

### Comprehension Questions: *Life As We Knew It*

Answering these comprehension questions will help with comprehending the novel. Examine these questions before reading to get an idea of the main ideas for several chapters. Respond to these questions after reading and class discussion. Responding to them will help you with the quizzes and test we will be doing in class.

#### Chapters 1 and 2 (Springtime)

1. Miranda is a high school sophomore. Identify 5 of her biggest concerns. You might need to read several of her journal entries (1<sup>st</sup> person point of view) to locate this information.
2. List all the people involved in her life. Identify their ages and the relationship to her. You may make a chart.
3. Explain the impact of the asteroid upon the moon and the earth. What has occurred along the Eastern seaboard of the United States?
4. Identify where Miranda lives. Explain why she and her family are not impacted the same way as people living in New York City.

#### Chapters 3, 4 and 5 (Springtime)

1. Describe how 3 people have changed from Miranda's point of view after the 'natural disaster.'
2. Describe what happens to Miranda at the supermarket.
3. Explain why Miranda is upset that Megan gives away half her sandwich at lunch.
4. Describe the relationship between Miranda and Dan.
5. Define what gas rationing is.
6. Describe how the natural events are affecting Horton, the cat.

#### Chapters 6, 7, and 8 (Summer)

1. Explain 3 health concerns that Miranda and others must address.
2. Identify who Dan is and his relationship to Miranda.
3. Explain what the 'lists' are and why they are important.
4. Describe how Miranda's family has been conserving their resources and why they had to do so.
5. Identify rabbit ears.
6. Explain what volcanoes in the United States are doing. Name 3 effects of that.
7. Explain why Miranda's dad and his wife are coming to Miranda's home.
8. Identify where Dan is going and why.

#### Chapters 9 and 10 (Summer)

1. Explain how Miranda and her mother are dealing with new pressures.
2. Examine why Megan asks Miranda not to return for another visit.
3. Describe how Jonny celebrates his birthday.
4. Describe how the new school year will begin for Miranda and Jonny.
5. Describe the town of Howell.
6. Explain what Matt means when he says, "We are all prisoners."

#### Chapters 11, 12 and 13 (Fall)

1. Explain why Miranda is so thrilled to get into the school's supply closet.
2. Describe how Miranda acts in the house pantry.
3. Explain at least 2 problems Miranda's father and wife are having as they try to head westward.
4. Explain what happens to Miranda's mom.

#### Chapters 14, 15, 16, and 17 (Fall)

1. Explain what happened to the Wayne family and their home.
2. Identify how Reverend Marshall is remaining the same weight amidst this extended crisis.
3. Identify who Brandon is and how he makes Miranda happy.
4. Explain Mrs. Nesbitt's plan that she shared with Miranda.
5. Describe the blizzard.
6. Explain the 'realization' that Jonny makes about his family and their rationing.

#### Chapters 18, 19, 20, and 21 (Winter)

1. Describe the Christmas eve events.
2. Explain what the new year brings to Miranda and her family.
3. Summarize the conflict and effects of January 10<sup>th</sup>.
4. Explain what circumstances are frustrating Matt.
5. Summarize the events of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
6. Explain why Miranda gets annoyed when the electricity comes back on.
7. Explain the next threat that Miranda and her family faces.
8. Explain the journey Miranda takes on March 17<sup>th</sup> and the outcome of it.
9. Describe Miranda's mood at the end of the novel.