

The Monstrumologist Study Guide

The Monstrumologist by Rick Yancey

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Plot Summary

"The Monstrumologist" by Rick Yancey is a horror novel with a coming of age background that makes for a wonderful young adult novel. The book, set up as the journal of William Henry, follows Will's life as a monstrumologist assistant through one of Will's most harrowing adventures. Through it, Will discovers not only that monsters are real, but that sometimes, the human monster can be more dangerous than the creatures in the night.

"The Monstrumologist" is the story of Will Henry, a 12-year-old boy who was taken in by his father's employer, Dr. Pellinore Warthrop, when his parents both perished in a fire. The doctor is a monstrumologist or one who studies, hunts, and kills monsters. He is aloof and evasive at times, but he is all that Will Henry has and Will does admire his work, although it frightens him. At the opening of the novel, the duo is startled by the coming of a grave robber, who has found the remains of a monster, the Anthropophagi, a headless, human like creature with vast strength and murderous intent. Warthrop knows immediately this species is not native to America, and thus begins the hunt, not only for the deadly creatures, but for answers. After several deaths, Warthrop visits a man in a sanitarium named Hezzekiah Varner, who claims to have carried several of the Anthropophagi over from their native country. On their return home, however, the Anthropophagi escaped, and killed nearly the entire crew. When the police arrive to ask for Warthrop's help as others are being killed, Warthrop calls in John Kearns, a known Anthropophagi hunter. Kearns, although knowledgeable about the monsters, is somewhat a monster himself, believing that all actions are justified in order to eradicate the Anthropophagi, including the killing of human beings. With Kearns' help, Warthrop, Will, the local police, and volunteers set up a plan to kill off the monsters. However, when the alpha female escapes, the men are forced to go into the Anthropophagi tunnels to find and eliminate the creature.

Once the Anthropophagi are killed, Warthrop and Kearns seek out Dr. Starr, the man who helped Warthrop's father feed and care for the Anthropophagi for many years. They learn that Warthrop's father originally wanted to mate the species with humans, but apart from that, he knew that to stop feeding the captive Anthropophagi would mean their escape. The Anthropophagi remained dormant for years only because Starr supplied Warthrop's father with victims for their meals. When Warthrop's father died and his money ran out, Starr stopped feeding the creatures, hence their rise to the surface and their deadly spree. Kearns kills Starr, and then vanishes, and Will Henry realizes that human monsters are just as prevalent, and dangerous, as those he works with. Through his journey, Will Henry and Warthrop become closer and Will learns that he must put his past behind him to move forward. The disease that was killing his father at the time of his death has also infected Will, but to his surprise, the worms that are inside him are actually prolonging his life. He lives to well over a hundred years, before he dies when his journals are found and the full story is finally revealed.

Prologue

Prologue Summary

The Monstrumologist is the story of Will Henry, a young orphan who works with Dr. Warthrop, a monstrumologist. Through the novel, Will learns that while monsters do exist, sometimes human being can be far more dangerous and more destructive. He also learns that to move forward in his life, he must let go of the past and try to find a connection with his new guardian.

The Prologue opens with a writer visiting an elderly care facility. This writer visited the care facility in order to research a local legend about a sinkhole located in town. The director of the facility asks him to take a look at several "journals", left behind by one of their oldest residents, William Henry, when he passed away. The director points out the work is clearly fiction and based on the fantastical tales within the journal. The writer agrees to take the journals home, and read through them. In return, if there is any information about Will Henry within them, the writer promises to let the director know.

Prologue Analysis

The Prologue, although short, sets up the main idea of the story, that the tale about to be read is from someone's journals. There is a question brought up as to whether the journals are real or fictitious, and although the writer notes they are "likely" fiction, there is the suggestion that they could be real. The reference to the sink hole is minimal, but is tied in later when Will Henry discusses the ring of slaughter set up in the cemetery. Additionally, the mention of Will Henry's claims of his ancient age foreshadow information late in the novel, when it is discovered that Will Henry is host to a worm that will allow him long life.



Chapter One: A Singular Curiosity

Chapter One: A Singular Curiosity Summary

In Chapter One, Will Henry admits he is about to reveal his secrets, forty years after the Monstrumologist's death. He recalls clearly the night in 1888 that the doctor and himself are awakened by Erasmus Gray, a grave robber who has accidentally stumbled on the remains of a creature he has never seen. Will Henry, twelve years old, is immediately put to work readying the laboratory, making tea, and generally preparing for a long night's work as the doctor and Erasmus bring a bundle in from outside. The doctor, Pellinore Warthrop, sends Will to see Erasmus out, and when asked, Will admits he is with the doctor because his parents were killed in a fire the previous year, and the doctor was kind enough to take him in. When pressed, Will claims the doctor is a doctor of philosophy.

Once back in the laboratory, Will and the doctor begin their examination of the remains Erasmus has brought. Inside the burlap, the doctor finds two corpses, the first of a young deceased girl. The second is the corpse of an Anthropophagi, a headless monster whose stature is huge compared to man. The creature has eaten half the girl's head, and clawed and chewed much of her body. In the center of the torso of the Anthropophagi is a huge mass of teeth, pointed much like shark's teeth. The eyes are on each shoulder of the creature. Although he is nearly in shock, Will manages to assist the doctor, discovering that the Anthropophagi died because it choked on the pearls of the young victim. As Will nearly faints, the doctor laments that the creature is not native to the United States, and he wonders how they came to be in the area. He also explains that the creature is not a scavenger by nature, but that the male of the species must find a host in which to place the egg of the female, lest it explode within the male himself. The male, therefore, finds a corpse in which to deposit the egg. The doctor skillfully removes the fetus Anthropophagi from the dead corpse of the girl, and places the squirming, violent creature into a jar with chemical-filled cotton balls. The ferocious fetus Anthropophagi soon dies.

Chapter One: A Singular Curiosity Analysis

Chapter One introduces several of the characters in the novel, as well as introduces many of the major themes. Will Henry, an orphan, is introduced, and from the beginning, he is a likable character. It is clear he serves the doctor well, but also that, as an orphan, his life is perhaps more lonely than some. From the opening, one gathers that Will Henry is loyal to the doctor, having kept his secrets for so many years. The mention of the date implies there is truth to Will Henry's claim of being 133 years of age, if the journal turns out to be factual. This also foreshadows knowledge at the end of the novel as to why Will is able to live so long. Will's clear headedness, even when near fainting, shows him to be a strong character, and one with much resolve.



Pellinore Warthrop is also introduced in this chapter, as well. The doctor is an interesting person from the beginning, and his position as a monstrumologist makes him all the more interesting. He is an intense man, and one with little sympathy for those without the stomach for the job. He treats Will as an assistant, but does seem to feel at least slight concern for him, as well as for Erasmus Gray. That being said, however, the doctor is highly motivated, and focuses on the task at hand, that of the monster brought to his doorstep.

With the coming of Erasmus Gray and the Anthropophagi, the main plot of the novel is introduced, that of the mystery of the Anthropophagi's arrival, and the need for their eradication. The author's depiction of the creature is vivid, as is the graphic depiction of the damage it has done to its young female victim. This level of detail is necessary to convey the real horror of the situation. The final scene, with the death of the fetus Anthropophagi, is equally graphic, but also important to the story, as the race of Anthropophagi in the area are clearly growing. This foreshadows the hunt for the creatures and the viciousness of their attacks.



Chapter Two: His Services Are Indispensable to Me

Chapter Two: His Services Are Indispensable to Me Summary

In Chapter Two, Warthrop works well into the next day, explaining about the fetus progress in the host, the barbed fingers of the creature, its huge hands and amazing legs, allowing it to leap up to forty feet. He also explains the Anthropophagi hunt at night, and generally in packs. The doctor continues to autopsy the creature, removing limbs, organs, and other body parts, explaining to Will Henry about each. After pulling the brain from an area just above the groin, Warthrop mentions they have the intellectual capacity of a two year old. The doctor forges forward, but Will Henry knows that he will eventually crash into a state of melancholy.

For tonight, however, Warthrop continues on, warning that the Anthropophagi must be sought and killed, but Will eventually collapses with exhaustion. Warthrop scoops him up and takes him to his room, pausing only to remove his hat. At the sight of it, Will cries, vulnerable in his tiredness, and reminded of all he has lost. Warthrop admits he too misses Will's family, and Will knows this to be true, as his father and mother both worked for the doctor. His father worshiped Warthrop, and his loyalty lay more with him than with his wife and child. His mother despised the doctor, only because of her husband's unending loyalty toward him. After being gone for days, James would come home and he and his wife would argue, always about the doctor, and about what James did for Warthrop. Will recalls asking to go with him on their expeditions, and being turned down.

Warthrop does not console Will, but instead returns to work, leaving Will to himself. After watching the boys play baseball across the street, he falls asleep, only to be woken by the doctor several hours later. Warthrop tells him to hurry, and when Will arrives in the kitchen, he finds Warthrop has attempted to make dinner. After eating a few bites, Will and the doctor head to the basement, where the doctor explains that the Anthropophagi is not the enemy, but that fear, in fact, is. He further explains that there can only be a few Anthropophagi in the area, or there would have been many more deaths. He tells Will to pack up a list of items, as they must act quickly. By midnight, everything is packed, including items such as torches, specimen bags, stakes, shovels, and other items.

When someone comes to the door, Will is surprised to see Erasmus Gray. It becomes clear Erasmus is reluctantly joining them on their expedition, and Warthrop asks Will to load the cart. As they load the body of the young girl, Erasmus objects to Will's presence, noting his age, but the doctor assures him Will's services are indispensable. Will is almost flattered, but now, questions if the doctor knew then what would happen, if



he still would have brought Will along. He also wonders if there are monsters far worse than the Anthropophagi, who send small children to fight the battles of men.

Chapter Two: His Services Are Indispensable to Me Analysis

Chapter Two divulges much more about Will's parents, and how he came to live with the doctor, and more about the Anthropophagi. The doctor's explanations of the creature to Will help the reader not only to understand the dangers of the Anthropophagi, but to understand the animal itself. Its habitat is discussed, as is its mating habits, eating habits, and anatomy. All these aspects foreshadow the use of that information later in the novel, both to track the creature, and to kill it.

The chapter also explains the eccentricities of the doctor himself, as Will explains his manic depressive states. The scene between the doctor and Will shows the doctor is not a father figure to Will, although he certainly cares for him. His sympathies for Will are genuine, as he did clearly care for Will's father, James, as well. However, it is also clear from Will's recollections of his father and mother that although they owed much to Warthrop, Will's mother, Mary, despised him. Jealous of the time James spent with the doctor, and angry at having to lie about what he did, Mary constantly butted heads about James' adoration of the doctor. It is easy to understand Will's melancholy, as he is just a young boy whose life is filled with monsters, both real and imagined, and he spends much of his time thinking about the past, and missing his parents, and his old life.

Warthrop continues to show at least marginal care for Will as he cooks him dinner, although his attempt is poor, and it is done after awakening him rudely. His assurances in the basement about the Anthropophagi and their limited numbers foreshadows the realization later in the novel that there are far more Anthropophagi than the doctor realizes. Also, the doctor's questions about the presence of the Anthropophagi in this chapter foreshadow his only family's involvement in the Anthropophagi infestation, and the discovery of answers to those questions. Finally, the list of items for Will to pack indicates the doctor plans to hunt down the Anthropophagi and this is later confirmed by the involvement of Erasmus Gray. Erasmus shows himself briefly here to be a kind character, as he genuinely seems concerned with the doctor's decision to use Will.

The final comments in this chapter introduce a theme used throughout the rest of the book. Will notes that, in hindsight, the doctor may be worse than the monsters he hunts, as he uses Will for tasks he should never have been used for. The atmosphere the doctor puts Will into is a living nightmare, and Will's question of whether the doctor would have insisted on his presence had he known what was going to happen brings about the idea that humankind can be more dangerous than monsters.



Chapter Three: It Seems I Must Reconsider My Original Hypothesis

Chapter Three: It Seems I Must Reconsider My Original Hypothesis Summary

In Chapter Three, Will, Warthrop, and Erasmus return to Old Hill Cemetery, where Erasmus originally found the Anthropophagi. Will points out the Warthrop's are heroes to the town as wealthy and politicians, even though the last several generations have gone against the grain. Erasmus and Warthrop arm themselves as they enter and arrive at the graveside where the young woman was mutilated. Will imagines the creatures chasing them, but the doctor does warn to keep their eyes peeled. Erasmus again shows sympathy for Will as he is clearly upset, and although Will tries to be brave, the old man's charm eventually pierces Will's armor, and the two become friends. When Will is called by the doctor to the graveside, however, Warthrop quizzes Erasmus endlessly, only to discover that Erasmus saw nothing out of the ordinary with the grave the night he dug up the girl and the monster. While Will and Erasmus dig up the grave, Warthrop travels into the trees to see what he can discover. When the doctor returns, he points out that the Anthropophagi need breathing holes, and travel through tunnels, but he can find no evidence of those near the grave.

Suddenly, however, the men begin to hear a hissing in the trees and the horse begins to whine. Will is sent back to the carriage for Erasmus' rifle and flash pots with gunpowder. When he returns to the grave, the doctor throws one of the flash bombs into the darkness, but it illuminates only graves. He throws another, as Erasmus points out the Anthropophagi have clearly left. As he goes to leave the grave, however, he is attacked from below by an Anthropophagi. As his body is being eaten by the creature, Will reaches in to save him, much to the doctor's dismay. After a struggle, the doctor shoots Erasmus in the head, killing him, and manages to pull Will out of the grave, yelling at him to run. Unfortunately, the horse bolts too, and although the doctor catches her, Will is still trying to reach her. As he runs, the doctor begins shooting behind him, and Will understands the Anthropophagi are close on his heels. Finally, the doctor pulls him on board, and when the horse becomes trapped, the doctor throws the body of the young woman to the Anthropophagi. As they devour the body, ripping it to shreds, the horse carries Will and the doctor to safety, and the doctor admits he will have to rethink his hypothesis of the number of Anthropophagi.

Chapter Three: It Seems I Must Reconsider My Original Hypothesis Analysis

Chapter Three displays the true power of the Anthropophagi, as well as introduces some basic information about the adaptations of the Anthropophagi in the United States.



First, however, this chapter introduces the family of Warthrop, and explains how the family came to be well respected in the community. Unlike the doctor, his family was well known, and well liked, in town as businessmen and politicians. It was only the doctor's father who strayed from this path, and his son after him, and he was only able to because of his family's wealth. This fact seems miniscule, but it does explain how Warthrop's father was able to fund his research, discovered later in the novel.

Erasmus is shown again in this chapter to be a kind man, and Will seems to genuinely like the man. This allows the reader to see a more childlike side of Will, and shows that he is, despite his worldly knowledge, still just a boy. This is underlined by his imagining of the Anthropophagi as they ride into the cemetery, and by Erasmus' strong dislike for bringing Will along. Also, the seemingly minor exchange between Erasmus and Will regarding his hat is actually important, as his lost hat is how the constable later knows the doctor and Will were aware of the Anthropophagi's presence. Additionally, Will's hat, as shown previously, has taken on a symbolic meaning for him, as it was given to him by his father. It is a constant reminder, and one that is seen throughout the book.

The discussion between Erasmus and the doctor about what he saw the night of his digging indicates there are changes in the habits of the Anthropophagi. It is clear the doctor knows some of the basic things that should have happened, if the Anthropophagi were hunting in the area, and he seems genuinely surprised when none of his suspicions are true. This foreshadows the fact that the Anthropophagi have altered their habits, based on how they were being kept in the United States.

The violent death of Erasmus and the ensuing chase of Warthrop and Will by the Anthropophagi shows the power of the creature the doctor is hunting, and shows that the doctor would rather kill Erasmus than have him suffer. The Anthropophagi are obviously strong, and their numbers far exceed what the doctor originally hypothesized. Their ability to mutilate Erasmus in such a short time, combined with their ability to overrun the carriage shows their speed and size, foreshadowing the tough fight ahead. Their desecration of the corpse again shows their power. Finally, the doctor's very calm comments at the end of the novel not only foreshadow the discovery of the truth behind the Anthropophagi, but also show that even the doctor can be incorrect.



Chapter Four: The Hour Grows Late

Chapter Four: The Hour Grows Late Summary

On returning home, Will showers to rid himself of the blood and brains of Erasmus, and once back in the library, asks Warthrop about his decision to kill the man. Warthrop explains that he was driven by mercy, and that Erasmus would thank him, were he able. Will understands that Warthrop would do the same if it were him, and would expect Will to kill him in the same situation. Warthrop doesn't linger on Erasmus' death, however, and instead focuses on discovering how many Anthropophagi are in the pod, and from where they came. Will questions this, asking if they should fetch the constable, but Warthrop is convinced the Anthropophagi will not attack again. When pressed, Warthrop admits his folly may have led to the death of Erasmus, but that, although he is sorry Erasmus died, he realizes he acted on the information he had, and he would do so again. The two argue briefly, with Warthrop pointing out that Will should thank him for saving his life, and that his father would have understood. Will does so grudgingly, and Warthrop continues on, noting that they have likely discovered a new species of the Anthropophagi. As he looks through several stacks of journals and books, Will thinks about the doctor, and how little he sleeps. Will is often woken by the doctor, who uses him as a sounding board, and, as Will now realizes, as an easement to his loneliness. Will takes several dictated letters, some to the Monstrumology society and one to a John Kearns. Once finished, the doctor again lapses into silence.

As Will makes yet another pot of tea, he laments of his exhaustion. On bringing the tea to the doctor, he finds him muttering about Dedham, and asks Will to bring a trunk up from the basement. Will is petrified, as the basement is dark, and he imagines the Anthropophagi, lurking. Mustering his courage for the doctor's sake, he hurries down and retrieves the trunk, only to find his fear doubled on the way back up, as he worries about the possibility of another, missed, fetus in the body. He also comments about his missing hat, and wonders if he lost it at the cemetery. Finally back in the library, the doctor begins to hastily pull out items from the trunk, including a shrunken head. As he talks, he admits it is an unlikely coincidence that the Anthropophagi relocated to an area where one of the only monstrumologists in the nation lived. He finds a leather-bound journal in the trunk and hands Will some divining bones to hold while he thumbs through it. He explains that the bones tell the future. With a shout, the doctor points out he has found reference in his father's journal to Dedham, a city where someone he knew was committed to an insane asylum. It is clear from the entry his father felt responsible for the man's committal. Warthrop laments that his father died alone, often plagued by self recrimination. He also notes, however, that he is beginning to understand his father's sins. He tells Will to quickly mail the letters, as they must leave for Dedham at once.



Chapter Four: The Hour Grows Late Analysis

This chapter helps show the reader more of the doctor's personality, as well as helps further the storyline. It is clear that Warthrop killed Erasmus out of mercy, and for an adult, this concept makes perfect sense. To young Will, however, the doctor merely did nothing to help Erasmus, and instead killed him at point blank range. Will is not understanding that, sometimes, there is not hope, and the doctor knows enough of the Anthropophagi to know this was the case. However, the doctor goes too far when he brings up Will's father, pointing out that he would have understood the situation. Will is upset, and although he does as the doctor asks when he requests that Will thank him, it is clear Will is doing so only out of loyalty. Whereas Will feels the doctor should be alerting the public, the doctor is convinced that finding the answer to the riddle is vital, as it can help him understand his enemy. This search for answers, combined with his comments about the irony of a Anthropophagi pod in the area, foreshadows the discovery that Warthrop's father was directly involved in the coming of the Anthropophagi. In addition, the letter to John Kearns foreshadows his arrival later in the novel.

In this chapter, the doctor does shows some tenderness toward Will, although it is strange in nature. The doctor does care about Will, but he cares for him in a way that is often misunderstood. The doctor is not emotionally capable of caring for another, and this fact is explained later in the novel, as readers learn of his relationship with his own father. Yet, this lack of traditional care and compassion does not mean the doctor does not care.

Will's journey to the basement again reinforces the idea that Will is, despite his appearance, a boy. He still has a boy's imagination, and he still worries about the monsters he knows are real. His seemingly small worries about his lost hat foreshadow the finding of the hat by the constable later in the novel. The items in the truck, combined with the journal filled with sorrow and regret, indicate that Warthrop's father was much like him, with emotional spirals. His father's reference to Dedham, combined with his self recrimination in the journal, foreshadow the discovery of the elder Warthrop's role in the coming of the Anthropophagi, while the appearance of the diving bones foreshadows the deadly prediction they carry later in the book. . It is possible at this point that Warthrop understands his father's involvement, although it is clear he doesn't completely know the extent of his dealings in the Anthropophagi.



Chapter Five: I Am Quite Lonely At Times

Chapter Five: I Am Quite Lonely At Times Summary

In Chapter Five, Will returns to the house after mailing the letters to find the doctor gone. He reads the paper Warthrop was passionate about as he read of Dedham, and learns a Captain Varner was the man committed, after swearing he and his crew were attacked by monsters they were paid to haul from overseas. Will wonders how the Anthropophagi have survived all these years. The doctor returns, and informs Will he has been to the cemetery, where he noted at least two dozen sets of prints, and cleaned up what he could of their previous night's adventure, to avoid detection. Will wonders, to this day, if the doctor was concerned about the public welfare, or if he merely wanted to avoid detection of his father's involvement. Warthrop asks that Will burn the journal, along with Erasmus' hat, and reflects that, after his parents were killed, he believed he could never get the smell of fire from his body.

As Will repacks the truck, he reads one of the unopened letters, only to find they are letters from Warthrop to his father when he was just a boy. In them, Warthrop sounds lonely, desperate for the love of a father who didn't know how to love in return. Will, for the first time, finds himself pitying the doctor, but this is short lived, as the doctor soon hollers for him to hurry with readying the horses. As he hurries to finish packing the truck, a key falls from the shrunken head, and Will absently places it into his pocket. After scraping together a meal, the doctor again chastises him, and Will finds himself near tears. The doctor, however, reminds him he is not a nursemaid or a cook, but an assistant, and one that was taken out of responsibility to his father, and nothing more. He is Will's caretaker, he reminds him, and he is to be ready by nightfall.

Chapter Five: I Am Quite Lonely At Times Analysis

Chapter Five reveals much, not only of the coming of the Anthropophagi, but also of why the doctor behaves as he does. First, Captain Varner's account of what happened on the ship clearly implies he and his crew were hired to carry the Anthropophagi from their native homeland to America, and based on previous information, one can assume the bill payer was Warthrop's father. This explains his remorse, and his constant self recrimination. The doctor's notes of the mass of Anthropophagi at the cemetery indicate there is a larger infestation than previously believed. His lack of finding Will's hat at the cemetery again foreshadows the discovery of the hat later in the novel. It is obvious by this point in the book that the doctor is not only concerned about the danger of the Anthropophagi, but also about keeping his father's name clear. His burning of the journal further supports the idea that Warthrop is trying to cover his father's tracks as best he can.



The discovery of the letters in the trunk serve to show why the doctor is as he is with Will. As a child, the doctor did not have a loving, caring, father. Instead, he idolized a man who never even bothered to open his letters. The letter Will reads is filled with hurt, hope, a sense of loneliness, and a profound sense of abandonment. Warthrop wanted his father's love desperately, but never received it. Will understands that this is why he treats him as he does, having never had a better role model. The discovery of the key in the head, while seemingly minor, foreshadows the use of the key later in the novel.

The final scene in the novel is heartbreaking, but it further shows Warthrop's complete lack of ability to show care or love. Will's attempt to follow instruction, and to make sure the doctor ate before his journey, is not only ill received, but resented. The doctor's tirade is difficult, in that his words are extremely hurtful to Will, and it is clear Will is devastated, just as Warthrop was devastated by his own father. The reminder that the doctor is simply a guardian out of circumstance, however harsh, does help Will in his journey ahead, but the pain he suffers in the moment is difficult to mask.



Chapter Six: What of the Flies

Chapter Six: What of the Flies Summary

In Chapter Six, Warthrop and Will head to Dedham, arriving at the run down, seemingly abandoned Motley Hill Sanatorium late into the night. After several minutes, an old woman comes to the door, claiming Dr. Starr is not to be disturbed. After a brief, terse argument, Dr. Starr eventually comes forth. They discuss the doctor's father, Alistair. Dr. Starr and Warthrop also discuss the Anthropophagi, as Starr seems to suspect they are the reason Warthrop has come to visit Varner. After an argument, Starr reveals he is merely a poor, sick old man, with little to live on. Realizing what he is after, Warthrop drops several coins on the table, and Starr, without a trace of illness, calls for the old woman to take them to see Varner.

The trek to see the Captain is filled with loud, confused, insane, and harrowing voices, and Will is frightened. In addition, the smell of feces and decay is rampant, and Will finds it difficult to breathe. Once in the room, it becomes clear that Dr. Starr had been stalling the men, so that the old woman would have enough time to scour the room. Varner, they discover, is over four hundred pounds, and after sending away the old woman, Warthrop begins to question him. Eventually Varner admits that Warthrop's father commissioned him in 1863 to sail to Benin, West Africa, to obtain the Anthropophagi from the Oba of Benin. He agreed to sell a young male, a two year old cub, and the huge, towering, ferocious lead female of the group. As Varner speaks, Warthrop notes the dead flies on the windowsill, and examines them. Varner continues, noting that the Oba warned him that he would need human victims for the creatures on the passage home, but Warthrop's father had made provisions. The ship held live animals, including chimps, that were to be the food for the Anthropophagi, but they refused to eat. The creatures finally ate their own cub, and one day, the men were trying to feed the Anthropophagi, while drunk, and the female Anthropophagi quickly killed a man, and nearly broke free. Varner and his men sealed the decks below in the hopes of containing them, but the creatures eventually broke through during a terrible storm. While the Anthropophagi killed the crew, one member tried to save Varner, but was slaughtered as well. Varner, as he fled, managed to stab the Anthropophagi in the eye. When he finishes his story, he points out that he was supposed to be eaten that day, and although he escaped, he now has to pay the price. Warthrop, finally understanding the flies, pulls up the bed sheets, and discovers he has bed sores, and those bed sores are infested with maggots. Warthrop pulls off Varner's boots, against his cries of pain, and the flesh of the foot comes off, as the foot is nearly rotted away. Will is sent into the hallway, as Warthrop realizes Varner has only hours left to live, and Varner begs for the doctor to kill him quickly.

While he waits, Will now realizes the doctor was merciful in his killing of Erasmus Gray. However, the doctor comes out later and admits he cannot kill Varner, as he would not be sure if his motives were appropriate. Instead, he points out there are monsters worse than the Anthropophagi and he hunts down the old woman. Warthrop demands whiskey



and aspirin. Warthrop watches over Varner in the last of his hours, attempting to relieve his pain, while he wonders aloud why his father sought to bring two Anthropophagi to the United States. Will falls asleep, and when he wakes, Varner has died. As they leave, Warthrop promises the old woman that she and Sr. Starr are finished, and that he will personally see them punished for their crimes against the patients of Motley Hill. As they ride away, Warthrop reiterates his promise to Will that he will see justice is done.

Chapter Six: What of the Flies Analysis

Chapter Six reveals the story of the Anthropophagi's coming to the United States, although it also brings about more questions for Doctor Warthrop. Dr. Starr is very obviously a con artist, as is shown by his lack of care for the grounds, or the actual patients of Motley Hill. His coercion of the doctor to give him monetary compensation seems to work, but it is doubtful if the doctor is fooled by Starr. For the doctor, bribing Starr is just one way to gain access to Varner, which is his end goal. His ability to pay, combined with his lack of genuine sympathy for Starr, allows him to easily buy his way into the sanatorium.

From the moment Will and Warthrop are deeply inside the sanatorium, it becomes clear that Starr does not only ignore the exterior of the asylum. The smells and sounds they hear are indicative not only of the insane, but also of the uncared for. Starr's delay of Warthrop becomes clear when they enter Varner's room, and realize he has recently been washed and his bandages changed. This sudden cleanliness foreshadows the discovery of the truth later in the chapter.

Varner's account of his journey with the Anthropophagi is enlightening, as well as terrifying. His admission that Warthrop's father paid a huge sum to bring over, originally, four of the Anthropophagi suggests he wanted more than just to study the creatures. The danger involved in their transport, and the money involved in their purchase, showed Warthrop's father wanted something special with these creatures. This foreshadows the information later in the novel that Warthrop's father was planning to breed the creatures. Varner's tale of the Oba of Benin, who fed young children to the Anthropophagi to keep them alive, also foreshadows Varner's father's use of the same methods to keep his own brood alive. This combined with Starr's clear disapproval of Warthrop's desire to speak with Varner, and with Varner's death at the end of the chapter, all foreshadow the knowledge that Warthrop's father was involved in similar acts to keep the Anthropophagi alive.

Warthrop's discovery of the maggots eating Varner serve several purposes. First, Varner's dislike of being touched is explained, as the pain would be enormous. Additionally, it becomes clear why Dr. Starr wanted Warthrop not to speak to Varner, and why the old woman had to take the time to clear the area. This also indicates that Starr purposefully allowed Varner to become grossly infected, which foreshadows the information later that Starr wanted Varner dead, to avoid detection for his role in the Anthropophagi infestation. Additionally, Varner's condition leads Will to understanding Warthrop's merciful killing of Erasmus previously in the novel. His inability to kill Varner



here further shows that Warthrop is not a cruel person, but a scientist to the core. Unable to ascertain whether his motives would be pure, Warthrop nurses Varner instead of killing him outright. While this is not merciful, it is necessary, in that it shows Warthrop to be concerned about his moral character in this case. Knowing his father was involved, Warthrop understands his own motives might be behind his desire to kill Varner, and he does not feel it would be right to kill him. His words of vengeance to the old woman, and later to Will, do show he is a righteous man, and one who does seek justice. He may seem uncaring, but this again shows that Warthrop does have a sense of justice, and that he is an empathetic person, despite outward appearances.



Chapter Seven: You Have Failed Me

Chapter Seven: You Have Failed Me Summary

Will and Warthrop return home, and when Will asks to go to the market for food, the two argue briefly, as Warthrop asks if food is all Will thinks about. Will tries to explain that he also tries to understand the doctor, and all the doctor teaches. He is dismissed by Warthrop, however, and allowed to the market. Will cleans up, and asks if the doctor has seen his hat. After a long philosophical debate, where Warthrop gives permission to buy a new hat, and Will notes he doesn't want a new hat, but the one his father gave him, Will is finally allowed to leave. As he walks into town, Will wonders why he has never run away, but in the end, Will knows he did not leave because all they had were one another. He also realizes he stayed, in part, due to the awe and love his father had for Warthrop, and the knowledge that, if he left, his father's death would have been in vain.

At the market, Will is drawn into conversation with Mr. Flanagan and his wife. The conversation eventually winds to the doctor, and Will learns Warthrop's father was, it was rumored, a confederate sympathizer. At one point, Pinkerton detectives were sent to investigate him, in the spring of 1862, on order by the war department. Will realizes the time frame of this coincides with the journey to capture the Anthropophagi, and he begins to think he may have information the doctor might need. He learns the detectives were really asking about Slidell and Mason, two associates of Warthrop's father that everyone believed were rebel sympathizers. Mrs. Flanagan points out that Warthrop's father was different after the war, in that he stopped talking, and seemed constantly troubled.

Once home, Will immediately informs the doctor of all he has heard, but instead of being appreciative, the doctor is doubtful, pointing out the information is completely useless without reference. He points out several flaws in Will's theory that Slidell and Mason perhaps wanted the creatures for the Union army, and when Will presses that the doctor could be wrong, he explodes. Warthrop is furious that Will is questioning his father's integrity, that he has ignored his injunction against talking to townfolk, and that he, like so many others, is involved in slandering the name of the one person, himself, to whom Will owes everything, including his life. He notes that Will has failed him, and that he can no longer trust him. Will, finally, has had enough. He screams out that he never asked the doctor to take him in, and that his father's death was the doctor's fault. Yelling that he hates the doctor, Will runs up to his room, knowing the doctor will not follow. As he cries, he knows nothing can ease his loneliness, and when sleep doesn't come, he goes to the kitchen, and cooks a complete meal for himself. When the doctor comes in, Will avoids calling him sir, and is generally cold. The doctor, clearly taken aback by his behavior, seems sorrowful, but allows Will to leave, calling to him only to sleep well. Hours later, however, he wakes Will with a shout, claiming he heard him in the kitchen. He hints he would like scones, and Will retrieves them, knowing he will not sleep otherwise. The doctor discusses his own father, and explains that his father was



fascinated by eugenics, and believed that positive traits could be bred, while negative ones were eradicated. He believes this is why his father brought the species over, to breed out the taste for human blood. Through the night, the two talk of John Kearns, who the doctor describes as as a surgeon, as well as a hunter, but Warthrop also warns Will to stay away from Kearns, as he is a dangerous man. Although Warthrop assures Will the Anthropophagi will not attack again for another day or two, Will admits that later, they learn the Anthropophagi were, at that very moment, slaughtering an entire family.

Chapter Seven: You Have Failed Me Analysis

This chapter exposes a rift in the relationship between Warthrop and Will, as well as introduces several key facts about Warthrop's father. Further, this chapter shows the melancholy state of the doctor Will often discusses. Will and the doctor's conversation about what Will thinks about seems silly, but it does show that the doctor is rapidly spiraling into a depression. The talk of Will's hat again foreshadows the finding of the hat later, but also foreshadows Warthrop's purchase of a new hat for Will later in the novel. Warthrop is told at this point that the hat was important, because his father had given it to him, and this plays into the story later. Will's comments about not leaving the doctor show he does care for the man, despite his many shortcomings, as well as shows that much of Will's decisions are made in honor of his father. This indicates that Will may have to, at some point in the novel, begin to make decisions for himself, and not in honor of his deceased father.

The revelations about Warthrop's father at the market suggest a number of things. It becomes clear that Warthrop's father had unsavory relations with many individuals, and that there were questions of his loyalty to the Union. Will's excitement, to finally show the doctor he is intelligent and worthy, is short lived, but does show how much he wishes to please the doctor. The mention of Slidell and Mason here tie in later in the novel, as well.

Warthrop's anger at Will for his conversation stems from his own confusion at his father's actions, and his own denial of his father's behaviors. His comments about loyalty and trust hurt Will deeply, as his entire point was to show the doctor he could be trusted and he was loyal. To bring up Will's father is to slap Will in the face, and Will's reaction is understandable. He is furious with the doctor for his berating, and his angry response surprises only the doctor. It is clear Will is furious, as his behavior through the next few scenes shows him to be behaving as a normal teenager, with anger and resentment. His refusal to use "sir" and his seemingly lack of concern for feeding the doctor show he is purposefully being cold and unfeeling. The doctor's surprised response shows he too cares for Will more than he lets on.

The idea that Warthrop does care for Will is further shown in his melancholy stage at the end of the chapter. Warthrop's calling for Will shows he uses Will as company, as Will is all he has. His completely made up reasons for needing him simply show he is too proud to admit he needs companionship, and his excuses also show he is too proud to apologize for his words earlier. Will's resignation to serve the doctor shows his own



realization that this is the life he has, whether he enjoys it or not. He understands that the doctor will need him in this capacity until his melancholy passes, and Will merely accepts it. This does, however, allow him to gain insight into reasons Warthrop's father may have brought over the Anthropophagi. The idea that he was breeding the animals to remove negative traits is possible, but Will's comments at the end of the novel suggest that even he realizes this is a hope on the part of the doctor's, in that he is trying to find a reason, other than treason, that his father would bring the Anthropophagi.

Finally, this chapter also introduces, in concept, John Kearns. Kearns is, as Warthrop notes, a dangerous man. His warnings to Will foreshadow Kearns' dangerous nature, and the knowledge of his profession foreshadows some of his behaviors later in the novel. Finally, Will's final comments of the chapter, that a family is being slaughtered, foreshadow the discovery of the bodies in the following chapters.



Eight: I Am A Scientist

Eight: I Am A Scientist Summary

At dawn, Will finally heads to his own bed, but his dreams are filled with monsters and he wakes more tired than he started. Soon after he begins making tea, there is a knock at the door, and Will is surprised to see Constable Robert Morgan, who asks the doctor to come with him. Once inside a carriage, Morgan admits there has been a horrific attack, with only one survivor. They are driven to the crime scene, a church and a small home. Morgan at first wishes to keep Will from entering, but again, the doctor forces the issue, noting Will's experience. They open the door to the home, and find grisly chaos, as the Anthropophagi have slaughtered the entire Stinnet family. The only one left alive is the oldest child. After examining the house, Morgan admits he finds it ironic that these creatures would happen to live and attack in the same area as one of the only monstremologists in the country, and Warthrop agrees, assuring the constable he had nothing to do with their arrival. The doctor does point out, however, that the Anthropophagi are merely hunters, adhering to their natural calling. Will finds Warthrop's attitude sickening, because Will himself partially blames Warthrop for this killing.

The men move on to the church, where Malachi Stinnet is being held. It is clear Stinnet is out of his mind with fear, shock, grief and misery, but he is able to tell the story of what happened. Malachi asks Will what happened to his own family, and when he explains they were killed in a fire, Malachi asks if he thinks God will forgive them both for running, while their families died. Malachi laments about why God has done this, and the doctor grows impatient, pointing out that the longer they wait, the more will perish. Will sees the irony, in that the man he feels is responsible for the death is bullying the young boy who feels unnecessary guilt for the deaths.

Malachi explains he was asleep when he heard the window break. He heard as his family began screaming, and the creatures began grunting and hissing as they fought over the bodies. The creatures tore his family apart before his eyes, and his sister Elizabeth, in the room with him, fainted. Malachi could not get the window open, and had no choice but to break it. When he did, the Anthropophagi came for him. Malachi tried to drag his sister out, but they grabbed her and threw her into the ceiling, breaking apart her skull. Malachi escaped, noting that the creature that attacked his sister only had one eye. Will stays with Malachi, as the doctor and Morgan argue of what course of action to take. Will understands Malachi's pain, and tries to be reassuring. After a heated argument, the doctor and Will leave, as the doctor feels Morgan has rejected his advice. Once inside the carriage, the doctor angrily notes that he knows Will blames him for the situation, but that he still believes he is not responsible. He points out that he acted on the information he knew, and that although the information turned out to be wrong, he would do the same again. Will knows his tirade is aimed at himself, and his own guilt.



Eight: I Am A Scientist Analysis

This chapter serves to advance the story of the Anthropophagi, as well as to introduce two new characters, the constable and Malachi Stinnet. The arrival of constable Morgan is not particularly surprising, since Will has been worried about their discovery, but the reason for his visit is shocking. As was foreshadowed in the previous chapter, the Anthropophagi have killed again, this time slaughtering nearly an entire family. The scene of the crime shows the power of the Anthropophagi again, while the doctor's insistence that Will join them, despite his age, shows again the doctor's dependence on him. The brutal deaths of the family are shocking, but perhaps more shocking is the doctor's reaction to the carnage. Instead of being ill or sympathetic, the doctor is, as always, merely a doctor, clinical in his examinations, without room for sympathy or human empathy.

The questions Morgan begins to ask about the irony of the situation foreshadow his deductions later in the novel that Will and Warthrop knew of the Anthropophagi before this day. Additionally, Will's feelings about Warthrop's blame in the situation foreshadow his confrontation with the doctor later in the chapter. Although Will believes the doctor feels no shame or remorse, his later comments confirm that he does, in fact, feel guilty for the deaths of the Stinnet family.

The character of Malachi is a tragic individual, having witnessed the slaughter of his entire family. Malachi's blame of himself is heart wrenching, as the reader knows Warthrop played a larger hand in their deaths than Malachi. His concern that God will blame him shows his own self blame. His ability to relate to Will, stemming from their shared loss of family, is beneficial, in that it allows the doctor to gain the information he needs. However, listening to Malachi relate the tale is difficult, as he tells of the slaughter of his family, including the death of the sister he was trying to save. His tale is brutal, but necessary not only to show the level of violence of the Anthropophagi but also to show the doctor's inability to have empathy. Again, the doctor speaks to Malachi as he would someone discussing a movie, and not as a victim. To Warthrop, Malachi should merely regurgitate the facts. He finds it difficult to understand the emotional attachment, because he himself has never had emotional attachment.

The argument between the doctor and Morgan show the doctor's pride getting in the way of public safety. It is clear he is trying to avoid panic, but at the same time, he refuses to admit that Morgan has a point about evacuating the people of the city. His decision in the end to leave foreshadows Morgan's revisit to him later, after proving Warthrop had prior knowledge of the Anthropophagi. However, the conversation Warthrop has with Will in the carriage betrays the idea that he feels no responsibility. His tirade indicates clearly that he feels guilt and remorse for the situation, and that he understands his role in the tragedy. Although he is accurate in his comments that he merely followed the information he had, he also understands that he was wrong, and this error cost many people their lives. His final comments in the novel suggest Warthrop is beginning to see the situation as the sins of the father being revisited on the

son. He is coming to believe that, as a result of his father's actions, the female Anthropophagi is hunting for him.



Chapter Nine: There is Something I Should Show You and Chapter Ten: The Best Man for the Job

Chapter Nine: There is Something I Should Show You and Chapter Ten: The Best Man for the Job Summary

Later that afternoon, in Chapter Nine, the constable arrives. He throws Will's hat at the doctor, noting they found it in the cemetery. When Warthrop admits he has known of the Anthropophagi for several days, Morgan accuses him of bringing the creatures to the area. Warthrop denies it, but Malachi, furious in his grief, attacks him after taking a guard's gun. He holds the gun to Warthrop's head, but does not pull the trigger. Will quickly moves to his side, asking that Malachi not take from him the only family he has left. Malachi gives up the weapon, and Warthrop takes Morgan to the basement to discuss the situation. Left in the library with Malachi, Will feels the weight of his own guilt.

Once the doctor and Morgan return, Will is sent upstairs with Malachi, where the two talk. Malachi accuses Will of apologizing for the doctor, but Will defends him. Will tells Malachi what he knows of the Anthropophagi, and reassures him that the pain he feels will eventually improve. Malachi notes that he understands Will's loyalty to the doctor, but that to him, the doctor is as much of a monster as those he hunts. When he finally falls asleep, Will leaves, but is immediately startled by someone at the door. Will admits now he was about to meet a man who was, as Malachi called Warthrop, a monster.

In Chapter Ten, John Kearns arrives, and appears to Will to be rather charming. Kearns is clearly worldly, and the doctor is wary of him from the start. Kearns, for his part, is wary that the constable is present, and he introduces himself as Richard Cory. Kearns announces he plans to stay with Warthrop, when Will arrives after taking care of the baggage, the men are discussing the progression of the Anthropophagi once they reached shore. Kearns points out that he believes Warthrop's father brought the Anthropophagi to the area, not that they migrated there totally on their own. He continues to argue, to the doctor's frustration, that Warthrop's father brought them, and fed them, until his death. At this point, Warthrop slaps him, but Kearns continues. Morgan stops the argument, noting that he is working on a plan to eradicate them, however, they came to be in the area. Kearns begins laying out his demands to kill the Anthropophagi including five thousand dollars, volunteer marksmen, and a promise to not be held accountable for anything that may happen, including any voluntary breaking of the law committed in the act of killing the Anthropophagi. Eventually, Morgan has to agree, but after a brief argument, Kearns seems to change. His cheerful demeanor disappears, and his eyes become black and blank. Will likens the man to a predator, a man with absolutely no emotion or restriction. Morgan stutters against the face of this



sociopath, but Kearns continues, noting that he sees the world as it is, and does not pretend there is anything more than nature in the world.

Once the constable leaves, Kearns and Warthrop continue their discussion, and Kearns points out that Warthrop's father could easily have gotten his victims from the refuge of humanity that wanders the streets every day. He chastises Warthrop for not opening his eyes and seeing the truth. Exhausted, Will snatches a quick nap, but is awoken an hour later by Malachi, who awoke, frightened to be alone. The two talk about the plan of the monstremologists, and both Will and Malachi realize they will likely be part of the hunt. After leaving his room, Will runs into Kearns, who points out that the monsters of the world are no better or worse than the humans.

Chapter Nine: There is Something I Should Show You and Chapter Ten: The Best Man for the Job Analysis

Chapter Nine serves to show the level of Malachi's anger at the doctor and is the culmination of foreshadowing about Will's hat thus far in the novel. Morgan's arrival with the hat shows he knows Warthrop knows more than he originally claimed. Malachi's attack on the doctor is extremely justified, but Will's comments ring true. Malachi knows what it is like to have no one left, and Will's appeal to him on this level works. However, his own guilt at his participation in the events that resulted in Malachi's family's death shows he does understand the young man's anger. This understanding continues as the two talk upstairs, and the bond between these young men is easy to understand. Although Malachi resents the doctor, he also understands Will's need to defend him. Will's final comments of the chapter, about men who are worse than monsters, introduces the new arrival in the following chapter, and foreshadows John Kearns' character.

Chapter Ten introduces the sociopath that is John Kearns. At first, Kearns seems almost cheerful in nature, and considerate, although quite bold. His handsome exterior and jovial nature seem counter to the doctor's clear wariness of the man. His decision to introduce himself as someone else shows he is not an honest individual, and his attitude with Warthrop and with Will show he is an assuming individual. At the same time, his comments to Warthrop are justified, and do seem to make more sense than the doctor's theories of the Anthropophagi infestation. The conversation foreshadows knowledge later in the novel of the true depths of Warthrop's father's involvement in the Anthropophagi. Kearns' attitude in this section begins to shift, and when he suddenly put down his mask, it is very clear Kearns is not at all what he appears. Kearns is, in an instant, a sociopath, with no concern for the life of any creature, human or otherwise. His need of assurance for immunity of the law foreshadow his use of live bait later in the novel, and his comments about realizing he has no emotion or restrictions show Kearns is willing to do whatever is necessary to kill the Anthropophagi. The discussion between Kearns and Warthrop continues to lend evidence to Kearns' theories of Warthrop's father, and show the reader that, in all likelihood, Allistair Warthrop is directly responsible for the Anthropophagi infestation. Finally, Kearns' assertion that man and monster are

the same symbolizes his own knowledge that he is no different than the creatures he hunts.



Chapter Eleven: We Have No Choice Now

Chapter Eleven: We Have No Choice Now Summary

The following morning, Will finds Malachi in the basement, and tries to drag him to the kitchen. When Malachi pushes him away, he strikes the diving bones in his pocket. For fun, Malachi throws them, and they land on six skulls. Will recalls the doctor noting that this particular arrangement meant death. Back upstairs, Kearns asks for breakfast as Warthrop impatiently waits. Kearns asks Malachi if he felt a rush of euphoria as he held the gun to Warthrop's head. When he claims he did not, Kearns notes he must not have really intended to kill him. Will and Malachi are sent upstairs for Kearns' bag and box, and the group is off. Near noon, they meet up with Morgan and his men at the Stinnet home. After Kearns inspects the home, he speaks to the volunteers, pointing out that they are fighting a powerful creature that will kill them if it can. He notes the men will see things they can't even dream of.

Kearns immediately puts the men to work building huge platforms, which they then carried to the cemetery. Kearns then constructs a series of ropes and braces, and has the men dig a trench around the entire platform, which he fills with oil. Kearns unloads a box of grenades, and a complicated rope and stake contraption. He stakes down the rope, and has Will test it for strength, as Warthrop notes it is to be used to secure the bait. Once finished, Kearns has the men move a large crate to the center of the circle. Inside the crate is a young woman, with a copper band with a metal ring around her neck. Kearns admits she is a woman of the streets. He explains to the men what they are to do when the Anthropophagi come, and he then puts them into position. He returns to the girl who is still alive, and he guts her. She screams, blood flowing onto the ground, as she struggles to be free of the chain that holds her. While the others yell at Kearns, he responds for them to keep their eyes peeled, as the Anthropophagi are coming. When the first comes into the circle, Kearns shoots it, wounding it and causing it to scream. The scream calls the other Anthropophagi forth, but Warthrop and Will jump into the circle, pulling out the dying young woman. Warthrop leaves Malachi and Will with guns to protect her, as the Anthropophagi come for them. When the Anthropophagi cross the trench, one of the men sets it on fire, creating a ring of blaze around the creatures. The men begin to fire at the Anthropophagi at will, and Kearns begins throwing grenades. As the men fire, a small juvenile Anthropophagi attacks Will and Malachi, and Will manages to stab out its eyes. Now blind, Will has the advantage, and he thrusts his knife into the creatures brain, killing it.

Once all the Anthropophagi are killed, the woman is transferred to a local hospital, but Kearns and Warthrop both note the female leader of the Anthropophagi is not among the dead. The men assume she has gone underground with the youngest of her brood. They set fire to the corpses, and both Malachi and Will think of their lost families. Will remembers his father, very ill, and his mother's fear he would die. Warthrop was called



for, but he merely noted he would have to run tests to find the cause. One night, his father, delirious, rose from his bed and came to the fire, noting how badly his skin burned. When he ran a nail over a sore on his arm, Will was horrified to see worms come pouring from his skin. His father's tears, he notes were bloody, and filled with the worms. In agony, his father took a burning log, and held it to one of the sores. As his skin burned, more cracks opened, and the worms poured out. Will's mother came running, and yelled for Will to run as she tried to put out the flames now engulfing his father. Will ran, and he realizes now he has been running ever since from the horrible memory of their death.

Chapter Eleven: We Have No Choice Now Analysis

Chapter Eleven shows the extent to which Kearns will go to kill the Anthropophagi, and shows again that the doctor does have compassion. First, Malachi's toss of the divining bones is significant, in that it foreshadows Malachi's death later in the novel. Upstairs, Kearns' comments to Malachi are entrancing, as it is very clear by now that Kearns is severely disturbed. His questions about nearly killing Warthrop show he places little value on human life, or any life. This foreshadows his ability later in the chapter to use a live woman as bait for the Anthropophagi. Kearns' speech to the men is informative, but also shows how much he respects the Anthropophagi as hunters and killers. He understands the danger he is putting these men into, and he does give them a final chance to flee. His comments to Malachi, however, show he has no empathy for the boy, as he does not understand Malachi's attachment to his family or his God. In fact, Kearns mocks God in this chapter as he pretends to be a man of faith at the cross.

Kearns' implementation of the Maori Protocol reinforces the idea that he has, in fact, hunted these creatures before. The plan is not complicated, but does involve the use of a live human as bait. Kearns' speech about his choice for bait is not surprising, but it does show again his complete lack of respect for most human beings. He sees his gutting of a young woman as necessary, with little regard to what other options he may have had. He understands that the woman's death, or at least suffering, is necessary for the cause, and as a result, he doesn't think twice about it. This behavior shocks the rest of the group, although it is clear Warthrop knew of Kearns' plan, or at least suspected. Kearns' actions foreshadow his willingness to use any victim, even Will, for his means, as he does later in the novel. The plan is effective, however, and the slaughter of most of the Anthropophagi is a huge blow to the species.

Warthrop's decision to save the woman proves Kearns' earlier point, that Warthrop is not heartless. Again, although Warthrop seems unfeeling, it is consistently clear in this chapter that his feelings for Will are growing, as is his capacity for human bonding. Although subtle, his pleased notes as Will kills that Anthropophagi, his smile at Will's desire to come with him, all show he is beginning to enjoy Will. All along, he has said his assistant is indispensable, but it seems more, at this point in the story, that Warthrop loves Will as much as he can. For his part, the slaughter of the Anthropophagi by Will shows he has been learning from the doctor, and listening. Unfortunately, the boys' fight with the juvenile does foreshadow their fight later in the novel with the large, dominant



female. Additionally, the knowledge that the female Anthropophagi is not among the dead foreshadows their hunt for the creature in the upcoming chapters.

Will's recollection of his parent's death is sad, as readers learn the truth behind his father's illness. One assumes he contracted the illness while working for Warthrop, and Warthrop's comments, when called to the case, suggest he knows something of the disease the man has. This foreshadows information later in the novel, when it is revealed that Will, too, has the infestation, but to his benefit. Watching his parents perish in the fire has left a drastic mark on Will, but as he watches the Anthropophagi burn, he realizes he will have to face this memory in order for him to be free of it. This moment shows the first move on Will's part to move beyond his parents death, and to try to look forward for the future. Up to this point, Will has spent the novel stuck in a sad place, missing his parents, unable to move on. Will understand now that while he can never forget his parents, he has to stop running from their memory.



Chapter Twelve: The Devil's Manger

Chapter Twelve: The Devil's Manger Summary

In Chapter Twelve, Kearns explains that the lead female Anthropophagi has escaped into her lair, which he believes is in the Warthrop family mausoleum. Inside, the men find a hidden clock, stuck at twelve o'clock, but as Kearns moves the hands, he hears the click of a lock. After reflecting for several minutes, Warthrop suggests they set it to the witching hour, as that was mentioned in Alistair's journal. Once set, the rock slab behind it opens enough for a man to pass through. Warthrop investigates, and comes back with news of a staircase with a locked door. Kearns unpacks more goods for the journey, including flares, grenades, and packets of glitter to mark their way. Kearns suggests Morgan's men remain above ground, on watch, while he, Warthrop, and Malachi go underground. Will is to remain up top with the constable.

When they reach the door behind the wall, which is seated in the floor, Will remembers the key he found earlier, and explains as he hands it to Warthrop. When the door is opened, the stench of rotting flesh is overpowering, and when they shine a light in, they realize they have opened the Anthropophagi's feeding room. Victims were dropped into the hole to be devoured by the Anthropophagi. When Kearns drops in a flare, the men see a mountain of bones. Kearns lowers himself into the hole, and Warthrop and Malachi follow. Will finds himself wanting desperately to go with the doctor, and in tears when he is left behind.

Morgan and Will discuss the doctor and Kearns, with Will defending the men, noting their success at killing the Anthropophagi. Will notes now he never loved the doctor, and he says this several times, but he did want to defend him. Soon, however, the doctor is calling from the hole, demanding that Will Henry be sent down. He is lowered, only to find they need him to squeeze through a small opening, as the access tunnels have been dynamited. Will is to scout ahead to see how far the wreckage lasts. He inches forward, nearly becoming trapped at one point, but the earth beneath him suddenly falls away, and he falls into a passage below. After poking around, he discovers he is in the nest. Surprised by a sound, Will discovers a baby Anthropophagi, clearly ill. Will is surprised to find himself not only feeling repulsed, but pity for the creature. This is short lived, however, as the juvenile wakes and attacks, biting through Will's arm. Will kills the creature by smashing him repeatedly with a rock. After wrapping his arm, he feels his way to another shaft, and begins climbing. After a seemingly endless time, however, he realizes he is completely lost, and begins to pray. Out of the darkness, he hears Kearns' voice, and realizes he is rescued.

Kearns informs him Warthrop was frantic when they couldn't find him, and that he and Malachi took another passage. Kearns instructs Will on how to get back, and sends him on his way, after removing the bandage on his arm to let it breathe. Eventually, however, Will realizes he smells the Anthropophagi, and hears something behind him. Now, he realizes Kearns had used him for bait. To his surprise, Kearns suddenly appears, and



apologizes, saying he had thought the smell of Will's blood would draw out the Anthropophagi. Since it did not, he notes, he has no choice, and he shoves Will into the Anthropophagi's hiding place. He is immediately attacked, and shoots one of the juveniles. The other attacks also, and just as he is about to strike, a shot kills him, and the doctor arrives.

The doctor pulls Will close, and reminds him, highly concerned, that he is indispensable. As Kearns drops from above, Will admits Kearns pushed him into the hole. Malachi threatens to shoot him as Will explains the situation. Kearns defends himself, noting that he did protect Will once he fell. Together, the men follow two sets of tracks, and realize the female has taken the last cub into another tunnel. Kearns and Warthrop track the creature, while Will and Malachi remain behind to guard the entrance. Warthrop warns Will to stay alert, as he feels something is wrong, and he wants him to stay alive. As they wait, Malachi and Will discuss their surroundings, and they realize they are near an underground stream. Kearns and Warthrop come upon a youngster and kill it, but the noise alerts the mother, and she attacks. Unfortunately, she had returned to the lair to retrieve the other two juveniles, and thus, attacked Malachi and Will. As the creature pulls Malachi into the hole in which she hides, he screams out for the bag next to Will. As he is eaten alive, he grabs a grenade from the bag, and pulls the pin. Unfortunately, the blast does not kill the Anthropophagi. She comes for Will, and he shoots her directly in the brain.

Chapter Twelve: The Devil's Manger Analysis

Chapter Twelve shows Kearns for the man he really is, and shows the end of the Anthropophagi infestation in New Jerusalem. First, the discovery that the Warthrop family mausoleum is the entryway to the Anthropophagi lair is not surprising, having been foreshadowed throughout the book. The key Will found earlier in the book finally has a purpose now, as well, which explains why it was so well hidden. It is clear at this point in the novel that Warthrop is beginning to accept his father's involvement in the situation fully, and accepting his responsibility. It is also clear, when the doctor goes into the hole, that Will does care for the doctor very much, and is clearly upset that he is being left behind. The mass of bones in the lair shows just how many humans have been sacrificed to keep these creatures alive for over twenty years.

Will's defense of the doctor is expected, as he respects the man, and owes him much. His assurances that he never loved the doctor, however, are almost too forceful, and Will almost seems to be denying his love for the doctor to himself. One is left with the feeling that despite his rejections of the idea, he did, indeed, love the doctor.

Will's encounter with the juvenile Anthropophagi following his fall is graphic, but shows two things. First, despite his knowledge of these animals, Will still finds himself feeling mercy for the injured animal. Knowing what it can do, Will still take a risk, attempting to spare the creature pain. This shows he has learned from the doctor that mercy sometimes can mean death. Unfortunately, this decision nearly costs Will his life, but his quick thinking, and advice from the doctor, save him. His prayers, another reference to a



merciful god in the novel, seem to be answered when Kearns discovers him. From the beginning, however, Kearns seems suspicious, and it becomes clear that he was only using the young man as bait. His decision to do this, combined with his decision to push Will into the den, shows his true nature. Kearns is, as mentioned, a sociopath who cares nothing for human life. He does, as he points out, protect Will, but only as a byproduct of killing the Anthropophagi.

The scene between the doctor and Will, when he is discovered, is touching, in that it is very clear Warthrop is deeply moved by Will's near death. He nearly admits he is not the best guardian, but also admits that he does care for Will deeply, in his own way. Malachi's near shooting of Kearns shows his own level of anguish, but his decision not to also shows he is not as callous as Kearns. The doctor again shows concern when he tracks the female Anthropophagi.

The final scene with the female Anthropophagi is painful. Malachi's decision to be a martyr is noble, as it is clear he attempts to die for his family. His actions do help Will to kill the final Anthropophagi, as she is wounded and confused. Will's final shot, based on the doctor's voice in his head, gives ending to the horrible legacy of the Anthropophagi.



Chapter Thirteen: You Bear His Burden and Epilogue

Chapter Thirteen: You Bear His Burden and Epilogue Summary

In Chapter Thirteen, a month has passed since Erasmus perished, and Will is called to help Warthrop shave. The two banter, and Will reveals Dr. Starr was killed by Kearns. Following the situation in the cemetery, the men went to visit Starr to piece together the last of the information. Starr admits Slidell and Mason had monetary backing. Alistair Warthrop had claimed they were interested in eugenics, but Starr reveals Alistair wanted to merge humans with Anthropophagi to create a logical killing machine. He admits that he provided the victims, using patients. After the war, Alistair continued funding the research. Starr only stopped feeding the creatures when the money ran out, which is when the Anthropophagi first fed on the corpse Erasmus found. Kearns, after agreeing with Starr, leans over him, and snaps his neck. Warthrop is furious, and Kearns leaves town, after Warthrop threatens to tell authorities. He is not discussed again, until the following fall, when news of Jack the Ripper begins to hit the papers. Both Warthrop and Will suspect Kearns to be the killer.

Later, Will is receiving his bimonthly checkup by the doctor. It is revealed that Will has the same worm infestation as his father, but in his case, the worms are remaining dormant. Warthrop assures Will he did not purposefully infect his father. Later, as Will prepares to head to town, he finds a new hat hanging by his old hat. He finds the doctor burning his unopened letters to his father in the library, and when he sits, the doctor asks what he has. When Will replies he has his hat, the doctor asks which one. Will contemplates, then throws his old hat in the fire, thinking to himself that fire can sometimes purify. The doctor notes that because of the worms, Will could live forever to carry on the monstrolologists work.

In the Epilogue, the writer calls the director of the retirement home, noting he has finished reading the first three journals. He asks about Will Henry's death, and the circumstances seem normal enough. The writer spends months looking for any sign that the information in Will's journals is nonfiction, but finds very little. He also visits the grave of the old man. After digging a small hole, the writer finds what he was looking for: tiny worm like creatures, much like those described by Will in his journal. The writer flees to his car, wondering why he wants any of the story to be true as he recalls Will's mention that monsters are real.



Chapter Thirteen: You Bear His Burden and Epilogue Analysis

Chapter Thirteen wraps up the story of the Anthropophagi, as well as brings together the last of several threads given throughout the novel. First, Will and Warthrop are clearly getting along better by this point in the story, based on their banter in the bathroom.

The final visit to Starr brings together the last of the Anthropophagi information. The knowledge that Alistair had planned to mate humans and Anthropophagi is shocking, but not surprising. Slidell and Mason are explained in this section as well, as is the feeding schedule. Starr's involvement in the survival of the Anthropophagi shows him to be the corrupt, evil man he is. Kearns, who is also a monster, honestly agrees with Starr that those he used as victims were the unwanted. The fact that Starr knowingly stopped feeding the Anthropophagi, even knowing what they would do, shows his self centeredness, as well. Kearns' killing of the man is almost deserved, but is still murder, as Warthrop points out. Whether he was a monster or not, his death shows again that Kearns is himself a creature without remorse or conscience. The discovery later that he is Jack the Ripper, then, is also unsurprising.

The tale of the worms that infected Will's father is also finally wrapped up in this chapter. Warthrop's explanation of the infection, and the knowledge that the worms give lasting life to their host explain why Will Henry lived as long as he did. The doctor's assurances that he did not purposefully infect Will's father are reassuring, but also show he wants to make sure Will knows he is not to blame. This leads well into the scene between the doctor and Will in the library. The purchase of a new hat for Will is monumental, in that it shows not only that the doctor understands the importance of his old hat, but that the doctor is asking Will to put aside the past, and start anew, with him. This moment is made more poignant by Will's statement that fire can sometimes purify. By throwing his hat into the fire, Will is essentially letting go of his anger and hurt, just as the doctor is doing by throwing the letters in the fire. Together, the two are able to put their past behind them.

The Epilogue lends to the idea that the story of Will Henry is very real. When the writer discovers the worms in the grave, his fear is natural. When combined with Will Henry's claim of long life, the presence of worms matching his description seem to show there is truth in the story. As the writer points out, the truth in the story implies that in fact, monsters do exist.



Characters

William James Henry

William James Henry is a young boy who lives with Dr. Warthrop as a monstremologist apprentice. Will Henry's parents were killed in a fire. Having no relatives, Will was taken in by Dr. Warthrop, who was his father's employer. Will is a kind and gentle boy, whose love for his parents has not lessened following their death. Will misses them dreadfully and although he admires Dr. Warthrop, he does not love him, primarily because Warthrop is incapable of loving others. Will Henry is obedient, and takes care of the doctor, and tries his hardest to learn from him, as he does recognize the doctor's genius. However, Will often dreams of running away as he is unhappy. But Will also realizes that the doctor is all that he has and that he is all that the doctor has.

Will, through the course of the novel, learns to let go of the anguish he feels as a result of his parents' death. His father, infected with a worm that was slowly killing him, set fire to himself, killing his wife, as well. Will is also infected with this same worm and he comes to terms with this by the end of the novel. He realizes, after the battle with the Anthropophagi, that the only way he can heal and move forward is to let go of his parents. He learns, as the doctor lets go of his own anguish at his father's lack of affection, that he too must let go in order to be able to live a full life. He comes to understand the doctor, and to accept his new life as his own. Instead of looking backward, Will is finally able to live in the present.

Dr. Pellinore Xavier Warthrop

Dr. Pellinore Xavier Warthrop is a monstremologist, or one who studies and hunts monsters. Originally the employer of James Henry, Warthrop took Will Henry in after his parents perished in a fire. Warthrop is not a cruel man, but he is an elusive individual and one who shows Will little love. It is clear that he cares for Will and finds his services and his companionship necessary, but at the same time, Warthrop is not an emotional man, and thus he is unable to show Will any love or compassion. Warthrop himself grew up being shown little love or tenderness from his own father, and this is likely the reason he himself is now incapable of showing these emotions.

This is not to say, however, that Warthrop was incapable of feeling. When Warthrop discovers Varner's illness, and impending death, he shows compassion and mercy, helping the man to die with at least some amount of dignity. He also promises Varner justice, and when Kearns kills Dr. Starr, his promise is fulfilled. Warthrop also shows tenderness to Malachi, and in the end, even to Will. It is only when Warthrop is able to understand his father, and his father's reasons for his distance, that he is able to forgive him. In forgiving him, Warthrop allows himself to care for Will, perhaps not as a father, but in a more tender way than he had previously.



Warthrop is one of the prime monstrumologists of his time, and his services are indispensable to the town. Without Warthrop, the Anthropophagi would have continued killing. Warthrop knew to call for Kearns, however dangerous he may be, as he knew that Kearns could help eradicate the monsters. Warthrop, although a recluse and at times nearly manic, is also a genius, and a man whose life's work helps to keep the people of the world safer.

John Kearns

Doctor John Kearns is a surgeon, but as Warthrop notes, he is something all together more sinister as well. Having hunted Anthropophagi, Kearns has experience in the matter and yet, he is also a dangerous man. When Kearns arrives, he appears jovial enough, charismatic, and overall genuinely kind. However, he also seems to have an odd sense of humor, and even Warthrop seems wary of the man. In time, Kearns shows his jovial nature can turn quickly into malevolent joy at others' expense. Kearns is not kind, or caring, but reveals himself to be a void of emotion. He has little sympathy for anyone, including young Malachi, and his demeanor rapidly changes to take charge of the Anthropophagi hunt. It is during this hunt that Kearns reveals who is really is. Kearns kidnaps a young prostitute from Baltimore, and guts her in front of the men, baiting the Anthropophagi. Later, he also kills Dr. Starr, and is believed to become Jack the Ripper. John Kearns is the character in the novel who proves the point that humankind can be just as, if not more, monstrous than the monsters these men hunt. Kearns has little humanity in him, and yet his cold, calculating nature makes him a severe threat to mankind.

Malachi Stinnet

Malachi Stinnet is the only surviving Stinnet family member, following an attack by the Anthropophagi. After watching his family be attacked, Malachi sought shelter in his room with his younger sister Elizabeth, who fainted. Malachi tried to break a window and carry his sister out, but he was unable to save her, and had to watch as the monsters destroyed her. Malachi is destroyed by his guilt, and spends much of the novel focused inwardly, remembering what happened to his family. He and Will do strike a friendship, as both have gone through terrible hardship. Malachi saves Will on two occasions as they help hunt the Anthropophagi, but he nearly kills Warthrop when he discovers the doctor knew about the Anthropophagi, and didn't warn the constable. In the end, Malachi sacrifices himself, allowing the Anthropophagi alpha female to eat him as he holds a grenade, in the hopes that the blast will kill her. Malachi is a brave young man in the novel, who portrays a counter character to the cruel and dangerous Dr. Kearns.

Erasmus Gray

Erasmus Gray is a grave robber who initially finds the impregnated body of Eliza Bunton, a young woman who died, and into whose dead body was placed the



Anthropophagi fetus. The Anthropophagi cannot give birth, and thus their eggs are deposited into the corpses of humans. In this case, Gray was attempting to rob the grave, when he found a dead Anthropophagi attached to the body. He sought Warthrop, knowing his profession. Gray is a reluctant assistant as the doctor and Will go back to the grave site, and it is clear Gray fears for Will's safety. He is kind to Will, and even teases him a bit, showing he is a caring and kind individual. Unfortunately, Gray is slaughtered by the Anthropophagi at the cemetery, in front of Will's eyes.

Dr. Starr

Dr. Starr is the psychiatrist responsible for the patients at Motley Hill Sanatorium, where Hezekiah Varner is committed. Dr. Starr is an old man, but he is also a very corrupt individual. At first, it seems Starr is merely corruptible, accepting bribes for information, and caring little about the patients in his care. By the end of the novel, however, it is revealed that Starr is not only corruptible, but a monster of sorts. Starr knows about the Anthropophagi, as he has helped Alistair keep them for twenty years. Starr pays a man to transport patients who have no family to the Anthropophagi, as a method of feeding the animals. In addition, Starr has allowed his patients to die due to a lack of hygiene and care. Knowing the monsters will attack humans if left unfed, Starr still stops feeding them once the funding runs out. Dr. Starr is killed by Dr. Kearns in cold blood, once his secret is revealed.

Hezekiah Varner

Hezekiah Varner is the captain of the ship that brings the Anthropophagi to the United States for Alistair Warthrop. Varner is hired to travel to the Kingdom of Benin, where the king has a captive brood of the creature at his disposal. Alistair wanted the animals in order to breed them with humans, creating the perfect killing machine. Varner sailed the creatures, but unfortunately, they escaped from the hold, and slaughtered much of the crew. He was spared, only because he left the ship. When he was found and told his story, however, Alistair made sure he was deemed insane, and sent to the sanatorium, where Dr. Starr was well paid to make sure Varner was never released. Unfortunately, Dr. Starr is corrupt, and allowed Varner to become infested with maggots. He dies due to the infestation.

Alistair Warthrop

Alistair Warthrop is Pellinore Warthro's father. Alistair is a monstrumologist who travels the world for information. He rarely sees his son and seems to care little for him. Pellinore doesn't understand his father's distance, and feels disheartened and left behind. When Pellinore learns that his father helped bring the Anthropophagi to the United States, hid them, and funded their survival, using patients from an asylum as food, Pellinore is even more torn. He feels responsible to his father, but at the same time, he understands that Alistair is responsible for the deaths of several people.



Although Pellinore has spent his entire life trying to understand his father, he is able to put his father's lack of love behind him and move forward.

Slidell and Mason

Slidell and Mason are two confederate supporters who, working with Alistair Warthrop, pay to bring the Anthropophagi to the United States, initially to mate with humans in an attempt to cross breed the species. Slidell and Mason were wealthy, and helped to fund the entire experiment, hoping to create a race of super human-killing machines.

Robert Morgan

Robert Morgan is the local constable of New Jerusalem. As the town's local law enforcement, Morgan is a kind and caring individual who cares deeply for his community. When the Anthropophagi attack, Morgan takes it almost personally. He knows enough to track Warthrop down, and request his assistance, but it is clear he doesn't like dealing with the monstremologist. When Warthrop hires Kearns to assist, Morgan nearly arrests him several times, as he knows Kearns is a monster himself. Morgan tries throughout the novel to take care of both Malachi and Will Henry, showing an almost fatherly affection for the young boys.

Stinnet Family

The Stinnet Family was the family of the local reverend. The reverend and his family were attacked by the Anthropophagi in their home, where six of them, including the reverend, wife, and four children were slaughtered. Only one child, Malachi, escaped, after he watched his sister brutally murdered by the creatures.

James and Mary Henry

James and Mary Henry are the parents of Will Henry, who are deceased. James Henry contracted the Arawakus worm while working for Dr. Warthrop, and the worms eventually drove him nearly insane. He tried to burn them out of his body, and caught himself on fire. His wife held him close and tried to put out the flames she she instructed Will to run, and both parents died in the resulting fire. Will was sent to live with Warthrop as a result of their death.



Objects/Places

Monstrumologist

A monstrumologist is a monster hunter or one who hunts creatures generally believed to be mythical or fictitious.

Anthropophagi

The Anthropophagi are creatures without heads and with thousands of teeth in mouths centered in the middle of the chest. Their eyes are set in their shoulders, and their brains are right above their groin. The Anthropophagi eat and hunt humans.

New Jerusalem

New Jerusalem is the town in which the story takes place.

Kingdom of Benin

The Kingdom of Benin is the location from which the Anthropophagi are taken by Captain Varner and brought to the United States.

Arawakus

Arawakus is the small worm that infects Will Henry, as well as his father, and the worm that gives Will Henry long life.

Old Hill Cemetery

Old Hill Cemetery is the living quarters of the Anthropophagi, once they are brought to the United States.

Motley Hill Sanatorium

Motley Hill Sanatorium is the holding place of Captain Varner who was hired to bring the Anthropophagi from their homeland. It is a rundown mental asylum, where Varner eventually dies from lack of proper care.



Maori Protocol

The Maori Protocol is a complicated plan that Kearns uses to kill the Anthropophagi.

Feronia

The Feronia is the ship that brought the Anthropophagi from their homeland.

Warthrop Mausoleum

The Warthrop mausoleum in Old Hill Cemetery is the doorway to the lair of the Anthropophagi.



Themes

Moving Forward

One of the most poignant themes in the novel is the leaving behind of the past in an effort to move forward. Will Henry lost his parents in a fire, and suffers greatly as a result. He misses them terribly, and in addition, he has an affliction, readers learn at the end, that stems from his own father. The worms that have infected him were, in a way, the cause of his father and mother's death. Further, it is because of their death that he is in the care of Dr. Warthrop, as he has no other family or friends to care for him.

Will suffers through much of the book from the memories of his parents death, and with a considerable longing for them. It is only when Will deals with Malachi, another young boy who has lost his whole family, and when he finally comes to terms with his parents death, that he is able to move forward. Additionally, Will himself watches as Dr. Warthrop himself puts his own father behind him, and Will learns from him that in leaving the past behind, one is able to be free. Dr. Warthrop purchases a hat for Will, and while this seems a small gesture, it is enormous, as the only hat Will owns was given to him by his father. Will is able to burn his old hat in exchange for the new hat, showing that the fire that killed his parents can also purify, as the past is burned, and left.

Dr. Warthrop himself also leaves the past behind. For many years, Warthrop has suffered, knowing his father cared little for him, and knowing he kept a multitude of secrets. When Warthrop learns of his father's real nature and his love of the Anthropophagi, Warthrop is able to let go of his feelings about his father. This is symbolized by the burning of old, unopened letters from Warthrop to his father. It is during this burning that Will too burns his hat and the two of them together put their pain and anguish behind them.

Monsters / Man Similarities

Another prominent theme in the novel is the question of which is worse, mankind or monsters, and the comparison of the two throughout the book. One of the most obvious comparisons is between Dr. John Kearns, and the Anthropophagi. The Anthropophagi are killers of humans, but they are merely creatures of nature. They do not consciously hunt humans out of any ill will, or toward any end goal, other than survival. They are merciless, but are so without the capacity for empathy, reason, or sympathy. On the other hand, Dr. Kearns kills both the Anthropophagi, as well as human beings. In the book, Kearns kills a young woman, after gutting her and using her as bait for the Anthropophagi. He also kills Dr. Starr, the psychiatrist responsible, at least in part, for the Anthropophagi attacks. Kearns has the capacity for empathy, reason, and logic, but he is a cruel and heartless individual. His ends always justify the means, regardless of who he steps on to get his way. In the end it is even hinted at that Kearns is Jack the



Ripper. In this case, Will Henry points out that Kearns is a monster, more so perhaps than the Anthropophagi, because unlike those creatures, he is capable of empathy, and yet has none.

Kearns himself notes the danger of man as monster, as well. Several times throughout the novel, Kearns points out the clear argument that mankind has, for as long as civilization has existed, sought to kill other men, often in the name of religion. Unlike monsters who kill out of nature, mankind kills out of desire, lust, greed, and hate. The question is raised several times if this makes man more dangerous, as a logical, thinking killing machine, than monsters who do so out of natural instinct.

Emotional Connections

Another theme in the novel is the emotional connections of the characters in the novel, and their desire to have personal connections. Will Henry's parents have passed away, and his only companion, Dr. Warthrop, is difficult, at best. He seems to notice Will little, and doesn't particularly seem to show love, care, or compassion as some do. It becomes clear through the novel that Dr. Warthrop does love Will, in his own way, but he has no idea how to show that love. Through the story, one learns that Warthrop's own father had little capacity for love or compassion, and seemed not to care at all for Warthrop. It is not surprising, then, that Warthrop has little capacity for such emotions. Will Henry himself begins to understand Warthrop, although even he admits that, to the end of his days, he did not love the doctor. That being said, however, it is clear Will did care about the doctor, as he chose to stay even when he was miserable. Both Will Henry and the doctor suffer greatly in the novel as a result of the doctor's lack of emotional connections.

Malachi is another example of a person in the novel needing an emotional connection. When Malachi's entire family is killed, he immediately withdraws. It is only when Will Henry, a boy his own age who has also lost his family, comes to speak with him that Malachi is able to break his silence. It is clear Malachi, in his anguish, needs human consoling and companionship, and Will is the only person capable of relating. Kearns is of no assistance, as he himself is charming, but void of any emotional attachments to anyone. Dr. Warthrop, also, is of little help, as he has his own lack of emotional capabilities. Will, on the other hand, himself seeks out companionship, and at least momentarily, finds it in Malachi.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person view as a diary or journal of the main character, Will Henry, when he was a twelve year old young man. As one of the primary themes is Will's transition in the novel, this view is necessary. Without a first hand understanding of Will's thoughts and emotions, the building of his character throughout the novel would not be possible. Additionally, this view is proven reliable, in that Will Henry reports not only on his own feelings, but on the emotions of the other characters as well, as he sees them. It is Will's view of the world that makes the novel so compelling, and without this, the novel would not be as successful. The growth not only of Will Henry, but also his developing understanding of the dangers of the world, would be less dramatic without a first person view.

The story is told through a combination of dialogue and description, allowing the reader to both "see" and "hear" the comings and goings in the novel, through the eyes of Will Henry. This method is useful, in that it keeps the reader focused on Will, and his deepening understanding of the world around him. There are moments in the novel where it is what Will sees that is vital, such as his first depiction of the Anthropophagi, or his deep empathy for the suffering of Malachi. Without being able to discern Will's thoughts, many of these moments would be lost on the reader.

Setting

The novel is set in the late 1800 in a town named New Jerusalem in the New England area of the United States. The town appears to be small, in that Will Henry is able to walk to the market, and most of the individuals seem to know one another, at least by name. Doctor Warthrop is known, although he is not well known, but his reputation precedes him, as is Will Henry. There are clear differences in social interactions among those in town, but it appears to be a standard New England town in the late 18th century. Much of the novel takes place either at the home of Warthrop or the local cemetery. Warthrop's home is larger, but mostly made up of the library, study, and the large examining room in the basement. Will's room is a tiny loft in the upper floor. The cemetery is a large one, settled near a smaller church, but it is clear the cemetery houses some of the town's elite, as mausoleums like the Warthrop's dot the landscape. The setting, with a small town feel, horse, and carriages, oil lamp lighting, and other small details, does help to evoke a feel of the late 1800s.

In addition to the town of New Jerusalem, there are other towns mentioned. Dedham, where Motley Hill Sanatorium exists, is another location in the novel. The sanatorium is run down, and clearly a place for the less than desirable, as the doctor takes little care of the patients. Whitechapel, London is also mentioned, where Kearns is suspected to be killing young women as Jack the Ripper.



Language and Meaning

The language of *The Monstrumologist* tends to be informal, although a bit more advanced in reading level than many young adult novels, with some challenging vocabulary. The sentences, however, are constructed as a twelve year old boy would view the world. This helps to distinguish Will Henry from the other adult characters in the novel, as Dr. Warthrop's language tends to be much more formal and stiff. Those in the novel with educated backgrounds, such as Warthrop, tend to speak more formally, whereas those with little education, such as the shop keeper, speak more informally. The language tends to add depth to the novel, as the reader is able to ascertain more about the characters by the way they speak. Additionally, the challenging vocabulary lends to the idea that Will Henry is, despite his age, well educated and constantly learning new information.

The author uses language during longer descriptions to help identify setting and location, as well. Some of these sections are almost poetic in nature, as the author uses alliteration often in his descriptions, creating an almost musical feel to the work. As these descriptions are extremely important to the novel, and occur often, the use of different language styles helps the story continue moving, without becoming overly stuffy or detailed. At times, however, this language style can cause confusion, forcing the reader to reread certain passages. Overall, however, the language is easy to comprehend, yet challenging enough to keep the reader engaged.

Structure

The novel is made up of a Prologue, Folio I, containing six chapters, Folio II, containing four chapters, Folio III, containing three chapters, and an Epilogue. Each section is of unequal length and size. While the Foliolos do not have full names, the chapters are named with a quote from within the chapter, that focuses on a primary point within that chapter. This helps to foreshadow events within the chapter. The chapters tend to be long, and comprised of both dialog and description.

The plot of the novel is straightforward, although there are certainly subplots running throughout the book. The focus of the novel is the adventures of Will Henry, a twelve year old boy living with a Monstrumologist, or monster hunter. Will lost his parents in a fire, and came to live with the doctor, as he was his father's employer. After the doctor discovers a pod of particularly dangerous monsters in the area, he and Will Henry struggle to kill them, using several frightening individuals along the way. Will Henry learns that humans are far more frightening, at times, than the monsters his master hunts, and also learns that to move forward, one must leave the past behind.

The novel's pace is very rapid, at times, but does slow in others. It is easy to read and engaging, as the reader finds the characters enticing realistic, as well as easy to relate to. The story can be extremely graphic at times, making it a good read for older teens and adults only, and it contains elements of horror, along with drama, thriller, and humor.



Quotes

"The doctor was a private man, engaged in a dark and dangerous business, and could ill afford the prying eyes and gossiping tongue of the servant class. When the dust and dirt became intolerable, about every three months or so, he would press a rag and a bucket into my hands and tell me to "Snap to" before the tide of filth overwhelmed us" (Chapter One, p. 4).

"But nothing had prepared me for what the old man delivered that night. I daresay your average adult would have fled the room in horror, run screaming up the stairs and out of the house, for what lay within that burlap cocoon laid shame to all the platitudes and promises from a thousand pulpits upon the nature of a just and loving God, of a balanced and kind universe, and the dignity of man" (Chapter One, p. 14).

"I had seen myself reflected in the dead, soulless eyes of the Anthropophagus - how different my reflection seemed in the eyes of this kind and gentle animal before me! Was it merely the difference between the warm look of life and the cold stare of death? Or was my image presented to me as the particular beholder perceived me 0 to one as companion to the other as prey?" (Chapter Two, p. 45).

"We are slaves, all of us, Will Henry...Some are slaves to fear. Others are slaves to reason - or base desire. It is our lot to be slaves, Will Henry, and the question must be to what shall we owe our indenture? Will it be to truth or to falsehood, hope or despair, light or darkness? I choose to serve the light, even though that bondage often lies in darkness. Despair did not drive me to pull that trigger, Will Henry; mercy guided my hand" (Chapter Four, pg. 73).

"There are indeed more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy, but those things were, like the Anthropophagi, quite physical, entirely natural, capable of fulfilling our curious and baffling need for a marauding horror of malicious intent, thank you very much" (Chapter Six, p. 121).

"I do not mean to mock your life's work, for in one way at last it mimics my own: We have dedicated our lives to the pursuit of phantoms. The difference is the nature of those phantoms. Mine exist between other men's ears; yours live solely between your own" (Chapter Six, p. 150).

"There is no cheating fate. I was the captain. The Feronia belonged to me and I to her, and I betrayed her. I betrayed and abandoned her, but fate cannot be betrayed or abandoned; she can only be postponed. My doom was to be eaten, you see, and though I folded my hand twenty-three years ago, the house has called the bet, and now I must pay up" (Chapter Six, p. 165).

"The simple chores and errands that filled my days were welcome reprieves from the nights' dark business, filled with unexpected callers and mysterious packages, midnight sojourns in the laboratory and pilgrimages to far-flung forgotten regions of the world



where the natives had not suffered to be civilized to the point where they forgot to fear what might lurk in the dark" (Chapter Seven, p. 186).

"How strong is the maternal instinct, Will Henry! Though they tore her shoulders from the sockets and broke the very bones that held it, she did not surrender her child. She held firm. Though they broke her arms and tore off her head, still she held firm. Held firm! Even when she became a cruel imitation of the things that devoured her brood, she held firm! it is a wonder and a marvel" (Chapter Eight, p. 250).

"Your self-pity mocks your faith, Malachi Stinnet. And every minute you wallow in it is a minute lost. The greatest minds of medieval Europe argued how many angels could dance upon the head of a pin, while the plague took the lives of twenty million. Now is not the time to indulge in esoteric debate upon the whimsy of the gods" (Chapter Eight, p. 255).

"We are very much like them: indiscriminate killers, ruled by drives little acknowledged and less understood, mindlessly territorial and murderously jealous - the only significant difference being that they have yet to master our expertise in hypocrisy, the gift of our superior intellect that enables us to slaughter one another in droves, more often than not under the auspices of an approving god!...So bear up, boy. You'll have your revenge; you'll redeem the 'moral' choice that tears your soul in twain. And tonight, if you meet your God, you can look him straight in the eye and say "Thy will be done" (Chapter Eleven, p. 306).

"It's a woman of the streets, Morgan...A common tramp with which the gutters of Baltimore are choked to overflowing. A piece of rum-besotted, disease-ridden filth whose death serves a purpose far nobler than any she achieved in her miserable, squandered life. If using her offends your sense of moral rectitude, perhaps you would like to volunteer to be the bait" (Chapter Eleven, p. 314).

"Perhaps that is our doom, our human curse, to never really know one another. We erect edifices in our minds about the flimsy framework of word and deed, mere totems of the true person, who, like the gods to whom the temples were built, remains hidden. We understand our own construct, we know our own theory; we love our own fabrication. Still...does the artifice of our affection make our love any less real?" (Chapter Eleven, p. 362).

"Patients, so-called, they are the dregs of society. They come here because there is literally no place else for them to go. No family, or none that would claim them. All are insane - most criminally so, and those who are not have the intellectual capacity of a turnip root. They are human garbage, discarded by men, toxic to the general populace and to themselves, forgotten, unwanted, cruel, comical mockeries of all things that make us human. They could rot here or they could be sacrificed to a higher good" (Chapter Thirteen, p. 412).

"Yes, my dear child, monsters are real. I happen to have one hanging in my basement" (Epilogue, pg. 454).



Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast Will Henry's relationship with Warthrop at the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. How does his relationship with the doctor change over time? What are the causes for the change? Do you think Will loves the doctor or the doctor loves him? Why or why not?

One of the primary focuses of the novel is the similarities between human monsters such as Kearns and real monsters such as the Anthropophagi. Compare Kearns' actions in the novel with the actions of the Anthropophagi. How are these two creatures alike? How are they different? After reading the novel, which do you think of as a true "monster" and which as merely a creature of nature? Why? What does this imply about the "intellect" of the human?

In the book, Alistair Warthrop originally intended to make the Anthropophagi with a human. What purpose would this have served? What was his goal? Why would anyone want to mate these two beings? What was the end result? Why did Alistair continue feeding the Anthropophagi long after the experiment ended?

There were many players in the situation that eventually resulted in the death of the Stinnet family. Describe the role Alistair Warthrop, Pellinore Warthrop, Dr. Starr, Captain Varner, Jonathan Peterson, and Will Henry himself played in the rise of the Anthropophagi population at Old Hill Cemetery. Based on all the information, who do you believe is most responsible for the slaughter of the Stinnet family? Why?

Another theme in the novel is the letting go of the past in an effort to accept the future. For a year, Will Henry has longed for his parents. What finally makes him burn his old hat, a gift from his father, and embrace his future? Why do you think this moment had such a profound impact on Will? What helped him to see that moving forward was his only option?

Pellinore Warthrop is a very private man, who has bouts with manic depression. He is moody, testy, self-absorbed, and difficult. However, it is clear Will Henry has an emotional connection to the man that transcends merely awe. Why do you think Pellinore generally avoids human love and affection? Why did his father? How do they replace this need in their lives with other things? Do you think these characters are ever truly happy? Why or why not?

Describe Dr. Kearns, in detail. What are his strengths, his weaknesses? Is he a good character, or a bad character? Why? Is he useful in the novel? Do you think they would have been able to kill the Anthropophagi without him? What was the cost of his "assistance"? Was this price worth the end result? Why or why not? What does Kearns' character teach us about the dangers of those around us?

In the novel, both Kearns and Starr use human beings as bait, or food, for the Anthropophagi. What is their reasoning behind their choice of persons to use? Do you



agree with their statements? Why or why not? If bait for the Anthropophagi had to be found, was Kearns' choice viable? If food for the Anthropophagi was necessary to keep them from attacking others, is Starr's choice viable? In either case, are the men justified in their murder of human beings? Starr uses his victims to keep the Anthropophagi alive, whereas Kearns uses his to help bait them to kill them. Does the reason for their actions make a difference as to the morality of their decisions? Why or why not?