night to go over maps before they forgot anything. Thomas wondered just how huge the Maze was if, after two years, they were still trying to map it. The thought occurred to Thomas again that they were in prison. Since they had no memory of their previous lives, were they murderers?

After their dinner, Thomas went off on his own to explore the grounds. He walked to the northwest corner and saw that the corn was ready to harvest. There were other vegetables like peas and lettuce. There were several boys working in the small fields, weeding and picking. Next, he visited the southeast corner where the livestock was kept. He was disappointed that there were no horses – Riders would be better than Runners.

Once he reached the southwest quarter, near the forest, a silver flash ran past him on the ground. It was like a metallic lizard with six legs – the beetle blade, the device that the creators used to monitor the Glade. A red light emanated from the beetle blade. Thomas had to find out more about it. He followed it into the dark forest.

Chapter Ten



The light disappeared quickly. Thomas found himself in the dark forest which was creepy, yet somehow beautiful. He kept his eye on the moving target and kept pursuing it until it eluded him and vanished. He heard movement around him and called out asking who was there. There was no response and Thomas turned to head back. On his way back, he heard the movement in the woods again. He finally reached the graveyard behind the Homestead. He observed crudely made wooden crosses marking graves. He knelt down so he could look more closely at one of the graves. The grave with the marker "Stephen" looked fresh. What he had done to deserve death? Another grave was marked with "George" and was overgrown with weeds. Looking around, he saw a dozen or so graves that seemed to be fresh like Stephen's.

Thomas was horrified when he found another grave that was covered with grimy glass. He looked down into the grave and saw the torso of a rotting corpse. He recalled the story about the boy who had been cut in half when he ventured down into the Box. There were words etched on the glass that confirmed that this was the boy who tried to escape through the Box.

Thomas heard rustling in the woods again. Whoever it was started running and thrashing through the forest, no longer trying to hide his presence. The boy burst through a thicket of trees and lunged at Thomas. The two boys got into a scuffle. Thomas screamed out when the boy bit him in his shoulder. Finally, Thomas was able to shove the boy away and got a look at him. It was Ben, the sick boy.

Analysis

Chapter Nine

The arrival of a girl in the Glade has everyone in a tizzy! Newt is smart and experienced enough to know that the girl is a sign of big changes. But, will the changes be good ones or bad ones? Newt is also emerging as a good person and a friend to Thomas. Despite the arrival of the girl – who seems vaguely familiar to the amnesiac Thomas – he seems more determined than ever to become a Runner. Perhaps subconsciously he knows that it is his destiny to become a runner. Will he become a hero and solve the mystery of the Glade and rescue the boys and return them home?

Thomas is an intelligent boy with a healthy curiosity. He wants to know why he and the other boys are there and where they came from. Thomas is also smart enough to know that he and the others may be in the Glade because they were being punished. He had lost his memory. He wonders if he could have been a murderer in another life.

Although Thomas is frightened by different aspects of the Glade, his curiosity compels him to follow the strange metallic creature known as a beetle blade. He is possibly endangering himself; but, Thomas wants to find out about the new world he found himself in and how to get out of it.

Chapter Ten



Thomas' visit to the Glade graveyard foreshadows a future that is uncertain and ominous. What was perhaps most terrifying was that many of the graves were fresh indicating that boys had died or been murdered. He confirms that the story about the boy being cut in half by a Griever is confirmed when he finds the torso of "Stephen" and an epithet that basically verified the cause of the boy's demise.

Thomas is attacked by Ben – the boy who'd recently been attacked by Grievers – who had been following him in the woods. Thomas didn't know Ben before he was attacked by Grievers. Why Ben is so angry with Thomas is not clear. Undoubtedly, it will soon be revealed.

Discussion Question 1

Thomas' quest to become a Runner escalates with the arrival of the girl. How might Thomas' sense that he knows the girl and his growing desire to become a Runner be connected? Why does Thomas keep secret his belief that he knows the girl? What does he fear about revealing a possible past link to her?

Discussion Question 2

What hopes are dampened by Thomas' visit to the graveyard? The Box is the vehicle that delivered the boys to Glade but trying to escape back through the Box means certain death. What does the Box, the vehicle which the Creators use to deliver the boys to the Glade, symbolize on a grander scale?

Discussion Question 3

Metaphorically speaking, how does Thomas think outside the Box? What indications are there that Thomas will not be an obedient member of the Glade and might well emerge as a leader?

Vocabulary

supernatural, contemplation, sparse, skeletal, copse, foliage, morphing



Chapters 11 - 12

Summary

Chapter Eleven

Ben seemed to have recovered only slightly. Although weak, Ben looked poised to strike again. He was holding a knife. Suddenly, Alby was calling Ben. When Alby caught up with them, he warned Ben to stop or else he wouldn't see the next day. Ben made animal-like expressions, his tongue darting between his lips. Alby reminded Ben that he was still undergoing the Changing and that he shouldn't have left his bed. Ben claimed that Thomas wasn't one of them and should be killed.

Alby appeared with a bow and arrow and ordered Ben back to the Homestead. Ben proclaimed that Thomas wanted to take them home, take them away from the Maze. Alby didn't seem to know what Ben was talking about. Ben kept insisting that Thomas was bad. Ben wouldn't budge as he kept threatening Thomas with his knife. Suddenly, Alby struck Ben in the face with an arrow. Thomas felt horrible. Was Ben dead? Was it his fault? Alby ordered Thomas to leave Ben. The baggers would pick him up the next day. Thomas emerged from the forest, haunted by the image of Ben. He fell to his knees and vomited. It was all too much for him to bear.

That night Chuck tried to comfort him. Everyone had heard what happened. He told Thomas not to feel special – Ben was just one Griever-stung shank who flipped out and attacked someone. The next morning he stood in front of the barn of the Blood House with Newt for his first training session. Newt showed sympathy for Thomas for what he had been through. Thomas was glad to be training to get his mind off the incident.

Newt told Thomas that the girl was still in a coma. All Newbies began their training with the Slicers who do everything dealing with the animals. Thomas didn't know what he did in his other life – maybe he liked killing animals. Newt assured him that he'd know by the end of the day. Newt introduced Thomas to Winston who was the Keeper. He gave Thomas a tour of the Blood House. Thomas was taught how to tend to the animals. Finally, he had to watch Winston slaughter some animals. It was the most difficult part of his training.

Left on his own for a while, Thomas ventured out into the courtyard and ran into an Asian guy who was a Runner. Exhausted from his run, the boy bent down on his hands and knees and collapsed.

Chapter Twelve

Thomas called Alby and Newt for help. He knelt down by the boy who had revived. He claimed he was all right. The Runner knew that Thomas and the girl were both the Newbies. Alby came rushing up wanting to know why Minho was back already. It seemed that Minho had lost his water pack and had to return for another supply.



Thomas was surprised how Minho talked back to Alby. He was further surprised when Alby ran off to get Minho some water.

Minho told Thomas he had a lot to learn if he was afraid of Alby. He didn't consider him a leader. Thomas asked who the leader was, but Minho avoided answering him. Minho told him to keep his mouth shut and do as he was told. Minho was one of the first Gladers. Minho referred to the note in the girl's hand. She would be the last Newbie. Minho had heard that Thomas knew the girl. But, Thomas insisted that she didn't seem familiar to him. Thomas said the girl was "hot" when Minho pressed him about it.

Thomas worked up the nerve to ask Minho if he had found anything that day. Again, Minho didn't answer him. Thomas noticed that Minho looked very tired. When Alby returned with the water, he demanded to know what had happened in the Maze that day. Minho responded that he had found a dead one – a dead Griever.

Analysis

Chapter Eleven

Alby stops Ben's assault on Thomas. He reminds Ben that he should be in bed because he was still undergoing the Changing. The Changing has been mentioned a number of times. Just by virtue of the word "changing" it is obvious that those undergoing the process will experience a transition – a major transition. The exact details have yet to be described. As sick as Ben must be, Alby shows no mercy or sympathy for him. Perhaps, Alby just doesn't like Ben; or, he may be just a cold-natured person. Alby had been in the Glade the longest – two years – and has probably grown bitter and cynical over his fate.

Thomas had nothing to do with Ben's condition and his subsequent punishment; yet, he feels guilty and somehow responsible for Ben's demise. Could these feelings be related to another time and place in another life?

Chapter Twelve

The unexpected appearance of Minho in the afternoon is another sign that things are changing in Glade. How they are changing is not clear. When Minho announces that he found a dead Griever, it is another strong indication of this change. Questions abound about the dead Griever, especially why the Griever died. If it was killed, who killed it? Although Alby is considered to be the Glade leader, he appears to be subservient to Minho. This dynamic might be the result of the fact that Runners are considered to be the bravest group of boys and are depended on to eventually find a way out.



Discussion Question 1

On one hand, Ben sees Thomas as a savior, a rescuer who will take them away from the Maze. on the other hand, he sees Thomas as bad. Why does Ben have a confused and conflicted reaction to Thomas?

Discussion Question 2

Although Ben attacked Thomas with a knife, why does Thomas have such an emotional response to Alby shooting Ben with a bow and arrow? What could be the underlying meaning of this reaction? What might the reaction foreshadow?

Discussion Question 3

What was unusual about Minho finding a dead Griever in the Maze? How could the dead beast be connected to the girl and to the change that her presence portends?

Vocabulary

mesmerized, acidic, rebuke



Chapters 13 - 14

Summary

Chapter Thirteen

Alby found it hard to believe that Minho had found a dead Griever. Minho had found the dead creature near the Cliff. He couldn't bring it back because it weighed a ton. Alby wanted to know exactly what it looked like. Minho told Alby he needed to see for himself. Although Minho was exhausted he could help haul it back before the walls shut. Alby was still suspicious of Thomas. He thought he was keeping something from him. Thomas asked Alby why he hated him so much. Alby responded that the current situation had nothing to do with hate or love; it only had to do with survival. He was suspicious of Thomas because all of the happenings (the second Newbie, the strange note, Ben's attack, and now a dead Griever) couldn't have been just coincidences. Thomas insisted he knew nothing about any of it. Alby made Thomas promise that if something did seem familiar to him that he'd tell him.

Just when Thomas was leaning against a tree and drifting off, Chuck came running up to him. Ben wasn't dead! The arrow missed his brain and the med-jacks patched him up. He was in the slammer, the Glade jail. The Keepers had a Gathering and decided Ben's fate. Ben was being banished for trying to kill Thomas. Chuck didn't answer; he only smiled. It bothered Thomas.

Newt and Alby gathered all the Gladers at the East Door that night. After everyone had gathered, Alby ordered that Ben be brought out. Three of the larger boys dragged Ben out from the Homestead. He was already in bad shape – bruised and bloodied. Ben's eyes were filled with terror. Newt was ordered to bring out the Pole. Ben was brought before Alby who told him that he had brought his punishment on himself. Newt returned with a twenty-foot aluminum poles. Thomas felt horrible and responsible for Ben's fate even though he really had no fault in Ben's attack. Upon closer inspection, Thomas could see that there was a leather collar on the end of the Pole.

Chapter Fourteen

Alby wrapped the collar around Ben's neck. Ben was crying and begging for mercy. He blamed the Changing for his behavior. Ben's words were making Thomas feel worse. Alby remained silent. Alby grabbed the far end of the long pole and proclaimed Ben's crime and punishment. The Keepers had spoken and Ben would never be coming back. Alby ordered the Keepers to take their place along the Banishment Pole. One by one, the ten Keepers emerged from the crowd and grabbed a space on the Pole with both hands. Newt, Minho and Winston were among them. Ben continued to beg for mercy. Together the keepers pushed the Pole forward toward the maze with Ben screaming all the way. The Keepers pushed Ben outside the Glade and into the Maze. At the last



moment, they jerked the pole so that only the last segment of it containing the collar and Ben remained in the Maze. Thomas was surprised to feel tears trickling down his face.

Analysis

Chapter Thirteen

Alby remains suspicious of Thomas. Why he is suspicious is not clear other than he feels that Thomas knows the girl. Perhaps Alby is right. Thomas has lost his memory, but he does find something familiar about the girl. Thoughts of her keep popping up in Thomas' mind. At one point, he feels sad about her and misses her – both strong indications that he has an emotional connection to her.

Although Ben survived Alby's arrow, he is not long for the world of Glade. He will be banished for trying to kill Thomas. Apparently there is no mercy for Ben who has gone through the trauma of an attack by Grievors. The only place that Ben can be banished to is the Maze – where he will face the dreaded Grievors again.

Chapter Fourteen

The horrific punishment inflicted on Ben is almost too much for Thomas to bear. He doesn't speak up, but he is torn up inside by the event. Why does Thomas shed tears over Ben's demise? Did he know him in his past life and if so what was their relationship? The answer to those questions may reveal why Thomas feels so much emotion and actually feels responsible for Ben's end.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Alby claim his obvious dislike for Thomas has nothing to do with hate or love – only with survival?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Thomas upset that Ben is going to be punished for trying to kill him? What could be the drivers of Thomas' guilt about Ben?

Discussion Question 3

Had Thomas been up front about his own suspicions that he knew the girl before could he have saved Ben from his banishment? If so, why did he still not reveal his growing beliefs that there was a connection?

Vocabulary

unanimous, pathetic, bestial



Chapters 15 - 16

Summary

Chapter Fifteen

Thomas couldn't sleep that night. The image of Ben remained in his mind. He was Banished and would become the prey of the Griever. Being a Runner no longer seemed like a good idea. Newt woke him the next morning. Thomas would be placed with the Track-hoes that day, working in the gardens. Thomas thought of the girl and felt sad. It was absurd to think that he might be missing her.

Thomas saw Minho enter the Glade from the Maze carrying the length of pole that had the empty collar attached to it. Newt had seen only three Banishments. Each time the Griever had left the pole and collar on the doorstep. Thomas asked about the Runners. Newt told him that they were the best of the best. Everything depended on them. Newt had been a Runner; but, he had hurt his leg running from a Griever a few months back. If the Griever had caught him, he'd be going through the Changing. Newt didn't seem to want to discuss the Changing. How fast a boy could run was an important element of becoming a Runner. But to survive the Maze, a Runner had to be smart and a risk taker. Even in the day time the Runners felt the stress of perhaps never returning. Thomas said he wanted to be a Runner. Having been there less than a week, Newt said it was a little premature for death wishes. Newt told him to forget it. No one had ever become a Runner in their first month. Newt told him to keep quiet about his desire to be a Runner. The others would resent him. Newt told him that the Keepers elected the Runners. If Thomas agreed to keep his mouth shut, Newt would put him on the list of potential trainees.

At breakfast, Newt had an update for Thomas and Chuck. Minho and Alby were going to look for the dead Griever. Chuck asked who killed the Griever. Newt had no idea.

Chapter Sixteen

Zart gave Thomas a few pointers on tending to the gardens. He didn't love it, but it was better than working at the Blood House. Thomas asked Zart about the Keepers. There were Builders, Slopers, Baggers, Cooks, Map-makers, Med-jacks, Track-Hoes, Blood Housers and the Runners. Slopers clean toilets Zart told Thomas. Thomas learned that many Gladers have more than one job. The Baggers picked up dead bodies; but, they were also the guards and police.

By the afternoon, Thomas was ready to collapse from exhaustion. It made him want to be a Runner all the more. The image of the girl continued to pop up in his thoughts. Thomas went for a snack and ran into Chuck. Newt was there, too. But, he looked strange and ignored everyone. The girl was moaning and saying all kinds of weird



things but remained in a coma. It was really troublesome that Alby and Minho had not returned, though they should have been back hours before.

Thomas returned to the fields but kept an eye on the West Door for signs of Alby and Minho. Newt hadn't taken to the idea of going out and looking for them. He was terrified of the Maze. That evening, Newt had grown more and more upset. Thomas watched him as he ran from Door to Door looking for any sign of them. Newt stayed on watch for them but the Doors would soon all close. Thomas and Chuck decided to go help Newt look for them.

Newt told Thomas and Chuck that sending out a search party was against the rules. Going out to look for them at night was asking to be killed. Newt told Thomas that even if he became a Keeper, he should never go out at night. Chuck said that if they didn't come back that night it meant that they were dead. The Doors began to rumble shut. Thomas watched in awe as the giant walls began to close. Suddenly, he saw a movement outside in the Maze. At first he thought it was a Griever. Then he saw that there were two figures stumbling toward the Door. It was Minho and Alby. Minho was practically dragging Alby. Minho shouted that "they got him." Thomas screamed for Newt. Alby slipped to the ground. Minho tried to get him back on his feet. The wall was closing fast and the boys were still a distance away. Newt warned Thomas not to venture out. However, Thomas felt compelled to help the boys. He stepped out just before the walls slammed shut.

Analysis

Chapter Fifteen

Even with Ben's demise and Thomas' initial thoughts that being a Runner was not the best idea, his thoughts eventually return back to that desire. It appears as though being a Runner is Thomas' destiny. Even when Newt, who likes Thomas, tries to dissuade him from this pursuit, Thomas remains undaunted. He is sure he would be successful and wants to prove his worth. Thomas is nothing if he's not stubborn and single-minded. He finally wears Newt down a bit. Newt agrees to recommend him as a potential Runner IF he can shut up about it! But Newt is a serious person. He would not recommend anyone for a Runner position if he didn't think the person was worthy of it. If Thomas becomes a Runner, it will be another indication that things are changing in Glade. No one with as little time in Glade has ever before been made a Runner.

Chapter Sixteen

Thomas is able to experience a mundane element of life in Glade in the gardens. Although he prefers gardening and weeding to slaughtering animals, it is not a rewarding job. It makes him think all the more about becoming a Runner. He is drawn to the idea because being a Runner will get him out of the Courtyard. Also, its risk and adventure appeal to him. However, there may be a another underlying reason that he is not yet aware of himself. What keeps driving him to pursue the most dangerous job in



Glade? He may be compelled by something in his former life. Perhaps, he's making amends for prior mistakes and wants to redeem himself.

Thomas is granted his wish to venture out into the Maze in the most unexpected way. Although he is warned to stay in the Courtyard when he sees Minho and Alby struggling to return before the walls close, Thomas cannot help himself. The lure of the Maze is too much for Thomas to resist. The fact that Thomas is humane and has a good heart is evidenced by his desire to rescue his two returning colleagues.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Newt, who seemed to take to Thomas, discourage him from becoming a Runner? Could Newt's own experience as a Runner have been a factor? What might be compelling Newt to have a protective feeling toward Thomas?

Discussion Question 2

How does Thomas' assertive personality and aggressiveness manifest in his discussions with Newt about the Maze? What leadership qualities are beginning to emerge in Thomas?

Discussion Question 3

Was Thomas' venture into the Maze at night purely accidental? What evidence exists that he used the opportunity of rescuing Alby and Menlo to explore the Maze?

Vocabulary

psychotically, nonchalant, piqued, somber, corresponding



Chapters 17 - 18

Summary

Chapter Seventeen

Night was falling. Thomas looked back at the mammoth walls that were now solidly closed. He was filled with terror. Minho was moaning, and Alby was crying out. Alby's clothes were ripped and shredded. He had obviously gotten the worse of it. Minho was angry with Thomas. He was as good as dead for stepping into the Maze. Minho didn't want to talk about what had happened. He would only say that the Grievors were good at playing dead. Alby could be dead in an hour. Minho didn't know how long he had to live without the Serum.

Minho said that he and Thomas would be dead, too. They had no chance. The only reason Ben and Gally survived the Grievors was because they made it back before sunset. Grievors always come out at night and often come out during the day. No one had ever been caught outside the walls and lived to tell about it. The twelve buried in the graveyard had died in the Maze. There were others whose bodies were never recovered.

Thomas learned that the Grievors didn't bite their victims; they pricked them. The wounds were not visible. Minho could have been stung, too, and have fallen ill later. The Griever who they believed to be dead stung Alby and ran off. Minho expected the Grievors to show up any time with their "needles." The walls were impossible to climb. Minho had never been so terrified. Suddenly, a low metallic sound was heard coming from deep within the Maze. Some metal clicks and a moaning filled the air. It was horrifying. Minho told him that they had to separate. It was the only chance they had. Minho ran off and disappeared in the dark.

Chapter Eighteen

Thomas was angry that Minho had left him there alone. The noises were growing louder. A pungent smell was in the air. He turned and faced Alby who was propped up against the wall. Thomas found a pulse; Alby was still alive. Thomas decided that he couldn't leave Alby behind. With great effort, he picked Alby up and threw him over his shoulder. But, Thomas wasn't strong enough. They both tumbled down. Thomas began to see bright flashes of light on the horizon.

Thomas began dragging Alby along the ground, but he was too heavy for Thomas to keep dragging him. He propped Alby up again on the wall and sat next to him. Thomas began to think of a possible solution. Thomas found a thick growth of ivy on the wall. He tugged on the vine and plucked it from the ground. The top of the vine didn't fall. This told Thomas that it was entangled with other vines higher up on the wall. When



he pulled on the vine, it seemed strong. He lifted himself off the ground and grabbed onto the vine. It held.

Thomas grabbed other vines and ripped them from the wall. He dragged Alby over to the vines. The sounds were louder, but Thomas didn't see anything yet. The strange lights were illuminating the Maze. He figured the Grievors were close. Thomas tied vines around Alby's arms and legs. He grabbed a vine and began to climb, wrapping one of the vines around his chest several times. He grabbed the vine wrapped around one of Alby's legs. He tried to climb, but the weight was too much. He tried hoisting Alby up and pushing instead of pulling him. It was a slow process, but he continued moving up the wall a few feet at a time by climbing, wrapping, tying, and pushing. As the sounds of the Grievors were growing closer Thomas was compelled to work faster. The task was exhausting. At about thirty feet off the ground, he had to stop; his muscles couldn't take any more. That would have to be their hiding place.

Thomas saw a red light off to his side. A beetle blade was only inches away from him. The creature was eerie up close. But, the eeriest thing about it was that the word "Wicked" was written in blood-red across its torso. Thomas was aware that the beetle blades were spies for whoever sent him there. The beetle ran off after a few moments; but, then the Griever was heading toward him.

Analysis

Chapter Seventeen

Had Thomas taken on more than he was up for? No one seems to survive the Maze and the Grievors at any level. The danger that Thomas had placed himself in is confirmed by Minho who tells him that he is as good as dead! Minho is not grateful to Thomas for risking himself to rescue him and Alby. The body count attributed to the Grievors will now be three instead of two.

More is revealed about the Grievors. They don't consume their prey; they sting them. Perhaps, they even inject them with a poison because they have needles and there are no apparent wounds on the bodies of their victims.

Chapter Eighteen

Although Minho was adamant that they would die, he back pedals a bit when he tells Thomas that they needed to separate when they hear the Grievors approach. Separating was the only chance they had of surviving. But, instead of feeling heartened by Minho's change of heart, Thomas is angry and resentful. How could Minho desert him? He had been there only a few days and had no apparent defenses against the approaching menace.

Thomas demonstrates his ability to think on his feet and act under pressure. Minho ridicules Thomas for suggesting that they could climb over the use wall to safety. However, Thomas is undeterred. He devises a way to climb the wall by using the thick



vines that cover it. Thomas quickly determines that he can't make it to the top of the wall but hopes that he can hide himself and Alby in the thick vines thirty feet up the wall. The "creators" have an eye on Thomas and his struggles through a beetle blade that is sent in to monitor him.

Discussion Question 1

After the dire picture that the more-seasoned Minho paints for their being as "good as dead," what characteristic within Thomas compels him to seek a way to survive?

Discussion Question 2

Compare and contrast Thomas and Minho. How do these characteristics impact the story?

Discussion Question 3

How does a combination of Thomas' "half-glass-full" attitude and his ability to think on his feet carry the day?

Vocabulary

dire, ingenious, interspersed



Chapters 19 - 20

Summary

Chapter Nineteen

Thomas was horrified as the huge Griever came nearer. It was hard to describe – part animal and part machine. It was like a giant slug with no head or tail. It was six feet in length and four feet thick. Sharp metal spikes continuously popped up through its body. There were a number of arms protruding from the body. Some held lights; others were affixed with long needles. Thomas stayed perfectly still as he and Alby were suspended in the vines. He hoped the thing wouldn't see them. Of course the beetle blade knew where they were.

Finally, the Griever reached the wall. Thomas held his breath as the Griever was right below them. Lights emanated from the Griever and shined randomly all over the area. Then suddenly, everything went dark. Thomas couldn't see a think in the pitch black. There was no sound or movement. Finally, the lights returned, and the Griever started climbing the wall.

Chapter Twenty

Thomas felt the hope drain from his body as the creature moved up the wall. Quickly, Thomas decided he had to leave Alby hanging there and move to the side to divert the creature from the vulnerable Alby. He began moving away by grabbing vine after vine and swinging to his right. The Griever was pursuing him and the sounds told Thomas that the creature was gaining on him. Thomas way trying to work his way down to the ground as he swung from vine to vine. The Griever was right behind him reaching out with a claw-like device.

With a powerful swing, Thomas was able to kick the arm that held the claw-like device. Unfortunately, the momentum of his swinging was bringing him right back on top of the beast. Thomas drew his arms and legs together to form a ball but he sunk a few inches into the creature's fleshy skin at contact. He kicked like crazy, avoiding the needles and claws. As he swung away, he sustained a deep scratch in his back. He grabbed a vine and slid to the ground and ran for his life.

Thomas was running through the Maze with the Griever behind him. As he ran, he felt some satisfaction that the thing didn't seem to be gaining on him. He was nearly exhausted when he rounded a corner into a new corridor and saw three Grievers before him rolling his way.

Analysis

Chapter Nineteen



Thomas is quick on his feet. He is hoping against odds that by hiding above the Griever that he can elude them. Thomas is demonstrating his intelligence and ability to face great odds and not easily give in. The chapter ends with the Griever climbing the wall. Thomas will have to do some more quick thinking to elude the beast again.

Chapter Twenty

Thomas made the quick decision that he had to leave Alby behind. But, unlike Minho who left both Thomas and Alby to their own devices, Thomas diverts attention from the vulnerable Alby to himself by moving across the wall. The challenges mount against Thomas. So far he has eluded one Griever and placed Alby in a somewhat safe hiding spot. Just when he is gaining confidence that he could survive the Maze, he faces the worst challenge yet – three Grievers in front of him and one behind him. How will he ever escape all four of them?!

Discussion Question 1

Although Thomas left Alby unconscious, vulnerable, and hanging on the wall, what evidence was there that he was still trying to protect him?

Discussion Question 2

How did being a “Newbie” serve Thomas well during his experience in the Maze and his encounter with the dreaded Grievers?

Discussion Question 3

Why was the presence of the beetle blade during Thomas’ efforts to evade the Grievers a bad omen?

Vocabulary

menacing, pendulum, adrenaline



Chapters 21 - 22

Summary

Chapter Twenty-One

With three Griever ahead of him and one still pursuing him from the rear, Thomas knew it was over. He decided to go down fighting. Thomas charged the one who was pursuing him, screaming at it at the top of his lungs. Just as the Griever was about to attack him, Thomas was able at the last minute to move out of its path. The Griever plunged forward. Thomas ran down the Maze's corridors as the four Griever were now pursuing him. Suddenly, he was yanked into an adjoining hallway. It was Minho. He had watched as Thomas averted the Griever. They ran down the corridors together. Minho told Thomas they only had to last a little while longer. But, the Griever were gaining on them.

Finally, they turned into a corridor that ended in total blackness. It was the end of the Maze. But, in every direction at the Maze's end was empty air and fading stars. Thomas was overcome with vertigo. Minho told him to be careful because they were standing before the Cliff. They stood at the end of the Maze facing the oncoming Griever that were lined up single-file. Just as the first Griever was nearly upon them, Minho screamed, "Now!" and the boys dove in opposite directions and the first Griever plummeted off the Cliff. The momentum of the next two Griever also carried them off the Cliff. The fourth Griever was able to stop at the edge of the Cliff, a claw stuck in the ground holding it in place. Working in sync, the boys ran from their hiding spots and jumped feet first at the creature sending it over the edge.

Chapter Twenty-Two

The boys were exhausted and emotionally spent. They lay quietly for a half-hour. Thomas was crying but finally stopped not knowing what Minho would think of him. Although he had virtually no memory, he was sure he just had been through the most harrowing time of his life. He crawled to the edge of the Cliff. Even with the light of dawn, he couldn't see to the bottom. Thomas wondered if it was all an illusion. The Walls would open soon. Minho couldn't believe they were still alive. There were more Griever, but the sunrise would save them. They had made it through the night which had never been done before.

Thomas said that the Griever seemed to disappear when they went over the edge. Minho responded that perhaps they were magic. Suddenly, Thomas remembered Alby who was still hanging in the ivy. Minho was sure that Alby hadn't survived. But, he'd only been stung by one needle. Perhaps, the Serum could still save him. They ran off toward the wall where Thomas had left Alby. Thomas learned from Minho that the Serum was given to them by the Creators. It came with the supplies every week. After a victim was given the Serum, they still went through the Changing, but came out healed.



They were exhausted as they ran. Thomas' spirit was lifted when he saw that the West Door was opening. Newt limped over to them wanting to know what had happened. They'd tell him later. They had to try to save Alby. Thomas located the spot where he had left Alby. They looked up and saw that he was still in one piece. Newt ordered Thomas and Minho to the med-jacks. He would take care of getting Alby down. They didn't know if he was dead or alive.

As they passed through the Glade, the others gawked at them. They had accomplished the impossible. Even Gally remained silent. The med-jacks led Thomas upstairs in the Homestead. He got a glimpse of the girl who was still lying in her bed. He had the urge to go to her, but that wasn't an option. As he fell asleep in the hospital bed, he recalled the word "Wicked" written around the beetle blade's body. He thought of the girl.

Later, Chuck woke him from a deep sleep to tell him that Alby was alive and that the Serum worked. Alby had just begun the Changing. Just then, Thomas heard Alby's blood-curdling scream.

Analysis

Chapter Twenty-One

By deciding to "go down fighting" Thomas once again shows his spirit and tenacity. He is not going to go easily, although at one point the writing was on the wall that the end was near. By keeping his hope alive, Thomas was ultimately able to defeat the Grievers. Had Thomas been terrorized and defeated, he would have been immobilized and would have never thought to dodge the Griever and thus elude being brutally stung and killed. Minho is impressed with the way Thomas dodged the Griever and mimics his move to defeat the pursuing Grievers.

Chapter Twenty-Two

Thomas has brought new life and hope to the boys of the Glade. Even though he was a Newbie, Thomas has shown himself to be brave and fearless in defeating the Grievers. Thomas was a hero to some and envied by others. Thomas also showed great compassion. He had refused to leave a wounded and vulnerable Alby behind. He devised a way that would hopefully keep Alby safe while he was forced to run from the advancing Griever. Thomas did not allow the conventional wisdom to deter or defeat him. He had heard over and over again that anyone caught outside in the Maze in the dark was a dead man. Even Minho said they were as good as dead when the Doors closed on them. Thomas survived and saved Alby, the Glade's leader, by ignoring the negative and working toward a solution that could be successful.

Discussion Question 1

What episode demonstrates the benefit of learning from others no matter what their status may be? Why is it important to be open to learn from others?



Discussion Question 2

How is the Cliff like the Box? Why is the “end” of the Maze more of a mystery than its endless and confusing corridors and huge, ivied walls?

Discussion Question 3

What word was written across the torso of the beetle blade? Why did it make Thomas think of the girl?

Vocabulary

salvageable, emanating, vertigo, traumatic, comatose



Chapters 23 - 24

Summary

Chapter Twenty-Three

Thomas worried that Alby would turn into a psycho like Ben had. Alby's screams continued through the day and night. Thomas was still fatigued and sore all over. The emotional trauma was worse than the physical pain. He had so many questions about Glade, the Creators, and his new life. A need for revenge against those who sent him there began to grow within him. If in two years Newt and the others couldn't solve the mystery of the Maze and why they had been sent to the Glade, how could he?

Chuck brought Thomas dinner that night. He told him that he was the talk of the town for doing the impossible. Thomas felt a burst of pride which quickly vanished with thoughts of Alby. Both Thomas and Minho were heroes for killing four of the beasts. Newt stopped by to see Thomas. The worse was over for Alby. He'd be okay in a couple of days. Thomas pressed Newt for more details about the Changing. But Newt knew no more than Thomas. When a Griever stung someone, they had to be given the Serum or die. But Thomas wanted to know why they called the process the Changing. Newt said it was simply because whoever goes through it is changed. They act like psychos afterward, although Ben was an extreme case. Those who survived were different. They become unlikable and refuse to talk about the ordeal. Gally was a perfect example.

Newt said there was no change in the girl. She mumbled nonsense once in a while. Newt had a new problem – what to do with Thomas. Thomas was unnerved – what had he done?! Thomas had turned the place upside down. Half the Gladers believed he was a god and the other half wanted to throw him back down into the Box. Newt would be calling a Gathering to discuss it. Thomas would be attending since he was the only item on the agenda.

Chapter Twenty-Four

Summary

The next day, Thomas was sitting in a semi-circle at the Gathering in a large room in the Homestead. One chair was empty – it was Alby's. Newt declared the Gathering had begun. Newt summarized the activity of the last few days and referred to Thomas' role, calling him a Greenbean. Gally was quick to point out that he was no longer a Greenbean. Rather, he was a rule breaker by leaving the Glade. Newt basically told Glade to shut up. The issue was, Newt continued, what to do with Thomas given the diverse feelings toward him.

Zart said that Thomas did break an important rule and they couldn't let that go unpunished. But, on the other hand, Thomas had changed things demonstrating that survival was possible out there and that the Grievers could be defeated. Gally was sure



that Minho was the brains behind the victory. Frypan thought the whole discussion was ridiculous. The kid had saved Alby's life and killed some Griever. Thomas should be put on the Council and have him train everyone on how he survived the Maze at night. There was a big reaction to Frypan's words – positive and negative. Newt calmed everyone down.

Another kid, whom Thomas had never met, agreed with Frypan. Winston thought Thomas should be punished. Letting him go unpunished would be a bad example. Winston said he should be put in the Slammer for a week on bread and water. A few others offered their opinions then it came to the last two Keepers – Gally and Minho. Gally went first offering his theory that Thomas' appearance there was an act and that he was a spy from the Creators. A day after he showed, the first girl ever came up the Box and there was a dead Griever. It wasn't a coincidence that Thomas wound up in the Maze. There was no proof that it was Thomas who hid Alby in the vines. Gally's conclusion was that Thomas was not to be trusted.

Minho stood and told the group that he saw how Thomas conducted himself first-hand. Thomas stayed strong, while Minho himself had turned into a chicken. Minho nominated Thomas to replace himself as the Keeper of the Runners.

Analysis

Chapter Twenty-Three

Thomas is a principled and sensitive young man. Although he went through a physical ordeal and challenge that no one else would have wanted to take on, it was the emotional ordeal that had the most impact. His depth of character is far beyond that of most boys his age and most boys who are residing in the Glade. Perhaps, Thomas came from a very good family that instilled good values and ethics in him. He can't recall his prior life; but, there are hints about the nature of his family. Those good values – his compassion, ethics, and intellectual curiosity – did not come out of thin air.

Chapter Twenty-Four

Thomas has been elevated from Newbie to the center of attention in all of Glade. He has done the impossible; but, he also broke an important rule. Then again, rules are made to be broken. By breaking the rule and entering the Maze at night, he has proven that survival is possible and that the Griever can be defeated. However, just like any community that places survival as its paramount goal, Glade must have order. Those who break laws must be punished. Thomas' violation was a serious one; but, it was mitigated by his saving Alby and Minho and defeating four Griever. However, Newt does not want to send a message that it's okay to break the laws; so, Thomas must receive some punishment. One day in the Slammer is certainly a light sentence. Thomas is rewarded by being voted in as a Runner, a position he has wanted since he arrived in Glade.



Discussion Question 1

What drove Gally to recommend a severe punishment for Thomas? What validity was there to his argument?

Discussion Question 2

Why was it important to Gally that the others recognize that Thomas was no longer a Newbie? What part did ego play in Gally's reaction to Thomas and his heroic acts?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Menlo feel the need to make the drastic suggestion that Thomas take his place as Keeper of the Runners? Was his suggestion sincere; or, was he attempting to gain the sympathy of the others?

Vocabulary

psychotic, adamantly, wallowing, ordeal, pathetic, scowl



Chapters 25 - 26

Summary

Chapter Twenty-Five

The room was frozen in silence. Thomas was stunned by Minho's recommendation. Gally finally voiced his disagreement. In fact, he said, Minho should be removed from the Council for making such a ridiculous recommendation. Everyone began talking at once – some agreed with Minho and some disagreed. Newt quieted everyone down. Newt asked Minho to elaborate on his reasons for the strange recommendation.

Minho referred to his experience as a Runner and someone who had actually been out there as opposed to everyone else on the Council. The only reason Gally was out there was because he'd broken the same rule that he was blaming Thomas for breaking. He called Gally a hypocrite. Minho talked about how brave Thomas had been and how he hadn't whined and cried. He never seemed to be scared. He entered the Maze to try to rescue Minho and Alby even though he knew that he was risking his life. It was he, Minho, who had run off and given Alby up for dead. Thomas chose to stay with Alby and try to save him. He spoke of how Thomas had tricked the Griever who was about to pounce on him. Minho had never seen anything like Thomas' behavior.

It came to blows between Minho and Gally, with Minho the easy victor. Newt and Winston pulled them apart. Gally was humiliated and warned Minho that things would change and that he should be removed from the Council. Gally directed his attention to Thomas and warned him as well, reminding him that he had seen him before. As he left the room, Gally swore he'd stop Thomas, killing him if need be.

Chapter Twenty-Six

Thomas remained silent, frozen in his chair. He was sure that Gally was insane. Although Newt agreed that Gally was more "whacked" than ever, he believed that Minho had gone off the deep-end with his recommendation. Minho reminded Newt that Gally had just threatened to kill him and Thomas. Gally was dangerous and should be thrown in the Slammer. Winston said that maybe Gally's memories of knowing Thomas somehow were real. Frypan pointed out that Gally was a psycho. Thomas couldn't help but speak out. He didn't know why Gally hated him. Thomas didn't know who he was in his prior life. But, the reason for the meeting was what had been done in the Maze not because Gally thought he was evil. He didn't do anything intentionally wrong; he just tried to help Minho and Alby.

Newt decided Thomas would get one day in the Slammer. That would be his punishment. He also recommended that Thomas become a Runner. He would not become the Keeper of the Runners. Minho insisted that Thomas was the best and should be Keeper. Newt said he'd be a Runner for himself. If he proved himself, they'd



make the switch. Winston was the only one to vote “no” to Newt’s recommendations. There were enough votes without him. Winston said that they needed to keep in mind that everything had changed since Thomas arrived. He would serve his punishment the next day. After that he would be training with Minho.

Chuck appeared at the door. Alby was acting crazy and thrashing around. He wanted to see Thomas.

Analysis

Chapter Twenty-Five

Gally shows his resentment and jealousy toward Thomas. He still hints that he knew him before and warns the others that Thomas cannot be trusted. There may have been a connection between Thomas and Gally in the past. Judging from Gally’s hatred for Thomas, it must not have been a positive one. The majority of the Keepers are on Thomas’ side probably because he is a hero and leader and has the potential of finding a way out for all of them.

Minho shows his character by being honest about what occurred in the Maze. He was the one who became terrified and ran. It was Thomas who stayed behind to protect Alby. It was Thomas’ clever maneuver around the Griever that gave Minho the impetus for leading the other Grievers to their deaths.

Chapter Twenty-Six

Newt shows his good leadership skills by seeing both sides of the controversy. While Gally is “whacked” and in the wrong, Newt also sees Minho as being way out of line by recommending that a Newbie become the Keeper of the Runners. Minho is probably humiliated by his own behavior and feels he should be demoted because he failed in leadership during the attack of the Grievers. Newt’s recommendation is a tempered one. He supports some punishment for Thomas because there must be order. However, he also supports the elevation of Thomas to Runner.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Menlo refer to Gally as a hypocrite? How does Menlo show that his ego is not driving his feelings toward Thomas and his accomplishments?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Newt recommend a “soft” punishment for Thomas? Why does Winston vote against Newt’s recommendation and is there an underlying reason for his negative vote?



Discussion Question 3

Thomas spoke up in the meeting without permission. How did he delineate between Gally's comments and what the meeting was actually for and how did that facilitate the real purpose of the Gathering?

Vocabulary

disband, hypocrisy, maniacal, sullenly, mirroring



Chapters 27 - 28

Summary

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Thomas, Newt and Chuck headed out to see Alby. At the Homestead, Chuck was told to wait downstairs while Newt and Thomas saw Alby. When they entered his room, it appeared that Alby was asleep. Newt woke him up. He said that everything was going to change – he saw images of Thomas and the girl. Alby insisted that Newt leave to allow him to talk privately with Thomas. As soon as Newt left, Alby told Thomas that he knew who he was and who the girl was. He remembered the Flare – which meant nothing to Thomas. Alby responded that it wasn't pretty. Alby tried to speak, but he was hit with a full-body seizure that caused him to thrash about. He called Newt back in for help. Although it was a struggle, Thomas took hold of Alby's his legs while Newt tried to pry Alby's hands away from around his own neck. He was trying to strangle himself. With great effort, Newt was finally able to pull his hands away. Alby seemed to recover and apologized for his behavior.

Alby claimed that he wasn't trying to kill himself – it was some other force. Alby became very drowsy. Newt told him to sleep; they'd talk the next day. As Thomas and Newt were leaving, he warned them to be careful with the girl and to protect the maps.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Newt wanted to talk to Thomas over lunch. Thomas noticed how Frypan gave him funny looks. He figured it would be the new norm for him. He was different from everyone else in Glade. Newt had never seen the type of behavior Alby displayed before. Newt said they had to go find Gally. He'd gone off and was hiding somewhere. Newt agreed that Gally was dangerous and needed to be found. Thomas' orders were to work with Newt and Minho and to stay away from the other shanks for the time being.

Newt brought up the girl. Gally, Alby, Ben, and the girl's note all said that things were going to change. The three boys claimed they saw Thomas in their memories. Newt needed to figure out what was different about Thomas. He needed Thomas to open his mind as much as possible. Thomas admitted that he felt he'd been at the Glade before. There was something familiar about it. No one else had felt like that Newt told him. Another thing, Thomas knew from day one that he wanted to be a runner. He told Thomas to keep trying to remember.

Newt decided that they needed to go see the girl. He wanted to hear everything Alby said to him when they were alone. The girl was still in a coma; but, she looked healthy. Clint, one of the med-jacks, said he thought she'd be coming out of her coma soon. She'd been talking a lot. Clint had been writing down what she said. He gave Newt a



notebook with his notes. There was mention of the Creators and how it all had to end. The girl kept saying Thomas' name over and over.

Newt and Thomas took a seat next to the bed. After looking at the girl for a while, Thomas said that he did know her, but he couldn't remember who she was or how he knew her. Thomas tried to think harder and swore he heard the name, "Teresa." Then he heard a girl's voice in his head saying, "Thomas." Thomas became upset – the girl was talking to him in his head! She told him that they were the last ones and that it would end soon. She went on to say that they can pass the trials and that she was sent there as a trigger. Her last words were that she and Thomas had done this to the other boys and to themselves.

Analysis

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Newt is relying more and more on Thomas and his intelligence and ability. Despite the things he's heard about Thomas from Gally, Newt trusts Thomas. Alby insists on talking privately with Thomas. He tells him that he saw him in the Flare – which is something that has not been explained at this point. By speaking about his memories with just Thomas, Alby is protecting him against the others who might decide that Thomas is not to be trusted. Alby knows more; but, a force – either external or internal – keeps him from revealing what those recollections would reveal.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Alby's behavior is another new experience for the Glade. Newt had never seen such behavior. Just like the girl and the defeat of the Grievors, can Alby's behavior be tied to the appearance of Thomas? The fact that Gally – who threatened to kill both Minho and Thomas – is missing is a potential danger for the protagonist and his colleagues.

Newt senses that the solution to at least some of the mysteries of the Glade may well lie in Thomas. For that reason, Newt tells Thomas to open up his mind and allow old memories to seep through. Thomas may not just be a hero, he could provide the way home for all the boys in Glade. The girl speaks to Thomas in his head which confirms that they probably had a strong connection or close relationship in their former lives. The girl was sent as the trigger – the trigger to change things forever.

Discussion Question 1

Alby claims that he was not trying to kill himself. What "force" may have been trying to kill Alby? How could Alby's current emotional and mental condition have played a part in Alby's struggles?



Discussion Question 2

Newt is beginning to believe that Thomas may know more than he is saying. How does he approach Thomas in an effort to learn more about him and what he knows? Why is he approach wiser? Why is it possible that his approach may yield more information from Thomas than Alby or Gally were able to glean?

Discussion Question 3

Why was Thomas able to “hear” the girl’s voice in his head? If what he heard was real and not imaginary, then Thomas and the girl have what ability?

Vocabulary

vague, incoherent, delve, remnant



Chapters 29 - 30

Summary

Chapter Twenty-Nine

Thomas took off running into the Maze. He didn't stop until almost an hour had passed. He had to get back, but he didn't know if he could face the girl again after what she had told him. He was amazed that he was able to find his way back through the Maze. Thomas was amazed at his own strength and endurance after the horrific experience he had in the Maze just a day before. He was getting a good idea of the massive size of the Maze. It went on for miles and miles in every direction. By the time he returned, the Doors were mere minutes from closing. He headed for the Deadheads and found a spot where he could rest and be alone. After a short while he fell asleep.

Chuck woke him the next morning. He recalled all the things the girl said. He wondered if he was crazy. Only he could hear her voice. Only Newt knew her name. They headed for the Homestead and for breakfast. Chuck told him that some of the boys were happy with the decision to make him a Runner, while others grumbled about it. He dreaded being in the Slammer all day. Most of the boys Thomas encountered seemed to be supporting him, although he got a few dirty looks.

Gally was seen running out into the Maze and hadn't been seen since. Everyone knew that he went nuts. Some shank accused Thomas of killing him. Gally was probably dead. But, Chuck wasn't sure the whole thing wasn't a ruse. Perhaps Gally's friends are hiding him in the Glade, only pretending to be in the Maze so that he could prove he was as tough as Thomas and Minho. Newt came by and told Thomas it was time for him to go to jail. Well, Thomas thought, it would be a day to rest and relax.

Chapter Thirty

The Slammer was located between the Homestead and the North Wall behind some thorny bushes. The building was made of rough concrete and had only one barred window and a wooden door with a rusty lock. Newt unlocked the door and told Thomas to enjoy himself. There was only a chair and nothing to do. After an hour, Thomas was bored out of his mind. After several more hours, the thought of Gally and the Grievors was appealing. Chuck came with lunch at noon. Chuck told him that things were returning to normal. The Runners were out in the Maze and Alby was up and around retaking his role as leader.

Chuck was sad and depressed. He wanted to return to whatever his former life had been. Chuck used to cry every night. Thomas admitted that he cried after his ordeal in the Maze. Chuck wondered if he had parents out there somewhere missing him. The thought made Thomas sad. There were so many mysteries about their fate. He felt sorry for Chuck. He was just a kid who should be playing outside with the kids in his



neighborhood. Thomas hated the Creators, the people that sent them all there. Thomas assured Chuck that he had a mother who missed him and cried for him every day. He told Chuck not to give up. They would solve the mystery and return everyone home. After Chuck left, Thomas vowed to get him back home.

Analysis

Chapter Twenty-Nine

After his ordeal and all the reaction to him – both positive and negative – Thomas needs time and space by himself. Although recalling his old life may be an emotional experience, he wants to try to remember because the key to escaping from the Glade could lie within his memories. He is willing to endure the emotions of such an undertaking not just for himself but for the others. He wants to find a way out for everyone. It is unsettling that Gally is still missing. Someone saw him run out into the Maze. Chuck thinks he could be hiding in the Glade. He must be found before he brings harm to Thomas or Minho.

Chapter Thirty

Thomas once again shows a lot of empathy for Chuck. He realizes that Chuck is just a kid who is missing part of his childhood. The thought of a mother touches Thomas because he has the same thoughts as Chuck. Do they have mothers who miss them? Thomas has a growing resentment for the Creators who had stolen the lives away from the boys of the Glade. Thomas is so taken with Chuck's emotional words that he vows to get Chuck back to his home someday – wherever that may be.

Discussion Question 1

After learning that Teresa was sent as the “trigger” for change, why did Thomas take off running into the Maze? When he returned, why did he want to be alone and talk to no one?

Discussion Question 2

Why were there mixed reactions among the Gladers about Thomas' punishment and his being named a Runner? What emotions may have driven these diverse reactions?

Discussion Question 3

Why was Thomas touched by Chuck's situation? Why was it important for Thomas to get Chuck, seemingly above all others, back home?



Vocabulary

peripherally, contemplative, fuming, bleak



Chapters 31 - 32

Summary

Chapter Thirty-One

Just after Thomas heard the Doors closing, Alby showed up to release him. Alby looked and sounded like his old self. Thomas said he was glad to see that Alby had healed so quickly. Alby remembered the talk they had the day before. It was starting to fade a bit; but, he would never completely forget it. When he tried to talk about it, he choked up. There was something that didn't like him remembering it. Thomas asked Alby what he saw Thomas doing in his memories. Alby responded that Thomas was with the Creators. He was helping them. Thomas was stunned. Alby hoped that the Changing planted false memories and not real ones. There was something else that Alby saw Thomas doing; but he was afraid to repeat it. He didn't want to start choking himself.

Thomas said that if he was evil, perhaps they should keep him in the Slammer. Alby assured him he wasn't evil. Thomas had risked his life to save him and that wasn't evil. Alby also had some memories of his life at home and where he lived. It was something he wouldn't want to go back to. Maybe the Serum made him have hallucinations. But, Thomas pointed out, they had to try to escape from the Glade.

Frypan left Thomas a great dinner which he thoroughly enjoyed. Minhó joined him and prepped him for their training session the next day. Thomas returned to the Deadheads that night to sleep. He still had a need to be alone. As he tried to fall asleep, he thought of his discussion with Minhó. They talked about the Maze's massive size. He couldn't imagine how it had been constructed. The Runners looked for a way out every day. Yet, in two years they had never found it. So far, all the paths of the Maze returned to the Glade. They had to be missing something that was perhaps right before their eyes. Thomas vowed to not quit until he found a way home.

Chapter Thirty-Two

Minhó woke Thomas before dawn and told him to follow him back to the Homestead. Minhó unlocked a small shed where ropes and chains and other equipment were stored. Minhó gave Thomas a new pair of running shoes and a cheap plastic watch. He told Thomas to put it on and never take it off. It could be a matter of life or death. He gave him other supplies including a backpack, t-shirts, and shorts. If there was anything Thomas needed, he should ask for it. The Creators gave them whatever they needed.

Then Minhó showed him their weapons that were located in the basement of the shed. The shelves were covered with wooden poles, metal spikes, mesh and barbed wire as well as weapons such as knives, swords and bows and arrows. The Runners don't use many weapons. They take two sharp knives with them every day. There was a large



wood trunk that contained knives of every style and size. Minho told Thomas to pick out a few knives. Next, they would visit the Map Room.

After eating breakfast and packing up their gear, Minho and Thomas stood before the Map Room. The room was small and simple. It had a table with a stack of maps lying atop it. There was also a knife trunk similar to the one in the shed. Minho drew a schematic of Glade and the Maze. There were the four Doors in Glade but there were also more Doors out in the Maze that led to other sections. Thomas was fascinated with the Maze's structure. The only "exit" they found was the Cliff, but it only led to death. The Maze walls must move at the same time as the Glade walls because they never hear the sound of closing doors any other time. There are walls deep into the Maze.

There were eight sections in the Maze which were covered by eight Runners including Minho, the Keeper. Their single goal was to find the exit. No Runner had been killed recently. Thomas would be used to replace Runners on break. The moving Walls and Doors were what made it difficult to pinpoint possible exits. Each Runner was in charge of the map for his section and must update it each evening. Making it more difficult, the Runners didn't know exactly what they were looking for. Minho told Thomas he would just have to follow him around in the Maze the first few days.

Analysis

Chapter Thirty-One

Thomas is stunned by the news that Alby saw him with none other than the Creators. Thomas hopes that false memories were planted in Alby's mind during the Changing. But, what if his memories are real? Was Thomas on the side of the Creators – the Creators who had kidnapped all these boys, zapped their memories, and placed them in great peril? Thomas has grown to resent and hate the Creators and wants to seek revenge against them. But, is he somehow a part of the Creators? If so, why did the Creators punish him by sending him there? Thomas' wheels are turning again. He feels that everyone has missed something about the Maze. He is determined to find the way home for himself and the others. Thomas has proven that when he puts his mind to something, he can accomplish it. It may be just a matter of time before he finds the way out and solves the mystery of the Glade.

Chapter Thirty-Two

Minho shows Thomas, his Runner trainee, the stash of weapons that the Runners have at their disposal. If Thomas doesn't see what he needs, he can ask for it. The Creators supply the weaponry and will provide anything the Runners ask for. It's ironic that the Creators apparently placed these boys in such extreme peril, yet supports them in their weapons of choice to defeat them. Is it some kind of game or test or experiment? The Creators apparently don't want to defeat the boys; however, they don't seem to mind that the creatures that they also sent to the Maze either kill the boys or ruin them for life.



The puzzle of the Maze is where the exit is. The boys have been looking for it for two years. Perhaps, there is no exit. The dichotomy is that if there is an exit, the boys who are charged with finding it might very well die in their quest. It is difficult to imagine the value of the main premise of the story. It is as well hidden as the exit in the Maze.

Discussion Question 1

Who did Alby see Thomas with in his memories? Why is that revelation meaningful to Thomas? What does it confirm to him?

Discussion Question 2

Alby is somewhat tempered in his attitude toward Thomas. Why doesn't Alby think that Thomas is evil? Why does he hope that his memories are false? How could he have false memories?

Discussion Question 3

How is the treatment that the Gladers receive from the Creators divided? What could be the underlying reason for this seeming contradiction?

Vocabulary

hallucinations, fathom, rummaged



Chapters 33 - 34

Summary

Chapter Thirty-Three

Minho and Thomas entered the Maze through the West Door into Section Eight. Thomas kept up with Minho as best he could, sometimes having to sprint in order to catch up. They ran through a doorway that led to Section One. Minho explained that that particular door was stable and never moved. It was the rearranging of the other walls that confused things. They continued to run, taking some notes describing their movements but committing most to memory. He based his new map for the day on the one for the day before. As Minho took a right down one corridor, he cut a large piece of ivy out of the wall and threw it on the ground – leaving a trail of “crumbs” behind them like Hansel and Gretel. Minho let Thomas practice cutting ivy swatches on the run.

Minho told Thomas more details about the day he and Alby looked for the “dead” Griever. Alby kicked the Griever and it came to life. It stung him but wasn’t really attacking Alby; it was just trying to get away. Thomas wondered where the Grievers went at night. After hours of running, Thomas was feeling the pain. Thomas relished the short breaks they took. Thomas asked Minho about the beetle blades. They’d never been able to catch one, Minho told him. They didn’t know why “wicked” was written across their bodies. No one knew the identities of the creators. Thomas noticed a dull glimmer of gray behind the ivy on one wall. Thomas looked behind the thick ivy and found a sign that read, “World in Catastrophe: Killzone Experiment Department.” Minho said similar signs were all over the Maze.

When they came to the last dead end, Minho said it was time to go back. There had discovered nothing new that day other than the usual changes. Minho didn’t really believe there was an exit, a way out. Whatever they discover, it wouldn’t be a nice little gate that leads them home. After returning to the Glade, they went to the Map Room and wrote up that day’s Maze route and compared it to the previous day’s map. Thomas was so exhausted that night he could barely respond to Chuck’s garage of questions. Just as he was about to drift off in his favorite spot in the forest, he heard a voice in his head saying that she had just triggered the Ending.

Chapter Thirty-Four

Summary

The sky the next morning was slate gray. The sun seemed to have disappeared. Thomas woke up an hour later than he should have. Everyone was gathered around the Box and staring at the dead sky. Many of the Gladers were panicked but Thomas took a logical approach. It was impossible for the sun to have disappeared. There had to be a scientific explanation for the change. If the sun had disappeared, then it had never



existed. They had seen a fake sun. Chuck pointed out that the sky looked like a ceiling which Thomas thought was an apt description. Thomas said something may have been broken. There were many things that the boys didn't understand about the place. There was still "light." Where was that coming from?

Minho ran up to Thomas and told him it was time to enter the maze. Thomas was a bit surprised that the schedule wasn't changing because of the strange sky. Minho replied that things were more desperate than ever. If the sun was gone, soon everything would die. Although he didn't plan to stay out that day, they would perhaps plan to stay out overnight on day if the sky remained dead. Thomas thought of the girl named Teresa. She had told him not to participate in any discussions. He wondered what she meant about the "ending." He felt he needed to warn everybody but decided to keep his mouth shut.

On the way back, they ran into a Griever. Minho spotted it around a corner. It was sitting still like the "dead" one he had found. The next time Minho peeked around the corner, it was gone. They were on the lookout for it on the way back. They saw the Griever again when they passed the Cliff. The creature dug into the ground and launched itself into the gray abyss.

Analysis

Chapter Thirty-Three

This chapter explains the daunting challenge that the Runners face. The Maze is a confusing place with ivied walls and corridors and left turns and right turns that all look alike. And the Maze is massive in size. That's why the Runners have to run. If they are to cover their entire section in one day, they would not be able to if they were walking. The Runners have been at it for two years and have little to show for it. They are apparently looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack. The only important revelation they have uncovered is that the Maze must have moving walls that serve as doors just as the Glade has. The difference in the Maze is that the walls not only open and close at the same time the doors in the Glade do, but they also shift position. More than likely they do this to confuse the Runners who have a hard time getting an accurate take on exactly where they are.

Chapter Thirty-Four

As predicted by Teresa, the end is near. The sky has been replaced by a gray ceiling. Thomas had always questioned the sun he saw occasionally in the Glade. He thought the sun looked distorted and slightly off in color. Perhaps, it was just an illusion of the sun. Thomas is intelligent enough to know that the sun just doesn't disappear. Besides there was still some light. What was the source of that light? The missing "sun" has caused panic in the Glade. As Minho pointed out, everything will die without the sun; so, there is now an element of time to their quest to find a way out. That element of time is running out.



Discussion Question 1

How had the “dead” Griever given Minho false hope? What was the purpose of this ruse which apparently was orchestrated by the Creators?

Discussion Question 2

After the ending was triggered, the sky was more like a dull, gray ceiling and the sun had disappeared. How does Thomas react to this phenomenon and what underlying truth does it point to? This change is connected to what earlier mystery?

Discussion Question 3

The term “dead” is thrown about a bit. Who or what returned to life after being dead? What life-giving entity disappeared? The elements that refer to death are all pointing to what?

Vocabulary

catastrophe, reluctantly, mandatory, rational, bonkers



Chapters 35 - 36

Summary

Chapter Thirty-Five

Minho said that it was confirmed that the Grievers were leaving the Maze via the Cliff. Maybe they hadn't tricked the four Grievers into going over the edge. The "dead" one he found ran off somewhere – perhaps, to the Cliff. Thomas thought that since the Grievers could leave the Maze via the Cliff maybe they could, too. Minho wasn't ready to test that out but wanted to do some tests with rocks. They threw stones over the Cliff but saw nothing but gray when they looked down. Minho mentioned the notion that an optical illusion could be hiding the exit. They continued to throw rocks off the Cliff. There were no different results until Minho threw one and it disappeared. It vanished in mid-air when it was falling. They threw more rocks at the same spot with the same results. The target area was small which was why they'd missed it before. It was a hidden doorway that the Grievers probably barely fit through it and it perhaps was where they came from.

Thomas and Minho found nothing but more stone walls and more ivy. When they reached the last dead end it was time to go back. Minho headed straight for the Map Room. Thomas thought he'd want to tell Newt and Alby about the hidden doorway, the Giver Hole. Minho said their first duty was in the Map Room. Thomas was excited about the secret door. He couldn't wait to see the reaction from Newt and Alby. Thomas did a good job on drawing his first map. Minho told Thomas that in order to establish a pattern in the Maze, it was necessary to study weeks of maps. Thomas got the overwhelming feeling again that there was something obvious that everyone had missed. Perhaps, there was a way out that was right before their eyes.

When they found Alby he was in a bad mood. He was standing at the Box with Newt. For the first time, the supplies hadn't arrived that day. To Thomas, it looked like there was a dark shadow hovering over the Box. First no sun and then no supplies. They told Alby and Newt about the hidden door. Newt wanted to see for himself. Suddenly, there was a commotion in front of the Homestead. The girl had awakened. Thomas heard her voice in his head. She pleaded with him to come and get her. She had things to tell him, but they were fading. The Maze is a code she said.

Chapter Thirty-Six

Thomas didn't want to see Teresa or anyone else. He headed for the seclusion of the Deadhead forest. He heard the voice again, but it was different. Teresa was standing right there next to him. She looked more beautiful than ever. She asked if he remembered her. She couldn't remember if she really remembered him either. She knew about the Maze. She also knew that Thomas was her friend. He liked that she called him "Tom" instead of "Thomas." She didn't know how she was able to talk inside his head. It just happened.



Thomas asked Teresa about the note she had when she came up through the Box. All Teresa had were faint impressions. She knew that she had triggered the Ending but wasn't sure what it meant. He asked her why she said the maze was a code. She didn't know that either. She showed him her arm. Written across it was, "Wicked is good." She wrote the words herself when she first woke up. He saw the word "wicked" on the beetle blades. He explained that they were devices the Creators used to spy on them.

All she wanted to do was to get back home just like everyone else.

Newt found Teresa and asked how she'd eluded the med-jacks. She told him that she had kicked one of them in the groin. Alby joined the others. He demanded to know who the girl was and how she and Thomas knew each other. Thomas agreed that they knew each other but had no memories about their relationship. Teresa told Alby that she triggered something – the Ending. Alby informed Thomas and Teresa that the Doors didn't close that night.

Analysis

Chapter Thirty-Five

Minho and Thomas are beginning to strongly suspect that the Grievors aren't committing suicide by plunging off of the Cliff, they are merely leaving. And, if they can leave by means of the Cliff somehow, then surely they can return by the same means. But if there is an invisible passage or hidden exit, where does that lead? If the Grievors can come and go by that door, surely the boys could as well. But there are no guarantees that this passage would lead them home or to a better place than the Glade. The Walls in the Glade are moving doors but the Walls of the Glade are now closing in on the boys. They have been stripped of their sunlight – and sunlight means life – and they experienced the first day ever when supplies were not sent to them. Things are being taken from them in stages. What is the next stage and will it represent that last stage of their existence in the Glade?

Chapter Thirty-Six

Although Thomas and Teresa are both fairly certain that they knew each other in their prior lives, they cannot recall the circumstances of their relationship or where they came from. Teresa may have been used by the Creators because she has telepathic abilities. She can send messages to Thomas effortlessly. She claims that he could do the same if he tried. But the Creators are using her abilities to send messages that mean nothing to her: The Maze is a code; Wicked is god; I triggered the Ending. These are all ominous messages but it's not clear to whom the Creators want them delivered to. Could they just be meant for Thomas? Will he be the savior who brings everyone home? But at this point, her messages make little sense. As the story progresses, more will be revealed and perhaps make more clear what meaning the messages have.



Discussion Question 1

How does the author use Teresa's telepathic ability as a foreshadowing device?

Discussion Question 2

What dangers loom when the Doors on the Glade fail to close? How does this malfunction add pressure on Thomas and impetus to his quest to find the way out?

Discussion Question 3

Teresa has triggered the Ending. How might the Ending actually be the Beginning?

Vocabulary

descent, optical, fidgety, telepathically



Chapters 37 - 38

Summary

Chapter Thirty-Seven

The Doors didn't close which meant that they would offer no protection from the Grievors. Alby wanted Teresa locked up in the Slammer. Alby believed that she was responsible for all the changes. Teresa, her eyes sad, was taken away by two of the boys. Newt instructed the boys to stay with her and to make sure she was not harmed. She told Thomas to come see her in his mind. Although the sky really didn't change, there was a sense of night that fell over the Glade. Alby and Newt issued special orders to all the Keepers. Gally was still missing; so, Newt ordered his group, the Builders, to put up barricades at each open door. Everyone had to sleep in the Homestead that night. Weapons were carried to the main building and nonperishable food was stored in the Homestead which was being made into their fortress.

Newt pleaded with Thomas to let Teresa go. She could help; remember something valuable. Thomas responded that he was beginning to believe that he and Teresa were sent there to help end the Glade. He believed that the entire experience was an experiment that was about to end. Thomas said that things had changed mainly because they would not be forced to figure things out. Thomas stopped by the small jail and talked to Teresa through the window. They had to figure out what the message she had written on her arm and the Code meant. He told her he couldn't get her out until the morning. Just as Thomas arrived at the Homestead, he thought he heard the distant moan of the Grievors.

Chapter Thirty-Eight

The Homestead was crowded since many of the boys routinely slept outside. Thomas was upstairs with Minho, Newt, and Alby. Newt said that as bad as things looked, they couldn't give up. Alby seemed distant and fatigued – not like himself. He chided Thomas saying that just because he was super boy didn't mean that the other boys could defeat the Grievors. Minho agreed with Newt and Thomas – they couldn't give up. First thing in the morning, the Runners needed to go out while Newt and Alby study the maps. Minho said that the Runners would stay out several days. There was no reason to come back with no sunset and no closing doors. They needed to see if they could find the moving doors in the Maze. Minho and Thomas would go on the mission even if no one else wanted to. Newt would go even though he had a bad leg. It was either that or sit around and wait to be killed by the Grievors.

Alby had a very negative attitude. They needed him because the Gladers all looked up to him. He was their leader. Suddenly, Alby said he didn't deserve to be leader any longer. He didn't trust himself to make the right decisions. Alby volunteered to be in charge of the maps. He'd make sure the Gladers studied them thoroughly. Alby wanted



to get started right away. Newt tried to dissuade him. It was too dangerous now with the Grievors possibly lurking about. Alby was adamant. He was going to the Map Room.

Thomas had trouble sleeping that night thinking about the next day and the dangers outside. The quiet that had fallen over the Homestead was interrupted with the clanging and clicks of a Griever. Newt shushed everyone while he looked out the window. The noises continued and increased. Eventually, it sounded like there were four or more Grievors in the courtyard. Thomas could tell that one of the Grievors was digging into the side of the Homestead probably climbing up toward their room. Everyone huddled against the far wall. Just when it seemed there was no hope, everything went silent. The lights flickered, and Thomas imagined that the Grievors' probes and weapons were engaged. There were probably beetle blades out there, too. Three bright beams of light penetrated the boys' dark room. Suddenly, the door opened and Gally entered the room.

Analysis

Chapter Thirty-Seven

Alby is blaming Teresa for the changes that the Glade has experienced. Thomas is beginning to believe that he and Teresa are integral to the changes which could have positive results or, of course, very negative results. Since neither Thomas nor Teresa know why they are where they are and what their role is in the Ending, they are innocent of any guilt. Alby, who has not been himself since his encounter with a Griever, is responsible for the welfare of everyone. He is at a loss as to what he can do to stem the tide of the Ending. All he can do is strike out at someone and blame them for his dilemma. He has targeted Teresa for this blame.

Chapter Thirty-Eight

The pressure and stress of the changes are wearing on the boys. Although they despised the future that presented itself at the Glade, at least it was a form of stability. Now with the changes, their future is uncertain. Do they even have a future? If so, will it be at a place they could call home or in a place that makes them miss the Glade? Even Alby, the leader, is showing signs of giving up. Thomas and the other leaders needed him to be steadfast and not give up. Many of the boys looked up to him. If he were lost to worry and confusion, many others would follow suit. It would spell doom for their already fragmented society. One positive result of the changes was that the boys were more motivated than ever to find a way out.

Discussion Question 1

What instructions did Newt give the guards relative to Teresa's incarceration? Newt is a kind and wise man. What reason would he have, other than being humane, to keep Teresa safe?



Discussion Question 2

Why does Thomas think there is a connection between “Wicked is good” – which is what Teresa wrote on her arm – and the Maze Code? What might be the connection between the two messages?

Discussion Question 3

How do the attitudes of Thomas, Menlo, and Newt compare to Alby's? Which mindset has more potential for success and why?

Vocabulary

eruption, discernible, errant, doldrums, remorseful



Chapters 39 - 40

Summary

Chapter Thirty-Nine

It was obvious from his experience that Gally had lost his mind. He shouted that the Griever would kill one person each night until it was over. Gally was filthy and had a noticeable limp. Again, he focused on Thomas and blamed him for everything. He brutally punched Thomas who fell to the ground. Newt pushed Gally away as he repeated his warnings and his belief that there was no resolution. He mentioned variables and trials. Newt told Gally to shut up; there was a Griever right outside the window.

Gally went wild and tore the boards down that had been placed over the window as barriers. In his struggle to subdue Gally, Newt was hit and knocked unconscious. Soon the thick body of the Griever had worked its way through the broken window. Just when it was ready to attack Newt, he came to and evaded it. The Griever got a tight hold on Gally and pushed itself back out of the window. Thomas looked out the window watching the Griever move away with Gally's body sinking further in its fleshy exterior. Then Thomas saw someone running toward the Maze. It was Minho. Thomas called out to him to stop, but Minho disappeared into the Maze.

Chapter Forty

Thomas bolted from the Homestead toward the West Door where Minho had entered the Maze. Newt tried to stop him. Thomas told him that Minho had run after the Griever. Thomas was determined to go after him. Thomas wouldn't be going after Minho to impress anyone. He wanted to save his friend. His ultimate goal, however, was to go home. Just then Minho came charging back in, completely out of breath. Minho confirmed that the Griever who took Gally went toward the Cliff to the Griever Hole. Newt told the boys of a new problem. Someone had burned up all the maps.

Thomas thought that the maps were largely useless and wasn't upset that they were lost. Thomas went to the Slammer where Teresa was still locked up. Thomas caught her up on the recent events including the return of Gally and the attack of the Griever. Thomas hadn't been able to locate Alby who had promised to release Teresa that morning. Thomas wasn't sure why the Griever left after getting Gally. He had told the boys that the Griever would get them one by one.

Teresa had been thinking about her comment that the Maze was a code. She mentioned a connection to the walls that moved every day and Minho's belief that there was a pattern. Something clicked in Thomas' mind. He thought that, perhaps, the maps should have been compared to maps of other sections each night instead of to maps of the same section. If each section was a piece of the code, all of the sections should be



viewed as one entity. Teresa thought that maybe each day revealed a word or a letter. Just then it hit him, the maps were all destroyed! If there was a code, it was up in smoke.

Analysis

Chapter Thirty-Nine

It was somewhat ironic that Gally had burst back into the Homestead after being missing for several days warning everyone that the Grievers would kill them all. He claimed that the beasts would take them one by one; there would be one new victim each night. Then, it winds up that it is he, Gally, who is immediately taken that night. But Gally was arguably insane; perhaps he wanted the beasts to take him. Gally had great resentment toward Thomas; but, it was Thomas who was the survivor between the two boys.

Chapter Forty

Thomas follows his best instincts and once again shows his fearlessness and concern for a colleague. Despite the inherent danger that was now all around the boys, even in the Glade, Thomas runs after Minho who is racing into the Maze. Thomas is not the sort to stop and think about the ramifications of his actions. He demonstrates that he is a true friend who puts others first. Although Thomas is not worried about the burned maps, it's years of lost work that could present some problems as Thomas and the others are trying to find their way out.

Discussion Question 1

Whom did Gally blame for everything? Was there any rationale to his finger pointing? What was Gally's warning to the others? What potential significance did it have?

Discussion Question 2

The Runners had been searching for a way out for two years and found none. What points to hope that an escape path does exist and possibly has been found? What is it called and how could this possible escape route have been missed by the Runners?

Discussion Question 3

What was the significance of the burning of the maps? Why wasn't Thomas upset about losing them?

Vocabulary

lunacy, figment, pulsating, threshold, rebuke, sabotage



Chapters 41 - 42

Summary

Chapter Forty-One

Thomas told Teresa he'd be back. He had to find Newt. Maybe some of the maps were salvaged. When he arrived at the Map Room, Newt was surrounded by Gladers including Minho and was leaning down by someone on the ground. It was Alby, flat on his back. There was a huge gash in his forehead. He was bleeding badly. Newt thought maybe Gally set the maps on fire before he was whisked away by a Griever. Thomas told Minho and Newt that he and Teresa had a theory about the Maze that they needed to talk with them about.

Thomas, Newt and Minho went to the Slammer and after much coaxing by Thomas, Teresa was let out. They related how Teresa had the thought that the Maze was a code when she was coming out of her coma. Unfortunately, they needed the maps to prove their point. Thomas was delighted when Minho told him that the maps were fine. He and Newt had hidden them in the weapons room.

Chapter Forty-Two

The maps were in a hidden storage locker in the weapons room. Minho opened it and dragged a cardboard box across the floor. There were eight such boxes in all – one for each section. The Runners had studied the maps from day to day, looking for a pattern. Thomas offered his theory that the pattern could spell out a word that would be a clue to their escape. Minho thought they would have noticed that. Thomas had a strong sense that the answer was within their grasp. Thomas said maybe they should have been comparing each of the eight sections to each other every day instead of to the section map from the day before.

Thomas scanned over the maps and asked for some waxed paper, scissors, black markers, and pencils. Soon the supplies were collected, and Thomas grabbed a sharp knife. He told Minho to start cutting rectangles the size of the maps. Teresa's voice came in his head. She thought that what Thomas was doing was brilliant. He told everybody to trace the last ten days onto a piece of waxed paper. They proceeded to the huge task of covering all the maps. Thomas took the last few days from Section One to Section Eight. Finally, eight stacks of waxed paper lined the table. He took the top paper from each stack and carefully laid them on top of each other in the right order. The letter "F" clearly emerged. Teresa gasped.

Analysis

Chapter Forty-One



As Thomas begins to develop a theory about the Glade and Maze, he realizes that the maps are an invaluable piece of the solution. However, they were all burned! Understanding their value better than Thomas did, Newt and Minho hid the maps in a safe place. Their actions may have saved the day.

Chapter Forty-Two

Thomas shows his leadership skills and his intelligence in this chapter. He has already proven his bravery and survival skills. He is now demonstrating another positive trait. Although he has heard time after time that the maps have to be compared to the maps from the day before, Thomas thinks outside the box and comes up with what might be a key to their very survival. Newt, Minho, Alby, and the other leaders had been too close to the situation for too long. It took the fresh eyes and new approach of a Newbie to offer an alternative approach to solving their problems.

Discussion Question 1

Teresa is gifted with telepathy. Why does she have premonitions since she is not gifted with extra sensory perception or ESP? What are the differences between ESP and telepathy?

Discussion Question 2

What does it show about Thomas' intelligence and ability when he figures out a connection between the Maps and the Code that Teresa is receiving messages about?

Discussion Question 3

What could be one reason that Thomas is able to figure out things so quickly? Is it something beyond just intelligence and quick-thinking?

Vocabulary

compute, gestured, menacing, immortal



Chapters 43 - 44

Summary

Chapter Forty-Three

Thomas was excited about the discovery and relieved that it had worked. Teresa told them to do more to make sure it wasn't a coincidence. Each time, a letter formed in the center of the stack of waxed paper. The following letters emerged: L, O, A, T, C, A, T. After more letters were revealed, they were sure that part of the message was "Catch Float." There were scads more boxes for them to go through. Minho said that he and Thomas had to get the Runners out in the Maze. Thomas thought the maps were more important but Minho insisted that they couldn't miss a day out there. In fact, he wanted to stay in the Maze overnight. Newt would recruit other Gladers to do the map work. Teresa would help, too.

All the Runners agreed that it was time to do a more in-depth exploration of the Maze and stay overnight. Chuck said he wished he could go; but, he'd keep Thomas' girlfriend company if she got lonely. Thomas responded that she was not his girlfriend. Sadness overcame Thomas. Would he ever see Chuck or Teresa again?

Chapter Forty-Four

They quickly ran halfway to the last dead end of Section Eight. It was obvious that nothing had moved from the day before. No need for taking notes or map making. There wasn't much talking, only running. Teresa spoke in Thomas' mind. They found a couple more words but nothing made sense yet. He tried taking back to her. It worked; she received his thoughts. Teresa thought that they may have been lovers in their past lives. With that Thomas tripped and fell. He got back up quickly and caught up with Minho. She said it was like he was a stranger, yet she knew him. She thought that someone altered their brains so they could communicate telepathically.

Thomas thought about what Gally, Ben, and even Alby had said about him. He was somehow against them and couldn't be trusted. If they found an exit nothing else would really matter. Teresa's head was hurting. She signed off. By the time they took their next break, Minho announced that they'd covered the entire section with nothing new and no exits to be found. They explored the walls and corridors and only found a few more of those odd signs. Thomas was beginning to believe that there was nothing to be found.

Minho spotted a Griever disappearing around a corner ahead of them. Then, Thomas saw another one a short while later. Another came charging past them with no interest in attacking them. Minho thought that the Creators were playing with them and letting them realize there was no way out. The walls were no longer moving or changing position. He feared that a Glader had been killed by a Griever just as Gally predicted.



The Code seemed to hold the only possible answer. They decided to return to the Glade.

Analysis

Chapter Forty-Three

Thomas is conflicted between staying in the Map Room and figuring out the code that is contained in the maps and exploring the Maze with Minho. Thinking that more could be learned at night, he had long ago wanted to stay all night in the Maze. Although it tears him away from the decoding of the maps, Thomas opts to go with Minho and fulfill his responsibility as a Runner.

Chapter Forty-Four

By thoroughly exploring the Maze – even at night – Thomas and Minho are coming to the realization that there is no exit and that the answer to their problems does not lie in the Maze. After all those years, it took a new person to shed new light on an old problem. Thomas was beginning to get a strong sense that the Creators – whoever they were – had been toying with them by leading them to believe that the answers were in the Maze. Since Thomas and Minho had thoroughly exhausted the possibilities in the Maze, they now realize that they must find the key to their escape in another venue.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Thomas choose to go with Minho instead of staying in the Map Room? At this point in the story, why was it especially difficult for Thomas to leave Chuck and Teresa behind?

Discussion Question 2

How does Gally's warning loom over Thomas and the Gladers? What impact may it have on the actions they take and their plans for escape?

Discussion Question 3

What is the special connection between Thomas and Teresa? Teresa thinks that their brains were altered. What reason could the Creators have for taking such a drastic step?

Vocabulary

coincidence, piqued, decipher, gruesome, bizarre, toxin



Chapters 45 - 46

Summary

Chapter Forty-Five

It was mid-morning when Minho and Thomas returned to the Glade. They had been in the Maze for twenty-four hours. Newt met them and told them that they were the first Runners to return. They reported that they had found nothing. The Grievors came to the Glade the night before. They took a boy named Adam. Minho was upset – at the Grievors taking Adam and at the fact that there were no exits, no way out. If Minho gave up they were all in trouble.

None of the Runners found anything new and discovered no exits. The Code was their only hope. Teresa spoke in his mind – she thought they had the Code figured out. He told her to meet him in the Map Room right away. Minho didn't show up at the Map Room. Newt figured he was sulking. Other Gladers were gathered around the table working on the maps. Teresa showed him the list of words they uncovered. There were six words: Float, Catch, Bleed, Death, Stiff, Push. It meant nothing to Thomas.

Teresa said that there was a pattern. The Maze had been repeating those six words for months. Thomas thought the words might mean something to Minho. Then something occurred to Thomas – a horrible idea that almost made him collapse. Thomas kept the idea he had to himself. Now Thomas had a plan even if it was a bad plan. They needed more clues about the Code; they needed memories. He decided to get stung by a Griever and go through the Changing on purpose.

Chapter Forty-Six

Thomas refused to talk to anyone the rest of the day. He wouldn't even talk to Teresa. He had to psych himself up for what he had planned. That night Thomas slept in the large living room on the first floor of the Homestead. Teresa was nearby, curled up and sleeping. It was impossible for Thomas to sleep. Finally, he heard the noises of approaching Grievors. Everyone crowded against the wall farthest away from the windows. They heard breaking glass coming from upstairs. There were screams and running. Suddenly, there was a horde of Gladers running to the first floor. Someone shouted out that the Grievors had gotten Dave. Everyone felt guilty that they felt safe for one more day.

A Griever had come in the house and was leaving. It was now or never, Thomas thought. He jumped up and ran to the door and yanked it open. Newt yelled at him, but he ignored it. Teresa spoke in his mind. She demanded to know what he was doing. The Griever was holding Dave as he gathered with the other Grievors in the courtyard. Thomas ran until he was in the middle of the beasts. He jumped on top of the one holding Dave. He heard Teresa scream inside his mind. Three Grievors swarmed on



Thomas who kicked at them and flailed his arms. He only wanted to be stung not taken. He felt pain all over his body as he struggled against the beasts.

Thomas found an open spot and made his escape. The Grievors returned to the Maze. Thomas collapsed. Newt, Chuck, and Teresa were immediately at his side. They carried him into the Homestead. He was delirious and nauseated. Newt scolded him for being so stupid. Thomas tried to explain, but he was too weak. A med-jack said Thomas had been stung dozens of times. Newt ordered the Grief Serum which was quickly administered to him. The world seemed to be collapsing on Thomas. He was able to tell the others that he'd done it on purpose.

Analysis

Chapter Forty-Five

It appears that Gally wasn't completely insane. His prediction that they would all be killed by the Grievors and that one boy would be taken each night is proving to have some validity. The process that Thomas devised to decode the map has had positive results. They have found a code but do not understand its meaning. As it turns out, they need more than the code. They need some good old-fashioned memories. The heroic Thomas is planning yet another act of valor for the sake of the boys of the Glade. It's wrought with danger. He may not survive.

Chapter Forty-Six

Thomas has made a huge decision. He is knowingly going to place himself in danger and, perhaps, even lose his life by allowing himself to be stung by a Griever. What may be driving him to put himself at risk is an underlying guilt he feels because he gets the sense that he was somehow involved or responsible for the dilemma in which the boys find themselves. If he can save the day, then the role he played in the Glade and the Maze in a former life will be unimportant. Thomas is dedicated to finding a way to escape from the Glade no matter what it takes.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Thomas feel that it was crucial for Minho to remain positive? What would be the downside of Minho, the Runner Keeper, recognizing that there was no way out of the Maze? If Minho truly believed there was no way out, would it be ethical for him to lie to the other Runners and pretend that he believed they could find an escape route?

Discussion Question 2

What compelled Thomas to put himself at such grave risk by intentionally being stung by the Grievors? Thomas showed no sign of being suicidal so therefore he expected to survive such an assault. After observing the dire impact that the Changing had on



others, what within Thomas made him think that his encounter with the creatures would be any better?

Discussion Question 3

What within Thomas enabled him to fight off the Grievors – at least to some degree – even though he'd always been told that it was impossible? What character traits did Thomas' encounter with the Grievors demonstrate?

Vocabulary

glum, horde, high-pitched



Chapters 47 - 48

Summary

Chapter Forty-Seven

There was no concept of time during the Changing for Thomas. It was very similar to being in the Box. He felt he was floating in emptiness and staring into blackness. At one point he felt as if a tower of thick gray mist was moving toward him. After it passed, he saw only a great expanse of white. He felt the return of memories and he felt much pain.

Chapter Forty-Eight

Someone was calling to Thomas, but he didn't answer. It was Chuck begging him not to die. Then, Thomas remembered everything about the Glade – the Grievers, the Maze, and the Changing. Thomas forced his eyes open much to the delight of Chuck who announced the news to everyone. Thomas had been out for three days. He was extremely sore and exhausted. Unfortunately, the Grievers had returned and taken Zart and a few others. Though the Runners were still out there every day, they had discovered nothing new. Thomas told Chuck to find Alby and Newt. They needed to call a Gathering.

Teresa's words entered Thomas' mind. She had resented what he had done even though he'd done it for the cause. She had been prepared to kill him if he didn't die. Thomas recalled many old memories. The two of them had done some bad things. He might have remembered something that would get them out of the Glade. If so, he needed to speak about it at the Gathering. He did say that the Maze could not be solved by something she already knew. The Creators meant for them to escape and he had a plan.

Newt walked in; and, his head conversation with Teresa ended. Thomas told Newt that they needed to have a Gathering where he could describe the memories he now had. He told Newt that it was all a test. It wasn't an experiment. It was a test to see who could make it through. The last test was the escape. He told Newt that he knew a way out.

Analysis

Chapter Forty-Seven

Thomas may wonder if his plan was worth it after he falls into a black abyss. The only positive result is that memories are flooding back to him. If he doesn't live, they will again be buried.

Chapter Forty-Eight



Thomas' risky ploy may have paid off. He is flooded with memories; however, the memories are already fading. To keep the memories from being lost, there is an urgency to convey them to the leaders of the Glade. His dangerous gambit was not for naught. Whatever Thomas gleaned from the renewed memories, he seems to feel certain that what the boys of the Glade had been undergoing was a test. Those still alive had apparently passed the test thus far. The final test may leave behind more casualties. The final test is escaping from the Glade.

Discussion Question 1

In what ways was Thomas' experience with the Changing similar to an earlier experience he had? Thomas was anxious to recover lost memories and had endured the misery of the Changing to regain them. How might his old memories help him in his quest to find a way home?

Discussion Question 2

Thomas survives the Changing. Although he is still in a stupor, why are there positive signs that he will now be able to see things more clearly and be able to determine a direct path to freedom for himself and the Gladers? Why could it prove positive for Thomas to risk it all by going through the Changing?

Discussion Question 3

After the Changing, why does Thomas have an overwhelming need to share what he learned through that process? Why does he call for a Gathering? What reactions might he expect from Alby, Newt, Menlo, and the other Keepers? Why is it something he feels compelled to do? What risks does he face as a result of his candor? Is honesty always the best policy? When is it not the best policy?

Vocabulary

interminable, jubilation



Chapters 49 - 50

Summary

Chapter Forty-Nine

One short hour later, Thomas was sitting in front of the Keepers at a Gathering. There were two empty chairs – those of Zart and Gally. Though he was still ill from the Changing, he began relating his story. When he first started going through the Changing, he saw flashes of hundreds of images. The Creators were testing them. The Maze was a red herring. It was something that was never intended to be solved. The Creators wanted the survivors to do something for them.

The Creators had stolen all of them at young ages. They targeted kids who were above average in intelligence. He couldn't remember anything about his family. After he was taken, he spent years in special schools until the Creators built the Maze. They named all the kids Alby for Albert Einstein, Newt for Isaac Newton, and Thomas for Thomas Edison. They'll probably never know their real identities.

Some of the boys have had their brains altered. The Creators were scientists. They made the boys think that there had to be a solution for their dilemma. Thomas said that there was, with all certainty, no solution. The boys there in the Glade were so intelligent that they thought there had to be a solution and that they could figure it out. Teresa, the gray sunless sky, and no supply delivery were all part of the test. The Grievors were there to make sure that the ending turned out the way the Creators wanted it to turn out with the survival of the fitness. The Code was hidden in the wall movements of the Maze when the Creators built it. Thomas knew that for a fact because he was there.

Chapter Fifty

Thomas told the group that he and Teresa were different. They were part of the Maze Trials from the beginning. It was against their will. The Creators used them. Thomas and Teresa helped design the Maze. Everyone was stunned at Thomas' words. Thomas and Teresa each had a gift of telepathy which made them valuable to the Creators. He emphasized that they were forced to help the Creators.

They needed to use the code that they had figured out from the maps. Thomas and Teresa were just as vulnerable as everyone else. They could die there and they wanted to escape. Newt proclaimed that it was the Creators who were to blame not Thomas and Teresa. Thomas said that there was a computer station in a place they'd never looked before. The code would open the door that would allow them to escape the Maze. The Grievors won't be able to follow them. But the Grievors would be after them during this final test. The computer station was over the Cliff and through the Griever Hole.



Analysis

Chapter Forty-Nine

The meeting with the Gathering is the culmination of all of Thomas' trials and tribulations since he landed in the Glade. It is the pivotal point in the story line that leaves the mystery behind and strides forward toward a reality that is within his grasp. It is with profound sadness that Thomas reveals that the boys were all taken when they were much younger and had lived in the other world under the supervision of the Creators. All of their hopes and dreams of returning to their parents, whom they had just left two years before, dissipated.

Chapter Fifty

As it turned out the suspicions that Alby, Gally, and Ben had about Thomas and Teresa were not without merit. Thomas and Teresa were in on the Glade and Maze from the beginning but were forced to do the bidding of the Creators. They were taken because they both had the gift of telepathy. Thomas had to move on from that sad fact and act because he had the key that would lead to their escape. He had to act before it was too late. If he is able to save the boys, he can feel that he compensated for the evil that he helped cause, even though it was unwittingly.

Discussion Question 1

What was the one thing that the all the Gladers remembered that was also a lie? What was the scope of the damage to which the Creators had subjected the boys?

Discussion Question 2

Even though the Creators chose highly intelligent boys to take, why would they go the drastic step of altering some of their brains? Why were Thomas' and Teresa's gifts of telepathy valuable to the Creators?

Discussion Question 3

How is facing the unknown in the Grievors' Hole similar to other experiences Thomas had in the Glade or Maze? How is the circle of life represented in this story?

Vocabulary

queasy, composure, manipulated, astonishingly, variables



Chapters 51 - 52

Summary

Chapter Fifty-One

Alby didn't trust Thomas since he'd helped design the place. He suspected that Thomas was sent there to kill them all. Thomas reminded him that he'd risked his life to save him and that he had subjected himself to an attack from the Grievors to rescue everyone. Alby said that they can't go back to their old lives. He saw what they were like during the Changing. Alby admitted that he had burned the Maps. He slammed his head on the table to make it look like someone else had started the fire. He saw images of his old life in a burned land with disease. It was called the Flare. The Flare was worse than the Glade.

Something was familiar to Thomas about Alby's description of the Flare. Minho agreed with Thomas. If they were going to die, they should go down fighting. Alby told them to do whatever they wanted to do. They'd die either way. Alby stormed out. Newt said he hadn't been the same since the Changing. The other Keepers argued about what to do. Thomas said that he was going through the Hole or would die trying. Minho would be right with him. Teresa would, too. If they would be able to fight off the Grievors long enough to input the code into the computer, they would pass the test and face the Creators. Newt pointed out how dangerous it would be. Thomas said he didn't think that the Grievors would sting them. It wouldn't do the Creators any good if they were all dead. Besides, the Grievors evidently had been programmed to kill just one Glader a day. Thomas volunteered to be the Grievors' victim while the others tried to escape.

Chapter Fifty-Two

Newt had Thomas leave the Gathering so they others could discuss what they should do. Newt told Thomas that he shouldn't feel guilty about his part in building the Maze. He was a kid who was forced to do what he did. However, Thomas was feeling more and more responsible. He felt the need to save everyone. Newt told Thomas he would convince the others to go through the Hole. He also told Thomas to forget about volunteering to die. They would all escape the place together. Newt thought they should make the attempt that night. He told Thomas to meet him at the Box later.

Thomas waited at the Box for Newt. His mind was filled with Alby's words about the Flare. If the world they were trying to return to was as Alby described, then it wasn't worth it to return there. Thomas called out to Teresa and asked her to meet him at the Box. He told her about their plans to go through the Hole. Teresa was dubious about the plan. It would be awful and she doubted that it would work. Thomas' stomach was in a knot. The plan was to go through the Hole; but, there was no doubt that someone would die.



Analysis

Chapter Fifty-One

Alby's suspicions about Thomas is confirmed after Thomas admits to being there when the Maze was built. Alby has never liked Thomas. Now, after having gone through a very difficult Changing, Alby is even more disagreeable. He is not interested in hearing Newt's defense that Thomas was forced to help the Creators. Alby had his own memories of his life before the Glade and they weren't good ones. He is so intent on not returning to the other world that he tried to destroy the Maps which were key to escape from the Maze.

Chapter Fifty-Two

Newt is sensitive to Thomas' feelings of guilt about the Glade and Maze. He is more understanding than Alby who blames Thomas for their misfortune. Newt looks at the situation more broadly and recognizes that Thomas was just a child and that the Creators forced them to help them build the Maze. Even though Alby's description of the world they came from was a very negative one, Thomas was still driven by his guilt and feeling of responsibility to maintain his vow to bring the boys home.

Discussion Question 1

Why didn't Alby want to return to his old life? How was Alby able to see images of the old world that he was reluctant to return to? How did his fear of returning there manifest itself?

Discussion Question 2

Thomas said that he would go down fighting? Why did Thomas believe that Glade and the Maze were both ruses? What purpose did the Creators have in creating that world?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Thomas still driven by guilt and responsibility for the Glade and the Maze? How is Thomas trying to seek redemption? Is gaining the forgiveness of others a guarantee that one will no longer feel guilty?

Vocabulary

bloodshot, hysterical, scenario



Chapters 53 - 54

Summary

Chapter Fifty-Three

Newt told Thomas and Teresa that all the Keepers agreed to go. Now they had to convince the Gladers. Newt didn't think that all of the Gladers would be for it. Some would stay and take their chances. Newt wasn't sure what Alby would do. He seemed so scared to go back home. But Newt would try to convince Alby to go with them. Maybe tell him that they'd find another part of the world to live in. the next step was to figure out who was going and who was staying.

Most of the Gladers ended up agreeing to go, including Alby. Only a few decided to stay. Backpacks with supplies and food and water were handed out to everyone. Syringes of Grief Serum were included in the supplies. Minho and several other Runners did some preliminary work at the Cliff, tossing ivy ropes to mark the Hole. Thomas helped Newt distribute weapons including some poles that were carved into spears. Thomas and Teresa went to the Deadheads to strategize about the computer station inside the Griever Hole. Thomas said they had to do it because they could keep in contact with one another. Newt and Minho knew the code and would be their back-up. They were both afraid, though there were no options and they had nothing to lose.

Chapter Fifty-Four

Frypan prepared one last meal for everyone. Chuck wanted to know what famous person he was named after. Maybe Charles Darwin, Thomas told him. Chuck said he wasn't afraid. They would at least be trying to escape and not sitting around waiting to be attacked by a Griever. Everyone knew that probably one person would die that night. Thomas felt sad that everyone was banking on just one person dying, each day but thinking it wouldn't be him. Thomas told Chuck that they could all make it if they fought. Chuck would be a happy dude if he just escaped.

Everyone grabbed their backpacks and met by the Door. Thomas was nervous about trying to escape. Also, he worried that he could be wrong. Maybe the memories he had were planted, false memories. Teresa was anxious to get it over with. Minho seemed the most confident. Newt organized everyone. There were forty-one in all who were ready to take their chances in order to escape. Newt told the group that after two years of floundering, they were finally taking a stand and fighting back against the Creators. There were cheers and a general positive feeling among the Gladers. Thomas told himself that he could do it. He just had to make it to the Hole.

Analysis

Chapter Fifty-Three



Thomas and Teresa are assigned the most difficult task of going through the Griever's Hole and inputting the code into the computer. They were chosen to fill this important role because even if they were separated, they could stay in contact telepathically. They may have been chosen to help the Creators years before when the Maze was first being erected. Despite their fears of success, the Gladers recognize that there are no options other than going forward to the unknown or going back to the daily fight against the Grievers.

Chapter Fifty-Four

Thomas feels a special affection for Chuck. He is like a little brother to him. In the other life, perhaps there was a relationship between the two boys. Thomas feels protective and has vowed to get Chuck home where he belongs and can spend the rest of his childhood the way he should be able to. Newt shows his wisdom and leadership skills by rallying the Gladers to fight for their freedom.

Discussion Question 1

Knowing the perils that existed in the Glade and the Maze, why did some of the Gladers choose to stay behind? Compare the dangers between staying in the Glade and trying to escape from it.

Discussion Question 2

Although Thomas was determined to escape, why did he feel great sadness about the quest to find the way home? What overall understanding of the situation did Thomas have that Chuck and the others did not have?

Discussion Question 3

What did some of the Gladers fool themselves about relative to the escape? How is self-delusion sometimes necessary in order to change and progress?

Vocabulary

blanch, adamant, optimistic, bloodbath, embark, speculating



Chapters 55 - 56

Summary

Chapter Fifty-Five

They all ran toward the Cliff. The group spread out as wide as the corridor. Thomas worried about the stamina of the non-Runners. Newt told Minho to lead the way. Thomas was fully engaged but filled with dread. Although the non-Runners were exhausted, no one quit. Initially, there was no sign of the Grievors. When they were near the Cliff, they heard the first distinctive sounds of approaching Grievors. From the sound, Minho estimated that there was at least a dozen of them. Word spread quickly. It was time to fight. Thomas thought that maybe the Grievors had taken a boy from the Glade. Some Grievors were moving down one corridor toward them; another group was advancing on them; and, one group was waiting for them in front of the Cliff.

The Gladers huddled together and were ready to fight. But, the Grievors in front of them were sitting and waiting. Alby took off running, heading straight for the waiting Grievors that were blocking the path to the Cliff. Alby had sacrificed himself for the others. Newt was the most upset. They'd been together for two years. With the Grievors going dormant after taking their one victim, Minho said it was time to move forward to the Cliff. He told the Gladers that their number one priority was to protect Thomas and Teresa. The Grievors came alive again. Evidently, one victim wouldn't be enough for them that night.

Chapter Fifty-Six

Thomas had to get through the horde of Grievors that was coming alive again. Minho would lead the way and make a path to the Cliff for Thomas and Teresa. Thomas told Teresa they would have to focus on getting to the Hole and let the others fight off the Grievors. Minho lead the group of Gladers into battle against the beasts. The Gladers took their meager weapons and attacked. Chuck stumbled out of the fighting. Thomas grabbed him and told him to stay with him and Teresa. Thomas had that overwhelming feeling that he had to get Chuck home. The Gladers made a path for them. They raced through toward the Cliff. Thomas saw that the battle was a brutal one as he ran through. Both Thomas and Teresa sustained wounds. The Grievors tried to attack them but the Gladers fought them off.

Thomas, Teresa and Chuck made it to the edge of the Cliff. Ivy ropes seemed to be suspended in mid-air were in front of them. It was time to jump. Teresa went first and didn't hesitate. She leaped off the Cliff and soon disappeared into the Hole. Thomas had to help Chuck off the cliff. He screamed as he flew through the air. He almost missed the target but he went feet first. He was relieved that he made it. He loved that kid like a brother. Thomas grabbed his spear and backpack and leaped off the Cliff. He hit the Hole.



Analysis

Chapter Fifty-Five

Thomas once again shows his compassion for his fellow Glader. He knows how vast the Maze is and that anyone who runs its entire length has to be in good shape. He is worried that the non-Runners will not be able to make the run. The Gladers are also showing a unique determination. They so want to get away from the Maze and their horrible Grievers that they keep running even though they are near exhaustion. Their behavior shows how much they want to get away from the Glade and the Maze and return to their prior life, even though there is a growing suspicion that their prior lives had its problems, too. Is this a case of the grass is always greener?

Chapter Fifty-Six

Minho shows his bravery by leading the Gladers against the Grievers. They face impossible odds but they are compelled by the knowledge that Thomas and Teresa must get through the Grievers' Hole or else they are all doomed. They are driven by their desire to leave their existence in the Glade behind them and, hopefully, face a brighter future even though it's a somewhat unknown future. Although it would have been Thomas' natural instinct to help in the battle, he was single-minded and headed for the Cliff. He didn't even glance at the on-going battle.

Discussion Question 1

What drove Alby to sacrifice himself for the others? Why does understanding "motivation" enrich a story?

Discussion Question 2

How does Thomas' protectiveness of Chuck emerge during the escape? How had Chuck become a symbol of Thomas' own success?

Discussion Question 3

Thomas had proven himself to be a fighter who was unafraid of battle. Why did he run through the battlefield and leave the others to fight? Why was doing this probably more difficult for him mentally and emotionally?

Vocabulary

fend, pronouncement, meager, dormant, cacophony, crescendo



Chapters 57 - 58

Summary

Chapter Fifty-Seven

Cold, icy air hit Thomas as he entered the Griever Hole. He was falling in the dark when his feet hit a slippery surface. He fell backward into Teresa's arms. It was pitch black other than the beam from Teresa's flashlight. They were standing in a ten-foot high stone cylinder. It was shiny and oily. Teresa saw the computer with a keyboard attached to it. Thomas thought it was too easy. Teresa stepped over to the computer and input the code. There was a loud bang behind them. It was a Griever that had plopped through the Hole and was heading for Thomas. He fought it off with his spear. Teresa was almost done. The Griever kept in pursuit of Thomas. Teresa said the system wouldn't let her input the last word. Thomas was able to plunge the spear into the Griever which let out a huge howl. Taking advantage of the beast's vulnerability, Thomas thrust his spear deep in the monster. It "bled" a yellow substance, spewing it in every direction. It was twisting and turning and wound up impaling its own body. It stopped moving. Thomas had killed it. Chuck was duly impressed.

Teresa wasn't allowed to enter the word "push." She tried repeatedly but failed. They were trying to figure out why when Chuck screamed that another Griever had just dropped through the Hole. A few moments later, another dropped through. They were both moving toward them. Thomas wondered what was wrong. The code was supposed to work. It almost took the fight out of him. Chuck spotted a small red button on the wall close to the floor with the words, "Kill the Maze" printed above it.

The Griever grabbed Thomas and was taking him away. Another one was after Chuck. Thomas screamed at Teresa to push the red button. When she pushed it everything went silent until there was the sound of a door sliding open.

Chapter Fifty-Eight

The Grievers shut down completely. Thomas had figured out that the last word "push" wasn't part of the code. It was a direction to "push" something. The red button was the only thing that could be pushed. Chuck was the hero because he was the one who spotted the red button. Suddenly, Minhó fell through the Hole. They had lost a lot of boys in the battle with the Grievers. They were deep in battle when the Grievers all shut down. Newt came through next then Winston and Frypan. In all, eighteen boys dropped down from the Hole. The rest were dead. Thomas was disturbed by the losses they suffered.

Thomas told the others that he had heard a door slide open down the long tunnel that led from the cylinder. Minhó led the boys down the tunnel with Thomas, Newt, Chuck, and Teresa bringing up the rear. down the long tunnel where he had heard a door slide



open. After walking for a short while they heard screams up ahead, cries that faded like someone falling. The tunnel ended in a slide that shot sharply downward. They had no idea where the slide wound up but they had no choice but to take it. Thomas was the last on the slide and found it fast-moving and oily. A twisting spiral was the only thing that slowed them up. Thomas was getting nauseated. Finally, he flew out of the tunnel and landed on Teresa. Everyone was confused and groaning and squirming on the floor. They wound up in a large room with all kinds of machinery and computers. He recalled seeing it during the Changing. Finally, Thomas' eyes focused on a series of tinted windows. Behind each person was a person observing them. They were pale and looked like ghosts. Thomas knew they weren't ghosts. They were the creators who had sent them to the Glade.

Analysis

Chapter Fifty-Seven

Thomas is suspicious about the room they wind up in after jumping off the cliff. The computer is right there before them. It all seems too easy. Is this just another set-up, another test that they are being forced to endure? Thomas ignores all he's heard and knows about the Grievors which underscores his ability to rethink conventional wisdom. It was commonly held in the Glade that the Grievors couldn't be defeated. But Thomas turns that around and is able to slay one of the Grievors. It was Chuck's alert observation of the strange room that led him to spot the red button on the wall. It was key to their escape. The trio showed true teamwork: Thomas fought off the monster, Teresa used her computer skills, Chuck found the missing element that would allow them to escape.

Chapter Fifty-Eight

Thomas is quick-thinking when he quickly figures out how the code word "push" was meant to be used. Even at this late stage of their ordeal, the Creators are still consumed with testing the Gladers. Instead of just providing a straight code that was to be input into the computer, the Creators could not resist making another test or puzzle out of the code.

When Thomas arrives in the large room with the computers and other equipment, it is familiar to him. He recalls seeing the same images during the Changing. The room was part of Thomas' memory which provides further evidence that he was in league, at least to some degree, with the Creators.

Discussion Question 1

What made the last Grievors lose their power in the last stations of the escape? What indications are there that the Grievors were controlled by outside sources?



Discussion Question 2

Why does it become clear in the scene where Teresa is unable to input all the code words into the computer that the Creators are toying with the Gladers. What reasons could the Creators have for making even the final stages of the Gladers' escape so difficult?

Discussion Question 3

How does the final spiraling tunnel mimic earlier experiences for Thomas? What could the "tunnel" be compared to in the cycle of life? What mixed feelings might Thomas and the others have for the Creators after finally confronting them?

Vocabulary

appendage, impaling, halfheartedly, apparitions, compound, materialized



Chapters 59 - 60

Summary

Chapter Fifty-Nine

The Creators were all dressed alike – black jackets over white shirts. There were men and women. They seemed to be interacting with one another. Suddenly, there was an ear-splitting beeping sound. After it stopped, two people entered the room. Thomas thought he knew the woman but couldn't remember her name. The other person was a boy with his hoodie nearly covering his face.

The woman welcomed the Gladers back. She was impressed that after two years only a few were dead. Newton voiced his disagreement. Everything had gone according to plan, she told him. The woman pulled the hoodie down and revealed that the boy was Gally. Minho was angry and demanded to know who she was. She commented that she thought he'd be more mature having passed the Maze Trials. Newt asked Gally what was going on but he remained silent. The woman said that they would all be grateful for what they had done for them.

Gally blurted out that they controlled him but then he sputtered and couldn't continue his thought. Gally pulled a knife from his back pocket and flung it at Thomas. Chuck tried to protect him and took the knife in his chest. Blood poured from his wound. Thomas rushed to him. There had to be something that could save him. But nothing could save him. He was dying. He asked Thomas to find his mother. Thomas was stricken with rage and revenge. Thomas snapped and lunged at Gally and pummeled him. Newt and Minho pulled him off. Thomas felt the hate leave him and his thoughts were only on Chuck. He ran to Chuck again, lamenting how he had promised to take him home. Thomas held Chuck to him and sobbed.

Chapter Sixty

Chuck, who had become a symbol for Thomas, was gone. The woman said that everything happened for a purpose. Several men and woman dressed in dirty jeans and wet coats burst into the room wielding guns. Two of them tackled the woman to the floor. One of them aimed his gun at her and killed her. One of the men approached the Gladers and told them to follow him. Thomas thought that they could be their rescuers. They moved quickly down tunnels, stairs and hallways.

They reached a glass double-door and pushed through into a massive downpour. They were led to a huge bus and were ordered to get on. Just as Thomas was about to board, he was pulled back and slammed to the ground. It was a woman who had attacked him. She was angry at him about his promise to save them from the Flare. The rescuers pulled the woman away and helped Thomas up. As she was taken away she



warned everyone not to believe a word Thomas said. Thomas boarded the bus and sat by Teresa.

The bus started moving. The crazy woman was yelling and screaming as she chased the bus. Thomas yelled to the bus driver to stop but was ignored. The bus ran over the woman and kept going.

Analysis

Chapter Fifty-Nine

Thomas recognizes one of the Creators, a female who enters the room the Gladers find themselves in after the long slide. She has a very cold air about her and treats the Gladers like lab rats. Gally must have known about the Griever's Hole because he beat the others to the Creators. The woman used Gally to make a point with Thomas and the others. Unfortunately, Chuck loses his life trying to save his hero Thomas' life. Thomas is destroyed when Chuck dies in his arms. Thomas looks at Chuck's death as his ultimate failure. He had vowed to get the kid home. It had been very important to him to fulfill that promise but instead, Thomas must leave Chuck behind. Thomas had sacrificed himself in so many instances during his ordeal. Chuck was emulating his hero when he stepped in front of Thomas and took Gally's knife in his heart.

Chapter Sixty

Thomas is distraught over losing Chuck. For Thomas, Chuck had been the symbol of freedom and surviving the Maze. Now, he was gone. A hint is provided by the woman who said that there was a purpose for everything. Chuck's death was somewhat planned in that the Creators wanted to make a dramatic impact on the Gladers. The woman is killed by "rescuers" who whisk the Gladers away. What is curious is why the other Creators who were watching everything through tinted windows didn't come to the woman's rescue. Was that part of the plan as well? She herself said that everything had a purpose.

Discussion Question 1

Why was Chuck's death particularly devastating to Thomas? Explore and explain the complicated relationship that Thomas had with Chuck.

Discussion Question 2

Why was the woman, one of the Creators, who greeted the Gladers abandoned by the other Creators? After a two-year test of the young boys, why didn't the Creators put up a fight and try to stop the rescuers from taking them?



Discussion Question 3

What challenge and mystery is Thomas immediately met with after he and the others are rescued? How is the incident an omen for Thomas's future back on Earth?

Vocabulary

discernible, sallow, condescending, inexplicably, beacon, talisman, malice, archaic



Chapters 61 - Epilogue

Summary

Chapter Sixty-One

The driver was speeding and driving recklessly. Through the heavy rain they could see lights and buildings. At one point people with ratty clothes and riddled with body sores rushed the bus. They resembled the woman who had attacked him. The bus driver ignored these people who were pounding on the side of the bus. A woman rescuer who was sitting nearby told Thomas and Teresa that they would get all their memories back after awhile. She and the other rescuers were not scientists and weren't sure what exactly had been done to them.

It all started with sun flares that were exceptionally massive. Their heat was felt on the earth. Satellites were destroyed and people died by the thousands at once and by the millions soon after. The Flare left wastelands and disease in its wake. It became impossible to control the disease. Only the rich could afford to be treated and there was no cure unless word coming from the Andes was true.

The Gladers were just a handful of the millions orphaned by the Flare. They were carefully selected for the ultimate test – finding those who could beat the Flare. The rescuers are dedicated to fighting WICKED for the sake of humanity. She and the others were from the Scorch north of the Andes. It's centered around what sued to be the equator. Their mission was to find a cure and to stop WICKED from conducting more tests and experiments. They wanted Thomas and Teresa to join them.

Teresa drifted off. Thomas thought about what the woman had told him about Scorch and the Flare. He hoped conditions were better than they were in the Maze. Thomas could not get Chuck out of his mind. They pulled into a muddy parking lot that contained a building with several rows of windows. Inside was a huge dormitory with bunk beds lined up against the walls. The placed had bright paint and curtains and blankets. There was a sense of normalcy to the place. Minho thought they had arrived in heaven. The staff came into the room. They were clean and were smiling. Thomas felt safe.

Chapter Sixty-Two

Thomas shared a bunk with Minho. Teresa was put up in a private room. Minho asked Thomas what he thought happened to the Gladers who stayed behind. Thomas hated to think of the possibilities. Thomas and Teresa talked in their minds. She was sorry about Chuck but told Thomas not to feel guilty about those who were lost. Thomas was responsible for saving those who made it out. They talked about the future which was uncertain and said goodnight. He was glad it was dark because for the first time since he found himself in the Box he had actually smiled.

Epilogue



Chancellor Ava Paige summarizes the Maze Trials in a memo. They were fundamentally successful. The responses to the Variables were encouraging. She was impressed with the kids they had collected. They just never gave up. To Ava, the choice of the leader was obvious. The subjects will eventually understand the purpose of the Trials and WICKED's mission to preserve humanity. They would allow the subjects one night's sleep before Stage 2 was implemented.

Analysis

Chapter Sixty-One

One of the rescuers on the bus with Thomas and Teresa reveals more about the lead up to the Glade and the Maze. The Flare is finally explained. Powerful flare-ups on the sun that had impacted the earth. Thomas' role in the Flare and why the woman and even Alby were upset with him about the Flare is not explained. However, he must have had some important role during the times of the Flare.

The woman also confirms that Alby's description of the earth was accurate. It sounds like a desolate place. One positive difference with the Maze is that, hopefully, there are no Grievers. Thomas feels safe, though it might be a false comfort. He had suspected that the Creators planted false memories in his mind during the Changing.

Chapter Sixty-Two

Teresa shows her sensitivity toward Thomas about Chuck's death. But she is wise enough to not dwell on the boy's passing. She encourages Thomas to think about the future and not feel guilty about those lost. It was a battle. Thomas was the main reason that the boys who made it through the battle were able to escape.

Epilogue

Although Thomas feels safe and is even smiling, his jubilation will evidently be short-lived. They were still being tested and they apparently would have only one night of peace until their ordeal resumed.

Discussion Question 1

Why is the Flare and the Scorch harbingers that dark days still lie ahead? What plans do the Creators undoubtedly have for Thomas?

Discussion Question 2

Why didn't Thomas want anyone to see him smile? Was he afraid to relax or let his guard down, even though he was beginning to feel at home? Why is it human nature to sometimes prefer to expect the worse rather than hope for the best?



Discussion Question 3

What is WICKED's mission? Why is Thomas' test far from over? What role do the rescuers have in the Gladers' futures? What side are the rescuers really on?

Vocabulary

ecosystem, catalyst, humanity, nonchalant, endeavor



Characters

Thomas

Thomas is a sixteen-year-old boy who finds himself in total blackness in an elevator that stops in an eerie world called the Glade. He has no idea about how he got there or what the outcome would be. But, he also has no memory of a former life. He doesn't even know what his last name is. Did he have parents who were worried about him. Would he ever see his prior life again? When the elevator stops, Thomas is pulled out by boys around his own age. He has never seen the boys before the elevator incident.

From the very first moment that Thomas arrived in the Glade he had only one thing on his mind – to escape and return to whatever his life was before his arrival. Thomas is a very bright young man who proves to be as brave as he is smart. He immediately has a strong, internal desire to become a Runner. But, it's unheard of for a Newbie like Thomas to become a Runner. The boys who are Runners are in top shape and must run each day in the Maze – an eerie no-exit arm of the Glade – in an effort to find a way out. It is a dangerous job to have. The Grievors dwell in the Maze. The young boys of the Glade are their prey. Grievors are huge bulbous entities who hunt the boys and either inject them with poison or take them away. No one knows the eventual fate of the boys. But, Thomas is persistent and soon becomes a Runner.

Eventually Thomas begins to realize that the Glade and the Maze are not much more than illusions and that they are being tested by the Creators who put them there. Through a series of discoveries including a hidden code and an escape hatch that is literally in thin air, Thomas begins to figure out the mystery of the Glade. In the end he leads the others in an escape and winds up facing his Creators. Although the world they return to has many problems, Thomas and his friends feel they at least have a chance for a future. But they didn't get to read the Epilogue in the book and discover that Phase 2 of their test is about to be launched.

Teresa

In the two years that the Glade and the Maze existed, Teresa was the first and only girl to be sent there. She came in the Box like the boys did. When she was brought to the surface, the boys were shocked that she was a girl, a beautiful girl, and that she was in a deep coma. At first, she was so still that the boys thought she was dead. As soon as Thomas saw her, he immediately felt a connection to her. Perhaps, he had known her in their prior lives before being sent to the Glade.

Teresa stayed in a coma for a number of days. Although she was unconscious, she said things like it was “the Ending.” She also asked for Thomas and spoke of the Maze Code. None of it made sense to Thomas. They were all disjointed words that were meaningless. But, when Teresa regained consciousness, it soon became obvious that



Thomas and Teresa had known each other in the past. Initially, however, the type of relationship they had wasn't clear.

What was very clear is that Teresa could "talk" in Thomas' brain. Suddenly, he would hear her voice and he was able to converse with her no matter how far apart they were physically. Later, he recognized that he too had the gift of telepathy and concluded that he and Teresa had been used by the Creators because of their gifts. Teresa and Thomas solve the mystery of the Maze and are able to lead the others in an escape back to earth. Unknown to Teresa, more problems await them in the old world.

Newt

Newt is one of the leaders of the Glade. He is wise and sensitive to the needs of the Glade and the individual members of the community. He immediately takes to Thomas and winds up defending him and his actions more than once.

Chuck

Chuck is a thirteen-year-old boy who had been in the Glade for a little over a month before Thomas landed there. Chuck admires sixteen-year-old James. In turn, Thomas looks upon Chuck as a little brother and vows to return Chuck to his home.

Alby

Alby is one of the leaders of the Glade. Unlike Newt, Alby is suspicious of Thomas. He had gone through the Changing and swears that he knew Thomas in another time and place and that he is not to be trusted.

Gally

Gally had been badly wounded by the Grievors and was never the same after he went through the Changing. Like Alby, he doesn't trust Thomas; in fact, he detests him. Gally is openly hostile toward James and is thrown out of a Gathering of the Keepers when he tries to turn the others against Thomas.

Zart

Zart is the Keeper of the Track-hoes. He is responsible for overseeing the Track-hoes, the Gladers who tend to the livestock and crops. Thomas works for him one day and Zart supports him in becoming a Runner.

Ben

Ben had sustained permanent brain damage from being stung by a Griever. After going through the Changing, he does not recover to his former self. After going off the deep end and trying to kill Thomas, Ben is banished from the Glade and forced to stay out in the Maze where the Grievers will finish the job.

Winston

Winston is the Keeper of the Blood House. The Blood House is a slaughter house where the livestock are killed and processed for food. Winston's workers are called Slicers.

Ava Paige

Ava Paige is the Chancellor of WICKED an organization of scientists that the Gladers refer to as the Creators. The story ends with Ava's memo indicating that the Gladers aren't home free because they must face another challenge, another test.



Symbols and Symbolism

Beetle Blades

Beetle blades were mechanical creatures that resembled lizards. They had “Wicked” written across their torsos and were spies for the Creators.

The Box

The story begins with Thomas in a pitch black elevator that is in ascent. He winds up in the Glade, a land that was unknown to him. The Box is where all new boys and supplies were delivered.

The Slammer

The Slammer was a one room jail with only one window and a rickety chair. Thomas and Teresa had to spend a night there in detention.

The Changing

If a boy lived after being attacked by a Griever, he would be given a serum and would undergo the Changing. During the Changing, he would begin to regain some of his memories.

The Ending

Teresa claimed that she was sent to the Glade because she was to trigger the Ending. The Ending was either the end of life in the Glade or the deaths of the boys in the Glade.

The Code

Teresa suspected that a code was somehow hidden in the maze. That code would be the key to escaping and being free from the creators.

The Flare

The Flare refers to a time on earth when the sun had massive flares that impacted the environment on earth and caused widespread chaos and despair.



The Grievors

The Grievors were half-machine/half-animals. Each had a six-foot-long slug-like body that was four feet thick. They resided in the Maze and hunted the Gladers as their prey. Grievors stung their victims with poison. Then, they kidnapped or killed them.

WICKED (The Creators)

The Gladers blamed the Creators for sending all of them to the Glade. In reality, it was a group of scientists who had kidnapped the boys, zapped their memories from them, and sent them to the Glade. Once there, they were tested for their abilities and intelligence.

The Maps

The Runners had to draw a map of the section of the Maze that they had covered each day. Their mission was to find a way out of the Maze. They compared these maps with the maps from prior days to see if they could detect any changes that would lead to a way out.



Settings

The Glade

The Glade is the strange new world into which Thomas is thrust. Thomas, like the other Gladers who have been sent there by the Creators, is a teenager who has no memory of his former life. Everyone's only goal in the Glade is to escape.

The Maze

Located off the courtyard of the Glade is the mysterious Maze. It is a vast and eerie place that is comprised of long, endless corridors with tall walls covered in ivy. There is no discernible exit. In the Maze is the constant threat of an attack by the much-feared Grievors.

The Cliff

The Cliff is virtually the end of the Maze, but it is not an exit. Gladers are thrown off the Cliff into its black and bottomless abyss.

The Grievors' Hole

Thomas and Minho discover an invisible escape hatch that is invisible and virtually suspended in mid-air. The boys saw several Grievors leap off the Cliff and seem to disappear; but, they had actually slid into the Griever's Hole to go to parts unknown.

The Creators' Lab

When the Gladers finally escape, they land in the lab of their Creators. The Creators are scientists who had sent the boys to the Glade.



Themes and Motifs

Tenacity

Thomas is thrown into a strange world when he inexplicably lands in the Glade. It is an odd community made up of young boys who were similarly displaced from their former lives by the Creators, a shadowy group who has control over life and death. Thomas doesn't understand much of what's going on even after it is somewhat explained to him. Thomas is an intelligent and strong-willed young boy who has the single-minded goal of finding a way home for himself and the other boys. He holds onto that vow above all else, no matter what happens or what barriers are placed in his path.

Thomas is willing to sacrifice himself in whatever way is necessary in order to find the key to the mysteries of the Glade. After just one day, he decides that he must become a Runner – the most dangerous position in the Glade and one that is generally only assigned to senior boys who have been in the Glade for a lengthy period of time. But Thomas has a sense that becoming a Runner will bring him closer to his goal of escape.

Thomas is stubborn and ultimately convinces Newt, one of the leaders, to allow him to become a Runner. The danger that lurks in the Maze where the Runners run are massive beasts called Grievers who spell almost certain death or disability. But, Thomas puts himself at risk because he feels it will allow him to be successful. His tenacity is further evidenced when he intentionally exposes himself to the Grievers in order to achieve another step toward freedom. He even offers to sacrifice his very life if it will allow the others to recapture their lost lives.

Guilt

Almost the minute that Thomas first set foot in the Glade, he was plagued with guilt. He had been zapped of all his memories; but, there was something that stirred within him and made him feel responsible for the plight of his brother Gladers. The heavy guilt he bore was inexplicable since some of the boys had been at the Glade for two years. How could Thomas have had any role in their being sent to the strange world so long before?

Although he could logically dispel the guilt that at times overwhelmed him, he could not shake it. In fact, the more he learned about the Glade and the Maze the more guilt he felt. But, like many emotions that could arguably be considered negative, they can produce positive results. Just like depression or boredom, guilt can be the catalyst for change, the impetus that sparks a desire for something other than the status quo. The guilt that Thomas felt drove him to volunteer for the dangerous role of Runner. He felt an innate need to be in the Glade's most dangerous place – perhaps, as a punishment for whatever he was guilty about.

Thomas felt guilty that Chuck, one of the youngest boys at the Glade, had had his life stolen from him. Chuck should be at home playing in the street with the neighbor



children. He felt a brotherly protectiveness toward Chuck and made a vow to get him home. Again, it was the guilt he felt over Chuck being in the dilemma that they all faced that compelled Thomas to find a way home for all of them.

Survival

The story of Thomas and “The Maze Runner” is a fundamental story of survival. Each of the young boys, who now sadly call themselves Gladers, has his own way of coping with his dilemma. Minho has become the fierce Keeper of the Runners. He is dedicated to running in the huge Maze each day, although there is little to show for it. But, he will not give up until he finds a way out. Just like the others, he instinctively knows that he and the rest of the Gladers will not survive if they are forced to remain in the Glade. They have seen their colleagues and friends die one by one. Their turn will come unless they can get out.

Newt, who is the wise and sensitive co-leader of the Glade, controls and tamps down the anger and resentment that arises between the Gladers. He recognizes that turmoil from within will destroy the fragile group. In order to survive their ordeal, they must ward off internal conflicts and present a strong and unified front.

Alby, the co-leader of the Gladers, wants to survive as well. However, he has a different view of survival. He has been through the Changing and has had images of memories and times from his other life. That life was not satisfying. He does not want to return to it. Alby is for making the best out of a really bad situation and staying in the Glade. He burns the Map Room in an effort to sabotage Thomas’ plans for escape.

Thomas looks at survival as a big picture. He wants to survive and return to his other life – whatever that life might have been. But, he will not consider his survival a success unless the others survival as well.

Styles

Point of View

“The Maze Runner” by James Dashner is told in third person, limited omniscient. The story is told from the view point of the story’s protagonist, Thomas. By using this point of view and perspective, the reader is privy to the thoughts, fears, emotions, and motivations of the protagonist. This perspective moves the story along and creates sympathy and understanding for the protagonist and gives the reader insight into the battles and challenges that he faces and his reaction to other characters. While others characters do not at times understand Thomas’ motivations, the reader is in sync with the protagonist and knows where he is coming from and where he is going.

The story ends in a cliffhanger. While the last chapter leaves Thomas and the other characters hopeful for a brighter future, the reader knows that they have been fooled by the Creators once again. The Epilogue is written from the perspective of Ava Paige, chancellor of WICKED. In memo form, she discusses the returning Gladers and reveals that they will only have one night of peace. Then, they will face their next trial. Therefore, at this point the reader knows more than the protagonist. Thomas’ ordeal is far from over. An excerpt from the author’s sequel is included at the back of the book.

Language and Meaning

“The Maze Runner” takes place in a strange place called the Glade. The residents of the Glade are all teenage boys. When Thomas, the protagonist, first arrives in the Glade, he is brought there by the Box. The Box delivers all Newbies (new residents) to Glade as well as the daily supplies that the Gladers need to survive. In addition to being called a Newbie, Thomas is also called Greenbean and the more derogatory “shank” and “klunk.”

The Glade features different sections including the Homestead where everyone eats and sleeps. There is also a Map Room where the Runners draw new maps of the Maze after each day’s run. There are also the Slammer which is the jail and the Blood House where animals are butchered. Livestock and crops are grown on a farm where Track-hoes work. An area known as the Deadheads is a forest area where Gladers can go to relax and to be alone.

The Maze is located off the Glade’s courtyard. It is a vast and eerie place consisting of long corridors, high ivied walls, and, perhaps, no way out. No one is allowed to go into the Maze at night because large beasts known as Grievers roam Maze corridors looking for a succulent boy to sting or kidnap or kill. Beetle blades are lizard-like beings that roam the Glade and Maze. They spy on the Gladers for the Creators. The Maze ends in a Cliff that leads to a bottomless abyss. Eventually, the Gladers discover that the only way out is through the Grievers’ Hole, which is invisible and suspended in mid air.



Structure

“The Maze Runner” by James Dashner is comprised of sixty-two medium-sized chapters. The first chapter is followed by an excerpt from the sequel which is entitled, “The Scorch Trials” and an excerpt from “The Eye of Minds” which is the first in a new series by the author titled “The Mortality Doctrine.”

The story begins with the protagonist trapped in a dark elevator. He doesn't know where he's going or where he's been. He lands in a strange world called the Glade that is adjacent to an eerie and frightening maze. The story works its way forward in chronological order from that starting point. However, there are references to prior lives that the boys in the Glade must have had but can't remember because their memories have been zapped from them.

The story winds up with Thomas leading the other Gladers to a successful escape. It is then that they return to earth. Although things on earth are far from perfect, Thomas and the others at least feel they have hope. Unknown to Thomas, the Creators are ready to put them through the paces again and are allowing the boys only one night's good sleep. What happens to Thomas and his peers will be told in the book's sequel, “The Scorch Trials.”



Quotes

Freshly turned dirt, manure, pine, something rotten and something sweet. Somehow he knew that those were the smells of a farm.

-- Thomas (chapter 2)

Importance: Thomas has lost his memory and finds himself on a farm. He doesn't know how he got there.

When you bloody need to know, you'll know, Greenie.

-- Newt (chapter 6)

Importance: This passage points to the secretive nature of the Glade where Thomas had mysteriously found himself.

Too bad I can't remember my whole life. Maybe I love killing animals.

-- Thomas (chapter 11)

Importance: Thomas, who had lost his memory, would begin his training as a slicer. Part of his responsibility would be butchering the farm animals.

For the second night in a row, Thomas went to bed with the haunting image of Ben's face burned into his mind, tormenting him.

-- Thomas (chapter 15)

Importance: Thomas felt guilty that Ben was Banished by the Keepers for attacking him. Although Thomas had nothing to do with the incident, he felt strangely responsible.

The terrible sounds he'd heard escalate for the last hour took on a high-pitched, mechanical squeal, like a robotic death yell.

-- Thomas (chapter 18)

Importance: Thomas was caught out in the Maze at nighttime. As the Griever came ever closer, Thomas knew that he faced certain death.

Thomas couldn't think of any nightmare that could equal this hideous thing coming toward him.

-- Thomas (chapter 19)

Importance: This quote captures Thomas' reaction at seeing his first Griever up close.

He knew he should also be exhausted, but he was too excited to feel it – he couldn't wait to see Newt's and Alby's reactions to the news about the Cliff.

-- Thomas (chapter 35)

Importance: Thomas and Minho discovered a hidden doorway located right off the cliff.



They determined that it was where the Grievors came from and where they went when they flew off the cliff. It was important because it could be the way out for the boys – what they'd been looking for during the last two years.

They're weeding us out, seeing if we'll give up, finding the best of us. Throwing variables at us, trying to make us quit. Testing our ability to hope and fight... Now it's time for the last test. To escape.

-- Thomas (chapter 47)

Importance: Thomas had figured out why the boys had been sent to Glade. It was all a test to find the best of the lot. The final test they faced was escape.

The Creators are testing us. The Maze was never meant to be solved. It's all been a trial.

-- Thomas (chapter 46)

Importance: Thomas has figured out that the Gladers have been on a two-year goose chase. There was no solution to the Maze. It was all a ruse cooked up by the Creators.

For all we know you were sent here to get us all killed. Why should we trust you?

-- Alby (chapter 51)

Importance: Alby had never trusted Thomas. Now that Thomas realizes that he had helped create the Glade and the Maze, Alby shows that his distrust has only deepened.

You did it, Chuck. We were so worried about the stupid code words, we didn't think to look around for something to push – the last word, the last piece of the puzzle.

-- Teresa (chapter 58)

Importance: When Teresa was unable to put the last code word "push" into the computer, he spotted a red button on the wall and thought that the last word was an instruction to push that button. He turned out to be right.

The sun flares couldn't have been predicted. Sun flares are normal, but these were unprecedented, massive, spiking high and higher... it was only minutes before their heat slammed into Earth.

-- Female Rescuer (chapter 61)

Importance: One of the rescuers explain to the returning Thomas and Teresa that massive spikes in sun flares caused an era on earth known as the Flare. The onslaught of the Flare led directly to the creation of the Glade and the Maze.