

The Wave
Morton Rhue

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Vocabulary - matching

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. atrocities | a. dramatic film of an actual event |
| 2. dexterity | b. continuing forever |
| 3. documentary | c. brutal acts |
| 4. espoused | d. fragment |
| 5. heinous | e. person with a serious mental disorder |
| 6. perpetual | f. agility |
| 7. psychopath | g. adopted a cause |
| 8. shard | h. abominable; hateful |

Questions

1. How did Laurie reveal that she was stressed as she sat in the office of *The Grapevine*?

Why was she feeling this way?

2. How did Laurie disrupt Mr. Gabondi's French class?

What did this reveal about her personality?

3. Why did the student body have a better opinion of Ben Ross than did many of his fellow teachers?

4. What did Mr. Ross think were his students' shortcomings?

5. Why did Mr. Ross show his class the documentary film about Nazi concentration camps?

6. In what way did most of Mr. Ross' students react to the film?

7. Why did Mr. Ross tell Robert that he did not care about sports?

Characterization

In the chart, write details about each character. As you continue to read, fill in additional information.

Name	Physical Description	Behavior
Ben Ross		
Laurie Sanders		
David Collins		
Amy Smith		
Brian Ammon		
Robert Billings		

CHAPTERS 3, 4

Vocabulary – matching

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. intrigued | a. fascinated |
| 2. exasperation | b. insulted |
| 3. wistful | c. annoyance |
| 4. offended | d. desirous |
| 5. engrossed | e. absorbed |

Questions

1. How did Laurie's reaction to the documentary differ from David's?
2. What troubled Laurie about her friendship with Amy?

What did this reveal about Laurie's character?

3. What did Mr. Ross' reaction to the questions posed by his history class reveal about his character?
4. What evidence indicated that Ben Ross had always become intensely involved in everything he undertook?
5. What was the purpose of Mr. Ross' research into the Nazi movement?

CHAPTERS 5, 6

Vocabulary – Use the context to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Circle your answer.

1. The students' incessant chatter and lack of responsibility made Mr. Ross realize they needed more discipline.

- a. raucous b. continuous c. foolish d. witty
-

2. As a spellbinding speaker, Hitler was able to mesmerize his audience of thousands into thinking and acting as one.

- a. hypnotize b. fool c. soothe d. coax
-

3. Ben Ross dressed in a suit to accentuate the seriousness of his classroom experiment.

- a. illustrate b. ridicule c. minimize d. emphasize
-

4. On the second day of the experiment, Ross thought the silence that filled the room was erie.

- a. pleasant b. weird c. annoying d. necessary
-

5. Even Robert, who usually ignored Mr. Ross and his classmates, found The Wave so exhilarating that he was eager to participate.

- a. fatiguing b. curious c. depressing d. uplifting
-

Questions

1. What did the slogan “Strength Through Discipline” mean?

2. What was the purpose of the exercises Mr. Ross gave the class?

3. How did David, Brad, and Robert react to the exercises?

How do you think you and your classmates would react to them?

4. How would you assess the kinds of questions Mr. Ross posed to his class?

Why did Mr. Ross praise Andrea's response even though she didn't know the answer?

5. What was the purpose of the symbol, the salute, and the motto?

6. Why did David tell the football team about The Wave?

CHAPTERS 7, 8

Vocabulary – Use the context of the sentences to determine the meaning of the underlined words. Then compare your guess with a dictionary definition.

1. Bill was so politically astute that aspiring politicians seeking local offices were always asking him to manage their campaigns.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

2. Only under the pretense of studying would Amy's parents let their daughter spend time alone with Brad.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

3. My sister's laugh is so contagious that the entire audience was soon laughing along with her.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

4. Our football team shouted cheers and flexed their muscles in order to intimidate the opposing team.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

5. The high school band practiced playing and marching in unison for the Memorial Day parade.

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

Questions

1. How did Laurie's parents each feel about The Wave?

2. How did Laurie feel about The Wave?

Why didn't she voice her opinions?

3. How had the class and Mr. Ross changed in the few days since The Wave began?

4. Why didn't David want to ask for help in calculus?

What did this reveal about him?

5. What did Mr. Ross mean when he told the class that discipline and community were meaningless without action?

Evaluation

Although Mr. Ross' original reason for his classroom experiment was to teach his students how the German people got caught up in the Nazi movement. The Wave took on a life of its own. In order to evaluate this classroom experiment, fill in the chart below. List all of the positive qualities of The Wave in the PRO column and all of its negative qualities in the column label CON. Add to this chart as you continue to read the novel.

PRO	CON

CHAPTERS 9 – 11

Vocabulary – Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its antonym in column B.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. detrimental | a. sincere |
| 2. ecstatic | b. uncertain |
| 3. enhance | c. sophisticated |
| 4. glib | d. depressed |
| 5. immature | e. convinced |
| 6. petty | f. beneficial |
| 7. resolute | g. significant |
| 8. skeptical | h. diminish |

Questions

1. How successful was The Wave's recruiting campaign?
2. How were Ben Ross' feelings about The Wave changing?
3. Why was Laurie reluctant to write an article about The Wave for the school newspaper?
4. Why did Ben Ross agree to let Robert be his bodyguard?

CHAPTERS 12, 13

Vocabulary – Choose a word from the Word Box to replace each underlined word with a more descriptive word with a similar meaning. Write the word on the line.

WORD BOX		
adamant	symptom	utopian
assessment	trivial	wrath

1. The anonymous letter was a sign to Laurie that something was wrong.

2. The members of The Wave were trying to create a perfect society.

3. Laurie couldn't believe that something as insignificant as The Wave could have caused her break-up with David.

4. Laurie was firm about not giving The Wave salute at the football game.

5. Carl told Laurie that some members of the newspaper staff were afraid to incur the anger of The Wave.

6. Laurie was forced to agree with Carl's evaluation of the situation.

Questions

1. Why did Laurie decide not to attend The Wave rally?
2. Why did Laurie's father think The Wave had gotten out of control?
3. Why did Laurie decide not to join her friends in the stands at the football game?
4. What was the significance of the football team's loss to Clarkstown?

Questions

1. How did The Wave change Laurie's relationship with Amy?
2. What effect did the special edition of the newspaper have on the school?
3. What led Laurie to believe she was in danger the night she stayed late in school?
4. How had Ben Ross learned that power could be seductive?
5. Why did Ross believe that "the important thing wasn't when it ended, but how"?

CHAPTERS 16, 17

Vocabulary Word Analogies are equations in which the first pair of words has the same relationship as the second pair of words. Both pairs of words are opposites. Choose the best word from the Word Box to complete each of the analogies below.

WORD BOX		
brigade	murmur	trance
incredulous	somber	usurp

1. LOUD is to SOFT as SHOUT is to _____
- 2, CONFIDENT is to CERTAIN as _____ is to SKEPTICAL
3. HIT is to SMASH as TAKE is to _____
4. CAPTAIN is to COMPANY as COLONEL is to _____
5. IMMOBILE is to STAGNANT as GLOOMY is to _____
6. ANESTHESIOLOGIST is to SLEEP as HYPNOTIST is to _____

Questions

1. What bargain did Principal Owens strike with Ben Ross concerning the conclusion of the experiment?

Did this bargain seem consistent with Owens' character?

2. Was it really necessary for Ross to evict Laurie and David from his class? Explain your response.

3. What did Laurie mean when she told David, “You weren’t dumb. You were just idealistic”?

4. How could Adolf Hitler have been the leader of The Wave?

5. Why did Robert have the most to lose?