



Truth

Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Reading level: 3.2

978-1-55134-265-6 PB

AR Quiz # 72410

Book Summary

When Ian's parents leave for vacation, he plans the party of the year, one destined to impact the lives of the teenagers who live in the small town of Fairfield, population 5,000. No one knows that Ian's parents have asked their friend Ted Granville to keep an eye on things at the house, so when he shows up at the party, things get out of hand and Mr. Granville is killed. The police investigate the murder, but no one at the party will "snitch" for fear of repercussions from the boys involved in the crime. But Jen and Scott, reporters for the school newspaper, set out to uncover the truth; it could cost them their lives.

Prereading Idea

Accounts of teens committing murder fill the news media. Find a recent article in the newspaper and read it to the class. Ask students what they think should be done to the convicted teens. Discuss the probability of teens being tried as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Connecting to the World—Writing and Research Ideas

- Jen's articles included several exposés of people who would be of interest to the student body at her school. Ask students to choose a person they know and can interview. Have them write an article titled: "Exposé—A Day in the Life of _____" and include a photo of the person. Students can share their articles by making a class notebook.
- Since school shootings have become so much more prevalent in recent years, school personnel and parents have focused on bullying and the negative effects it has on the students who are bullied. In pairs, ask students to investigate bullying and available programs: informative programs available to advise students and school officials of signs to watch for and preventative programs available to help stop bullying behaviors. Based on their findings, have each pair of students write and perform a scene that illustrates bullying and an alternative scenario.
- It was common knowledge that Ross was taking steroids and that one of the side effects of using them was uncontrollable anger. Ask students to investigate steroids to find out why they are prescribed, what other side effects occur, and why they are abused. Since the focus of the novel is "the truth," have students write a television commercial or a print advertisement promoting the sale of steroids. Have them truthfully include side effects and abuse concerns.

Connecting to the Text—Elements of the Novel***Theme***

The idea of truth and what it means to different people could be the theme of this novel. Working with the word *TRUTH*, ask students to write a thematic statement, and using the facts in the story, write a Top Ten List of reasons to tell the truth. Ask students to share their list with the class.

Characterization

Most of the major characters in this novel could fall into one or more archetypes or stereotypes, characters in literature who are defined by a set of traits and mannerisms. In groups of three, ask students to list the characters and their traits and then look for pictures in magazines or on the Internet that could represent each character. Students can paste the picture on a poster board and identify the character with a brief explanation of the characteristics of that character stereotype: for example, the hero, the bad boy, the good girl. Display the posters in the room.

Allusion

An allusion is an indirect reference to another literary work, or to a famous person, place or event. When Jen reads Lady Macbeth's lines in front of the class, she is convinced her classmates think she killed Ted Granville. Ask students to read Lady Macbeth's lines in *Macbeth*, Act V, Scene 1, and then write an explanation of the similarities in the two situations.

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. In chapter 4, Jen states the reasons she knows Georgia is a new student, and while she is not complaining about living in a small town, there are some disadvantages as well as advantages. What are the pros and cons of living in a small town? A big city? Allow students to debate the issue.
2. Jerome does his best to convince Jen to keep quiet about what she knows about the death of Ted Granville. Is his reasoning sound? What is his motivation for trying to convince her to keep quiet?
3. Even though Jen likes Jerome, she breaks up with him. Why? Does she doubt her decision? Did she do the right thing?
4. Jen is sure the counselor will start talking about bullying if she shows her the letter that was slipped into her locker. What other incidents occur that could be considered bullying? Did the principal handle the situations appropriately? Why or why not?
5. Why didn't Scott and Jen take their tape directly to the police? Was their decision the right one? Why or why not?
6. Jerome thought he would "be charged with conspiracy or something." Based on his role in the death, is this charge sufficient? How severely should he be punished for his actions?

Writer's Craft

Vocabulary Enrichment

Ask students to find the following words in the book, and then look up their meanings in the dictionary, writing the definition that most closely fits the meaning of the word the way it is used in the sentence.

Lopes	(ch. 3)	Spiel	(ch. 8)
Putrid	(ch. 3)	Osmosis	(ch. 8)
Severity	(ch. 5)	Serenely	(ch. 8)
Gist	(ch. 5)		

Allusion

Often times, writers use allusions to convey a thought or make a connection for their readers. For example, Jen makes a reference to her day "[having] 'Murphy's Law' written all over it," (ch. 3). Another time, Jen does not want to sound like "Pollyanna," (ch. 8). Ask students to investigate where this term and name came from and what they mean. What ideas do they convey in the sentences?

Author Biography

Tanya Lloyd Kyi lives with her husband in Vancouver, British Columbia. *Truth* is her first novel. She would like to write another, but her hands are sore from playing ultimate (Frisbee) and learning to wheelie-drop on her mountain bike. She hopes to one day be responsible enough to own a dog.