

By the author of *The Pigman's Legacy*

# Paul Zindel *The Pigman*

"Let it be known that Lorraine Jensen and John Conlan have decided to record the Facts about our experiences with Mr. Angelo Pignati. The truth and nothing but the truth, until this memorial epic is finished. So Help Us God!"

With a personal note from the author.





## The NJSLS-ELA Standards

### *The Pigman*

#### 1. Key Ideas and Details

- NJSLSA.R1 / RL.X.1: Citing textual evidence to support explicit statements and deep inferences (e.g., analyzing the tragic motivations of John and Lorraine or Mr. Pignati).
- NJSLSA.R2 / RL.X.2: Determining themes (e.g., loneliness, coming-of-age, consequence of actions) and summarizing the text objectively. [1, 2]

#### 2. Craft and Structure

- NJSLSA.R3 / RL.X.3: Analyzing how specific dialogue, alternate narrations (John and Lorraine's alternating perspectives), and incidents propel the plot.
- NJSLSA.R4 / RL.X.4: Determining the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative language used throughout the novel. [1]

#### 3. Speaking and Listening

- NJSLSA.SL1 / SL.X.1: Engaging in collaborative discussions and Socratic seminars about the ethical dilemmas the teenagers face.

Ms. Paxos

ELA 8 ADV

Summer Reading

Due Date: Friday 9/4/26

Please Join Ms. Paxos' Summer Reading Google Classroom

## *The Pigman*

Requirements:

\*Read novel: The Pigman by Paul Zindel

\* Annotate/ Take detailed notes on each of the 15 chapters

\*Summary of the plot, description of the characters, interesting quotes, and personal thoughts on what is happening in the novel; just a few examples of the types of notes that you can take.

These detailed notes for each chapter must be Times New Roman, size 12 and printed out.

\*Complete the attached "Critical Thinking" reader response open ended questions. All questions need to be restated, answers need to be detailed using specific examples from the novel. Students MUST cite textual evidence (page numbers as to where you found your answers.)

"Critical Thinking" reader response questions must be Times New Roman, size 12 and printed out.

\* Attached is Vocabulary for the novel. Please read ALL directions. There are two components to this part; Vocabulary definitions and Grammar.

\*There will be a Reading Comprehension Test for *The Pigman* upon students' return to school in September. This assessment will be on Google forms.

## ***The Pigman* Vocabulary**

**NAME**

### **The Pigman**

**Directions:**

**\*Define each Vocabulary Word.**

**\*Identify the part of speech for each vocabulary word.**

**YOU MUST WRITE THE FULL NAME FOR THE PART OF SPEECH NEXT TO THE VOCABULARY WORD.**

### **Chapters 1–5**

- Avocation
- Repress
- Distort
- Monstrosity
- Compassion
- Subliminal

### **Chapters 6–8**

- Antagonistic
- Gestapo
- Integrate
- Scungilli
- Putrid

## **Chapters 9–12**

- Berserk
- Hovel
- Maladjusted
- Mundane
- Paranoia

## **Chapters 13–15**

- Congealed
- Ghouls
- Interrogate
- Autopsy
- Trespassing

## **The Pigman**

### **Critical Thinking Questions.**

**Please restate each question and answer using specific details from the text for each question. Questions must be restated and answered completely.**

### **The Pigman Chapters 1-5**

1.How does John feel about school? How did he act on his feelings when he was a freshman? How does he act on them now? What does this change in his behavior tell you about him?

2.What does Mrs. Jensen think of Lorraine? Does Lorraine share her opinion? Explain.

3.Describe the telephone prank that John and Lorraine play on Mr. Pignati. How does John feel during the prank? How does Lorraine? What do their feelings suggest about each of them

4.Why does Mr. Conlan install a lock on the family telephone? How does John respond? What do their actions suggest about their relationship?

5.How does Mr. Pignati treat John and Lorraine during their first visit? Why does he treat them this way?



## ***The Pigman Chapter 6-8***

**Please restate each question and answer using specific details from the text for each question.**

1. Why does Lorraine dislike the Baron Park Zoo? In what ways is her life similar to that of the zoo animals.
2. Briefly describe the three omens that Lorraine refers to in chapter 6. What do the omens have in common?
3. What is so unusual about Mr. Pignati's best friend? What does Mr. Pignati's choice of friend suggest about his life?
4. What does Mr. Conlan want John to do for a living? How does John feel about the career choice? Why?
5. What lie does Mr. Pignati tell about his wife? In your opinion, why does he lie? Support your opinion with evidence from the novel.

## ***The Pigman Chapter 9-11***

**Please restate each question and answer using specific details from the text for each question.**

1. Why is Norton so curious about Mr. Pignati? How does John react to Norton's questions? Why?



2. How does Mrs. Conlan feel about John's drinking and smoking? Do you think John is right to blame his parents for his bad habits? Is John at all to blame? Explain.

3. What do John and Lorraine confess to Mr. Pignati? What does he confess to them? What does their willingness to confess to each other suggest about their relationship?

4. What happens to Mr. Pignati while he is roller-skating? How does Lorraine react to the incident? How does John react? Are their reactions what you expected? Explain.

5. When and why do John and Lorraine pretend to be Mr. Pignati's children? Do you think that they would actually like to be his children? Why or why not?

### ***The Pigman Chapters 12–15***

**Please restate each question and answer using specific details from the text for each question.**

1. In chapter 12, John starts to care about how his hair and clothes look. Whom does he want to impress? Why?

2. When Lorraine recalls her candlelight dinner with John, she says, "it was as if I was being told about . . . something beautiful waiting just for me." What do you think that "something beautiful" is?

3. Briefly describe Lorraine's nightmare about Mr. Pignati's "pig room." What incident does the dream foreshadow?

4. Why is John so upset when Norton breaks Mr. Pignati's porcelain pigs? What do the pigs represent, or symbolize, to Mr. Pignati?
5. Why are John and Lorraine arrested? How do their parents react?