

The Shining Study Guide

The Shining by Stephen King

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

[The Shining Study Guide.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Plot Summary.....4](#)

[1\) Part One: Prefatory Matters - Chapters 1 Job Interview, 2 Boulder and 3 Watson.....5](#)

[2\) Part One: Prefatory Matters - Chapters 4 Shadowland, 5 Phonebooth, 6 Night Thoughts and 7 In Another Bedroom Summary.....8](#)

[3\) Part Two: Closing Day Chapter 8 A View of the Overlook, 9 Checking it Out and 10 Halloran Summary.....11](#)

[4\) Part Two: Closing Day Chapters 11 The Shining, 12 The Grand Tour and 13 The Front Porch.....13](#)

[5\) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 14 On the Roof and 15 Down in the Front Yard.....15](#)

[6\) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 16 Danny and 17 The Doctor's Office.....17](#)

[7\) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 18 The Scrapbook and 19 Outside 217.....19](#)

[8\) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 20 Talking to Mr. Ullman, 21 Night Thoughts and 22 In the Truck.....21](#)

[9\) Part Three: That Wasps' Nest Chapters 23 In the Playground, 24 Snow and 25 Inside 217..23](#)

[10\) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 26 Dreamland, 27 Catatonic and 28 "It Was Her!".....25](#)

[11\) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 29 Kitchen Talk, 30 217 Revisited, 31 The Verdict and 32 The Bedroom.....28](#)

[12\) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 33 The Snowmobile, 34 The Hedges and 35 The Lobby..31](#)

[13\) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 36 The Elevator and 37 The Lobby.....33](#)

[14\) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 38 Florida, 39 On the Stairs, 40 In the Basement and 41 Daylight.....36](#)

[15\) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 42 Mid-Air, 43 Drinks on the House, 44 Conversations at the Party and 45 Stapleton Airport, Denver.....38](#)

[16\) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 46 Wendy, 47 Danny and 48 Jack.....40](#)

[17\) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 49 Hallorann, Going up the Country, 50 Redrum and 51 Hallorann Arrives.....42](#)



18) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 52 Wendy and Jack and 53 Hallorann Laid Low..... 44

19) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 54 Tony and 55 That which was Forgotten.. 46

20) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 56 The Explosion, 57 Exit and 58 Epilogue/Summer..... 48

Characters..... 50

Symbols and Symbolism..... 55

Settings..... 58

Themes and Motifs..... 60

Styles..... 63

Quotes..... 64



Plot Summary

A boy's special perception and a possessed hotel interact with deadly results in the novel "The Shining" by Stephen King. Five-year-old Danny Torrence and his parents, Jack and Wendy, are spending the winter at a resort high in the Colorado mountains. It is Jack's last chance at a job to get his writing and teaching career back on track. Instead of concentrating on his writing, Jack is distracted by the history of the hotel which includes questionable management, suicide, and murder. As Jack becomes more and more obsessed with the hotel, he becomes its possession. He even tries to follow through with its demand to kill his wife and son. It is the hotel's one weak spot, its aging boiler, that allows Danny and his mother, along with his friend Hallorann, to get out of the hotel without becoming its victims.

As long as he and his parents can remember, Danny has known things. His parents can't explain his extra sensory perception, and a doctor tries to write it off as the deductive reasoning of an extremely creative child. Danny, however, knows it is Tony, a figment of Danny's older self, who gives him his strange knowledge. Tony has shown Danny scenes of what will happen to them at the hotel. Though he knows he should warn his parents not to go, Danny also knows this is his father's last chance to get his career back.

As the family passes the first months at the hotel, Wendy notices that her husband's drinking symptoms begin to come back even though there is nothing to drink. Then Danny is choked by what he describes as a dead woman in the bathtub of Room 217. Jack finds nothing in the room on first glance. Wendy is determined that it was Jack who hurt the boy again, as he did several years prior in a drunken rage. Their history of bad times in their marriage and bad experiences with their parents cause Jack and Wendy to build cases against each other, pushing them further and further apart.

Without the support of his family, Jack falls fully prey to the hotel. This building is coming to life around the family with noises and momentoes of a masked ball – up around them. Danny has wound a clock in the ballroom which seems to have set into motion a destructive sequence of events set to end on December 2 with the "redrum" he has been dreading. He calls out for Hallorann who comes to the rescue of the young boy and his mother all the way from Florida.



1) Part One: Prefatory Matters - Chapters 1 Job Interview, 2 Boulder and 3 Watson

Summary

A boy's special perception and a possessed hotel interact with deadly results in the novel "The Shining" by Stephen King. Five-year-old Danny Torrence and his parents, Jack and Wendy, are spending the winter at a resort high in the Colorado mountains. It is Jack's last chance at a job to get his writing and teaching career back on track. Instead of concentrating on his writing, Jack is distracted by the history of the hotel which includes questionable management, suicide and murder. As Jack becomes more and more obsessed with the hotel, he becomes its possession. He even tries to follow through with its demand to kill his wife and son. It is the hotel's one weak spot, its aging boiler, that allows Danny and his mother, along with his friend Hallorann, to get out of the hotel without becoming its victims.

In Chapter 1, Jack Torrence is offended by Stuart Ullman, manager of The Overlook Hotel, who is interviewing Jack for the job of winter caretaker. Ullman tells Jack the only reason that he is hiring him is because Al Shockley, Jack's friend, recommended him so strongly. Ullman insinuates to Jack that he is afraid he is making the same mistake in hiring him that he made with Delbert Grady. Grady killed both his daughters, his wife, and then himself during the winter he was caretaker.

In Chapter 2, Wendy feels bad about their situation in an old apartment house as she watches her son, Danny, sitting on the curb, waiting for his father. When she goes out to talk to him, Danny asks her how his father lost his job and if she wants to live in the hotel all winter. She tells him that she does if that is what Danny's father wants. Once inside the apartment, Wendy begins to cry for fear of their future and the losses of the past.

In Chapter 3, Watson shows Jack the boiler. Jack tries to concentrate but finds himself thinking more about Ullman's statement that he had lost his temper. He thinks about breaking Danny's arm when the boy had poured beer on the three-act play on which he was working. As the guilt and shame of his actions come back to him, he desperately wants a drink. Watson warns him that the pressure on the furnace creeps up and that he must check it at least three times a day. Also, during the tour of the basement, Jack is fascinated by the cartons of records and papers that he believes might hold the entire history of the hotel. Watson mentions the Grady murder-suicide as well as some other scandals in the hotel's history.



Analysis

Several ideas are presented to the reader in these first chapters of the novel. Jack automatically dislikes his employer Stuart Ullman. He believes the man is looking down on him. Ullman also tells Jack with no uncertainty that he does not believe that he is capable of doing the job. He insinuates that Jack and his family will wind up like Delbert Grady who killed his wife and two children and then himself when working as the caretaker of the hotel. Jack takes Ullman's attitude as a challenge and seems to be determined not to become the person that Ullman has described. Ullman also mentions that Grady could not handle the job because of his alcoholism. Jack tells Ullman only that he does not drink, but is inwardly offended because he is an alcoholic.

In Jack's interview with Ullman, he tells him about the entire hotel in general. He indicates the most important job will take place in the basement, in the boiler room. Ullman knows nothing about this part of the hotel. He has to have another man show it to Jack. When Watson shows Jack the boiler in Chapter 3, he also shares some of The Overlook's colorful history with Jack. In addition to Grady's murder-suicide, another lady died of an overdose in Room 217 after she had an affair with a younger man. Watson describes how Ullman worked to have the death and affair covered up and kept out of the news. A chambermaid cleaning the room was also fired after she claimed to have seen something in that room. This is a sign that there have been some sort of unusual occurrences in the hotel that can still be perceived by some. Note also Jack's interest in the boxes of papers in the basement. He believes that the history of The Overlook might be stored in the basement.

In Chapter 2, it is learned that Jack was not only an alcoholic, he also has trouble with his temper. He was fired from his job at the Stovington Preparatory School because he hit a student after he caught the boy cutting the tires on his car. Apparently, there was also some incident where Jack broke Danny's arm in a similar fit of temper. Now, because of Jack's temper the family has had to leave their home in Stovington. They are now living in an old, rundown apartment building. All of their hopes for the future are hanging on Jack's success in the caretaker job

Note also in Chapter 3 Jack's unusual feeling that a goose has just walked over his grave when Watson first shows him the boiler and the way that it "creeps." Watson has told Ullman the pressure on the boiler needs to be checked regularly, or it will build too high and explode. Because they don't have the money, the hotel's caretaker must check the boiler several times daily to relieve the pressure so the heating unit isn't damaged or left to rise to an unsafe pressure level.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Jack interviewing for a job at The Overlook Hotel?



Discussion Question 2

What will this job entail?

Discussion Question 3

For what reasons do Jack and his family feel this job is the only opportunity for Jack to get his career back on track even though they also feel uncomfortable about the isolation that the job will bring?

Vocabulary

Officious, bray, mundane, decrepit, relic, roque, bastardized, topiary, depreciation, contingency, antithesis, optimum, patronizing, claustrophobic, nonplussed, rigors, rancorous, perfunctory, ominous, deluge, stuporous, subjectively, vehemently, soliloquized, schematic, astute, cunt, implacable, atrocity



2) Part One: Prefatory Matters - Chapters 4 Shadowland, 5 Phonebooth, 6 Night Thoughts and 7 In Another Bedroom Summary

Summary

In Chapter 4, Danny knows his mother is worrying about the car and Jack's drinking habit because he can read her mind. Even though he doesn't understand the concept, he worries that his parents will get a divorce. He's heard these thoughts in both their minds ever since his father broke his arm. He wishes he could tell his mother that her fears are unfounded. When Danny concentrates, sometimes another boy named Tony comes to him. As Danny tries to concentrate, he realizes his father has gotten the job and is thinking about shingles. Tony calls him and shows him a vision of a large building covered in snow. Jack has put some of the shingles on the building. Inside the building Danny hears hollow thuds. He sees the word "Redrum" appear in a mirror along with images of a trashed room, a dead woman in a tub, and a voice following him ordering him to come out and take his medicine. He tells Tony the visions are scaring him and asks him to stop. As he comes to himself, Danny's father is pulling up at their house. Danny has a brief vision of a short handled mallet, the head clotted with hair and blood, before it turns into a bag of groceries. Danny calms a little bit when he sees his mother and father kiss one another on greeting, but he is fearful of what the future holds.

In Chapter 5, Jack calls Al Shockley from a payphone to thank him for helping him to get the caretaker's job. As he waits for Al to pick up the phone, Jack thinks about his history at Stovington and the car wreck that convinced him and Al to stop drinking. Al finally picks up, and Jack thanks him. Al seems to think the Stovington board will allow Jack back in the summer. In the car on the way home, Danny tries to talk to his father about what Tony showed him but knows that his father isn't paying attention.

In Chapter 6, Wendy thinks about her past with Jack. Things had begun to go downhill when Jack got drunk celebrating the acceptance of one of his stories by Esquire magazine. He'd dropped Danny, who was still an infant, trying to comfort him. She remembers that around the time that she had tried to talk to Jack about divorce, Danny had told her he had a dream that Jack had an accident. Although she knows nothing of the car wreck, she does notice Jack's behavior change and does not bring up divorce again.

In Chapter 7, Danny has more visions of the hotel. In one of the visions, Tony warns Danny not to go there.



Analysis

In this section of the novel Danny's ability to read minds becomes important as his visions foreshadow what will happen at the hotel. Danny has a friend whom he refers to as Tony who gives him these strange visions. Danny goes deep inside himself to find Tony. He believes Tony is a friend, a real person who sometimes chooses to come when Danny calls him. Danny's parents believe that Tony is Danny's imaginary friend. Danny is fearful of the things that Tony shows him about the future, but he also remembers that not everything that Tony has shown him in the past has come true.

The damage that Jack's background, his drinking, and the loss of his job at Stovington, has done to the family becomes apparent in this section of the novel. The family had just been able to begin saving some money and were talking about buying a house when Jack lost his temper. It is indicated that the night he hands in his resignation he leaves the house to keep from taking his anger out on Danny and Wendy. This instance indicates the severity of Jack's trouble with his temper.

In addition to his trouble with his temper, Jack has also had serious drinking problems. It has come to the point that he knows that if he drinks any more, he knows that Wendy will leave him. His drinking habit had become so bad that he was going to teach his classes drunk. The drinking has impaired his ability to teach and kept him from writing. He and Al, the man who had gotten Jack his job, had been drinking buddies. One night, they hit a child's bicycle in the highway. They search the area, afraid they have killed a child. They are not able to find a body but the experience scares them badly enough that they vow to stop drinking.

One thing to note in this section is Wendy's relationship with her mother. She hates her mother so much that even after Jack broke Danny's arm, she does not take him and leave because she knows she'd have no place to go but to her mother. After her parents had divorced, Wendy's mother made her leave the house claiming that the divorce was Wendy's fault. Jack had encouraged her to break from her mother and marry him. When Danny was born, the two attempted a sort of reconciliation but Wendy's mother continues to break her down by indicating that she does not take good care of Danny. It is for these reasons that Wendy will not leave Jack to go back to her mother.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Jack's drinking and the struggle that he has staying dry such an important topic in the novel?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss the dynamics of Jack and Wendy's relationship.



Discussion Question 3

Why is it significant that Danny is born with a caul?

Vocabulary

Contrapuntal, inexplicable, indecipherable, obligatory, deft, stanchion, providential, talismanic, dourly, rueful, prosaic, quirt, irreverent, reconciliation, overtly, ambulatory, doppelganger, pettish, sinuously, singlet



3) Part Two: Closing Day Chapter 8 A View of the Overlook, 9 Checking it Out and 10 Halloran Summary

Summary

In Chapter 8, the Torrence family drives to The Overlook. They stop at a scenic turnaround to see the hotel from a distance. Jack and Wendy are impressed by the view of the hotel. Danny, however, is scared as he recognizes the hotel as the place where he has seen redrum in his dreams.

In Chapter 9, the last of The Overlook's guests are checking out when Jack, Wendy, and Danny arrive. As they look around, Danny questions his parents about the roque court. They also point out the topiary of hedge animals. Although Danny is happy that his parents are happy, he still feels worry as he sits with them on a couch in the hotel lobby.

In Chapter 10, Hallorann gives the Torrences a tour of the kitchen and pantry. He tells them about the family that had The Overlook built. One of the men's sons was killed in a riding accident on the grounds of The Overlook. Then, his wife died of the flu. The man later accidentally electrocuted himself. As the chapter closes, Hallorann asks Danny to help him carry his bags to his car.

Analysis

Significant in this section is the scene where Danny first sees The Overlook and recognizes it as the building that Tony has showed him in his visions. Wendy is feeling her own fear, not only because she is afraid their car will not make the trip but also because she thinks of the Donners, a group of people who got snowed in in the mountains and had to turn to cannibalism in order to survive. These ideas build the feeling of danger and foreshadow the trouble to come. Another chilling foreshadowing takes place when the family is talking about Jack's ability to trim the hedges. Jack momentarily thinks about the hedges creeping, then remembers that Watson has told him the boiler creeps. He said nothing about the hedges.

Discussion Question 1

Why is it significant that Wendy thinks about the Donner party several times during the day that she and her family first arrive at The Overlook?



Discussion Question 2

How does Halloarann know that Danny has the ability to “shine” as Hallorann calls it?

Discussion Question 3

What is the significance of Hallorann’s comment to Jack that there is no alcohol left at the hotel?

Vocabulary

Sanguine, cannibalism, larder, sentiments, bemused, anachronistic, dreadnought, remonstrating, tirade, macadamized, mundane, serge, noncontentious, sentinel, guilt



4) Part Two: Closing Day Chapters 11 The Shining, 12 The Grand Tour and 13 The Front Porch

Summary

In Chapter 11, Hallorann tells Danny about their shared ability to “shine.” Danny tells Hallorann about Tony and the nightmares he’s had about The Overlook. Hallorann reminds Danny that not everything that he will see through his dreams will come true. He warns Danny not to go into Room 217. He also tells Danny he doesn’t believe that anything that he might see has the ability to hurt him. If there is trouble at the hotel over the winter, Hallorann tells Danny he is to call for him.

In Chapter 12, Ullman gives the Torrences the grand tour of The Overlook. He first takes them to the Presidential Suite where Danny sees what he believes is the image of blood and brain matter on the wall. When they reach the lobby again, Watson is waiting to remind Jack about the boiler.

In Chapter 13, Ullman and the Torrences say their goodbyes, and the Torrences are left alone at The Overlook.

Analysis

Danny feels a little bit better about their winter at The Overlook after his discussion with Hallorann. He warns Danny that he might see some things that happened in the past while in The Overlook but that these things don’t have the ability to harm him. Hallorann also tells Danny that if he ever needs help, that he is to “shine” out to Hallorann. Notice that Hallorann does warn Danny not to go into Room 217. After Danny’s discussion with Hallorann, he does see the image of blood and brain matter on the wall in the Presidential Suite. He takes Hallorann’s advice and closes his eyes. Then, when he looks again, the image is gone.

Although Danny feels better after he has talked to Hallorann, notice that as he drives away, Hallorann doubts the advice that he has given to Danny. His doubt indicates that he has some belief that there is a possibility that these images might be able to hurt Danny physically in some way.

Watson has waited until after Ullman finishes giving the family the grand tour of the hotel to warn Jack again about the boiler. This shows how important Watson feels that it is for Jack to remember that the boiler must be checked several times daily.

It is mentioned in this section of chapters that Wendy harbors a certain amount of jealousy of the closeness between her husband and son. Her jealousy makes her feel



like she is acting like her own mother, a person with whom she does not want to be affiliated. This twinge of jealousy that Wendy has for the relationship between Jack and Danny is one of the troubles upon which the destruction of their relationship, prompted by the hotel, is built.

Discussion Question 1

What is “shining” or precognition?

Discussion Question 2

What is your opinion of Halloran’s claim that pieces of the bad things that have happened in the hotel are still hanging about?

Discussion Question 3

Consider the significance of the “creeping” boiler.

Vocabulary

Errant, trifecta, dubious, lecherous, officious, ostentatiously, demurely, surrealistic, pulverized, conferring, epitomized, codicil, infatuation



5) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 14 On the Roof and 15 Down in the Front Yard

Summary

In Chapter 14, Jack is angered when he is stung by a bee from a wasps' nest hidden in the flashing of the Overlook's roof. He had been thinking about his play, which he feels is going well, and not paying attention for wasps. He feels the play has been a roadblock to his recovery and that once it is finished, he will be able to move ahead. Jack thinks about the way that his life might compare to that wasps' nest as he considers himself "stung" with the conditions of a hard to control temper and his ensuing alcoholism. He thinks about the incident with George Hatfield. He'd had to throw George off the debate team even though the boy was a good debater because he stuttered. George had angrily accused Jack of setting the timer ahead, then had slashed his tires in retaliation. When Jack caught him in the act, he hit the boy, the action that prompted his forced resignation. Even though he had been stressed by the whole ordeal, Jack did not go back to drinking. Jack uses his bug bomb on the wasps' nest, believing that he is making the wasps pay by killing them and destroying their nest. He plans to give the harmless nest to Danny as a decoration for his bedroom.

In Chapter 15, Jack is waiting on the front porch when Wendy and Danny return from town. Wendy has bought Danny a model of a Volkswagon as a reward for when he finishes reading the first of the books they have brought with them. Jack tells Danny he has something for his as well. While Danny runs to the porch, Jack and Wendy share their opinions of Danny's health and happiness. They decide to make appointments for all three of them to see a doctor before the snow comes. When Wendy sees the wasps' nest, she is at first concerned that it is not safe for Danny to have in his room. Jack convinces her it will be okay.

Analysis

In this chapter, the idea is given that Jack might be improving. He believes that his work at The Overlook is therapeutic for him. Along this line of thinking, he compares the wasps' nest he has found to the troubles he had with George. He believes that he is overcoming both. It is important to notice that Jack harbors the feeling that he had been treated unfairly by being forced to resign from Stovington. He thinks about how he gave George every ability he thought he could to stay on the debate team. The root of the problem begins when Jack feels he has to kick George off the team. George is angry, almost a picture of Jack when he is controlled by his temper. He acts and speaks without thinking. This may be why Jack feels so guilty about the way he had to treat George because the boy reminds him of himself.



Notice also in this section that it is mentioned that Jack has always had to fight against his temper. It is this temper, combined with his alcoholism that have caused problems in his marriage. In some cases, such as the one with George, Jack feels that his anger is justifiable.

The phrase that Jack uses when he catches George slashing his tires should be familiar. It is the same phrase that Danny hears in the dreams and visions that Tony sends to him. "Come here and take your medicine" is what Danny hears the man who is following him through the hallways in his nightmares. This indicates that the man who is in Danny's nightmares might be Danny's father.

All in all, Chapters 14 and 15 are probably the chapters with the most positive tone in the entire novel. There are only a few quirks where Jack thinks about his background with the George. Danny also hesitates when he sees the different colored shingles that his father has put on the roof of the hotel. Chapter 15 also ends with a hint of uncertainty as Wendy disagrees with Jack's decision that the wasps' nest is safe to put in Danny's room.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss the symbolism of the wasps' nest.

Discussion Question 2

How does Jack rationalize his actions when he encounters George slashing his tires? Why is George angry with Jack to begin with?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss the tone of these two chapters. How is Jack's frame of mind significant in determining the tone of this section?

Vocabulary

Preternaturally, cogitation, admonishing, demarcation, insolently, juggernaut, conversant, jingoist, spasmodically, belligerent, laceration, caricatures, introspective, concurred



6) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 16 Danny and 17 The Doctor's Office

Summary

In Chapter 16, Wendy listens to her husband typing and believes, like he does, that his success in finishing the play is bringing him closer to healing. Danny is struggling ferociously to read his primers. Wendy sends him to get ready for bed. His parents are concerned when he doesn't come out of the bathroom and the water continues to run. Jack kicks open the door, and they find Danny sitting trancelike on the rim of the bathtub. Jack shakes him and brings Danny back to reality. Danny remembers something about a timer and tells his parents that Tony had told him to lock the door. After they put Danny to bed, Wendy is hurt because he wants Jack to stay with him while he goes to sleep. Danny asks his father if he would ever hurt him or his mother. He also tells him that Tony told him about roque. Before he goes to sleep, he asks his father what redrum is. Jack tells Wendy that if the doctor finds something wrong with Danny, he will send them to her mother's to spend the winter.

Danny does not sleep well that night. He has nightmares of being chased. He is trying to remember what has been forgotten. He wakes to feel something crawling on his hand. Wasps are stinging him. Jack beats the wasps off Danny and takes him from the room. Wendy kills the rest of the wasps while Jack goes for a bowl to get the nest out of the room. Jack takes photos of Danny's hand, which has been stung eleven times, believing that he can sue the bug bomb company. When Jack goes to Danny's room to get a picture of the nest, he believes there are at least 100 wasps crawling on it.

In Chapter 17, the doctor sees Danny having one of his episodes in which he talks to Tony, and he also hears the boy tell him what his parents are thinking as they sit in the next room. However, the doctor tells Jack and Wendy that Danny has nothing more than an overactive imagination.

Analysis

It is in this section of the novel that the first really strange occurrence takes place at The Overlook. Jack believes that he has killed all of the wasps out of the nest and believes that it is safe to put in Danny's room. It is possible that the bug bomb did not kill all of the wasps, but not likely. The family has already been put on edge because Danny had another one of his episodes where he went into a trance in the bathroom. Danny's parents are scared because the door is locked, and they don't know what is happening with him.

Instead of being afraid, Jack is quickly angry with Danny. His anger is similar to that anger that he felt the night that he broke Danny's arm. Although Jack realizes he is



angry, he is even angrier when Wendy takes Danny away from him. He is offended that Wendy has still not forgotten that he hurt Danny. While she is concerned for the boy's safety, Jack holds a grudge because her actions remind him of his own mistake.

Wendy is again upset when Danny asks for Jack to put him to bed instead of Wendy. Wendy seems to believe the boy is discussing some deep topics with Jack even though Jack tries to convince her they only discuss normal things for a five-year-old.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss Wendy's continued concern that Jack will let his temper get out of control and hurt Danny again.

Discussion Question 2

What is the significance of Jack's repeated motion of wiping his lips with his hand?

Discussion Question 3

What is your opinion of the doctor's diagnosis of Danny as having only an overactive imagination? Do you think he was truthful in his diagnosis? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Myriad, innocuous, trinity, mewled, emphatic, petulant, viscous, burlesquing, soporific, levitate, cynically, fragmentarily



7) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 18 The Scrapbook and 19 Outside 217

Summary

In Chapter 18, Jack finds a scrapbook of the hotel's history while rummaging in the basement. He has often wondered with the hotel's spectacular location and guest list why it has not done better financially. He is thinking there must be a story in the piles of receipts and papers in the basement when he comes across the scrapbook. An invitation to a dinner and masked ball from the Horace Derwent era of the hotel falls out of the book. As he looks through the scrapbook, Jack begins to connect with the hotel. It has passed through several owners to land in the hands of Derwent again and opened as a place for the Mafia members to play. In 1966, a gang style shooting took place in the Presidential Suite. Vittorio Gienelli, a mobster, was killed in the suite, while two of his bodyguards were found dead outside the room. Jack is preparing to look through all the clippings again when he hears Wendy calling him. He feels guilty, as if he had been drinking. He hides the scrapbook.

In Chapter 19, although Hallorann has warned him not to, Danny finds himself standing in front of Room 217. Although he doesn't remember having done so, Danny has the room passkey in his pocket. Danny doesn't go in the room, but becomes distracted by the old fashioned fire extinguisher. When he walks up to it, the nozzle falls down, then Danny imagines it chasing him as he runs toward the stairs. When he looks back, it is lying on the floor just as it had fallen.

Analysis

One of the major items introduced in this section of the novel is the scrapbook. Danny has had a vision of this scrapbook before. He believes that it is something from which his father needs to stay away. Danny does not realize in this section that his father has found the scrapbook. It is almost as if his contact with the book begins the hotel's possession of Jack. Notice that when Wendy calls Jack to come up out of the basement while he is looking through the scrapbook, he feels guilty and hides the book, an unusual reaction for a man who is doing nothing wrong. Jack is fascinated by the history of The Overlook and begins to think that there might be a story worth writing among the stray papers and receipts.

One interesting image to note is Jack's sudden flash of thought about Edgar Allen Poe's story "The Masque of Red Death." In this story a prince tries to avoid a plague by hiding out in his home but throws a masked ball in which in disease comes as a masked guest. All the people die at the unmasking. It is unusual that Jack would bring this particular instance of a masked ball to mind. However, this does build on the tone of suspense and impending doom already growing in the story. Another interesting image that Jack



comes across when he is looking through the scrapbook is a picture of the same image of the blood and brain matter on the wall of the Presidential Suite that Danny saw when he first went into the room.

Meanwhile, Danny has his own unusual experience on the second floor of the hotel. Although he isn't sure how he has gotten there, he finds himself standing in front of the door of Room 217. He has the passkey to the room in his hand. When he fights the urge to look inside the room and heads back downstairs, he sees the fire extinguisher hose move off its hook and hears it slither after him like a snake.

Discussion Question 1

How is the information in the scrapbook significant to the novel?

Discussion Question 2

What does Jack believe that Wendy is checking him for when she finds him in the basement?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss Danny's experience with the fire extinguisher.

Vocabulary

Improbable, schematics, spoor, migrations, repose, jocund, hostelry, refurbishings, munitions, magnate, bemusedly, abysmally, salable, nascent, notoriety, terse, monolithic, scabrous, squib, ostensibly, impresario, deportation, reputed, lechery, guilelessly, incinerator, commiserated, depicted, ghastly, furtively, epithets, blandly, berated



8) Part Three: The Wasps' Nest Chapters 20 Talking to Mr. Ullman, 21 Night Thoughts and 22 In the Truck

Summary

In Chapter 20, Wendy interrupts Jack as he is looking through Overlook history at the Sidewinder Public Library. As she questions him, he feels like he always did when she questioned him in his drinking days. After Wendy leaves, Jack goes to a nearby drugstore and he calls Ullman on the payphone. He talks to Ullman about what he has learned concerning the mottled history of the hotel. Jack is pleased by his ability to make Ullman angry with his knowledge. Jack tries to bully Ullman into telling him who owns the hotel currently, but Ullman will only tell him that Al Shockley owns the largest part of stock in the business. He asks about the scrapbook, which Ullman knows nothing about and tells the manager he is thinking about writing a book about the Overlook. Ullman suggests to Jack that he not write such a book. He also tells the man that he wishes he could fire him on the spot. Jack hangs up on Ullman after yelling at him that The Overlook is not his hotel. After he hangs up, Jack realizes he has lost his temper and has perhaps put his job in jeopardy.

In Chapter 21, Al has called Jack and basically threatened him not to write about The Overlook. Although he is angry with Al for suggesting that he not write the book, Jack outwardly agrees with Al that he is not acting in the way that he should. He should be considering Al's kindness to him in getting him the job in the first place. He goes to bed early with the excuse that his headache has come back. Meanwhile, Wendy is worried about Jack. She recognizes that all of his drinking symptoms have come back, but she knows that he is not drinking. She has questioned Danny about Jack's telephone call. Danny tells her that Al is angry because he doesn't want Jack to write a book about the Overlook. Wendy doesn't question him further because she doesn't want to upset him, but decides to talk to him later about The Overlook. In his bedroom, Danny feels as if he is keeping guard over his parents. He knows things have gotten worse, that things have been added to The Overlook. He also knows that the doctor pronounced his behavior normal. While Danny is glad he is not going crazy, he is still worried that he might start crying one day, not be able to stop and be taken away to a sanitarium, like a father of his friend in nursery school. Danny decides on the following day that he will try to call Tony to find out what will happen at The Overlook and if there is any way he can prevent it.

In Chapter 22, a weather forecast on the truck's radio warns Wendy and Danny that snow is expected to start that night. Wendy and Danny discuss their feelings about The Overlook. Danny tells his mother he really doesn't want to stay but knows they have to because it is Jack's job. When Danny learns they would have to go to Wendy's mother's to stay if they didn't go to The Overlook, Danny does not want to go there. She asks



Danny if he can make Tony come to tell them what will happen. He cries as he tells her that he already tried, but Tony didn't come.

Analysis

In this section Jack and Wendy still have a chance to get away from The Overlook. Danny and Wendy talk about their options and believe that it will be best for Jack if they all stay the winter as they had planned. Wendy has been afraid of turning out like the Donners since they were given the job, the radio announcer's ill-timed comment about the Donners adds to her concerns about what might happen to them over the winter.

Meanwhile, almost against his will Jack begins doing things that work against him and his goals for his future. The major thing that Jack does is that he calls Ullman and heckles him about the hotel's past. Jack has also taken up his bad habits such as the constant wiping of his mouth and chewing of Excedrin, that he did while he was drinking.

After Jack finishes his call to Ullman he wonders what possessed him to call the manager. He wonders if there might be some underlying desire to be fired from his job because he senses there is some danger in the place.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Jack beginning to display all of the signs of his drinking days even though he is not drinking? Why are his symptoms significant?

Discussion Question 2

Why do you think Jack calls Ullman? Is he motivated in some way by the sinister forces of the hotel or is he just trying to get even with the man?

Discussion Question 3

Consider Wendy and Danny's discussion in the truck. Why is it so troubling to Danny that Tony won't come when he calls for him? Why do you think it is that Tony won't answer him?

Vocabulary

Reticence, clout, distorted, antagonized, savory, metaphorical, subsidize, penitent, groveled, incestuous, amalgam, elliptical, abrogated, gimlet, jocularly



9) Part Three: That Wasps' Nest

Chapters 23 In the Playground, 24 Snow and 25 Inside 217

Summary

In Chapter 23, Jack heads out to clip the hedge animals. He starts with the rabbit. He is distracted by the playground and when he turns back to the animals he feels oddly as if someone has been watching him. He suddenly realizes that the hedge animals have changed positions. The lions are blocking the path. As he stands, the animals continue to move closer to him. Jack claps his hands over his eyes. When he removes them, the animals are back to their original positions. He forces himself to believe that he hallucinated the whole thing.

In Chapter 24, the snow begins to fall, taking the decision of leaving out of Jack, Wendy, and Danny's hands.

In Chapter 25, it has snowed daily for nearly a week and a half. One day Wendy is knitting a scarf in their room while Jack has gone down to the basement to check the boiler. He has gotten distracted, as he often does, by the mounds of papers. Danny, meanwhile, finds himself back in front of Room 217. He knows he has disobeyed his father, but he is curious about the room. There is nothing unusual until he reaches the bathroom and pulls back the shower curtain. He sees a dead woman in the tub. The woman sits up, and he runs. He hears the woman walking after him. He also hears Hallorann's voice telling him that she can't hurt him. Danny tries to believe him, but the woman's hands close around his neck. He is turned to face her.

Analysis

It is in this section that Jack has his first really disturbing experience on the hotel grounds. While he is trimming the hedge animals and checking out the playground, Jack notices that these animals change position. Jack tries to convince himself that he is hallucinating as a result of Al ordering him not to write the book about the hotel.

It is also in this section of the novel that the snow traps the family into the hotel. They no longer have a choice whether or not they can easily leave the hotel. It is just a few weeks after they are snowed in that Danny is physically hurt by the woman in Room 217. It is as if the hotel realizes the family cannot leave and that it is time to make its move.



Discussion Question 1

Why do the hedge animals go back to their original positions when Jack closes his eyes and tries to convince himself they are not there, but the dead woman in Room 217 does not go away?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Danny go to Room 217 even though Hallorann has told him not to?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Jack throw away the magneto to the snowmobile? Why is this decision significant?

Vocabulary

Amorphous, microbes, menagerie, sinuous, compulsive, permutations, leached, improbably, avidity, atonal, wicket, knurled



10) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 26 Dreamland, 27 Catatonic and 28 “It Was Her!”

Summary

In Chapter 26, Jack and Wendy are both asleep as Danny is meeting the resident of Room 217. Jack is dreaming over the receipts and papers in the basement. He has come to believe that his strange encounter with the topiary was the result of a nervous breakdown. He has decided to move forward with the book even though he knows it will mean the end of his friendship with Al. He dreams of his father. His father was a cruel drunk, but Jack had loved him up until the age of nine when his father had used a cane to put his mother in the hospital. He had hollered at Jack's mother to “take her medicine” as he beat her. When the doctor comes, Jack's father lies and tells him that she fell down the stairs. His mother corroborates the story. Three years later Jack's father dies of a stroke. The images of him and his father turn into images of Jack and Danny.

Suddenly, Jack is in Ullman's office and realizes the passkey is missing. He turns on the CB radio and hears his father's voice ordering him to kill Wendy and Danny. It is telling him to punish Danny for trespassing. In his anger that his father has come back and is trying to influence him after Jack has tried so hard to rid himself of his father's influence, Jack smashes the CB radio. He hears Wendy's frightened voice calling him as he realizes what he has done.

In Chapter 27, Wendy does not see Danny, standing at the top of the stairway with fresh bruises on his neck, as she runs to Ullman's office. He is standing in the office looking at her with a look of bewilderment and desperate unhappiness. He falls into her arms, crying. When he begins to calm down, Wendy asks him where Danny is. He senses that she believes he has hurt the boy. She calls but gets no answer from Danny. When they run upstairs to check their apartment, it is Jack who sees Danny standing on the landing, his thumb in his mouth. Wendy assumes that Jack is the one responsible for the bruises and locks both herself and the boy in their bedroom. Wendy is positive that Jack is responsible for hurting Danny but wonders if she should approach him to take them to safety. She decides to try to trust her husband and heads downstairs with Danny in her arms.

In Chapter 28, Jack is angered by Wendy's lack of unwillingness to trust him. After she had locked him out of the bedroom, Jack had gone to the hotel's bar, for a moment believing he had seen liquor bottles on the shelves. Jack asks the imaginary bartender for 20 martinis. For a moment, he gets the feeling that he is being watched. When he whirls around, there is no one there. He continues in his daydream until her hears Wendy's voice calling him. When he turns to see Wendy and Danny he swears to



Wendy that he did not hurt Danny. Danny suddenly stiffens and begins to scream. He runs for his father telling him that it was she who hurt him. Jack believes he is referring to Wendy.

Analysis

In this section Wendy and Jack's trust in one another begins to disintegrate. The hotel begins to work the two against one another in order to make them easier to manipulate.

It is as if the hotel realizes the family cannot leave and that it is time to make its move. Danny's being hurt feeds Wendy's fear that Jack has hurt Danny. It is at about the same time that Jack had walked in his sleep into the office where he broke the CB radio believing the voice of his father was telling him to kill his family. Wendy thinks it is possible that Jack could also have hurt Danny without realizing what he was doing.

The hotel has hit the proper chord between Jack and Wendy as this opens an old wound of distrust between the two. Jack, who already is known to have a quick temper, is angered because Wendy believes that it was he who hurt Danny. Wendy is scared of her husband and fearful of what he might do next.

It is also in these chapters that Jack begins to hallucinate about drinking. He believes he catches a glimpse of wine bottles and smells fresh beer in the lounge. He also has a conversation with a barkeeper whom he calls by the name of "Lloyd." It is when Wendy takes Danny away from Jack and locks them in their apartment that he turns to pretending to drink. It is also in this section of the novel that Jack first believes that he is seeing people who attended Derwent's masked ball.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Lloyd? What does he represent?

Discussion Question 2

How is Jack's past behavior determining the way that Wendy treats him when Danny is hurt in the hotel?

Discussion Question 3

What is the significance of the masked ball? Why does Jack's mind keep going back to it?



Vocabulary

Cursory, vindictively, unfurling, singlet, ostensibly, projectile, stereopticon, petulance, brandishing, jowls, corroborated, compulsively, disembodied, haranguing, conspiring, awry, hectoring, writhe, pliantly, mescaline, pragmatism, implacable, trepidation, satiric, eradicated, nostalgia, opaque, tableau, temperance, pummel, pallid



11) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 29 Kitchen Talk, 30 217 Revisited, 31 The Verdict and 32 The Bedroom

Summary

In Chapter 29, Danny tells his parents it was the dead lady in Room 217 that strangled him. Danny tells his parents what happened in the room. Then, Jack goes to the room himself.

In Chapter 30, Jack's bravado falters for a moment when he is actually faced with the bathtub in Room 217. When he finds it empty and dry, his irritation returns. As he puts his hand on the doorknob to leave the hotel room, he hears the rings of the shower curtain being slid closed. He senses there is now something behind the curtain. He hurries out of the room, but not before he hears something wet thumping behind him. He stands in the hallway trying to keep himself from believing that he is going crazy. He hears the doorknob being turned from the inside. As he walks back down the hallway, he thinks that the hose of the fire extinguisher has changed positions. He doesn't take the elevator back down.

In Chapter 31, Jack tells Wendy and Danny there was nothing in Room 217. Internally, however, he wishes that he had a drink.

In Chapter 32, Jack looks over his play and realizes for the first time that it is bad. He also realizes he has no idea how to finish it. He has come to loathe the hero of the play, which is unusual for him as he usually has at least basic understanding and compassion for all the characters he creates. Jack is jolted from his thoughts of his play by Wendy asking how they will get Danny down from the mountain. When Wendy asks Jack how a ranger would get them down from the hotel. He says they'd use a snowmobile, reminding her that they have a snowmobile.

Later that night, Jack tries to explain what might have happened to Danny by first acknowledging there may be residues of past people and experiences in the hotel Danny is picking up on. As for the marks, he says they are either stigmata, that Danny thought the marks onto his neck, or that he did that to himself. Jack says that he might not have had the attack if he hadn't gone into the room to begin with. As Wendy continues to insist they have to leave, Jack becomes angry because he knows that Wendy has not considered what will happen to them once they are down the mountain and have no job. He thinks of killing her but is distracted by Danny's moaning and thrashing.

That night, Jack wakes up in the bathroom of Room 217. When he pulls the curtain back, George Hatfield is lying there with a knife in his chest. George stands up and tries



to strangle him. Jack runs out of the room into the basement of the hotel. He swears he will find “it” and comes up with a wasps’ nest in one hand and a timer in the other. He believes George won’t bother him since he has these things in his hands, but the dead George continues to follow him. Jack grabs his father’s cane and begins hitting George. In his dream the cane transforms into a roque mallet, and George transforms into Danny. There is a pounding in the background as Jack brings down the roque mallet a final time.

Analysis

Much happens in this section of the novel as Wendy approaches Jack, trying to mend the break in their relationship. Together the two listen to Danny tell what happened in Room 217. Even though Jack has encountered some of the strange things happening in the hotel, he does not acknowledge that Danny’s story has any validity. Instead, he is angry with the boy for trespassing in a room that he should never have gone into. These thoughts that Danny has misbehaved and has deserved his scare are fed into Jack by the voice of the hotel in his mind.

Jack’s new opinion of his play is significant, as he suddenly believes that his writing is bad. Before this day Jack had believed he was making good progress on his play. Now, he finds that he has chosen sides when it comes to which character that he likes best. Notice, also that the play closely mirrors Jack’s relationship and problems with George.

Significant also in this section is Jack’s dream. Although he did not actually see anything in Room 217, he had a feeling that there was something behind that curtain, then something following him. He dreams of his experience in the room but when he pulls back the curtain, the body in the tub is that of George. George accuses him of trying to kill him. Jack begins beating George with a cane, which turns into a roque mallet. As he continues hitting George with the roque mallet, he notices that George transforms into Danny.

Also important in this section is the background information about Jack and his father. Although Jack had idolized his father when he was a child, he begins to realize as he grows up that his father is not worth this respect. Jack’s father is a mean drunk. He is later disabled and carries a cane, which he uses to beat Jack’s mother on one instance. It is interesting to note that Jack is more angry at his mother for not telling the doctor what really happened to her than he is with his father for beating her. It almost seems as if Jack has some dislike for women because he sees them as being weak and easily manipulated. It is from his father that Jack picked up the phraseology of “giving someone their medicine” to describe punishing or beating someone. This is the same phrase that Danny has heard in his visions.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Jack not acknowledge the experience that he had in Room 217?



Discussion Question 2

Why is it significant that Jack suddenly believes that his play is bad?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss the significance of Jack's dream.

Vocabulary

Cyclic, haunch, contemptuous, befitted, capos, amorphous, amenities, puerile, bizarre, deviant, compile, simpering, postulant, acolyte, paragon, microcosm, travois, precognitive, stigmata, divinity, yogis, imperative, savaging, eluded, ambiguity, equidistantly, paradoxically, supplication



12) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 33 The Snowmobile, 34 The Hedges and 35 The Lobby

Summary

In Chapter 33, Jack locates the snowmobile and all of the parts to make it work. He watches Danny trying to make a snowman and realizes that it is not Danny who is the weak link in the equation but himself. He remembers in catechism class being faced with a picture that all the other students could see. However, Jack couldn't see the face until he walked up to the photo and cursed. Then he suddenly saw the image the others had seen. Just as clearly, he suddenly realizes that it is Danny that The Overlook wants. He believes The Overlook may be wanting to use him to tell its side of the story. So, he takes the magneto from the snowmobile and throws it out onto the snow. He suddenly feels at ease.

In Chapter 34, Danny's parents are napping so Danny decides to go to the playground. He plays in the cement rings and gets the feeling that someone is in there with him. A soft cave in of snow blocks Danny's way out, and he is slightly panicked as he digs his way out. Once he gets out he tries to calm himself but hears noises coming from the topiary. He notices the snow has fallen off the hedge dog. He looks back at the concrete rings and believes he sees a hand waving at him to come back. He hears another noise and notices one of the lion's heads is sticking out of the snow and that it is closer than it should be. He falls. When he gets up, all of the animals are staring at him. They follow him as he walks toward the hotel. Just a few feet from the porch, the lion jumps, tearing Danny's pants and scratching his leg. His parents find him crying on the front porch.

In Chapter 35, Danny tells his parents what happened. Wendy gets angry when Jack starts to cross-examine Danny about the hedge animals. His father tries to convince him it didn't happen. Danny sees clearly that his father knows he is telling the truth, but Jack slaps him when Danny mentions it. After they put Danny to bed, Wendy makes him promise her that when the ranger comes to check on them, they will all go down the mountain with him.

Analysis

It is in this section of the novel Jack suddenly realizes that he is the weak link in The Overlook's chain of command. This could be the reason why Jack lies when Danny tells his parents that he knows his father has also had an experience with the topiary animals moving. It is also noted that Jack feels better about his relationship with the hotel when he throws the snowmobile's magneto into the snow, keeping them from being able to use the snowmobile to leave the hotel. Jack feels like the hotel wants to use him as its



mouthpiece to tell its story. He knows that if Wendy knows that he has seen the topiary animals moving, she will insist more strongly that they move from the hotel.

Discussion Question 1

Why do you think that Jack will not acknowledge that he had a similar experience to Danny in The Overlook's topiary?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss the importance of Jack's memory of the picture of the face of Christ.

Discussion Question 3

What does Jack think the hotel wants him to do?

Vocabulary

Ingot, nostalgic, bludgeoning, cowling, connote, protruding, decapitated, tantamount, siphon, laconically, regiment, catechism, malevolent, gestalt, rambling, magneto, disperse, capon, incongruous, quelled, indentations, askew, lassitudinous, tussle, regression



13) Part Four: Snowbound Chapters 36 The Elevator and 37 The Lobby

Summary

In Chapter 36, Jack, Wendy and Danny are awakened by the sounds of the elevator moving. Jack believes there is a short in the elevator causing it to run. As Wendy and Danny walk toward the elevator, Wendy suddenly gets the idea that there must have been a big party. However, she has no idea why she is thinking about a party. She tells Jack she is hearing voices in her head and feels like she is going crazy. Jack is angry, especially when Danny backs up Wendy's claim. He tells them that he believes they are both going crazy because he doesn't hear anything. When he opens the door of the elevator, Wendy pulls out a handful of confetti and a mask that wasn't there before.

In Chapter 37, Danny is in the ballroom of the hotel, playing with the clock. He has a sudden feeling of anger concerning what he is and isn't supposed to touch. Danny winds the clock. He makes the clock chime and watches as the ballet dancers come out, then make the motions of having oral sex with one another. Danny suddenly realizes that he is the key that winds the actions of the hotel. He wonders if the fact that he is just a five-year-old makes any difference in his responsibility of what is happening at the hotel.

Danny calls for Tony to tell him what will happen at the hotel. Looking into the clock's face, Danny has a vision of himself in the corridor in front of the Presidential Suite. He hears the booming noise of the roque mallet. He sees Hallorann slumped in the hallway. He calls for Hallorann, but the man only steps away from him. He hears Tony calling him, telling him that they won't let him near. Tony tells him that he must call for Dick. He sees an image of their ransacked apartment. He sees the date December 2 reflected in the clock's face. He also sees the reflection of the word "redrum" in the clock which he realizes for the first time spells the word "murder." Danny calls out for Hallorann with all of his might.

Analysis

The paranormal activity at The Overlook really ramps up in this section of the novel as the hotel begins to take on a life of its own. The Torrences wake to the sound of the elevator running on its own. Jack claims the phenomenon is the result of a short in the elevators circuitry, but this explanation doesn't account for the manual grate being opened and closed. This is the first time that Wendy hears the voices and music from the party. She feels as if she is going crazy, but Danny acknowledges that he hears the same sounds. Only Jack denies what is happening around them. It is a good bet that he probably hears the noise of the long ago masked ball as well, but he only tells Danny and Wendy they are crazy. When Wendy pulls a handful of confetti and a mask out of



the elevator, the author does not give Jack an opportunity to try to explain how the items might have gotten there. In fact, no resolution is given to this situation, leaving the ending of the chapter dangling.

The next chapter picks up with Danny playing with the clock in the ballroom. Although he knows that he's probably not supposed to be playing with it, he feels an uncontrollable urge to go against the rules. He seems to know that by winding the clock he has set into action the final horrors for The Overlook. He begs Tony to come and tell him what will happen, but Tony can only communicate to him from a distance that "none of them will let me near you," which can be assumed to mean the ghosts associated with The Overlook.

Danny does, however, have a vision of what will happen on the following day in The Overlook. It is the same dream he has had with the pounding roque mallet and a man's voice calling for him. Although he remembers Hallorann telling him to call for him if he needed help, in his vision, Hallorann does nothing but walk away. The horror of Danny's latest vision, along with the hint that Hallorann might not be as dependable as he once claimed he'd be, leave the reader feeling the full tilt of horror that Danny must feel as he realizes he has set the final stage of the hotel's madness in motion.

Notice also the importance of the masked ball. Even though Danny is not even familiar with the Poe story, the idea of Red Death comes to his mind as he plays with the clock. It seems that the hotel is putting this idea of the plague and its association with The Overlook's ball into the minds of those that it wishes.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss the idea that all time is the same at The Overlook.

Discussion Question 2

Why is the masked ball so significant to the story? What is significant about the references to Poe's story "The Mask of Red Death" in reference to the ball at The Overlook?

Discussion Question 3

Danny questions why as a young child, he is such a key figure in the horror that is about to unfold at the hotel. Discuss why he is integral in the hotel's plot. Why is it significant that he is the one who winds the clock in the ballroom?



Vocabulary

Divert, benumbed, configuration, ratcheting, espied, prone, lolled, embedding, nonchalantly, shards, homicidal



14) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death

Chapters 38 Florida, 39 On the Stairs, 40 In the Basement and 41 Daylight

Summary

In Chapter 38, Hallorann has been grocery shopping for citrus fruits and does not immediately recognize the orangey smell that precludes Danny's coming message. He recognizes the pure terror in the boy's call. When he gets back to his apartment, the will that he has just had written up falls out of his pocket. He wonders if his recent thoughts of death have been a premonition. He thinks of the things he has witnessed in the hotel including strange dreams about a costume party and the movement of the hedge animals. Hallorann had also suspected that other guests had seen things at the hotel. Some had left quickly appearing to be ill, especially after staying in the Presidential Suite. Hallorann misses his flight because he is pulled over for speeding. He hears Danny calling for him again.

In Chapter 39, Wendy finds Danny sitting on the stairs with a busted lip. He tells her that the people in the hotel won't let Tony come to him anymore. He also tells his mother that the hotel plans to make Jack hurt them. When Wendy learns that Jack is in the basement, she gets a knife from the kitchen. They sleep locked in the apartment with the knife that night.

In Chapter 40, Jack has forgotten to relieve the pressure on the boiler. It is sitting at 210 pounds. He thinks for a minute he should just let the boiler go, but he suddenly realizes that it is his job to protect the hotel, not start a fire to burn its secrets. He desperately wants a drink. He believes that since he has helped the hotel, the hotel will help him back by giving him a drink.

In Chapter 41, Danny wakes up from a dream that there has been an explosion at the hotel. He tries to reach out to his father to see what he is thinking but is surprised when another voice orders him out of his father's thoughts. He leaves the apartment and encounters a man in a dog costume in the hallway. The man's face is smeared with blood. He tries to make the man let him by but loses his nerve when the man begins to snarl at him and threatens to eat him. Danny returns to the apartment believing the hotel is in control of things now.

Analysis

In the first chapter of this final part of the novel, the focus shifts from the events taking place at The Overlook and focuses on Hallorann and his determination to get to The Overlook. The times of the events in these three chapters are noted in each of the



chapters to stress how far Hallorann is from The Overlook and how short the time is getting for the Torrences. Danny is terrified because the hotel is keeping him from reaching out to Hallorann or reading his father's thoughts to find out what he is thinking about. Danny is convinced that the hotel is completely in control of their situation. He even believes that the dog man placed in the hallway was put there by the hotel in order to keep him from getting near his father.

As more and more images of the masked ball are described in the novel, it appears that the party was really a drunken, sex fueled free for all for the high and mighty. The dog man yells to Danny information that Derwent apparently had both homo and heterosexual characteristics. The dog man himself threatens to eat Danny, starting with his genitalia.

It is also significant in this section that Hallorann has some of the same visions that Danny and his father have had. He's seen the woman in the bathtub in Room 217 and has also noticed the hedge animals change positions. He gets a feeling that other guests have had similar visions as many guests have left quickly. Hallorann's experiences in the hotel indicate that many people have been affected by the force that seems to control the building.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Hallorann feel so indebted to Danny?

Discussion Question 2

Why is it significant that Hallorann has had dreams of himself serving food at a masked ball at The Overlook?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Danny believe that it is the hotel that will make his father try to hurt him and his mother?

Vocabulary

Reclaimed, consumption, predeceases, shyster, articulated, morosely, mythical, premonition, topography, plateau, vetch, quiff, discreetly, sloven, menacing, disheveled, averted, convulsion, attributed, siren, cloying, obscenity, somnolent, lethal, shrapnel, solder, indemnity, evocative, somnolent, medicinal



15) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death

Chapters 42 Mid-Air, 43 Drinks on the House, 44 Conversations at the Party and 45 Stapleton Airport, Denver

Summary

In Chapter 42, Hallorann is finally on a plane the following morning. Although he'd tried to get a park ranger to check The Overlook, all the workers are busy trying to rescue some climbers who have gotten stuck in the mountains. It is as the plane is about to take off that Hallorann gets Danny's clipped message.

In Chapter 43, Jack senses that all of the past years of the hotel have merged together. He joins the people in the bar and orders a martini from Lloyd. Lloyd tells him the drink is being paid for by the manager, who hopes to meet Danny soon. When he requests to see the manager, the people in the bar become silent and threatening. Jack realizes one of the men in the bar is Derwent.

In Chapter 44, Jack is dancing with a beautiful woman in the ballroom, along with couples from various times. Derwent is supposed to be the woman's date, but he is tormenting Roger, the man in the dog suit. He nearly trips over a drink cart pushed by Grady. Grady tells Jack that it was the hotel who hired Jack. He warns Jack that Danny needs to be corrected for not telling Jack the whole story about the hotel. Grady encourages Jack to cooperate by telling him the scrapbook was left for him to find and that other favors can be given to him as well. He suggests Jack could go to the top of The Overlook's management depending on how he deals with Danny.

Grady takes Jack to the ballroom clock. He hears cries to unmask and wants to look at the faces, but he cannot stop staring at the clock. When the figure comes out, it is a man with a mallet hitting the head of a son wearing a dunce cap. When he turns, the ballroom is empty. He goes to the empty bar. He calls for Lloyd and Grady but gets no answer. He decides to get his own drink, but falls and knocks himself out.

In Chapter 45, after Hallorann's flight lands safely he rents a car and gets directions to a gas station that can put on chains. Even with the chains, driving is slow and Hallorann is detoured. DeeJays spread the warning for motorists to stay off the roads.

Analysis

Things get really odd in this section of the novel as Jack participates in a party attended by past guests, owners, and staff of the hotel. The outdoor spaces of the hotel are decorated with Japanese lanterns. While some guests are wearing costumes, others



are dressed in clothing of other time periods. Derwent is there, and he continues to torment the man named Roger, who is dressed in the dog costume. The actions are reminiscent of Jack's thoughts of his relationship with AI when AI orders him not to write the novel about The Overlook. Their relationship is similar to that of a dog and its owner.

Discussion Question 1

Compare and contrast Grady and Jack.

Discussion Question 2

Why does the idea that the hotel wants Danny more than Jack upset Jack so badly?

Discussion Question 3

Why is it significant that Halloran has just made out his will? Is he sensing his own death is near?

Vocabulary

Suffocant, sinister, averted, recoiled, counterpane, vacuous, fusillade, stylized, vicious, temporal, soirees, sensuousness, cacophony, viscera, pestilent, hepatitic, incest, surreal, deftly, piddle, largess, chastise, berated, languidly, compensation, surmise, divert, impenetrable, renegade, castanets, commiserate, queues, welled, fatalistic



16) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death

Chapters 46 Wendy, 47 Danny and 48 Jack

Summary

In Chapter 46, Wendy goes to the kitchen to make lunch. While downstairs, she can't help but look for her husband. She finds Jack, surrounded by the smell of gin and beer, passed out in the lounge. She offers to help him upstairs, but he grabs her ankle roughly. He accuses her of turning Danny against him. Then, he begins to choke her. Danny has come downstairs. He tries to pull his father off, but Jack slaps him away. Wendy's hand happens to land on a wine bottle which she uses to hit Jack on the head. She explains to Danny that Jack has been possessed by the hotel. They drag him to the pantry and lock him inside.

In Chapter 47, Wendy and Danny can still hear Jack's angry threats from the pantry. Wendy tries to distract him, but Danny starts to cry. It is about 4:30 in the afternoon when Jack's cries stop, but Danny and Wendy hear the sounds of the elevator running.

In Chapter 48, Jack eats crackers as he fights his hangover. He thinks about his mother and father's relationship and suddenly believes his father was right to treat her as he did. He hears the sounds of the party starting again in the Colorado Lounge. His yell to Wendy and Danny that they'll be sorry is answered by Grady. Grady belittles Jack for allowing Wendy and Danny to lock him in the pantry. Grady unlocks the door for him. On the kitchen's chopping block is a fifth of gin, dish of olives, and a roque mallet. A voice, the voice of the hotel, orders Jack to keep his promise.

Analysis

Important in this section of the novel is the descriptions of what Wendy and Danny heard during the night while Jack believes he is part of a party in The Overlook's ballroom. They hear one-sided conversations with Jack yelling as if he is trying to be heard over other people. Danny and Wendy, however, hear only quiet noises or nothing at all on the other side of Jack's conversations.

It is also during this section of the novel that Jack has a change of attitude about his parents' relationship. Although he'd seen his father as the monster for beating his mother, his thinking is muddled and he begins to think that his mother was at fault for driving his father to drink. The idea that his mother deserved the beating that she got is also put into Jack's mind. He suddenly compares Wendy with his mother, thinking that she has driven him to drink and that she deserves to be punished by him.



Notice also that the hotel sets Jack up to be even more angry with his wife by having Grady belittles Jack concerning his inability to keep his wife and son in line. This heckling, along with the promise that if he takes care of this wife and son as promised he will be rewarded, primes Jack to hurt Danny and Wendy.

Discussion Question 1

Whose voice does Jack hear at the end of Chapter 48?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss the techniques by which the author increases the tension in the novel.

Discussion Question 3

Describe the crisis that Wendy is facing in this section of the book. How is it different from what she thought would happen to the family?

Vocabulary

Envisioned, cordoned, subaural, primal, haft, minuscule, surreal, recurred, bohemian, subside, speculative, pungent, ominous, trenchant, usurp, feigning, fawning, servility



17) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death

Chapters 49 Hallorann, Going up the Country, 50 Redrum and 51 Hallorann Arrives

Summary

In Chapter 49, Hallorann runs off the road near Estes Park, but he gets some help from a snowplow driver with the ability to shine. The man, Howard Cottrell, gives Hallorann a pair of heavy mittens and the name of a man who can rent him a snowmobile. When he gets within 10 miles of Sidewinder, Hallorann hears a voice ordering him to turn around, threatening him with death. He tries to close himself off to the hotel's intrusion into his brain. He worries about what might be happening to Danny.

In Chapter 50, Wendy notices it has become quiet downstairs again. She imagines she hears conspiratorial voices coming from the kitchen. She has the feeling that Jack has escaped from the pantry and decides to go check on him. The noise of the clock in the ballroom disturbs her, and she listens as it strikes 12. The lights suddenly blaze in the ballroom, and there are shouts to unmask. Quickly the room is dark and silent again. When she turns, she sees Jack coming after her with the roque mallet. He hits her multiple times with the mallet as she tries to escape to the apartment. She manages to get the knife and thrusts it into Jack's back. She manages to get halfway up the stairs before Jack comes after her again.

In Chapter 51, Durkin rents Hallorann the snowmobile just as Howard Cottrell has said he would. He also trades coats with Hallorann, giving him a heavy parka. As he gets closer to the hotel, he begins to get images of what might be going on there. Among the images is a badly hurt woman in a bathroom. Within sight of The Overlook, Hallorann is attacked by the hedge animals.

Analysis

In this section of the novel King begins to separate his characters, having each of them tell a portion of the story as it gets closer to the end. Tension rises as Hallorann struggles to get to The Overlook in time. He does not know what is happening at the hotel, but the reader knows that Wendy has already been attacked by Jack. As King switches back and forth between what is happening with Hallorann and what is happening at the hotel, it becomes more and more questionable if Hallorann will be able to make it to the hotel in time to help the Torrences.



Discussion Question 1

Do you think Hallorann meeting so many people who could shine on his way to The Overlook was an omen of things to come or just circumstantial?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Wendy go downstairs to check on Jack? What would you have done in the same situation?

Discussion Question 3

If you had been Hallorann, would you have turned back after the first warning from the hotel? What might be his motivation to keep going?

Vocabulary

Capricious, adjured, gesticulating, pallid, inevitable, inarticulate, spuming, desultory, perturbed, abating, rebuslike, malefic, melodrama, susurrating, newel, tubular, belatedly, hassock, velocity, charade, excruciating, morose, obliquely, unperturbed, subliminal



18) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death

Chapters 52 Wendy and Jack and 53

Hallorann Laid Low

Summary

In Chapter 52, Jack continues to pursue Wendy with the mallet. He hits her on the back as she tries to get away from him. She manages to get in the apartment and get the door closed and locked before he reaches her again. She cannot find Danny in the room. Just as Jack bursts through the door, she escapes into the bathroom and locks herself in. As Jack busts through that door, she grabs a double-edged razor to use as a weapon. She slashes at Jack as he tries to put his hand through the door. He gets distracted by an insect like buzz outside and leaves the apartment. Wendy hopes it is a ranger or Hallorann coming. She manages to make her way out of the bathroom, but she falls semiconscious in the bedroom.

In Chapter 53, Hallorann reaches for the snowmobile's gas can as the hedge lion continues to slap at him. He finally grabs the can and empties the contents. He pulls out a lighter and lights it, catching his arm on fire. He thrusts his arm at the hedge lion, catching it on fire. He wonders where the rest of the animals are. His questions are answered when he sees them blocking the front steps of the hotel. He uses the snowmobile to break the barrier. Inside the hotel, he begins looking for Danny. He is horrified by the destruction of the hotel. He heads for the apartment but Jack sneaks up on him before he gets there. He hits Hallorann on the head with the mallet, knocking him out. Jack goes on a search for Danny.

Analysis

Although Jack quickly takes care of Hallorann once the man gets into the hotel, Hallorann does distract Jack from Wendy and succeeds in keeping Jack from killing her. At this point, however, there is no one left to help Danny. Jack has already searched the apartment and has not been able to find Danny there. No mention has been made as to where Danny has gone or what he might be doing when his father searches for him.

Discussion Question 1

What distracts Jack from Wendy?

Discussion Question 2

Consider the significance of Hallorann's Zippo lighter.



Discussion Question 3

What is Jack's driving force in this portion of the novel? After Wendy stabs him, is he still alive, or is he really dead?

Vocabulary

Maundering, pungent, pyre, oblique, contrail, deface



19) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death

Chapters 54 Tony and 55 That which was Forgotten

Summary

In Chapter 54, Danny is walking the halls of the hotel. Tony calls him and warns him that his mother and Hallorann will be hurt badly. Danny begins to hear pounding and the voice of his father. He realizes for the first time the hotel is hiding in his father. Tony tells him that he will remember what his father has forgotten. Danny hears his father's voice and runs until he reaches the third floor. He wakes on the rug outside the Presidential Suite. He hears a motor and hopes that it is Dick and not another mirage of the hotel. He hears the elevator coming up and knows that it is his father.

In Chapter 55, Wendy regains consciousness as Jack goes upstairs in the elevator. She goes into the hallway and sees Hallorann slumped there. She tries to wake the unconscious man. Meanwhile, Danny almost feels relief when his father finally comes around the corner of the hall. Danny tries to reason with the creature who was his father. Wendy hears Jack's voice and knows that he has found Danny. When Danny tells his father to hit him, the man suddenly wavers and transforms into his father. Jack tells Danny to run away, but the boy takes one of his father's hands and kisses it, telling him it is almost finished. Wendy and Hallorann hear silence upstairs, then terrified screaming. The elevator begins to move with the screaming being inside.

Upstairs, Jack had turned the roque mallet on himself. When he is finished the face is a composite of all the horrors of The Overlook. As Jack raises the mallet, Danny realizes what was forgotten. He warns the creature that the boiler is about to explode. The creature runs to the elevator, and Danny suddenly regains his ability to shine.

Analysis

In this section, Tony manages to come to Danny again. He warns Danny what will possibly happen at the hotel. There seems to be a bright spot as Tony tells Danny that he will remember what his father forgot. When Danny recognizes the noise and realizes the boiler is about to explode, it is just in time to distract his father long enough to allow Hallorann to get him and his mother out of the building.

The idea of the mask comes full circle as Danny realizes that the hotel is using his father as a mask behind which to hide. It is when Danny shows his affection to this man who has been so cruel to him that the hotel destroys the "mask" that was his father. Jack's body uses the roque mallet to destroy his face, leaving only a picture of the horrors that have tormented Danny during his stay at the hotel.



Discussion Question 1

Since Tony has been unable to reach Danny for several days, why is he able to get through just before Jack tries to kill him?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss the importance of masks or false faces in this section of the novel.

Discussion Question 3

Why does Tony not tell Danny right off that his father has forgotten to relieve the pressure on the boiler? Why does he wait and let Danny figure it out for himself?

Vocabulary

Maw, chimerical, placental, dank, vertiginous, incoherent, connived, distillation



20) Part Five: Matters of Life and Death Chapters 56 The Explosion, 57 Exit and 58 Epilogue/Summer

Summary

In Chapter 56, Danny runs to his mother and Hallorann as Jack goes downstairs in the elevator. Danny shines to Hallorann that the boiler is about to explode. Danny grabs coats for himself and his mother. Hallorann suddenly gets a vision of the ballroom clock and realizes how short the time is. He picks up both Danny and Wendy and runs with them to the doors. Jack reaches the boiler and releases the valve, but it is too late. The explosion throws Hallorann, Wendy, and Danny over the hedge animals still waiting outside the front doors. Hallorann turns himself over to watch the hotel burn.

In Chapter 57, Hallorann goes to the equipment shed for blankets to keep Danny and Wendy warm on the way to Sidewinder. In the shed, he gets a brief feeling that he needs to kill Wendy and Danny, but he fights against the feeling. On the way down the mountain, the roof of the hotel collapses. When Hallorann stops to add gas to the snowmobile, Danny notices a line of snowmobiles coming in their direction.

In Chapter 58, the next summer, Hallorann has rented a cabin at Red Arrow Lodge, where he is working, for Danny and Wendy to stay while they recover. Hallorann tells Wendy that she and Danny will be all right, different, but all right. Al Shockley has gotten her a job in Maryland that she will start in September. He asks only that she not forget old friends. Hallorann also talks to Danny. He understands the boy's feeling that his father died because of Danny's special abilities. Hallorann tells Danny that if he ever needs him he can call, and he'll come.

Analysis

This section of the novel is generally positive as Hallorann watches the hotel destroyed by the fire. He thinks of it as being killed. The narrative describes the ballroom clock and bathtub in Room 217 being split in half. The wall in the Presidential Suite also bursts into flames. There is only one tense moment as Hallorann is briefly influenced by the hotel when he steps into the equipment shed to get blankets for Danny and Wendy. Hallorann is able to overcome the desire that he gets to kill the boy and his mother when he looks at the rogue mallets. On the way down the mountain, Danny points out a whole line of snowmobiles coming in their direction bringing help.

The concluding scenes in the novel show Hallorann caring for Danny and Wendy and convincing the two that they will be okay. Wendy has gotten a job with the help of Al



Shockley and will move with Danny to Maryland in September. Until that time, the two have been staying at the resort where Hallorann has worked during the summer.

The final image is that of Hallorann, now a sort of father figure to Danny, helping him reel in a fish. One of the promises that his mother had made to Danny when things began to get bad at The Overlook was that the three of them would go fishing in the spring. She uses the activity as a way to convince her son that everything will turn out okay in the end. Though they have been through a traumatic event and Danny has lost his father, the image of him catching a fish with Hallorann indicates that Danny will, indeed, be all right.

Discussion Question 1

What is the significance of the hedge animals being burned?

Discussion Question 2

How is Hallorann able to overcome the influence of the hotel and get Wendy and Danny to safety?

Discussion Question 3

Do you believe the soul of the hotel is killed in the fire? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Calliope, pylon, riven, fusillade, façade, abjectly, alabaster, pennants, manta, motes, patricide, ague, denuded, parabola



Characters

Jack Torrence

Jack Torrence is one of the main characters in the novel “The Shining.” He is the husband of Wendy and father of Danny. He feels that he has to prove his ability to provide for and care for his family. He has recently lost his job because he lost his temper when a student cut the tires on his car. He has also recently overcome an alcohol habit that hindered his ability to teach as well as his ability to write. As an alcoholic, Jack had also lost his temper when Danny spilled beer on a play on which he was working. He broke Danny's arm. Jack is still struggling to regain Wendy's trust after he hurt Danny. Although he has promised her that he will not hurt Danny again, he also seems to be struggling to believe that he can keep his promise.

Jack is hired as the caretaker of a resort hotel during the winter. He plans to finish a play that he is working on during his spare time at the hotel as he will have no distractions. It is the family's hope that when Jack completes and sells his play, he will be able to get his career back on track. Instead of concentrating on his play, however, Jack gets distracted by the history of the hotel and the story that he might be able to write on the colorful history. As time goes by, Jack is possessed by the hotel. He begins to have hallucinations of people who were part of the hotel's history. These people tell him to punish and kill his wayward son and to kill his wife. Jack tries to follow their commands, but he has forgotten to release the pressure on the hotel's boiler. As he is in the process of tormenting his son, Danny reminds Jack that the boiler is about to burst. Jack rushes to the basement of the home to relieve the pressure, but it is too late to keep the boiler from exploding.

Daniel Torrence

Daniel “Danny” Torrence is the son of Jack and Wendy Torrence. Although he has been warned by his friend Tony of the horrors that await him at The Overlook, Danny does not say anything to his parents because he knows that his father needs the job. Once at the hotel, the powers of the building seem to tap into Danny's powers of perception. Halloran, the cook at The Overlook, tries to comfort Danny by telling him that nothing that he sees will be able to hurt him. However, Danny is choked by the ghost or apparition of the woman who died of an overdose in the bathtub of Room 217. The bruises on his neck cause a rift between Danny's parents as they try to determine what happened to him. When things become bad at The Overlook, Danny shines out to Hallorann to come and help them. It is also Danny who remembers that his father has forgotten to relieve the pressure on the boiler. While Jack is distracted by the boiler, Danny, his mother, and Hallorann have the opportunity to escape from the hotel.



Tony

This is the person whom Danny's parents refer to as his "invisible playmate," but this is actually an older version of Danny's own personality. Tony gives Danny visions of what might happen in the future. Since Tony showed Danny things that have not come to pass, such as a little sister, Danny believes the horrible images that Tony shows him about The Overlook might not happen either. It is also Tony who helps Danny survive his father's attempt to kill him. He helps Danny realize the boiler is about to burst, distracting Jack and giving Danny, Hallorann, and Wendy a chance to escape.

Winnifred "Wendy" Torrence

Wendy is Jack's wife and Danny's mother. She is perhaps the character who is most in the dark about what is going on at The Overlook. She does not have the perceptive abilities of her son and has had none of the experiences that her husband has had with the hotel, such as the movement of the topiary animals. Since Wendy's mother has blamed her divorce on Wendy and has indicated to her that she is not a good mother to Danny, Wendy is dealing with a guilt complex that makes her feel responsible for the things that have gone wrong in her life. She loves Jack and wants to stay with him, but his drinking has already lodged a wedge of distrust between them. She does not leave him because she knows she would have to go back to her mother. While she doesn't fully understand her son's abilities, she recognizes that there is something special about him even though the doctor in Sidewinder tries to make light of the child's abilities. Toward the end of the novel, Wendy begins to depend on Danny to let her know where Jack is and if it is safe for the two of them to be around him.

George Hatfield

George Hatfield was a student on Jack's debate team at Stovington. He represents to Jack the advantages that wealthy people have that Jack never had. He feels that George's father has used his influence to get George into the affluent school. Even though George isn't particularly intelligent, he is a good debater. The trouble comes when George gets deeply involved in debating and begins to stutter. During one session George becomes angry with Jack, claiming that he set the timer forward. Finally, Jack has no choice but to cut George from the team. In retaliation, George slashes the tires on Jack's car. Jack catches George in the act and becomes angry. He hits the boy. Apparently, he takes the knife away from George and threatens him with it. It is because of this incident that Jack is forced to resign from Stovington.

Dick Hallorann

Dick Hallorann is the man who works as the cook at The Overlook. He has the same ability to shine that Danny has. Before Hallorann leaves The Overlook, he tells Danny that if there is ever any trouble at the hotel to call out for him. Although it scares



Hallorann, and he is afraid that he will not come back from the hotel alive, Hallorann gets to the hotel as quickly as possible. During his flight to Colorado as well as while he is driving to Sidewinder, he meets two different people who shine and understand how important that it is that he gets to The Overlook. Once there, Hallorann is confronted by the hedge animals who try to keep him out of the hotel. He uses gasoline from the snowmobile as well as an old Zippo lighter he's had since the war to burn the animals. Once inside the hotel he is incapacitated by Jack, but he is brought back to consciousness by Wendy in time to get her and Danny out of the hotel before it explodes. While he is looking for blankets in the equipment shed, Hallorann is briefly possessed by the hotel. He is almost convinced to kill Danny and his mother. Hallorann, however, is able to break the possession so he can get Danny and Wendy to safety. In the epilogue of the book, Hallorann has arranged for Danny and Wendy to stay in a cabin at a resort where he is working so he can oversee their recovery.

Horace Derwent

Horace Derwent was a millionaire who bought and refurbished The Overlook after World War II. He is the owner who added the roque court to the resort. Even with everything that Derwent put into the resort and his reputation for being able to succeed, The Overlook was not successful. He eventually sold the hotel to a group of California investors after he lost three million dollars with it. It is Derwent who plans the masked ball and dinner to celebrate the opening of the hotel that seems to still haunt the building. Derwent often used unsavory business practices to keep his businesses running including smuggling and prostitution. Later in Jack's visions in the bar, Derwent is a man in a foxhead. Those at the party tell Jack that the man is AC/DC as he torments another man, named Roger, who is dressed in a dog suit. When the clock in the ballroom chimes, it is Derwent who tells the guests to unmask.

Albert Shockley

Albert Shockley is Jack's friend from Stovington Preparatory Academy. Albert tells Jack that he is working with the executives at Stovington to try to get Jack his job back at the school. He seems to think that if Jack finishes his play at The Overlook and has it published, it will help him to get his job back. Albert helps Jack get the job at The Overlook. Al owns a large portion of the stock, as the winter caretaker. After Jack calls Ullman and tells him of his plans to write a book about The Overlook, Jack gets an angry phone call from Albert ordering him not to write the book. He accuses Jack of double crossing him by taking the job from him, then threatening to write an expose book about the hotel. Jack is offended and angered by Albert's phone call and decides to write the book anyway.



Stuart Ullman

Stuart Ullman is the manager of The Overlook. Most of the employees agree that Ullman is a difficult person with whom to work. Ullman even admits to Jack that he has to be a bastard in order to run the hotel correctly. He is a penny pincher who refuses to replace the hotel's boiler, even though its pressure is not stable and tends to creep up. It does not have proper safety features, and it is patched and in bad shape. Ullman does not like Jack and does not have any trouble letting Jack know this. He has a habit of referring to The Overlook as "his hotel," a habit that irritates Jack especially after he learns the checkered history of the ownership of the hotel and knows that Ullman is not included.

Delbert Grady

Delbert Grady is the name of the man who served as caretaker for the winter of 1970. Ullman blames Grady's murder of his family on the amounts of whiskey that he drank. Even Watson tells Jack that he had gotten bad vibes from Grady. Later, when the hotel comes to life for Jack, Grady has the position of a bartender. He tells Jack that he, Grady, has never been the caretaker, Jack has always had that position. Grady also knows nothing of having killed his wife and daughters. It is also Grady who encourages Jack to discipline his son, who he says has not told Jack all that he knows about the hotel. It is also Grady who tells Jack that Danny has contacted Hallorann for help. Finally, Grady is the one who lets Jack out of the pantry and supplies him with the roque mallet.

Watson

Watson is the maintenance man for The Overlook Hotel. He is the grandson of Robert Townley Watson, the man who built The Overlook. Watson warns Jack that he must check the boiler at least four times daily as the pressure will creep up on the unit. He complains that the boiler is outdated and needs to be replaced. While he is giving Jack a tour of the basement of the hotel, he tells Jack a little bit about the resort's history. He also tells Jack about the paperwork in the basement.

Delores Vickery

Delores Vickery is the chambermaid who is fired after she claims to have seen a vision of the woman who committed suicide in the bathtub of room 217. Hallorann tells Danny that Delores had a bit of an ability to shine.



Robert Townley Watson

Robert Townley Watson is the man who built The Overlook during the years 1907 – 1909. He is the grandfather of the hotel's maintenance man.

Roger

Roger is a man whom Horance Derwent is busy tormenting during the recreation of the masked ball during the Torrences' time in The Overlook. Although this man's identity is never stated, it is suggested that this man has a homosexual crush on Derwent.

Dr. Bill Edmonds

Dr. Bill Edmonds is the doctor in Sidewinder who does a physical checkup on Danny before the family is snowed in at The Overlook. Even though the doctor sees Danny have one of his fits and hears him read his parents' minds even though they are sitting in the next room, the doctor diagnoses Danny with nothing more than an overactive imagination.

The Donners

The Donners were a group of people who had gotten lost in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the winter and had to turn to cannibalism in order to stay alive. Thoughts of these people cross Wendy's mind often as she worries about her family's future at The Overlook.



Symbols and Symbolism

The Scrapbook

Jack finds this scrapbook about the distasteful side of The Overlook's history in the hotel's basement. Inside it is an invitation to a masked dinner and ball announcing the re-opening of the hotel in the 50s, it is this ball that seems to come to life during the Torrences' time in the hotel. The scrapbook seems to tip off Jack's obsession with the hotel.

The Bad Thing

The Bad Thing is the phrase that Danny uses to describe his father's drinking.

Red Volkswagen Bug

The Torrences' car is a red bug. It has a fuel pump that is going bad. George Hatfield slashed the tires on this car in his anger over being cut from the debate team.

A Black Silk Cat's Eye Mask

After the Torrence family hears the hotel's elevator running although there is no one around it, they open the elevator to find this mask, which they had never seen before inside.

Sidewinder Pass

As they are driving to The Overlook, Jack tells Wendy and Danny that snow plows don't go past a sign notating Sidewinder Pass in the winter.

Stovington Preparatory Academy

It is at this school that Jack worked before he lost his temper and hit a student when he caught the boy slashing his tires. Jack is forced to resign from his position; but, he hopes that if his play is well received, he can get his job back.

The Clock in the Ballroom

It is when Danny winds this clock in the ballroom that The Overlook seems to come to life in full force. In the reflection of the clock, Danny realizes for the first time that



Redrum, the word he's been hearing and having visions of is actually the word "murder" spelled backwards.

Excedrin

Excedrin is the only nonprescription medication that Jack can take to relieve his hangovers. Although he has not been drinking, he starts taking Excedrin again while he is working at The Overlook. He even chews the pills so that they will take effect more quickly.

Old Fashioned Fire Extinguisher

This fire extinguisher bothers Danny on the first day that he sees it. Later, Danny sees the nozzle of the extinguisher fall from its bracket and he imagines that it follows him like a snake. It is on this same extinguisher that Jack believes he notices the nozzle has changed from one direction to the other in just a few minutes.

Straw-Wrapped Wine Bottle

Wendy uses one of these decorative bottles in the hotel's bar to hit Jack over the head, knocking him out when he tries to attack her the first time.

The Overlook's Boiler

Minding the boiler is one of Jack's most important jobs as winter caretaker. Watson, caretaker for the hotel, warns Jack that the pressure on the boiler would creep up which could cause an explosion if this pressure is not checked.

Roque Mallet

It is a roque mallet that Jack uses to beat his wife. He also comes after his son with it. Grady left the mallet for Jack when he let him out of the pantry. Jack abandons the mallet in the third floor hallway when he realizes the hotel's boiler is about to explode.

ArcticCat

This is the type of snowmobile that Hallorann is given to go up the mountain to The Overlook to rescue Danny.



The Elevator

Wendy does not want the family to use the old elevator because she is afraid they will get trapped inside it. Toward the end of their stay at The Overlook, they hear the elevator working even though there is no one near it.

Danny's Caul

Danny is born with this membrane over his face. Old wives say a child with a caul born over their face is a sign the child would have special perception.

A Wasps' Nest

Jack finds this wasps' nest when he is replacing shingles on The Overlook's roof. The nest becomes a symbol of Jack's ability to overcome the "stings" that life has dealt him. The nest becomes a chilling reminder that life can twist and turn when wasps come back to life in the nest after he believes he has killed all of the insects and put the nest in Danny's room.

The Hedge Animals

Danny and Jack both witness these animals changing position though Jack lies about it when Danny tells his experience. On the day that Halloran goes to The Overlook to rescue Danny, the animals attack him and try to keep him out of the hotel.

Old Zippo Lighter

Although he's had it in his pocket since the war, Halloran hopes this old Zippo lighter will work one more time so he can set fire to the hedge animals that are keeping him from getting to The Overlook.



Settings

Playground

While he is playing in playground, Danny believes that he comes in contact with the spirit of a boy who might have died or been killed there.

The Colorado Lounge

The Colorado Lounge is the nightclub in the hotel. It is in this lounge that Jack talks to a bartender named Lloyd and pretends he is drinking. It is also in this lounge that Jack believes that he is seeing former clients of the hotel making fun of him.

Rug Outside the Presidential Suite

When Danny wakes from a dream in which he has spoken to Tony, the night The Overlook's boiler explodes, he is on the rug outside the presidential suite in the hotel. Danny has seen this place before in his dreams.

Topiary

The hotel's topiary contains a variety of hedge animals including a rabbit, dog, and two lions. Both Danny and Jack notice that the animals in this topiary have moved into threatening postures. The topiary animals actually chase Danny. These animals attack Halloran and try to keep him from rescuing Wendy and Jack the night that The Overlook's boiler explodes.

Sidewinder

Sidewinder is the closest town to The Overlook Hotel. It is 40 miles away from the hotel.

The Overlook Hotel

The Overlook Hotel is the Colorado mountain resort hotel where Jack is hired as the winter caretaker. The Overlook Hotel has a checkered history because a murder-suicide and several deaths have occurred there. The hotel is destroyed at the end of the novel as the boiler explodes when Jack forgets to relieve the pressure on it.



Overlook Kitchen

The kitchen of The Overlook is Halloran's space in the hotel. It is where Wendy prepares the family's meals and where they eat most of the time since they don't like eating in the empty dining room.

The Basement

The basement, where the boiler is located, is where Jack spends much of his time looking through old papers and receipts. It is also in this room that Jack finds the scrapbook giving him the checkered past of The Overlook.

Equipment Shed

The equipment shed is where the snowmobile is stored. It is also in this shed that Halloran is briefly possessed by the hotel and considers killing Wendy and Danny.

Third Floor of the West Wing

It is in this wing of the hotel that Delbert Grady and his dead family members are found.

Room 217

Room 217 is the room in which a lady died of an overdose of alcohol and sleeping pills after her younger lover left her while staying at the hotel. It is in this same room that Danny sees the dead woman lying in the tub, and he is chased by her. It is during this same encounter that the woman chokes Danny, leaving bruises that Wendy believes Jack has caused.

Red Arrow Lodge

Red Arrow Lodge is the Maine resort where Halloran works. He reserved one of the nicest cabins for Wendy and Danny to recuperate in during the summer season.



Themes and Motifs

Background of the Hotel

The background of the hotel is perhaps one of the most important aspects upon which King builds his story as a building must have a history in order to be haunted. The hotel has been the ruin of many both financially and physically. The grandson of the man who originally built the fine hotel has the lowly position of the janitor. Even while it was being built, the hotel was plagued with tragedy. One of the original owner's sons was killed in a riding accident on the grounds of the hotel while it was being built. The man's wife later died of the flu; then, he was demoted to caretaker. He later killed himself by sticking his finger in a light socket.

Delbert Grady, another caretaker of the hotel, killed his wife and two daughters while taking care of the hotel during the winter, just as Jack is planning on doing. After the murders, Grady kills himself. He is one of the "spirits" that haunts the hotel. He appears often to Jack to convince him to sacrifice his son to the hotel.

The murder of the mobster and his two bodyguards also adds to the bad jives of the hotel. When Danny enters the Presidential Suite where the murders took place, he sees the blood and brains on the wall, just as it appeared the night of the murder. Hallorann later admits that several guests, especially those staying in that same suite had left quickly and unexpectedly, with some of them looking sick. Hallorann had often wondered if these people had seen or sensed something unusual in the room.

The suicide of the lady in Room 217 results in another bad mark on the hotel's reputation. Although Ullman had kept the story of the lady's death out of the papers, her soul still haunts the hotel. Delores Vickery, Hallorann, Danny and Jack have all had experiences with the soul of the woman who killed herself in this room.

The masked ball scheduled to introduce hotel to society when Derwent re-opened it after World War II, is a strong force within the hotel. When the hotel comes to life, it is this masked ball that is re-enacted. It is never indicated exactly what happened at the ball that has influenced the hotel so strongly, but it appears that the party was lurid with lots of drinking and inappropriate sexual relationships. In the scrapbook that Jack finds in the basement, it is indicated that Derwent had intended to open the hotel as a play place for the rich and famous. It is also suggested that he planned the hotel to be a retreat for the mafia. Jack never finds much information about this time in the Overlook's history, but it can be assumed the parties were quite colorful.

Along with the murders and suicides, Watson tells Jack that at least 45 people had died in the hotel over the years. He credits the deaths to older people coming to the hotel to relive their days of sexual fortitude. The hotel definitely has an air of sexual promiscuity. For instance, the figurines from the ballroom clock have oral sex when Danny winds it.



Also, the dog man sent to keep Danny from going to his father threatens to eat Danny, starting with his genitalia.

Jack and Wendy's Troubled Relationship

One of the facets of the Torrence family that allows it to play so easily into the wills of the hotel is the recent trouble that Jack and Wendy have had. Wendy hopes that the time alone will give them a chance to reconnect as a family. She feels positive enough about her relationship with Jack to go with him into isolation because he has given up drinking, even though Wendy knows his abstinence has not been easy. Jack, on the other hand, probably doesn't realize how close his marriage came to ending because of his alcoholism. Instead of having the same focus of reconnecting with his family, however, Jack is hoping to prove to those around him that he does have what it takes to keep a job and that he can keep his temper in line. Jack is probably truly stressed going into his job as caretaker. He blames his feelings of insecurity on those around him. But, in reality, he is still dealing with guilt from breaking Danny's arm years before and the guilt of losing his temper once again with another person's child, which resulted in losing his job and his family's once secure future.

While the Torrences are staying at the hotel, things happen that cause the two to remember the troubles of their past. First, Danny is stung by wasps from the wasps' nest he thought was empty. Wendy had questioned Jack's decision to let Danny put the nest in his room, fearing that it wasn't safe. This incident where Jack has, once again, done something — even though it was unintentional — to hurt Danny brings back her lack of trust in him. This lack of trust comes back in full force when they find Danny with choke marks on his neck. Wendy is convinced that Jack is responsible even though Danny tells a different story.

Meanwhile, Jack's anger at Wendy is growing as she will not believe that he was not the one who hurt Danny. She locks Danny in the apartment with her, alienating Jack even more. At this point, the forces of the hotel have already begun working on Jack. He is becoming fascinated with the history of the building, a topic which is pulling him off track from working on the play he'd intended to finish over the winter. When he realizes he hates the play and has no idea how to finish it, he is even angrier with himself. His only choice is to write the book about The Overlook, as he feels the hotel is wanting him to do. Over the course of time, all of Jack's physical symptoms of his drinking days have also come back, reminding Wendy of the Jack that she was afraid of and wanted to divorce.

Additionally, Jack and Wendy are also fighting against their own pasts, which the hotel uses against them as well. Particularly significant is Jack's relationship with his father. Although Jack had idolized his father as a small boy, he soon came to realize that he was mean and cruel. He has vowed not to be like his father. On the day he breaks the CB radio, Jack believed that he had heard the voice of his father coming out of the radio, ordering him to kill his wife and son. Jack also has images of beating his son with a roque mallet, the same way that his father beat his mother with the cane.



Toward the end of the novel, Jack's feelings toward his father have changed. As he becomes more and more frustrated with the way Wendy is treating him, he becomes convinced that it was his mother who drove his father to drink. He also believes that on the day his father beat his mother so badly, she had done something to deserve the punishment. As a result of the influence of the hotel, Jack feels the same way about Wendy. He believes that she is the one who has driven him to want to drink. He also believes that she deserves to be punished, just as his father punished his mother.

Recurring Images

Various images recur throughout the entire novel. One of images that is mentioned most often in this book is that of the mask. In fact, just before the hotel is destroyed, Danny realizes that the entity that is the hotel has taken charge of his father and is using Jack as a mask. In an attempt to make Danny understand how completely his father is gone, the hotel makes Jack's body use the roque mallet to completely destroy his face. When he finishes, Danny recognizes all of the horrors that have plagued him while at the hotel in his father's face.

The idea of the masked ball is another image that recurs throughout the novel. Jack, Danny, and Wendy all have images of masked parties placed into their minds by the hotel. Wendy's thoughts about the masked party come on the first night that the elevator begins to run by itself. When she looks inside the elevator, there is a mask that had never been there before. By the way it is described, it appears to be the same mask worn by the woman who dances with Jack on the night before the hotel is destroyed. Jack thinks of the masked ball, in particular that one described in Edgar Allan Poe's short story "Masque of Red Death." In the story, the plague is given to all of the guests when the call comes to unmask. Of course, when the call comes to unmask at The Overlook, it is time for Jack to kill Wendy and Danny.

The image of the roque mallet is another object that appears often in the novel. Danny has images of this item even before he knows what it is. He sees a vision of the mallet, caked with blood and hair, in the passenger seat of his father's car when he returns from his job interview at The Overlook. Jack sees the roque mallet in his dream when he imagines himself beating George. In the ballroom clock, one of the figurines is a man chasing his son with a roque mallet and bashing his head in. After Grady lets Jack out of the pantry, there is a roque mallet leaning against the cutting block, ready for him to use on Danny. It is also when Hallorann sees the roque mallet in the equipment shed that he briefly gets the urge to kill Danny and Wendy. Hallorann, however, is able to fight off the urge.

The wasps' nest is another image that recurs throughout the novel. Jack first sees his ability to kill the wasps and make the nest "safe" a sign that he can get control of the other dangers in his life as well. Jack's horror is obvious both because Danny is hurt by his assumption that the nest was no longer a threat, as well as the implications that the resurrection of the wasps has on Jack's ability to take charge of his bad habits, including his drinking and temper.



Styles

Point of View

This novel is told from the third person point of view of an omniscient narrator. The point of view shifts between several different characters throughout the novel. These point of view changes allow the reader to get input about the situation from all characters instead of just one. The majority of the story is told from the points of view of the Torrence family, including Wendy, Jack, and Danny. It is not until Part Five of the novel that a fourth character, Hallorann, joins the characters that tell the story from his point of view. In fact, much of this final part is told from Hallorann's point of view.

Language and Meaning

The most interesting part of the way this novel is written is the way that King interjects the thoughts of characters as he writes. King uses italics to capture a character's thoughts. For instance, during Jack's interview with Ullman, the derogatory thoughts that Jack is having about Ullman are in italics. Sections of text set off by parenthesis indicate bits of thoughts and memories from the past. For instance, in Chapter 3, Jack's memories of the instances behind Danny's broken arm are cordoned off by parentheses.

Structure

This novel is divided into five large sections. Each part of the novel has a label title that gives the main theme of that part. For example, the first part is named "Prefatory Matters." As indicated, this part of the novel details what goes on before Jack starts his job at the hotel. Each paragraph in the novel is also given a label title that similarly gives an idea about what will be happening in that chapter.

The first part of the novel is comprised of seven chapters that tell the history leading up to Jack, Wendy, and Danny moving into The Overlook. The next part of the novel consists of six chapters that detail the day that the Torrences move into The Overlook. Things start to get strange in the third part of the novel when Jack comes across the wasps' nest while shingling the roof. This part of the novel is fittingly labeled "The Wasps' Nest."

In the fourth part of the novel, snow traps the family in the hotel. In the fifth and final part of the novel, titled "Matters of Life and Death" Hallorann joins the action of the novel, hurrying to try to get to The Overlook in time to save Wendy and Danny from the inevitable. It is in this final part that the action of the novel climaxes. A final chapter, titled as the epilogue, updates the reader on the conditions of Wendy and Danny several months after their ordeal.



Quotes

Have a drink, Jacky my boy, and we'll play the elevator game. Then I'll go with you while you give him his medicine.

-- Jack's Father (Chapter 26 paragraph 29)

Importance: Jack dreams about his father. These words are significant because although Jack doesn't admit it, he sees himself turning into his father, who abused his family when he was drunk. The elevator game was Jack's favorite game with his father even though he sometimes got hurt in the game when his father was drunk. The phrase "give him his medicine" was Jack's father's way of saying he was about to give out punishment for what he saw as a crime or misbehavior.

I don't believe you care much for me, Mr. Torrance. I don't care. Certainly your feelings toward me play no part in my own belief that you are not right for the job.

-- Stuart Ullman (Chapter 1 paragraph 31)

Importance: Stuart Ullman, who is the manager of The Overlook, angers Jack Torrance by indicating that he doesn't believe he is able to properly do the job as the caretaker of the hotel.

Well, that's how it is in this hotel. I don't know why, but it seems that all the bad things that ever happened here, there's little pieces of those things still layin around like fingernail clippings or the boogers that somebody nasty just wiped under a chair.

-- Hallorann (Chapter 11 paragraph 101)

Importance: Hallorann describes the way that pieces of the past seem to hang around The Overlook. Hallorann goes on to tell Danny that he may come across pieces of the past but that he does not believe that these pieces can harm him.

He felt in a way that the play itself, the whole thing, was the roadblock, a colossal symbol of the bad years at Stovington Prep, the marriage he had almost totaled like a nutty kid behind the wheel of an old jalopy, the monstrous assault on his son, the incident in the parking lot with George Hatfield, an incident he could no longer view as just another sudden and destructive flare of temper.

-- Jack (Chapter 14 paragraph 10)

Importance: This quote from the novel describes the way that Jack believes his play has become representative of all of the troubles that he has had in his life. He feels that if he can get the play finished, he can get to a better life.

Every hotel has its ghost? The Overlook had a whole coven of them. First suicide, then the Mafia, what next?

-- Jack (Chapter 18 paragraph 67)



Importance: When Jack begins to dig into the history of The Overlook, he is surprised by the checkered background of the hotel.

Ullman's explanations of the Overlook's checkered career still didn't ring quite true to him. It seemed that the Overlook's spectacular location alone should have guaranteed its continuing success.

-- Jack (Chapter 18 paragraph 12)

Importance: These are Jack's thoughts as he wonders why The Overlook has done so poorly as a hotel despite its ideal location.

He would write the book. If it meant the end of his association with Al Shockley, that would have to be. He would write the hotel's biography, write it straight from the shoulder, and the introduction would be his hallucination that the topiary animals had moved.

-- Jack (Chapter 26 paragraph 4)

Importance: After his experience with the topiary animals, Jack believes that Al has pushed him too far, causing him to hallucinate. He decides that in retaliation for Al's pressure causing him to snap, he will go ahead and write the book even though he knows it will make Al angry and will ruin their friendship.

She creeps,' Watson said. 'You tell that fat little peckerwood Ullman, he drags out the account books and spends three hours showing how we can't afford a new one until 1982. I tell you, this whole place is gonna go sky-high someday, and I just hope that fat fuck's here to ride the rocket.

-- Watson (Chapter 2 paragraph 20)

Importance: This passage is significant because in it Watson forecasts the way that The Overlook will be destroyed. Although Watson is careful to warn Jack that he needs to keep an eye on the boiler because the pressure will creep upward, Jack forgets this advice.

He understood a great many things about his parents, and he knew that many times they didn't like his understandings and many other times refused to believe them. But someday they would have to believe.

-- Danny (Chapter 4 paragraph 5)

Importance: Danny realizes that his parents don't fully understand or believe that he knows the scope of things that he knows. He is aware that one day, his parents will know that what he has known all along has come to pass.

It was the place he had seen in the midst of the blizzard, the dark and booming place where some hideously familiar figure sought him down long corridors carpeted with jungle. The place Tony had warned him against. It was here. It was here. Whatever Redrum was, it was here.

-- Danny (Chapter 8 paragraph 44)



Importance: These are Danny's thoughts the first time that he sees The Overlook and realizes that it is the same place that he has seen in his nightmares.

Me, I've always called it shining. That's what my grandmother called it, too. She had it. We used to sit in the kitchen when I was a boy no older than you and have long talks without even openin' our mouths.

-- Hallorann (Chapter 11 paragraph 9)

Importance: Hallorann uses these words to describe to Danny the way that he and his grandmother could communicate. He tells Danny that he has the same talent for unspoken communication.

They had come back. He had killed the wasps but they had come back.

-- Jack (Chapter 16 paragraph 262)

Importance: Jack has equated the wasps' nest and the killing of the wasps to overcoming the past troubles in his life. He is shocked and horrified that these wasps have come back even though he killed them. He is worried that this shows his past troubles, including his drinking and inability to control his temper, may come back to sting him.

The most frightening thing, vaporous and unmentioned, perhaps unmentionable, was that all of Jack's drinking symptoms had come back, one by one . . . all but the drink itself.

-- Wendy (Chapter 21 paragraph 72)

Importance: Wendy worries about her family being alone and isolated at The Overlook. She is most concerned about Jack because she has noticed that all of the symptoms that she associated with his drinking days have come back, but he is not drinking.

Jack had done this, she had no doubt of it. His denials meant nothing to her.

-- Wendy (Chapter 27 paragraph 60)

Importance: This quote indicates Wendy's determination that it was Jack who hurt Danny again despite his promise not to do so.

I'm no psychiatrist, but it seems to fit so well. The walking dead woman as a symbol for dead emotions, dead lives, that just won't give up and go away . . . but because she's a subconscious figure, she's also him.

-- Jack (Chapter 32 paragraph 93)

Importance: Jack tries to explain to Wendy what Danny might have seen in Room 217 that scared him so badly and why Danny was able to see and be hurt by the dead woman.



First you tried to run me over on my bike and then you set the timer ahead and then you tried to stab me to death but I still don't stutter.' George was coming for him, his hands out, the fingers slightly curled.

-- George (Chapter 32 paragraph 134)

Importance: In his dream, it is George's dead body that he sees in the bathtub of Room 217. George accuses Jack of the bad things that he has done in his life. These include Jack and Al's drunken accident where they hit a bicycle. Jack's mind makes him believe it was George's bike. In the dream George also accuses Jack of setting the timer ahead and trying to stab him to death. The dead George also claims that he does not stutter, the impediment that caused Jack to throw him off the debate team.

There were no hands or numbers on the clockface, only a date written in red: DECEMBER 2. And then, eyes widening in horror, he saw the word REDRUM reflecting dimly from the glass dome, now reflected twice. And he saw that it spelled MURDER.

-- Danny (Chapter 37 paragraph 64)

Importance: It is when Danny sees a vision in the ballroom clock that he realizes that "redrum" is the word "murder" spelled backward.

But it's him too,' Danny said. 'It's Daddy. And it's you. It wants all of us. It's tricking Daddy, it's fooling him, trying to make him think it wants him the most. It wants me the most, but it will take all of us.

-- Danny (Chapter 39 paragraph 20)

Importance: Danny uses these words as he tries to explain to his mother the desires of the hotel. He realizes that it is he that the hotel wants because of his special abilities.

Worse still, he would have killed the Overlook. The final crashing failure. He had failed as a teacher, a writer, a husband, and a father. He had even failed as a drunk. But you couldn't do much better in the old failure category than to blow up the building you were supposed to be taking care of.

-- Jack (Chapter 40 paragraph 45)

Importance: As Jack begins to lose control of his mental facilities, he accidentally forgets to let the pressure off the boiler and comes close to allowing it to blow up. He believes that if he is not able to complete his job as the overseer properly, it will be his great and final failure.

Let us say that your future here is contingent upon how you decide to deal with your son's waywardness.

-- Delbert Grady (Chapter 44 paragraph 97)

Importance: Grady is telling that Jack has the ability to quickly climb the ladder at The Overlook if he properly deals with his son, whom Grady tells him has called Hallorann. Grady is trying to encourage Jack to kill Danny.



Without Danny it was not much more than an amusement park haunted house, where a guest or two might hear rappings or the phantom sounds of a masquerade party, or see an occasional disturbing thing.

-- Wendy (Chapter 46 paragraph 110)

Importance: These are Wendy's thoughts as they think of the way that the hotel interacts with her son's special gift.

Danny," Tony said. "Your mother is going to be badly hurt. Perhaps killed. Mr. Hallorann, too.

-- Tony (Chapter 54 paragraph 12)

Importance: In this quote, Tony is telling Danny what might happen to his parents and Hallorann. Tony is trying to prepare Danny for what is about to happen.

Now, somewhere, it was coming for him. It was hiding behind Daddy's face, it was imitating Daddy's voice, it was wearing Daddy's clothes. But it was not his daddy.

-- Danny (Chapter 54 paragraph 30)

Importance: In Danny's thoughts, he tries to convince himself that although the person that is coming after him looks like his father, it is not his father but instead just his father's body that has been taken over by the hotel.

But your father . . . he's with the hotel now, Danny. It's where he wants to be. It wants you too, because it's very greedy.

-- Tony (Chapter 54 paragraph 35)

Importance: These are Tony's warning words to Danny not to trust his father because the man he sees is not his father. Tony also warns Danny that the hotel is trying to get him to join forces as well.

You will remember what your father forgot.

-- Tony (Chapter 54 paragraph 40)

Importance: It is these words of Tony to Danny that are the key to the way that Danny will distract his father from trying to harm him and give him, his mother, and Hallorann time to get out of the hotel before it is destroyed.

Was it just another face of the hotel, another illusion? Or was it Dick?

-- Danny (Chapter 54 paragraph 56)

Importance: These are Danny's thoughts as he hears the sound of a snowmobile outside the hotel. He has learned, though, that the hotel has a way of giving him things that are "masked" as being good to distract him from its ploy.

Words turned into a shriek of triumph, and the shriek was swallowed in a shattering roar as the Overlook's boiler exploded.



-- Narrator (Chapter 56 paragraph 33)

Importance: These words are a picture of Jack celebrating, believing that he has been successful in stopping the inevitable explosion, just a few minutes before the boiler explodes.

Now she was a woman, a human being who had been dragged around to the dark side of the moon and had come back able to put the pieces back together.

-- Hallorann (Chapter 58 paragraph 5)

Importance: These are the thoughts of Hallorann as he considers all that Wendy has been through during her stay at The Overlook.