

Into the Spotlight

Study Guide

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Gold Medal Winner

Moonbeam Children's Book Award

Readers Favorite 5 Star Review



Adventurous Christian YA Mystery
Encouraging teens to discover who God is
calling them to be.

Table of Contents

Note to Instructor

Synopsis

Chapters 1-2

Chapters 3-4

Chapters 5-7

Chapters 8-9

Chapters 10-11

Chapters 12-14

Chapters 15-16

Chapters 17-18

Chapters 19-20 and Epilogue

Answer Key

Note to Instructor

This study guide is intended to help students analyze the story by providing comprehension questions. These questions are designed to be adaptable and can be answered with one or two sentences or with longer essays. Keep in mind, the student's answers will probably be slightly different than the answers provided. They may also be used as discussion questions, as springboards to more in-depth analysis. Select the questions appropriate for your student(s). This guide is created in the OLVS curriculum style.

Summary

The devastation of a ruined summer.

The gift of a second chance.

Can Josie learn the lessons she needs in order to discover her true self?

After a humiliating event and overwhelming peer pressure, 16-year-old Josie flees her home to spend the summer with her aunt on a South Carolina island. Her fresh start turns into the summer of her dreams as friendships grow, romance blossoms, and a series of thefts surround her with excitement. However, when tragedy strikes someone close to her, Josie realizes there are more important things than her reputation. As she sets out to solve the mystery she has become entangled in, she not only realizes the importance of relying on her faith, but along the way also discovers who God wants her to be.

The underlying theme of this adventurous mystery is the struggle of trying to find out who God wants you to be.

Chapters 1-2

1. Describe the hierarchy at Josie's high school.
2. Why is Josie suddenly the topic of ridicule?
3. Josie's parents think she is overreacting. What changes their minds?
4. Why does Josie believe her summer is ruined?
5. Josie's aunt comes to the rescue. What does Aunt Lily suggest?
6. What problem has Coral Island been facing?
7. Who are the three males Josie meets at Poseidon's?
8. How did Shipwreck Cove get its name?

Chapters 3-4

1. Who is Lily's newest restoration client?
2. What does Josie receive from her mom?
3. When Josie meets Cyd, is she truthful about her identity? Why?
4. Who do Lily and Josie spend the evening with?
5. What event does Niko tell Josie about when she sees him at the malt shop?
6. Josie also runs into Ryan. What does he suggest they work on together?
7. What advice does Mr. Thompson share about how Josie can find herself?
8. Josie agrees to meet Ryan the next day to do what?

Chapters 5-7

1. What did the priest say at Mass that stuck with Josie?
2. What is Josie's first impression of the gift shop owner?
3. Who does Ryan suggest is responsible for the thefts?
4. Who does Josie hide from? Why?
5. What are Niko's future plans?
6. Niko shows Josie a unique yet hidden place on the beach. What is it?
7. Niko offers to give Josie what kind of lessons?

Chapters 8-9

1. Lily and Josie return from a trip and learn which business was robbed?
2. How do Lily and Josie spend July 4th?
3. Does Josie enjoy the day? Is she surprised by that?
4. Why is Josie surprised that Ryan knows she has a brother?
5. Josie finds out there was another attempted robbery. Where?
6. At the clam bake, Josie finds out what was stolen from the restaurant.
What was taken?
7. Niko describes the workers from the cruise ship that his cousins work on.
Why do these people work so hard?

Chapters 10-11

1. Why does Josie have trouble forgiving her mother?
2. Ryan helps Josie question Mr. Mullins. What do they do afterwards?
3. What does Liz share with Josie in her letter?
4. How does Josie react to the news?
5. When Josie seeks advice from Mr. Thompson, he tells her another story. What war does he reference?
6. What does Mr. Thompson encourage her to do with him?
7. What reason does Niko give for why he and his cousins are so nice to Mr. Spenser?

Chapters 12-14

1. When a storm hits Coral Island, how do Lily and Josie spend the day?
2. What does Lily say is Josie's mom's inspiration?
3. What does Mr. Spencer discover while cleaning up from the storm?
4. When it starts raining on Josie's walk home, who stops to help her?
5. What does Ryan admit to Josie?
6. What kind of camp was Ryan supposed to help out at for the summer?
7. Josie goes to the dock to tell Niko about the accident. How do he and his cousins react?
8. What do the Consuelos cousins reveal?

Chapters 15-16

1. As Josie tries to sort out her feelings, who does she talk to?
2. Josie is afraid that no matter what choice she makes, someone will be hurt. What advice does Mr. Thompson give her?
3. When Josie visits Ryan, what does he tell her about the accident?
4. Josie asks Ryan why he posted the photo. What is his explanation?
5. Josie visits Niko and his cousins. What does she want to tell them?
6. What bit of shocking information do Niko's cousins reveal?
7. Ryan gives Josie two pieces of advice about being yourself. What are they?

Chapters 17-18

1. Why does Josie tell Cyd the truth about her identity?
2. Where does Josie find Ryan when she goes to tell him her plan?
3. What does Josie learn about the vacation that Ryan's parents are on?
4. Who are the guests at the dinner party?
5. What idea does Mr. Thompson share with the group?
6. What does Clive Hollis offer?
7. After the party, Niko calls Josie. What does he tell her?

Chapters 19-20 and Epilogue

1. Josie sneaks out of the house. Why?
2. What is Josie's sudden realization while she is waiting by herself?
3. Why doesn't Josie's plan work?
4. How does Josie finally get the confession?
5. In Josie's letter to Ryan, she explains there are three things she is working on. What are they?
6. Back at home, Josie's mom explains why she likes to write about Josie. What is the reason?
7. What did Josie learn from Cyd?

Chapters 1-2 Answers

1. Describe the hierarchy at Josie's high school.

At Josie's school, the upperclassmen rule. Jocks, cheerleaders, and poms are at the top of the hierarchy. Members of other activities are basically non-existent.

2. Why is Josie suddenly the topic of ridicule?

Josie's author mother just released her new book. Her mother has included her mishaps in her past books, so everyone assumes the embarrassing passages are about Josie.

3. Josie's parents think she is overreacting. What changes their minds?

While at her brother Riley's baseball game, Josie's parents witness the mean-girl bullying that Josie has been enduring.

4. Why does Josie believe her summer is ruined?

Now that she would be an upperclassman, Josie was planning on spending the summer with friends at the lake. But now she knows she will never get away from the humiliation. Also, her best friend Liz will be away for the summer visiting her Dad. Josie feels all alone.

5. Josie's aunt comes to the rescue. What does Aunt Lily suggest?

Josie's aunt suggests that Josie spend the summer with her on a South Carolina island.

6. What problem has Coral Island been facing?

There has been a rash of thefts on the island.

7. Who are the three males Josie meets at Poseidon's?

Tom Mullins - the owner of the restaurant and a friend of Lily's.

Niko - the handsome young man that runs Mr. Mullins' pirate ship tours.

Ryan McNaulty - a baseball jock from her hometown.

8. How did Shipwreck Cove get its name?

It is believed a small pirate ship crashed into the rocks near the beach.

Chapters 3-4 Answers

1. Who is Lily's newest restoration client?

Movie producer Clive Hollis

2. What does Josie receive from her mom?

A postcard with a Bible verse on it - Psalm 55:22.

3. When Josie meets Cyd, is she truthful about her identity? Why?

No. Cyd is a huge fan of Josie's mom's books. Josie doesn't want people on Coral Island to think her mom's book is about her.

4. Who do Lily and Josie spend the evening with?

Lily and Josie spend the evening playing poker with Mr. and Mrs. Thompson.

5. What event does Niko tell Josie about when she sees him at the malt shop?

Niko invites Josie to the summer kickoff dance at the park near the lighthouse.

6. Josie also runs into Ryan. What does he suggest they work on together?

Ryan suggests that they should work together to find the thief.

7. What advice does Mr. Thompson share about how Josie can find herself?

Mr. Thompson tells Josie that she should help others in need.

8. Josie agrees to meet Ryan the next day to do what?

Ryan and Josie plan to talk to the owners of the businesses that were burglarized.

Chapters 5-7 Answers

1. What did the priest say at Mass that stuck with Josie?

The priest says that we should think of God as a best friend. And that we should be a good friend in return by listening so we can hear God guiding us.

2. What is Josie's first impression of the gift shop owner?

Josie doesn't believe he is the owner. She thinks he is robbing the store.

3. Who does Ryan suggest is responsible for the thefts?

Ryan suggests that Niko and his cousins are behind the thefts.

4. Who does Josie hide from? Why?

Josie hides from Cyd. Josie wants to keep her identity from Cyd.

5. What are Niko's future plans?

Niko plans to work and earn enough money to attend law school so that he can help refugees.

6. Niko shows Josie a unique yet hidden place on the beach. What is it?

Niko shows Josie a cave that cannot be seen from the beach.

7. Niko offers to give Josie what kind of lessons?

Niko offers to give Josie scuba diving lessons.

Chapters 8-9 Answers

1. Lily and Josie return from a trip and learn which business was robbed?

Lily and Josie learn that Poseidon's, Mr. Mullins' restaurant, was robbed while they were gone.

2. How do Lily and Josie spend July 4th?

Lily and Josie spend July 4th at Ryan's baseball game with the Martin family, the family he is staying with.

3. Does Josie enjoy the day? Is she surprised by that?

Yes, Josie enjoys the baseball game and fireworks. She did not want to go, but had a wonderful time. She was also surprised by how great Ryan was with the Martin kids.

4. Why is Josie surprised that Ryan knows that she has a brother?

She is surprised because he is a jock, and she didn't think he would have ever noticed her back at home or known anything about her.

5. Josie finds out there was another attempted robbery. Where?

Josie finds out that there was an attempted robbery at Clive Hollis' home.

6. At the clam bake, Josie finds out what was stolen from the restaurant.

What was taken?

Josie discovers that a lot of pirate artifacts and a gold trophy were stolen from Poseidon's.

7. Niko describes the workers from the cruise ship that his cousins work on.

Why do these people work so hard?

The workers on the cruise ship are mostly from poor countries and work hard to provide for their families back in their home countries.

Chapters 10-11 Answers

1. Why does Josie have trouble forgiving her mother?

Josie can't quite let go of the anger and despair that her mother's book caused her.

2. Ryan helps Josie question Mr. Mullins. What do they do afterwards?

After they question Mr. Mullins, Ryan and Josie roller-skate to a park and play in the sprinklers.

3. What does Liz share with Josie in her letter?

Liz shares that a photo of Josie and Ryan was posted online. Several of their classmates made crude comments about the pictures.

4. How does Josie react to the news?

Josie is upset about the photo, but she's more upset that Ryan betrayed her.

5. When Josie seeks advice from Mr. Thompson, he tells her another story. What war does he reference?

Mr. Thompson tells Josie another military story about The Cold War.

6. What does Mr. Thompson encourage her to do with him?

Mr. Thompson encourages Josie to visit the VA hospital and visit with the veterans.

7. What reason does Niko give for why he and his cousins are so nice to Mr. Spencer?

Niko and his cousins enjoy helping Mr. Spencer because their family is so far away, and it makes them feel good to help someone.

Chapters 12-14 Answers

1. When a storm hits Coral Island, how do Lily and Josie spend the day?

Lily and Josie spend the day visiting and playing cards at Mr. and Mrs. Thompson's house.

2. What does Lily say is Josie's mom's inspiration?

Lily shares with Josie that watching Josie grow into a beautiful, strong, talented young woman is her mom's inspiration.

3. What does Mr. Spencer discover while cleaning up from the storm?

Mr. Spencer discovers that his safe has been stolen. His life savings is gone.

4. When it starts raining on Josie's walk home, who stops to help her?

Ryan, on his motorcycle, stops to offer Josie a ride.

5. What does Ryan admit to Josie?

Ryan admits that he has feelings for Josie. He has been interested in her for a long time, but never knew how to approach her at school.

6. What kind of camp was Ryan supposed to help out at for the summer?

Ryan was supposed to be a camp counselor at a camp for underprivileged kids.

7. Josie goes to the dock to tell Niko about the accident. How do he and his cousins react?

Niko and his cousins get nervous and end up forcing her to go out on the boat with them.

8. What do the Consuelos cousins reveal?

The Consuelos cousins tell Josie that Mr. Mullins has been forcing them to transport and hide stolen items.

Chapters 15-16 Answers

1. As Josie tries to sort out her feelings, who does she talk to?

Josie talks to Mr. Thompson.

2. Josie is afraid that no matter what choice she makes, someone will be hurt. What advice does Mr. Thompson give her?

Mr. Thompson tells her that she must search for the truth.

3. When Josie visits Ryan, what does he tell her about the accident?

Ryan tells Josie that thanks to Josie's description, the police have arrested someone.

4. Josie asks Ryan why he posted the photo. What is his explanation?

Ryan tells Josie that he didn't post the photo. Mrs. Martin was probably the one who posted it to share with Ryan's family.

5. Josie visits Niko and his cousins. What does she want to tell them?

Josie wants to tell them that she's sorry that Marco was arrested. She also tells them that they shouldn't let Mr. Mullins get away with his plan and that she is willing to help them.

6. What bit of shocking information do Niko's cousins reveal?

Niko's cousins let it slip that Mr. Mullins made Niko date Josie since she had been investigating the thefts.

7. Ryan gives Josie two pieces of advice about being yourself. What are they?

Ryan shares some advice from his youth group leader. He tells her that it is important to find people who make you feel comfortable and don't judge you or make fun of you. He also shares that it is important to help those less fortunate, because you begin to see what is truly important.

Chapters 17-18 Answers

1. Why does Josie tell Cyd the truth about her identity?

Josie wants Cyd's help and believes the girl has a right to know the truth about Josie's identity.

2. Where does Josie find Ryan when she goes to tell him her plan?

Josie finds Ryan on the pediatric floor of the hospital playing Candyland with some kids.

3. What does Josie learn about the vacation that Ryan's parents are on?

Josie finds out that Ryan's parents are not on a luxury vacation like she had assumed, but have taken his little sister on a cruise for kids. They had invited him, but he didn't want to go.

4. Who are the guests at the dinner party?

The guests at the dinner party are: Josie, Niko, Lily, Mr. Mullins, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Cyd, and Mr. Hollis.

5. What idea does Mr. Thompson share with the group?

Mr. Thompson tells the group that he believes there is a pirate ship wreck off the coast of Shipwreck Cove.

6. What does Clive Hollis offer?

Mr. Hollis offers to have a film crew come to the area.

7. After the party, Niko calls Josie. What does he tell her?

Niko tells her that he and Byron are supposed to empty the cave. He also is under orders to take Mr. Mullins to the supposed ship wreck site in the morning for a preliminary dive.

Chapters 19-20 and Epilogue

1. Josie sneaks out of the house. Why?

Josie sneaks out of the house in order to videotape Byron and Niko moving the stolen goods. She hopes to get a confession on tape.

2. What is Josie's sudden realization while she is waiting by herself?

While Josie is waiting, all the advice she has received come together. She realizes she can't stop bad things from happening, but she can trust in God to get her through them. She just needs faith.

3. Why doesn't Josie's plan work?

Josie realizes that she doesn't have enough proof on tape because Byron's face is obscured and he never mentioned Mr. Mullins by name.

4. How does Josie finally get the confession?

Josie swims out to the boat off shore. She is able to climb on board and pull up the ladder. She shines a light on Byron, who is in the water, attracting jellyfish. In order to get away from the jellyfish stings, Byron finally confesses.

5. In Josie's letter to Ryan, she explains there are three things she is working on. What are they?

Josie writes that she, Lily, and Cyd have been going to visit the kids at the hospital. She also tells Ryan that she has been interviewing veterans and compiling their stories for a possible book. She mentions the proposal that she and Ryan are working on for their principal to make their school a place where everyone feels comfortable.

6. Back at home, Josie's mom explains why she likes to write about Josie. What is the reason?

Josie's mom explains that she admires Josie's adventurous spark.

7. What did Josie learn from Cyd?

Josie tells her mom that she learned that her mistakes can actually inspire others. Josie's mishaps can show that no one is perfect, and that everyone should embrace who they are, who God created them to be.