



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

I Am the Cheese

Robert Cormier



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

I Am the Cheese

Robert Cormier

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

I Am the Cheese

Activity #2 • Sentence Completion

Use Before Reading Each Section (two pages)

Directions

Below are sentence-starters to be completed before reading each section of the novel as indicated. Answers may be discussed either before or after reading.

Pages 1-38

1. If I was riding my bike in a deserted area and a ferocious-looking dog rushed toward me _____.
2. People who go to psychiatrists _____.

Pages 39-65

3. A happy memory I have from childhood is _____.
4. Love at first sight _____.

Pages 66-90

5. Parents keep secrets from children because _____.
6. The best way to deal with bullies _____.

Pages 91-115

7. Something I'd like to forget is _____.
8. When you see someone on the road who needs help _____.

Name _____

I Am the Cheese
Study Questions
Use During Reading

Directions

Write a brief but concise answer to each question. Starred questions ask for your opinion; there are no "right" or "wrong" answers to these questions.

Pages 1-38

1. Adam says he is a coward (page 12). What things scare him?
- *2. Where do you think Adam's father lives?
- *3. What kind of pills do you think Adam threw down the garbage disposal?
4. Who is the "T" of the taped interviews? Who is the "A"?
5. What do you notice about the narrative voice on page 17?
- *6. Why do you think Cormier included the chapter about the old man in Aswell (pages 22-25)?
7. What was Adam's early childhood like?
- *8. Where do you think Adam "goes" when he "steps outside himself" (page 34)?
- *9. Do you find anything odd about the incident with the dog?

Pages 39-65

1. Why is Adam "wary...on guard, distrustful" (page 40)?
2. What do you learn about Adam's father's real interests, i.e., when did he "emerge as a person"?
- *3. Why do you think Adam and his father ran into the woods?
4. Why does Adam try to call Amy Hertz? How did meeting Amy change Adam?
5. What were Adam's concerns about his mother?
- *6. Was Amy's "Number" at the A&P funny to you?
7. What amazed Adam about his response to Amy's phone call about the editor from Rawlings?

Name _____

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Activity #8 • Sociogram
Use During Reading

Directions

As you read the novel, you will find out more about the characters on the chart below. You will also see how Adam feels about them, and how they feel about Adam. On the spokes coming from the name circles, write adjectives describing the characters. On the arrows *going to the characters*, write how Adam feels about them. On the arrows *going toward Adam*, write how the characters feel about or treat him.

