



**TEACHER GUIDE**

**GRADES 9-12**

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

# **I Know What You Did Last Summer**

Lois Duncan



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

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## TEACHER GUIDE

**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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**ISBN 978-1-50203-878-4**

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## Skills and Strategies

### Vocabulary

Antonyms/synonyms, word  
mapping, multiple  
definitions, analogies

### Thinking

Brainstorming, decision-  
making, visualization

### Comprehension

Predicting, comparison/  
contrast, cause and effect

### Writing

Epilogue, creative writing,  
journaling

### Listening/Speaking

Role play, improvisation,  
discussion

### Literary Elements

Characterization, suspense,  
mystery genre, story  
mapping, foreshadowing

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## Summary of *I Know What You Did Last Summer*

Julie James receives two letters on the same day: Her acceptance to Smith, and an ominous note saying, "I know what you did last summer." The previous summer she had been in a horrible car accident with three other high school friends. After drinking and smoking pot, Julie, her boyfriend Ray, Barry, and his girlfriend Helen had hit a ten-year-old on a bicycle. Barry, the driver, had driven away, despite Julie's and Ray's protests, and the boy had died soon thereafter. The friends had agreed not to go to the authorities, and had not been linked to the accident. Ray had gone to California for a year to try to escape from the nightmare, Julie had lost her "bounce," withdrawn into schoolwork, and tried to distance herself from Ray by dating a serious older man, Bud. Helen and Barry, on the other hand, had gone on with their lives pretty much as usual. Thanks to her looks, Helen had been delighted to find herself chosen as a television weather-report "Golden Girl," and now lived in a glamorous apartment. Barry had enrolled at the university and was enjoying living with his jock "frat brothers."

When Julie shows Helen and Barry the note, Barry suggests that it is simply a crank. Then, still basking in the pleasure of having attracted a new admirer—intriguing Collingsworth Wilson, a newcomer at her apartment complex—Helen, receives an anonymous newspaper clipping about the accident. When Ray, (recently returned from California) receives a similar clipping, the four friends have to face the fact that someone knows what they've done.

The tension escalates when Barry is shot and seriously injured by someone on campus. Julie convinces Ray to come with her to the home of the Gregg boy killed in the accident. Under pretext of car trouble, they are let into the house by the boy's friendly sister, Megan. She explains that her father moved to Las Lunas to be closer to her mother, who has been hospitalized for emotional trouble.

Later, Ray meets Bud and decides to learn more about his competitor for Julie's affections. Ray discovers little other than that Bud, who has served time in Vietnam, is serious, determined, and rather close-lipped about himself.

Julie's mother has a premonition that something bad is about to happen, as indeed it does. Collie enters Helen's apartment, reveals that he is the one who shot Barry—and he is the brother of the boy killed in the accident. She locks herself in the bathroom and then, as Collie starts taking the door off its hinges, jumps out the window. Meanwhile, Julie prepares for her date with Bud. He walks her out to the car where he begins making her uncomfortable with his strange talk about how he came to be called Bud. His little brother called him "Bubba" for "brother" since he couldn't pronounce his brother's real name...Collingsworth. He reveals the hatred he has harbored for her ever since learning that she is the one who "made a joke" of his brother's death by sending flowers. Just then, Ray appears and hits Collie over the head with a flashlight. The police arrive (Helen, conscious now after her jump, has alerted them to Julie's danger) and Ray reaffirms his love for Julie.

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### Prediction Chart

What characters have we met so far?	What is the conflict in the story?	What are your predictions?	Why did you make those predictions?
<b>SAMPLE</b>			

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## Writing Activity

Pretend you are Julie. Write an entry in your private journal the night you get the anonymous note. Tell how you received it and how you feel about it.

## Chapters 3-4—pp. 23-40

### Vocabulary

degrading (28)	quizzical (28)	civily (31)	publicity (34)
ludicrous (34)	culmination (34)	jibed (35)	haggard (35)
retrospect (36)	puns (38)	objectively (39)	casual (39)
ad libs (40)			

### Vocabulary Activities

1. How are **puns** and **ad libs** the same? (*They both have to do with language.*)
2. How are **puns** and **ad libs** different? (*A pun is a joke based on two words which sound alike; ad libs are impromptu comments, such as an announcer must make to take up time so that there won't be dead air space.*)
3. What is the most **degrading** experience you have ever had?
4. When might your friend look at you with a **quizzical** expression?
5. After someone beats you in a race, how can you treat that person **civily**?
6. Who might not want **publicity**?
7. What is the most **ludicrous** idea your mother has ever had?
8. What happens at the **culmination** of the school year?
9. Who was the last person who **jibed** at you? How?
10. What might cause someone to look **haggard**?

### Discussion Questions

1. Each chapter provides further details about what happened “last summer.” What story of that night have you pieced together so far? Where did you get your evidence? (*From Ray and Julie’s conversation, we learn that there was an accident after which Barry, the driver, talked the others into a pact of secrecy; apparently someone was killed and—from the picture Helen receives—we infer the victim was a boy on a bicycle.*)
2. What is Ray like? How is he different from Bud? Add to the T-comparison chart below.

Ray	Bud
1. Julie’s age 2. Known Julie for a long time	1. Older than Julie 2. Began dating Julie recently

3. Why do you think Julie and Ray didn’t keep in touch? (*Both seem to have been trying to get away from the events and people of the episode last summer.*)

4. Julie and Ray agree that trying to “run away” from what happened has failed. What other choices do they consider? (*Ray suggests trying to get the others to agree to dissolve the pact so that they can admit the truth.*) What choices can you think of which they do not consider?
5. Why don't Helen and her sister Elsa get along? How are they different? What do their parents do? (*Helen is pretty with a glamorous, high-paying TV job; Elsa is plain and works long hours as a store clerk; their father is a construction worker and their mother is a hard-working housewife, mother of several children.*)
6. How does Helen meet Collingsworth? Explain the pun Helen makes about his name. What is his nickname? (*Collingsworth has just moved into Helen's building; Helen refers to Collie dogs when she asks if he answers to that name like a well-trained Collie. Collie mentions his kid brother gave him a nickname, but does not say what it is.*)
7. Why are Helen and Collie interested in each other? (*Helen likes “harmless flirtation”; Collie seems just friendly.*)
8. Why is Helen shocked when she returns to her room? (*There is a picture of a boy on a bike taped to her door.*)
9. **Prediction:** What will Helen do now that she has received a note like Julie's?

### Critical Thinking

The friends considered leaving the scene of the accident while keeping quiet about it, and they also thought about returning to the accident scene.

List the pros (*reasons for*) and cons (*reasons against*) for returning immediately to the scene of the accident or fleeing. Then think of alternatives other than the two which the friends considered, and list pros and cons of these.

Decision	Pros	Cons
Return to the scene of the accident		
Flee without telling anyone		