Tears of a Tiger

Pages 1-34

1. Why wasn't Rob able to escape from the car after the accident?

2. Why were Andy and his friends drinking the night of the accident?

3. Why weren't Andy and B.J. able to save Rob right after the accident?

4. How does Keisha react after she finds out about Rob's death?

5. Why does B.J. feel guilty about Rob's death?

6. Why does B.J. decide to go back to church?

7. Why does Rob's death scare Rhonda?

8. How does the special edition of The Hazelwood Herald honor Rob?

9. How does Andy feel about the sentence he received from the judge?

10. Why do you think the author began the book with a newspaper article about the accident? Why does she follow that with a conversion that took place the night before?

11. How could the car accident have been avoided?
12. What do you think was happening between the time of the accident and B.J.'s prayer?

13. To what extent is Andy to blame for Rob's death? How much responsibility should be shared with the others in the car, including Rob himself? Is there anyone else who should shoulder some of the responsibility?

14. Why do you think Andy finds it easier to confide in the coach than in his parents?

15. Do you think the sentence that Andy received from the judge was fair? Why or why not?
Tears of a Tiger
Sad Songs, Juicy Gossip pages 30-52

1. How has Rhonda's relationship with Tyrone changed since the accident?

2. How does Gerald's essay reveal his problems at home?

3. Why does it bother Andy when his parents don't come to the game?

4. Why is Andy now able to step up and lead his team in points when he wasn't able to do so before?

5. Why do Andy's parents send him to a psychologist?

6. Why does Andy think that his little brother Monty will have problems?

7. Why is Andy starting to get on Keisha's nerves?
8. What does Coach mean when he says that "tears help wash the soul clean"? How does this apply to Andy?

9. How would you describe Andy's relationship with his parents? How does it compare to your relationship with your parents or the adults in your life?

10. How successful is Dr. Carrothers in getting Andy to talk about his problems? Do you think the sessions with him will help Andy?

11. To what extent is Andy responsible for his "girl problems"? How much responsibility lies with Keisha?
Tears of a Tiger

Pages 54-78

1. Why don't the African-American students like Marcus?

2. How has Andy been discriminated against by teachers and counselors at school?

3. Why does Andy become depressed in the mall?

4. What does Andy's poem reveal about his feelings?

5. How do Andy and Rob encounter prejudice at the mall?

6. How does Keisha help Andy?

7. How is Andy's moment "at peace" ruined on Christmas Day?

8. Why do you think that good students are sometimes the victims of peer pressure not to perform well in school? Have you ever witnessed this behavior?

9. What do you think might motivate Andy to get better grades?
10. Do you agree with Andy and Dr. Carrothers that low expectations by
teachers and counselors could act as a self-fulfilling prophecy?

11. What is Keisha’s "female frustration"? Are her feelings justified? Do you
think she should discuss them with Andy?

12. Why do you think that Andy did not hand in his completed poetry
assignment?

13. Why do you think Dr. Carrothers asks Andy so many questions about Keisha?

   Might he be trying to prepare Andy for a particular event?
"Good Morning, Hazelwood"-Night and Dreams (Pages 79-102)

Questions:

1. What evidence shows that Andy is doing well in one part of his life?

2. How does the view of oncoming traffic from the freeway overpass affect Andy?

3. Why does Dr. Carrothers ask Andy to write a letter to Rob or Rob's parents?

4. How do Andy's visions of the future for Monty and Keisha differ from those he has for himself?

5. Why is Andy willing to sleep with his brother Monty's Rocketman action figure?


7. Do you think that Andy would have jumped from the overpass if Keisha had not stopped him?

A letter of Remembered Joy - Hidden Opinions (Pages 103 - 127)

1. How are all the items in Andy's letter to Rob's parents the same?

2. Why does Andy wish that he could be part of Rob's family?
3. How does Andy react to Ms. Blackwell's lesson on Macbeth?

4. Why do B.J. and Tyrone go to see Mrs. Thorne?

5. Why does Dr. Carrothers agree to cut the sessions with Andy to an as-needed basis?

6. Why does Keisha mention Andy in her essay about friendship?

7. Why does Ms. Blackwell place a call to Andy's home?

8. Why does Monty put tears on his drawing of a tiger?

9. How is prejudice revealed in the "hidden opinions" of the teachers?

10. Do you think Ms. Blackwell should have called Andy's home? Was anything accomplished by the call?
1. Why does Keisha want to have a less intense relationship with Andy?

2. What do we learn about Andy in Keisha’s diary entry?

3. Why is Rhonda afraid to admit to being in love?

4. Why is everyone in the audience at the talent show focusing on Andy’s performance?

5. Why do Andy and Keisha break up at the talent show?

6. What does Andy’s mother say to upset him? Why does he react this way?

7. Why is Andy disappointed in his mother?

8. Describe what happened in South Carolina to Andy. How does that affect him still?

9. What advice does Coach Ripley give Andy? Is it helpful?

10. How does the possibility of a basketball scholarship begin to slip away for Andy?

11. At the end of his conversation with Coach Ripley, describe Andy’s reaction to his parting words.

12. How does Andy explain his failing grades?

13. Why does his father call him his full name, Andrew?
14. How do Mr. Jackson's dreams for his son affect Andy?

15. What is Mr. Jackson's "key to success" he shares with Andy?

16. How does Andy react to his father's telling him "No son of mine is going to be a failure!"

17. Do you think Keisha is justified in breaking up with Andy?

18. Why do you think Andy keeps telling people that he is getting better when he is really getting worse?

19. Do you think parents should pressure their children to meet predetermined goals?

20. Should Andy's father pressure his son to get better grades so he can go to college?

21. Read the next chapter's title and make a prediction...
Tears of a Tiger

Unit #7  (Pages 155-180)

1. Why doesn't anyone respond to Andy's "nighttime cries of desperation"? (Parents?, Coach Ripley?, Keisha?, Dr. Carrothers?)

2. Why is it harder for Tyrone to deal with Andy's death than Rob's death?

3. Why does Gerald believe that Andy lacked courage?

4. What lesson does Andy's death teach Marcus?

5. According to Rhonda, why is Andy's suicide a selfish act?

6. Why does Keisha believe that it was unfair of Andy to take his own life?

7. How does Andy's suicide affect his family?

8. What might have prevented Andy's suicide?

9. Why does the author reveal Andy's death through an official police report, instead of having the reader 'witness/read about' the event?

10. What does it mean, when Andy says, "So what do I do now? Hide under the bed from the monsters that are inside of me?"
11. Why did Mr. Jackson leave his family?

12. Who drops off Andy’s chemistry homework?

13. Why does Andy said he doesn’t want to live anymore?

14. Who and how was Andy found?

15. What does this statement mean?

“If we let these tragedies become growth experiences, if we learn from them, then we have in some way triumphed over the fear and anger and sorrow that death brings.”

16. What do the grief counselors suggest the grieving students do? Does it help?

17. Who wrote letters to Andy?

18. What are some of the emotions that Andy’s friends are feeling?

19. How has life changed for Andy’s family?

20. What does Monty tell Andy at the gravesite?