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The Ash House

ANGHARAD WALKER

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Vocabulary to discuss

Cross Curricular Opportunities

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is on top of the gate? • Why does the boy want to go back to the hospital? • What do you think is wrong with the boy? • Why is the boy going somewhere different? • Who is Freedom? • Why is this chapter called 'The New Boy'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharged • distorted • porter • usher • relentless • resolve 	<p>ART/DT • Draw a picture of what the new place looks like.</p> <p>WRITING • Write a diary entry from the viewpoint of the boy as he goes to the new location.</p> <p>WRITING • Make some predictions – what might the story be about?</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the new boy different to Dom? • Why do you think Niceness has a capital letter? • What can Dom smell in the walls? • What is the new boy's name? • List 4 things Solitude sees on his tour of the house. • How long has the Headmaster been away for? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hem • sodden • seeping • billowed • infusing • vaulted 	<p>WRITING • Make a list of questions you have about the Ash House.</p> <p>WRITING • Make a list of questions you think Solitude might have about what's going on.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the Ash House not what Sol has been expecting? • Does Solitude like his new bedroom? • List the names of 3 other boys in the house. • Why don't the boys want Solitude there? • Why is Dom not angry with Sol? • How does Sol try to get to sleep? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draped • bewildered • vulnerable 	<p>WRITING • Draw a mood graph depicting Sol's emotions throughout this chapter.</p> <p>SCIENCE • Investigate different types of plants you grow in greenhouses.</p> <p>WRITING • Write a character profile for Dom and Sol based on what you know about the boys so far.</p>



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4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Concord have to leave early? • Where do the boys keep their possessions? • What are the names of Dom's friends? • What do the boys have to eat for breakfast? • What is the job of the person on duty? • What is so different about today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeped • reluctant • trudge • swooped • drone 	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the children being so loud during breakfast? • How does Sol cheer Dom up? • Why don't the children go outside? • What is unusual about the Ash House? • What are the children learning about in the lesson? • What do you think happened to Clemency? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clamour • barrelled • translucent • aloof • corrugated • stifled 	<p>WRITING • Imagine you are one of the children. Write a list of thoughts/questions you have about the Headmaster not calling.</p> <p>GEOGRAPHY • Draw a map of the classroom using the information given in the chapter.</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Concord help Sol? • Why are the children worried about what is happening in the house? • Why does Dom start to sing to Sol? • What's wrong with Sol's back? • Why is Dom insisting that Sol keeps his illness a secret? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clench • vigil • hesitated • foliage 	<p>MUSIC • Write your own song about all of the Nicenesses you think we should have in the world.</p>



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7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Dom doesn't like telling lies? • What book does Dom find in the library? • Do you think Dom wants to be a headmaster? • Why are the children afraid of the fence? • Why has Dom never been upstairs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knack • sulk 	<p>WRITING • Write a character description of who you imagine the Headmaster to be.</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the children getting more anxious as the days pass? • What is in the packages that are on the drive? • Make a list of all of the pairs of children and their jobs. Which job would you most want? Why? • What animals are kept in the grounds of the house? • What is Dom's chore? • Why does Sol say that the children are 'helpless'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unsettled • materialised • superstitious • singed • surefooted • overcast 	<p>MISC • Research the meanings of the names of the children in the house, and consider how we act these values out in our lives.</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has Dom gone into the vault? • Which Niceness do you think a heart on fire represents? Why? • What is Concord waiting for? • Why do the children go out into the forest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vast • chronologically • emblem • tarpaulin • slacking 	<p>WRITING • Keep a diary of all the things you do which could be considered Nicenesses.</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the children grateful for Concord? • What is the purpose of the hole the children are digging? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hauling • grimace 	<p>WRITING • Write a list of reasons why Concord dislikes/is untrusting of Sol.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Sol afraid of? • Why is Concord treating Sol so terribly in the hole? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enunciated 	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should sleep be easy for Dom? • How do you know Dom walks down the stairs quietly? • How does Sol feel towards Dom? • Why was Sol mean to Dom when he first arrived at the Ash House? • Why does Dom want to keep Sol's pain a secret from Concord? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • absentmindedly • lopsided • expeditions • murmur • gullet 	<p>DRAMA/DANCE • Freeze-frame this chapter between the boys – remember to portray their emotions using your expressions and your whole body.</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Sol know where he has been hit? • What's strange about the shed? • How does Sol feel when he is in pain? • Why do you think Sol is so desperate to see the fence? • How does Sol try to convince Dom to take him to the fence? • What happens when the boys are in the forest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • splinters • retreated • boundary 	<p>ART/DT • Draw a picture of what you imagine the forest would look like.</p> <p>GEOGRAPHY • Draw a map of the grounds of the Ash House based on what you have learned so far.</p>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why don't the boys want to wake Sol at the beginning of the chapter? • Why don't the boys think the girls will come to the meeting? • Where is the meeting being held? • Why do the boys and girls not sleep in the same dorm any more? • How are Con and Sol similar? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nostalgic • banished • snuffle 	<p>MISC • Do you think the children should help Sol? Or should they make him leave?</p>



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14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Sol dreaming about? • Where are the children off to in the middle of the night? • What is the Lookout? • Why is the lake important to Ash House? • What happens when Concord pushes Sol into the water? • What is a Shuck? • How does the Shuck escape its enclosure? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slung • vivid • reverence 	<p>WRITING • Write a letter imagining you are Sol, telling someone you love about what is going on and what you've learnt from being in the Ash House.</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Sol feel in this chapter? Why? • Why is Dom so pleased with himself? • What has alarmed the children? • Who is on the phone? Why does this surprise the children? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dappling • withdrawn • oblivious • immersed 	<p>WRITING • Make some predictions about what you think is going to happen now that the Doctor is coming to Ash House.</p>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think the children like it when the Doctor is around? How do you know? • Why has Dom never been up the grand staircase before? • What is strange about the Doctor? • What happened to Sol's parents? • Why does the Doctor think Sol is feeling better now? • What does the Doctor want to do to help Sol? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summoned • pang • plumes • diagnostician 	<p>HISTORY • Look into the history of medicine and find out about some of the incredible ways in which medicine has changed throughout the years.</p> <p>HISTORY • Research medical equipment that doctors use, and find out what it is used for.</p>



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17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Dom feel waiting for Sol? • Why are the boys disagreeing over the Doctor? • What do you think Dom knows about the Doctor that he isn't sharing with Sol? • Why does Dom rush back to the house? • Who tries to stop Dom finding Sol? • Where does Dom go after he escapes from Concord and Libby? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eclipsing • decaying 	<p>WRITING • Make some predictions about what has happened to Sol.</p>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think Dom felt when Sol woke up and spoke to him? • What has happened to Sol's legs? • How do the boys know that the Doctor is still at Ash House? • Why does Dom hide? • Why doesn't Sol want another operation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • murky • cannula • clamour • rummaging • frantic • wretched 	<p>WRITING • Imagine you are Sol. Write a short diary entry about how you feel at the end of this chapter.</p>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Dom go to the lake? • Why does Dom feel 'terrified yet comforted' by Clem? • What does Clem want Dom to find in the house? Why? • What is Libby good at? • What have the children built for Sol? • What is the significance behind Libby giving Sol her binoculars? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • churning • canopy • tendril 	<p>ART/DT • Design a wheelchair for Sol to use – annotate your drawing with labels and describe how it could help him get around the Ash House and do his 'birdwatching' job.</p>



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20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can you tell the children are afraid of the Doctor? • What is Sol up to when Dom is birdwatching? • What happened to Concord's eye? • Does anyone else know about Clem? How do you know? • Why doesn't Dom know what the police are? • Why can't Dom steal the memory box? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fragile 	<p>WRITING • Can you come up with a plan for how Dom and Sol are going to fix everything?</p>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the boys sleeping well? • Why is it a struggle for Sol to get to his chair? • Why doesn't Sol want to make a noise going up the stairs? • List 4 things Sol found in the study. • Which name opens the vault? • Who comes to stop Sol? Why? • Why do the boys leave the study? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visible • fitful • wincing • bulky • spanned • scuffle • leverage 	<p>MISC • Do you think Dom/Sol would be right to steal the memory box? Why? Why not?</p>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did Sol give Dom a bruise? • How can everyone tell Concord is nervous? • Who is watching over the assembly? • How is the Doctor going to punish the children? • Why do you think Concord stands up for Dom? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repercussions • indignation 	<p>WRITING • Write a character description of Concord: think about the kind of person he is and how his actions prove it.</p>



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23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the boys all in the dorm? • Who starts to cry first? • How are the boys trying to stop Concord's bleeding? • Who runs after Concord? • What does Dom leave in the study that lets the Doctor know he is guilty? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dwindling • grimace 	<p>MISC • Do you think you would survive a race against the Shucks? Why? Why not?</p> <p>MISC • Do you think what the Doctor is doing is right?</p>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the boys worried about Dom? • Why do you think Sol tells the boys all about what really happened in the study? • Who broke up the fight? • Why do you think the boys are so interested now that Clem's name has been mentioned? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bedbound • chaos • lunged • hysterical 	<p>WRITING • Consider the emotions the boys have experienced in this chapter. Write down the emotions, and then a list of reasons why the boys feel them.</p>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the rules for when a Shuck is released in the grounds? • Where does Dom go? • Why is Dom using the screens as a weapon? • How does Dom know there are more Shucks following him? • What is surprising about the Shuck that meets Dom by the lake? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • twilight • oasis • bludgeon 	<p>WRITING • Imagine you are Dom. Write a short diary entry about how you feel at the end of this chapter.</p>



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26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the boys angry with Sol? • What do the boys think happened to Clem? • What does the Doctor come looking for in the dormitory? • Why do you think Con went to Dom's bed? • Are the Doctor and the Headmaster the same person? How do you know? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • predator 	<p>WRITING • Write a list of questions Sol might have at the end of this chapter. Consider everything that has gone on leading up to this point.</p>
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Dom only being chased by two Shucks now? • What does Dom remove to make his race against the Shucks easier? • What does Dom do that slows down the Shucks? • Where is Dom at the end of the chapter? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaner • clambered • gossamer • writhed • panting 	<p>WRITING • Draw a mood graph to show the emotions Dom experiences in this chapter.</p>
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Sol leaving the house? • Who is trying to stop Sol from leaving? • Where does Sol go first to look for Dom? • Why does Sol go to the girls' dorm? • What happened to Clem? • What is under the girls' dorm room? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forbid • obnoxious • relayed 	<p>ART/DT • Where do you think the tunnel under the girls' dorm leads? Draw a picture and write a short description of the place.</p> <p>DRAMA/DANCE • Freeze-frame this chapter from Concord and Sol entering the girls' dormitory – remember to portray their emotions using your expressions and your whole body.</p>



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29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Concord offer to carry Sol? • Why are the tunnels compared to veins? • Do you think it is pleasant to be in the tunnels? Why? • Why is Con so afraid of where the tunnel takes them? • Why are the children all amazed by the birds in the Headmaster's study? • Why does Sol try to talk the Doctor into calling off the Shucks? • What is the code to open the vault? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • devouring • vast • exhale • earshot • loathing • frenetic 	<p>HISTORY • Research the history of different types of vaults and the combinations used to open them.</p> <p>ART/DT • Design your own kind of vault and consider what kind of precious things you'd keep in there, and what your code would be to open it.</p>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is Dom hiding at the start of the chapter? • What has distracted Dom from watching for the Doctor? • Why does Dom wish the cave was big enough to pace in? • How do the children know where to find Dom? • What are the children trying to convince Dom to do? • Why does someone say 'Courage is the only niceness that matters now'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • snouts • convulsions • predicament • scrabbling • scree 	<p>DRAMA/DANCE • Act out this scene, considering the emotions and motives of all of the characters.</p> <p>WRITING • Write a short speech convincing Dom that leaving is the right thing to do now that he has been found.</p>
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Dom so preoccupied when he and Sol are leaving? • What happened between Concord/Libby and the Doctor? • Who is Dom expecting to see at the boundary? • Why won't Concord and Libby leave with Dom and Sol? • How does Sol know where to hurt the Doctor? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half-heartedly • defiantly • saplings • pioneers 	<p>WRITING • Make a list of predictions about what is going to happen in the final two chapters.</p> <p>WRITING • Compare the emotions of two of the characters in this chapter.</p>



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32

- Why is Dom so afraid to cross the boundary?
- Why do the boys have mixed emotions about crossing the boundary?
- What happened to Clem?
- Where do the boys go?
- How do the boys know they won't just disappear?

- banished
- miasma
- trembling

ART/DT • Draw a picture of what you imagine the Ash House to look like in this chapter. Compare it to the picture you drew at the beginning of the story.

33

- What is on the table?
- Why is he finding it hard to sleep?
- How do people know he is missing?
- Why does the lady want the hard drive?
- What is surprising about the Ash House?
- Why does he not like the lady doctor?
- What does Sol do with his real name?
- What sound does Dom like in the real world?
- Why does Dom draw a map?
- How does Dom know the number for the Ash House?
- Who do you think the girl on the phone is?

- adolescents
- elaborate
- retraced
- lurches
- silhouetted

MISC • Discuss the importance of friendship and trust in this book. What's more important: friendship or trust? What makes you think that?

MISC • Do you believe the Ash House is all in the boys' imagination, or do you believe it is real?

WRITING • Write a review of this book.

