**‘Jasper Jones’ Comprehension Questions**

**Themes and Issues:**

Define the following terms and give an example of how they relate to the novel.

Morality and Ethics:

Moral Duality:

Scapegoats:

Responsibility and culpability:

Atonement Law and Legality:

Racism and Ethnicity:

Any other themes you can identify:

**Chapter Questions:**

Answer the following questions as you read ‘Jasper Jones’.

**Chapter 1:**

1. Compare Jasper and Charlie in relation to their home life and personality (5 – 15)

2. Why did Charlie go with Jasper, even though he only knew bad things about him?

3. What is the purpose of the use of short sentences on page 17?

4. Two figures well known for their wisdom are the biblical Solomon and the protagonist of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’, Atticus Finch. Why are they mentioned on page 23?

5. ‘We owe her the truth.’ (25) Is Jasper going to find a murderer for Laura’s sake or his own?

6. Comment on some of the imagery used by Silvey on page 30 to explain the turmoil that Charlie is now experiencing.

**Chapter 2:**

1. What do we learn of Charlie’s parents between pages 55 and 59? How would you describe the different relationships in this family? What evidence do you have for you assertions?

2. Jeffrey and Charlie discuss the differences between Superman and Batman extensively. (66-71)a. What qualities do each superhero have? b. How might these qualities reflect the personalities of Charlie and Jeffrey? c. What is the purpose of such an allusion in the text?

3. Charlie ponders the inconsistencies of racism (77 – 80). How would you explain the different attitudes that people have towards Jeffrey and Jasper?

4. A feature of Silvey’s narrative style is his use of similes. Find three from this chapter and comment of the impact and effectiveness of each.

5. What other literary devices does Silvey use?

**Chapter 3:**

1. The author mentions many figures that he assumes the audience know. Write a short description of them: Errol Flynn (101), Jack Dempsey (107), Audrey Hepburn (114, 117), Norman Mailer (123), Atticus Finch (136) Why would the author include these people? How does this help the audience understand Charlie and the historical context of the story?

2. What is the narrative purpose of the stories about Eric Edgar Cooke and Sylvia Likens (105 – 113) in the story?

3. ‘He should have been a lawyer like Atticus Finch. But he’d have to stand up for something then.’ (136) What does this statement reveal about Charlie’s attitude towards his father?

**Chapter 4 & 5:**

1. The Vietnam War is in its early stages (historically). How does the war become a reality for Corrigan? Give at least three examples from the text.

2. Jasper is mercilessly beaten by both the police sergeant and Laura’s father, the Shire president, much to Charlie’s shock (179) What does this reveal to Charlie about the world of adults? How does it contribute to the readers understanding of his character?

**Chapter 6:**

1. How appropriate is the simile used for Charlie’s mother ‘who looked like a snake poised to strike’? (211) What impression does the reader have of Ruth Bucktin by now?

2. How does the author create a sense of tension during Jeffrey’s first cricket match, even when readers might not know or understand the game?

3. What are some of the ways in which the author creates humour immediately after the cricket match and during the car ride home?

4. The attack on An Lu’s garden, and on him raises some issues: a. Why did the men call him a ‘red rat’? (267) b. Why did the attack occur, just after Jeffrey’s success on the cricket field? What effect does this have on the audience? c. How do you account for some townsmen attacking but other neighbours intervening to help An Lu?

**Chapter 7:**

1. The author continues to make use of similes, clichés, metaphors and puns. Find two examples of each in the pages (278 – 290) how effective are they?

2. How did the myth of Jack Lionel being a ‘madman’ begin? Why does the audience only just find out?

3. Charlie catches his mother in a car with a strange man (322). Were there hints in the lead up to this? How does it affect Charlie? How does it contribute to his increasingly mature understanding of adults and their motives?

4. What secrets are revealed when Eliza and Charlie visit the glade?

5. Explain why the author has joined the words ‘Thisiswhathappened’, ‘Whathadjusthappened’ and ‘That’swhathappened’ (229 – 341)

**Chapters 8 and 9:**

1. How does Charlie’s relationship with his father improve after his mother leaves?

2. What is the purpose of the bet with Warwick Trent?