

Scribbler of Dreams Study Guide

Scribbler of Dreams by Mary E. Pearson

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Plot Summary

"Scribbler of Dreams" is a young adult novel written by Mary E. Pearson and published in 2001. Told in the first person narrative by main character Kaitlin Malone, the novel tells the story of her love for Bram Crutchfield in a Romeo and Juliet-like fashion. Kaitlin's family and Bram's family have hated each other for five generations, stretching back to a falling out between the Crutchfield sisters, Maggie and Amanda.

Kaitlin falls in love with Bram in school, unaware at first that he is a Crutchfield. She lies to him about her last name, telling him it is Hampton and not Malone. Yet for all of his gentleness, Kaitlin can tell that Bram has severe hatred for the Malones. Bram blames Kaitlin's father for the death of his own father, and Kaitlin knows that her father had nothing to do with the death.

Kaitlin uncovers a plot by the Malone farm foreman Rick to poison the tomato crop, thereby forcing the Malones to sell land to the Crutchfields. Rick then in turn exposes Kaitlin as a Malone to Bram and the Crutchfields, who shun Kaitlin. In the end, Bram's love for Kaitlin overpowers his hatred for her family and the pair hope to begin a new era of peace between the families.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Kaitlin Malone is beginning her senior year in high school. She will be attending a school built by the Crutchfield family on Crutchfield land called Twin Oaks High School. They are farmers who are barely scraping by. The Malone family has hated the Crutchfield family for generations, and the present generation because of something that the Crutchfields did to Kaitlin's father. Eighteen months before, Kaitlin's father killed Robert Crutchfield.

Kaitlin and her younger sister Abby, a freshman, head out to school together in Kaitlin's car. They are using the last name "Hampton" of their mother's maiden name.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The stage is set for the novel in Chapter 1. Kaitlin and her sister Abby are the newest members of a generations-old feud between the rival families of the Malones and Crutchfields. Like the warring families of Romeo and Juliet in the eponymous Shakespearean play, the Crutchfields and the Malones detest one another with a visceral hatred. It is into this violent atmosphere that Kaitlin, despite her sweet, sensitive nature, lends her hate. The animosity between both families is so great that to attend public school, Kaitlin and Abby must change their last names.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Abby is excited to get to go to public school, but Kaitlin is not at all happy. She takes comfort in the fact that she doesn't have a full schedule, and can head home after lunch because she already has so many credits from classes. Two boys in history are checking Kaitlin out. She decides to call them the Bookends.

By fourth period, Kaitlin is overwhelmed by everything and needs a place to sit and think. She finds an area on the campus that is shady and cool. She writes in her journal about her fears. Kaitlin also notices a boy nearby, alone and apparently sketching. She discovers at lunch that his name is Bram, and that he is very popular. Kaitlin wonders why a popular boy would want seclusion.

Kaitlin is happy to head home.

Chapter 2 Analysis

The very first day of school, Kaitlin notices a boy sketching in a book while she writes in her journal. The boy's solitary presence stands out not just to Kaitlin, but to the reader. The boy's presence is important to the plot, for Kaitlin's observations of him are at once not only striking, but strong in that she cannot stop wondering about him.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Kaitlin heads back home to where the new foreman, Rick, is hard at work. Kaitlin doesn't like Rick, but he has experience, and so he is valuable to farming. Kaitlin's mother has gone down to San Diego to see Kaitlin's father.

Kaitlin also recalls the hatred of the Crutchfields, stretching back five generations. One of the Crutchfield sisters, Maggie, got pregnant before marriage, so one of the other sisters, who became a Malone, refused to speak to her again. The family land of Twin Oaks was divided up between the Malones and the Crutchfields, and Kaitlin is happy that their land has the best views of the surrounding countryside. While the Malones farmed, the Crutchfields leased their lands to businesses, motels, and malls. The Malone land is still green and beautiful, surrounded by urban sprawl. Not one acre has ever been sold. While the Crutchfields are very rich, the Malones manage to get by.

At dinner that night, Kaitlin's mother announces that her husband will be coming home.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Some history of the Crutchfield-Malone feud is revealed by Kaitlin, demonstrating that the anger and hatred between both families has only been compounded over the years. The differences between the families are not just a matter of hatred, but a matter of existence. The Crutchfields are rich, wealthy, and have turned their backs on their agrarian roots. The Malones, by contrast, still retain all of their original family property, and work the land as they have always done. They are not rich, but they do get by.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Kaitlin's father's sentence has been reduced to manslaughter. Kaitlin explains to the reader that the killing of Robert Crutchfield was an accident.

The second day at school, Kaitlin again sees Bram at the shady spot in the courtyard. At lunch, Bram asks about what she is writing, and he says he'll see her later. On Thursday, Bram officially introduces himself, and shows some of his artwork to Kaitlin. He has been sketching Kaitlin, who is thrilled with the act. She asks if Bram will go to college for art, and Bram confesses he wanted to, but that family issues will probably prevent him from doing so.

Kaitlin wants to know more about Bram, she decides. Bram asks if he can read some of Kaitlin's writing some day, and she agrees.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Like Romeo and Juliet, the attraction between Bram and Kaitlin is instantaneous, though their meetings are at first hesitant and shy, with both of them seeking understanding about the other. Like Kaitlin, Bram is a creative soul, choosing art where Kaitlin chooses words. Both of them are eager to keep finding out more about the other.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Bram and Kaitlin begin speaking every day. The Bookends continue checking Kaitlin out, and it makes her uncomfortable. Bram reveals his finished portrait of Kaitlin, and Kaitlin is amazed.

She sees his signature of B.C. and Bram explains that his name is Bram Crutchfield.

Chapter 5 Analysis

The reader, having perhaps suspected that Bram's appearance is somehow as ominous as it is important, is vindicated. Bram is a member of the Crutchfield family, the very people that Kaitlin and her family despise.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Realizing who Bram is, Kaitlin says she needs to leave. She gets into her car and drives off. Her mind races about whether or not to destroy the portrait, and about how the Crutchfields tore her family apart. She decides not to destroy the picture, but hugs it instead.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Kaitlin has never known anything other than hatred for the Crutchfield's. Now that she has seen the human side of Bram, she cannot go on hating him because she knows he is not a monster like she imagines the other Crutchfields to be.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

The Bookends continue to harass Kaitlin at school the next day. She tells them to get lost, and goes to see Bram in the courtyard. There, Kaitlin tells Bram she had to leave quickly the day before because she forgot to turn something into her last class. Bram then invites Kaitlin out to pizza with him and a bunch of friends. Kaitlin introduces herself to Bram as Kaitlin Hampton. She has a crush on Bram, but doesn't want to tell him who she is yet. Yet she believes when she does tell him, he'll understand.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Realizing that Bram possess tremendous hatred for her family, Kaitlin begins lying to him about her last name and about why she reacted how she did the day before. These two small, initial lies will pave the way for a series of lies Kaitlin will ultimately use to grow closer to Bram, and attempt to forge a truce between the families.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Kaitlin's dad, Garner, calls that night. Kaitlin then goes out to get pizza, and meets Bram's friends Matt and Jenny. Kaitlin also sees her best friend from Holy Trinity Academy, Becky, whom she goes into the bathroom with to explain what is going on. Becky is beside herself that Kaitlin is lying and going around with a Crutchfield. Kaitlin begs to use Becky's address as her own, telling Becky that she is in love with Bram already.

Bram later explains to Kaitlin that his father is dead. Bram says it has been especially hard on his little brother Josh, who is only in kindergarten. Bram then invites Kaitlin to a barbeque at his house the following day. Kaitlin is intrigued to find out if the other Crutchfields are hateful, or normal like Bram.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Kaitlin's circle of lies expands to include her best friend, Becky, who allows Kaitlin to use her house when Bram picks her up. Bram also seems to trust Kaitlin enough to tell her his father is dead; this in turn causes tremendous guilt in Kaitlin. According to Becky, Kaitlin's duplicity goes completely against her character as a person.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Kaitlin and Abby work a roadside vegetable stand for the farm, where they earn spending money. Kaitlin thinks about how lying to Bram, friends, and her mother and father is one thing, but trying to put one over on Abby is something else. Kaitlin calls Bram to get his address, which she discovers is in a very rich neighborhood.

Bram explains to Kaitlin that he feels he can be honest with her, which in turn makes her feel guilty. She then goes to Bram's house.

Chapter 9 Analysis

The fact that Bram believes he can be honest with Kaitlin is fully revealed, causing Kaitlin to suffer even greater guilt. Bram is putting his trust in Kaitlin Hampton, who does not actually exist. The stage is set for a rude awakening when the time comes.

Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Kaitlin tells Bram she needs to talk to him when she gets to his house. But at the last minute, Kaitlin is unable to tell Bram who she really is. Instead, she says she wanted to thank him for the picture. Bram's mother, Allision, introduces herself a moment later. When she hears that Kaitlin is taking a local history class, Allison reveals she has old Crutchfield documents in the garage, including some of Maggie Crutchfield's old diaries.

Kaitlin goes on to have a wonderful afternoon with the Crutchfields and their friends.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Kaitlin descends further down a path of lies as she meets members of the Crutchfield family, and enters their world. There is no turning back at this point for Kaitlin. She must either figure out how to successfully come out of things or must cut and run. She chooses to continue on because she is so deeply in love with Bram.

Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Bram and Kaitlin go through the old documents in the garage. Kaitlin finds Maggie's old diary, as well as a baby blanket. She can also tell that hatred of the Malones runs deep in Bram, and she begins to cry. Bram kisses away her tears, and the two of them kiss.

Chapter 11 Analysis

The human side of the Crutchfields -including Maggie Crutchfield, considered the progenitor of the family feud -becomes apparent. The soft, tiny baby blanket so lovingly preserved by Maggie and the Crutchfields makes Kaitlin cry. The hatred that has helped to form her identity is slowly washing away.

Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Bram confesses he is in love with Kaitlin, and Kaitlin wonders how long she can continue lying to him. She also begins to realize she is losing her hatred for the Crutchfields because she is seeing them as human. She realizes that her existence as a Malone is based on her hatred of the Crutchfields.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Bram and Kaitlin confess their love for one another, deepening the trouble in which Kaitlin finds herself. Bram is in love with Kaitlin Hampton, spelling future disaster. While Kaitlin is softening toward the Crutchfields, Bram's hatred of Kaitlin and her family remains unchanged.

Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Kaitlin waits at Becky's house for Bram to pick her up. Becky believes Kaitlin should tell Bram about her last name, but Kaitlin still disagrees. Bram picks up Kaitlin, brings her to his house and points out some green land that can be seen from the backyard. It is the last undeveloped part of land from the Crutchfield farm. Bram says they need more land to build a retreat there, and that the owners wouldn't sell, but that might change soon. Kaitlin understands the land that Bram's family wants is her family's land.

Bram also explains that his reluctance to go to college and study art is because his father, in an argument, demanded he study business instead. Bram's father died the same night. He had gone out during a storm with heavy equipment to save a pumping station. Kaitlin's father had gone out to confront Bram's father and the other workers, because they were going to drive across the Malone tomato fields.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Kaitlin and Becky confide in one another and Kaitlin wants to wait before she tells Bram about herself. Bram blames himself for his father's death, yet his hatred of the Malones has only grown in intensity.

Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Inside Bram's house, Kaitlin meets Bram's Uncle Jack, who is up from Las Vegas on some unfinished business. Kaitlin believes that Uncle Jack has recognized the similarities between her and her father. Kaitlin is dropped off at Becky's house by Bram, and then goes home to read Maggie's diary. The entries date back to the 1870s.

The shocking revelation in the diary emerges that the baby Maggie has belongs to Jared Malone or Kaitlin's own ancestor.

The entire Malone-Crutchfield feud was the result of two foolish sisters and a cheating man.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Kaitlin discovers the origins of the hatred that has evolved over a century between the Crutchfields and the Malones: two foolish sisters, and one cheating man. Because of infidelity, not extramarital pregnancy, the Crutchfield family was ripped apart and a feud begun. Unlike some families, such as the Montagues and the Capulets, who cannot remember the source of their ancient feud, Kaitlin has discovered the origin of hers.

Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Kaitlin wants to be able to tell Bram the truth not just about herself, but about the history of their families.

At school, Mrs. Flannery, the guidance counselor, explains to Kaitlin that some colleges offer full scholarships based on things like grades and writing. This interests Kaitlin, but she dismisses the idea. She knows her family needs her to help keep the farm alive.

Chapter 15 Analysis

The possibility for a new path in life -college- is presented in Chapter 15, along with the possibility that Kaitlin could begin a new path with Bram, provided Bram knows the truth about her and the history of their families.

Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

The Bookends -Buzz and J.B. -confront Kaitlin in the hallway. They have discovered she is Kaitlin Malone. In exchange for midterm papers, the Bookends will keep their silence about who Kaitlin is.

Kaitlin meets up with Bram, who reveals to her his family has a plan to get the extra land that they need. He further believes that his father was murdered, not killed accidentally. Bram seethes with hatred for the Malones. Kaitlin knows the witnesses were all Crutchfield employees, and that they lied about what happened. When Bram calls Kaitlin's father a scumbag, she smacks him across the face.

Kaitlin explains her anger is a result of her losing someone close to her, and Bram assumes it is Becky. Kaitlin is now absolutely sure she must tell Bram about her identity.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Bram's seething hatred, coupled with the lies of the Crutchfield workers, has led him to believe his father was murdered. Bram is full of anger and thoughts of revenge, which present a serious obstacle to Kaitlin.

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Kaitlin knows she is a monster and that she has created a mess by lying. She realizes she has a lot in common with Maggie and she also curses Maggie and Amanda, the two sisters who began the feud.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Kaitlin is aware her lies are continuing to mount, and has played into the family drama just like the previous five generations. But Kaitlin also wants to be with Bram and be without a source of conflict. This causes her to brood on the past and become angry with her ancestors.

Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Kaitlin and Abby await their father's return. When he does return, he is very happy to be home, and Kaitlin, Abby, and their mother, are very happy to have him back. Kaitlin and Garner go for a walk, and Kaitlin asks him about what happened the night Robert Crutchfield died.

Garner explains he confronted Robert, who attacked him. Garner shoved Robert back, and Robert fell and had his head sliced open on a rock. The Crutchfield employees blamed Garner. Jack Crutchfield was also there that night.

Kaitlin and her family pray together.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Garner's return to the farm allows Kaitlin to seek answers to what happened the night Robert Crutchfield died. Garner explains that it truly was an accident, and Kaitlin believes him. Despite her father's hatred of all things Crutchfield, Kaitlin knows her father is a good man who would never commit an act of murder against anyone.

Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Abby discovers what Kaitlin has been doing, curses her out, but refuses to bring in their parents yet. Abby says she will never forgive Kaitlin.

Kaitlin also discovers that Becky is furious with her for telling Bram she was dying. Kaitlin waits for Bram to show up, who wants to go to his old family's property before it is bulldozed over for the new retreat.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Abby's discovery of Kaitlin's scheming has led to a breakdown in relations between Abby and Kaitlin, reminiscent of Amanda and Maggie. Kaitlin's lies also cause a breach in her relationship with Becky, who refuses to speak to her.

Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Bram picks up Kaitlin and then runs inside his house. While she is waiting, Kaitlin sees Rick and Allison Crutchfield speaking. Allison hands him a white envelope, and Rick agrees to something Allison has said.

Bram then takes Kaitlin up to the old Crutchfield house. Kaitlin almost confesses to Bram who she is, but decides not to at the last minute.

Kaitlin wonders about Rick's connection to the Crutchfields, because she knows that Rick knows how much the Malones hate the Crutchfields.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Kaitlin's lies also have their high point: the surface of a plot is uncovered when Kaitlin sees Rick and Allison speaking with one another. Yet another one of Kaitlin's attempts to tell Bram the truth has failed, showing that Kaitlin is not only unsure of things, but that she is reluctant to tell Bram what is going on.

Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Kaitlin wonders about Jack's unfinished business, and if Rick is connected to it.

Garner reveals that Kaitlin's mother has landed a big contract, and that the money from it will help out around the farm and get the girls back into private, Christian school. But Kaitlin, in her mind, realizes she wants to stay at Twin Oaks.

Kaitlin goes looking through Rick's part of the office in order to see if she can find out what he was doing with Allison Crutchfield. Rick walks in and Kaitlin asks to borrow a pencil. She then goes onto the computer to type up the essays for the Bookends about political figures worthy of imitating.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Kaitlin attempts to get to the bottom of Rick's presence at the Crutchfield home yields nothing of consequence, or so Kaitlin believes. Kaitlin, like Juliet, is torn between loyalty to her family and loyalty to Bram. She is breaking with tradition by seeing Bram, and is betraying her family in certain respects as well.

Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

The papers for the Bookends are about Robert Norris and Robert Taft. She knows leaving the papers with them is dangerous, because the timing of everything she wants to do has to be perfect.

Bram, with his mother's approval, is giving Kaitlin a piece of jewelry fashioned from a lock from one of Maggie's diaries. Kaitlin feels tremendously guilty. Bram also reveals that the land that his family wants is nearly theirs.

Kaitlin goes by to see Mrs. Flannery to talk about getting scholarship applications to look over.

Chapter 22 Analysis

Kaitlin's acceptance into the Crutchfield is cemented by a shared gift to her from Bram and Allison: a piece of Crutchfield family history in the form of a bracelet. It is a moving moment that further compounds the danger Kaitlin is in, of losing not just her love, but the trust of her family. The reader can see that she has precious few options left.

Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Kaitlin wears the bracelet with Maggie's clasp on her wrist. In class, she continues thinking about Rick and what he could possibly be doing that would ensure the land being taken over by the Crutchfields.

Chapter 23 Analysis

Kaitlin continues thinking about what Rick would have been doing with Allison. Kaitlin's loyalty to her own family as well as to Bram is severely tested, because she knows she cannot turn her back on her family; yet, Kaitlin also knows that exposing Crutchfield schemes will only increase the hatred between the families.

Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Kaitlin confronts Rick in the office while her mother is there because she knows what Rick has done. Rick has switched suppliers of pesticides in order to be able to order aldicarb, which isn't for use on tomatoes. Using it on tomatoes is highly toxic, and would ruin the Malone family name. She also tells Rick she knows that he's in the back pocket of the Crutchfields. Garner appears a moment later, having overheard everything. Rick tries to explain the company sent the wrong product, but Garner isn't convinced. He fires Rick.

Garner checks the records and discovers that the aldicarb was intentionally ordered. Kaitlin explains that she knew about Rick "just because" but knows the answer won't satisfy her parents for long.

Abby also tells Kaitlin that she wants her to work both shifts at the roadside stand on Saturday. Kaitlin will not do it and doesn't care if Abby tells their parents about Bram.

Chapter 24 Analysis

Kaitlin has figured out the Crutchfield plot against the Malones and she vigorously exposes Rick's betrayal as well as the plan. Rick is fired and storms off, and Kaitlin realizes that she is beyond caring about Abby knowing about Bram. Kaitlin is prepared to ascend from the hole she has dug for herself.

Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

At dinner, the Malones talk about revenge and justice against the Crutchfields. When they pray, it is Kaitlin's turn to lead. Kaitlin prays for the Crutchfields, which enrages her mother. Her parents demand to know how Kaitlin knew about Rick. Kaitlin confesses she is dating Bram, and that she saw Rick at Bram's house.

Kaitlin's mother is horrified. Kaitlin goes on to explain that their ancestors are the same. She also explains that Bram doesn't know that she is a Malone. Kaitlin's mother says that when Bram finds out who she is, he will hate her, too. Hate is embodied in both families. Garner demands that all of the nonsense that has been going on stop, and Kaitlin agrees.

Chapter 25 Analysis

The exposing of the Crutchfield plot has only led to more anger and hatred from the Malone family. Kaitlin finally outs herself, revealing that she is dating Bram. Her family is, as expected, horrified. But Kaitlin is through with lying, and one by one, she plans to end the games she has been playing. Her character begins shining through -the character that Becky saw as missing when Kaitlin began lying.

Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

Kaitlin applies to college through Mrs. Flannery. Bram is not at school and Kaitlin calls to find out what is going on. Bram reveals that the land deal fell through, and he and his mother were up late talking, and so he didn't get much sleep. Kaitlin asks him about why building a retreat is so important to the Crutchfields, and Bram explains it is supposed to be a retreat for cancer patients.

Kaitlin also talks to her father, wanting to know why he won't sell the land that isn't being farmed. Garner explains that some things aren't supposed to change.

Chapter 26 Analysis

Kaitlin decides that new paths are the best and begins applying for colleges. She wants a new start. But this is contrasted with her father's rational assertion that not all things are supposed to change, that some things aren't meant to be changed. The land has been a positive source of family pride, just as the hatred of the Crutchfields has been a source of negativity.

Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

Kaitlin drives over to Becky's house to talk to her. There, both girls make up and hug. Kaitlin explains to Becky that she hopes she and Bram will be a new start for the Crutchfields and the Malones.

Chapter 27 Analysis

Kaitlin repairs her relationship with Becky and prepares for the party at Bram's house. Kaitlin is resolved that she will have a new start with Bram. All of her attempts to right the wrongs she has caused have been at least moderately successful so far, leading Kaitlin to believe -perhaps prematurely and naively- that the end with Bram will be the same.

Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

Kaitlin reveals that her father has taken the news about her and Bram the best out of anyone in the family. Kaitlin and Abby also talk about Kaitlin's prayer the evening before. Kaitlin reveals that she was not just telling her parents through prayer about the Crutchfields, but that she was also praying to God.

Chapter 28 Analysis

Chapter 28 is important because Kaitlin reveals to Abby that her prayers to God were indeed genuine. Kaitlin has had enough of suffering, no matter who is suffering.

Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

Kaitlin heads over to Bram's house to attend a party. She and Bram dance together, and he introduces her to family and friends. Yet Rick also shows up, and betrays who Kaitlin really is. Bram doesn't believe Rick at first and he attempts to physically assault Rick. But Jack and other guests pull them apart.

Bram suddenly realizes that Kaitlin has been lying to him, and she tries to explain everything, but Bram will hear none of it. Bram storms off, and Allison sends Kaitlin home.

Chapter 29 Analysis

Kaitlin's exposing of Rick has serious consequences. Rick outs Kaitlin in front of the entire party at Bram's. The hatred that Bram and his family possess for the Malones appears to have trumped the love that Bram and Kaitlin shared.

Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

Kaitlin spends the night outside at her favorite spot on the Malone family land. The next day, Kaitlin's parents care for her, and Becky calls to offer support. Hortensia, the Crutchfield maid, has been sent to the Malone property to reclaim Maggie's diaries. Kaitlin keeps the diaries, but sends Hortensia back with the bracelet Bram gave her.

Chapter 30 Analysis

Kaitlin, in a symbolic gesture of solidarity with Maggie, keeps her diaries but returns the bracelet. Words and emotions matter more to Kaitlin than do gifts.

Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Summary

Against the wishes of her parents, Kaitlin returns to Twin Oaks on Monday. She tries to get Bram to talk to her, but fails. His love has been replaced by hatred. The Bookends' papers receive Fs, because they are copied word-for-word from John F. Kennedy's book "Profiles in Courage." They think they are going to score points by telling Bram what Kaitlin did to them, but Bram takes his anger out on them by beating them up.

Kaitlin is called upon to speak in front of several hundred seniors because of her good grades. She speaks about the future, about letting go of the past, about following dreams.

The book ends with Bram returning the bracelet to Kaitlin, confessing that he never stopped loving her, and they sit down to draw and write together.

Chapter 31 Analysis

In the end, love manages to conquer all. It even overcomes the hatred between the families for Bram and Kaitlin, and they hope that their love will provide a better future for both families.

Characters

Kaitlin Malone

Kaitlin Malone is the main character and protagonist in Mary E. Pearson's novel "Scribbler of Dreams". Seventeen years old, Kaitlin is beginning her senior year at Twin Oaks High School. She is an avid writer and very pretty, and her parents are farmers who have lived on land that has belonged to the Malone family for five generations. Kaitlin was attending private Christian school, but her father's imprisonment for the accidental death of Robert Crutchfield has meant that Kaitlin is forced to attend a public high school. The high school is built on land owned by the Crutchfields, a family with which the Malones have been embroiled in a bitter feud for generations. Kaitlin uses her mother's maiden name of "Hampton" to get along. While Kaitlin dreads going to the school, her younger sister Abby, a freshman, is excited.

In school, Kaitlin meets and falls in love with a boy named Bram Crutchfield, who absolutely hates the Malones the way Kaitlin's family hates them. With the help of her best friend Becky, Kaitlin lies to Bram about who she is. Kaitlin also discovers through historical research that Maggie and Amanda Crutchfield, the two sisters who began the feud, were in love with the same man, Jared Malone. Jared impregnated Maggie, but married Amanda. The feud carried on for over a century.

Kaitlin also discovers a plot orchestrated by the Crutchfields and the Malone farm foreman Rick, to poison a tomato crop and force the Malones to sell land to the Crutchfields. She exposes Rick, who is subsequently fired. Kaitlin ultimately confesses to her parents that she has been seeing a Crutchfield behind their backs, and they are enraged, but she doesn't care. At a party at Bram's house, Rick reveals who Kaitlin is, causing Bram to refuse to speak to Kaitlin any longer. Yet in the end, Bram comes around, revealing that he is still in love with Kaitlin.

Bram Crutchfield

Bram Crutchfield is a senior at Twin Oaks High School. His family's land has been sold and leased to businesses, schools, malls, and hotels, making his family exceedingly rich. Bram is kind and he is an artist, but he harbors a deep and profound hatred for the Malones, especially Garner Malone, whom Bram blames for the death of his father.

Bram begins dating Kaitlin Malone, believing her last name to be Hampton. He falls in love with her and would do anything for her. When he discovers who she really is, he wants nothing more to do with her, yet he never stops loving her. Eventually, he comes around and forgives Kaitlin's charade in exchange for the hope that all of the hatred that has existed between their families will begin to end with them.

Abby Malone

Abby Malone is the optimistic, yet vindictive younger sister of Kaitlin Malone. She is a freshman at Twin Oaks High School, and despite her hatred of the Crutchfields, is happy to go to a public school. Abby first discovers Kaitlin's duplicity, and threatens to expose Kaitlin to their parents if Kaitlin doesn't do what she wants. But Kaitlin refuses, and beats Abby to telling their parents. By the end of the book, Abby is still angry with Kaitlin, but understands Kaitlin wants peace, not hatred.

Garner Malone

Garner Malone is the father of Kaitlin and Abby Malone. He is strong, sympathetic, and caring. He has been jailed for involuntary manslaughter of Robert Crutchfield, Bram's father, and released eighteen months later. Robert had driven onto Malone land with several men and several construction vehicles in order to save a pumping station. Garner mistook Robert's act as an attack, and he went out to confront them. Robert then attacked Garner, slipped, fell, and hit his head on a rock, killing himself instantly.

Garner was framed for what happened, and when released, explains it in detail to Kaitlin. Garner, while horrified that Kaitlin is dating Bram, nevertheless seems to be more accepting than his wife and Abby. Yet Garner cautions Kaitlin that some things aren't always meant to be changed.

Allison Crutchfield

Allison Crutchfield is the kindly mother of Bram and widow of Robert. She is very rich and very elegant, and welcomes Kaitlin into her home. When Allison discovers who Kaitlin is, she kicks Kaitlin out.

Allison also has a dark side, as she schemes with Rick to poison the Malone tomato crop.

Rick

Rick is the new foreman on the Malone family land. He is overseeing the sowing and planting of vegetables. Rick, though working for the Malones, was bought by Allison Crutchfield to poison the tomato crop which would force the Malones to sell land to the Crutchfields. Rick is outed by Kaitlin, who oversees a conversation between him and Allison. Rick later outs Kaitlin, telling Bram and Allison that she is really a Malone.

Becky

Becky is Kaitlin's best friend, who would do anything for Kaitlin. Becky allows Kaitlin to use her house as her own, so that Bram doesn't think Kaitlin is a Malone. Kaitlin also lies to Bram, telling him that she is losing someone close to her, and Bram assumes it is Becky. This web of lies causes distrust and disunion between Kaitlin and Becky, but Kaitlin later apologizes and is forgiven by Becky.

Mrs. Flannery

Mrs. Flannery is the kindly student guidance counselor at Twin Oaks High School. It is Mrs. Flannery who first alerts Kaitlin to the possibility of using full scholarships to pay for college.

Maggie Crutchfield

Maggie Crutchfield is an ancestor of the present-day Malones and Crutchfields. Maggie, like Kaitlin, is a writer. Maggie becomes pregnant by Jared Malone, the husband of her sister Amanda. Maggie's premarital pregnancy is thought to be the source of the feud between the Crutchfields and the Malones, but Kaitlin learns the truth about Jared Malone's cheating ways, ultimately revealing them to her parents.

Amanda Crutchfield

Amanda Crutchfield is the sister of Maggie and an ancestor of the present-day Crutchfields and Malones. Amanda is married to Jared Malone, and Jared has had an affair with, and impregnated Amanda's sister Maggie. The events surrounding Maggie's premarital pregnancy resulted in a feud between Amanda's family and Maggie's descendants that has lasted five generations.

Objects/Places

California

California is the setting of the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary E. Pearson. It is where San Diego, the Malone Farm, and the Crutchfield land are all located. It is also the location of Twin Oaks High School and Bram's house.

Malone Farm

The Malone Farm is a vista of natural and farmed land amid a Californian urban oasis. It was originally half of the Crutchfield family land, but when Maggie and Amanda Crutchfield had a falling out, the land was divided in half. The Malone Farm has been handed down through five generations, with not one acre ever being sold. It is a source of pride to the Malones to own unspoiled land and farmland despite the concrete world that exists beyond the property's borders.

Crutchfield Land

The Crutchfield Land was originally half of the Crutchfield family land, but when Maggie and Amanda Crutchfield had a falling out, the land was divided in half. Most of the land has been sold or leased to malls, motels, and other businesses, making the Crutchfield family exorbitantly wealthy. Yet the Crutchfields do envy the land the Malones maintain.

Twin Oaks High School

Twin Oaks High School is built on Crutchfield land through Crutchfield family funds, and is attended by Bram Crutchfield, Kaitlin Malone, and Abby Malone.

San Diego

San Diego is a city in California, and is where Garner Malone is imprisoned.

Bram's House

Bram's house rests on Crutchfield family land in a gated, upscale community in the wealthier part of town. It is carefully decorated and manicured, and is tended to by Allison Crutchfield and her maid, Hortensia.



Maggie's Diaries

Maggie's diaries, saved from her old farmhouse, are kept in the garage by Allison Crutchfield. Kaitlin reads through the diaries and discovers that Maggie is not a promiscuous girl who began a family feud, but was seduced by her sister's husband. The diaries are beautifully written by Maggie, who records not just her hopes and fear and dreams, but the events of her life as well.

Maggie's Baby's Blanket

Maggie's baby's blanket was kept by Maggie with her diaries in an old trunk, and discovered by Kaitlin. The blanket tenderizes Maggie for Kaitlin and compels her to cry.

Bram's Sketchbook

Bram's sketchbook accompanies Bram everywhere, who constantly draws. Bram creates numerous portraits of Kaitlin using his sketchbook.

Kaitlin's Journal

Kaitlin's journal accompanies her everywhere, for Kaitlin writes in it constantly and expresses her fears, hopes, dreams, desires, and feelings.

Themes

Hatred

Hatred is one of the eminent themes that dominates the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary Pearson. The hatred that exists in the novel is shared between the Crutchfield and Malone families, who find common ancestors in Maggie and Amanda Crutchfield and their mutual lover, Jared Malone. Jared married Amanda, but had an affair with Maggie, thus impregnating her and beginning a feud that led to the division of loyalties and family land. The feud exists until the present day events of the novel.

The Malone hatred of the Crutchfields exists in many ways, from spiteful comments towards them, to excluding them from prayers. Crutchfield hatred of the Malones runs even deeper, causing near-rabid anger in Bram and Allison, and leading to Allison's dealing with Rick to poison the Malone tomato harvest.

The hatred between both families manifests itself eighteen months prior to the novel. Hoping to save a pumping station, Robert Crutchfield, Bram's father, must use Malone land to move several pieces of construction equipment. Garner Malone goes out to confront them, during which time Robert attacks Malone, falls, and dies when he hits his head on a rock. Though an accident, Crutchfield's men and the Crutchfield family view it as murder, and has intensified the hatred between the families even more. Garner's arrest likewise intensifies the hatred felt from the Malones for the Crutchfields.

Sibling Conflict

Sibling conflict is one of the three major themes in the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary Pearson. It exists in both present and past generations, and has led to the existence of a five-generation feud between the Malone and Crutchfield families.

Originally both competing for the attention of Jared Malone in the 1800s, Maggie and Amanda were forced to settle their competition when Jared married Amanda. Yet Jared went on to have an affair with Maggie, impregnating her, and causing a feud between both sisters. This rivalry led to the destruction of the Crutchfield family and to a division of the family land.

In the present day, the hatred that exists between the Crutchfields and the Malones has manifested itself in Abby, the younger sister of Kaitlin. Though both originally close like Maggie and Amanda, Abby and Kaitlin have a falling out when Abby discovers that Kaitlin has secretly been dating Bram Crutchfield. This leads to Abby attempting to blackmail Kaitlin, but Kaitlin refusing to be blackmailed. By the end of the novel, the rift that exists between Abby and Kaitlin has not entirely been mended.

Love

Love is the overarching, dominant theme in the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary E. Pearson. It exists in numerous forms and in numerous places throughout the story, including romantic love, familial love, and the love of motherhood.

Love exists in a romantic form predominantly between Bram and Kaitlin, who have rapidly fallen in love with one another. They spend as much of their time together as possible, and do everything they can together, from eating lunch to exploring the old Crutchfield farmhouse. Bram's love for Kaitlin is physically expressed through the beautiful portraits he makes of her and Kaitlin's love is physically expressed through the beautiful words she writes about Bram. Love also existed in a romantic sense between Jared and Amanda to some extent, though that extent cannot be accurately gauged because Jared cheated on Amanda.

Love exists in a familial sense as well, between Bram Crutchfield and his family, and between Kaitlin Malone and her family. Bram and his mother have an exceptionally close relationship since Bram's father has died, and Allison and Bram often confide in one another. When Allison discovers that Kaitlin is a Malone, she spares no expense to protect Bram and drive Kaitlin from the house. Kaitlin's family, likewise, has sacrificed beyond compare to send Kaitlin and Abby to Christian school to avoid having to send them to Twin Oaks. Kaitlin and her father tend to the farm, the roadside stand, and the house together, as well as confiding in one another. Garner confides in Kaitlin the events of the night Robert Crutchfield died, for example. Garner's love of his daughter also leads him to be the least angry in the family with Kaitlin when he discovers she is seeing Bram.

The love that comes with motherhood is clear and sound with Maggie through her diaries. Maggie writes that she will give her son the life she never had, and that she will see to it that he can hold his head up when going through town despite his illegitimacy. Maggie's love of her baby son is so great that it leads her to safely pack away and save his baby blanket, which Kaitlin later finds and understands the love it meant.

Style

Point of View

Mary Pearson tells her novel "Scribbler of Dreams" in the first-person narrative of Kaitlin Malone, the book's main character and principle protagonist. This is done in order to follow the evolution of Kaitlin's character, and to reinforce the underlying emotional tone of the novel. Telling the novel in the first person allows the relations of fears, thoughts, dreams, and love in a tender, personal way that is not always consistent with the third-person omniscient narrative. The reader becomes a confidante to Kaitlin, rather than a mere observer of events. The author of the novel is seeking to emotionally compel and connect the reader with Kaitlin.

In terms of the evolution of Kaitlin's character, the firsthand telling of that evolution by Kaitlin further endears the reader to Kaitlin. Initially hating every single thing about the Crutchfields, Kaitlin slowly comes around as she discovers they are human, and as she discovers the truth about the past. This launches Kaitlin on a very personal, emotional journey, and the first person telling brings the reader along with Kaitlin.

Setting

The setting of the novel, California, is an appropriate place for the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary Pearson. California at large is reflective of the community of Twin Oaks. Twin Oaks was once beautiful land and farmland, divided up, sold, leased, and transformed into suburban sprawl and concrete towers and buildings. This is contrasted with the Malone land, which has been preserved acre-for-acre, since the family came into possession of the land. California, at large, is a wilderness of beautiful land carefully protected, yet carved up by concrete cities. There is pride in both development and conservation of land.

Language and Meaning

Because the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" is told in the first person perspective of Kaitlin Malone, a seventeen year old writer and high school student, the language reflects her character. The novel is told in poetic prose, reflecting Kaitlin's literary talents. Yet the writing, though poetic, is by no means full of polysyllabic words and intelligent language, reflecting Kaitlin's rural roots and pre-college education.

Structure

Mary Pearson tells her novel "Scribbler of Dreams" in chronological order, using a structure of consecutive chapters. This is done because the plot is fluid and continuous, and does not need any breaks into parts or the use of alternative structures to advance

the story. The plot is intelligent and straightforward, therefore requiring only the need for chronological chapters.

Quotes

"I had always hated the Crutchfields. I was born to hate the Crutchfields" (Chapter 1, p. 1).

"I am seventeen years old...I still want to laugh, dream, hope... love. The blackness that hugs my soul retreats" (Chapter 3, p. 20).

"I had to lie, I told myself. I didn't know him well enough yet to know how he would react" (Chapter 7, p. 46).

"I was Kait Hampton. I felt like I could be Kait Hampton forever" (Chapter 10, p. 69).

"Perhaps someday my weakness will be forgiven. But my child will not suffer because of my folly" (Chapter 14, p. 95).

"The Crutchfields and the Malones had become like pedigreed dogs, raised and bred over the generations for a certain characteristic" (Chapter 17, p. 112).

"We were sisters. We had always fought, but we had never said we hated each other" (Chapter 19, p. 126).

"My guilt surged. Because of my deception, I was learning things I had no right to know" (Chapter 22, p. 153).

"It was ironic that my Dad, who was more full-blooded Malone than all of us, took the news of me and Bram best of all" (Chapter 28, p. 184).

"I became lost in my words. They lifted me, they guided me, they whispered everything I knew about who I was and what I would become" (Chapter 31, p. 222).

Topics for Discussion

Discuss the concept of sibling rivalry and conflict. Where does it appear and why? What are its consequences? Do you believe that what happened to Maggie and Amanda Crutchfield could potentially occur between Abby and Kaitlin Malone? Why or why not?

Discuss the theme of hate in the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary Pearson. Where, and in what forms does hate appear in the novel? Does one family hate the other family more? Why or why not? Why do you believe the hatred that existed between Maggie and Amanda Crutchfield persisted to the present day events of the novel?

Discuss the theme of love in the novel "Scribbler of Dreams" by Mary Pearson. In what forms does love appear? Which of these forms of love is strongest? Why? Which of these forms of love is weakest? Why?

Love and hate are both dominant themes in the novel "Scribbler of Dreams." Which force - love or hate - is stronger? Why? Provide evidence to support your claim.

Garner Malone tells his daughter Kaitlin that some things aren't always meant to be changed. To what is Garner referring and why? What is the greater significance of this observation and is it true? Why or why not?