

## The Final Lines of *The Pigman*

We had trespassed too -- been where we didn't belong, and we were being punished for it. Mr. Pignati had paid with his life, but when he died something in us had died as well.

There was no one else to blame anymore. No Bored or Old Ladies or Nortons, or Assassins waiting at the bridge. And there was no place to hide -- no place across any river for a boatman to take us.

Our life would be what we made of it -- nothing more, nothing less.

Baboons.

Baboons.

They build their own cages, we could almost hear the Pigman whisper, as he took his children with him.

*These last lines are profound, poetic, and strangely beautiful. Answer the questions regarding these lines.*

- 1) Trespassing: **THE CHARACTERS DO NOT "ACT THEIR AGES!"**
  - a. How did John and Lorraine trespass? (On what were they trespassing?)  
**THEY "TRESPASSED" ON ADULTHOOD BY PRETENDING TO BE GROWNUPS - DRESSING UP, DRINKING, KISSING**
  - b. How did Mr. Pignati trespass? (On what was he trespassing?)  
**HE "TRESPASSED" ON YOUTH BY BEFRIENDING KIDS, ROLLER SKATING, ETC.**
  - c. What is John and Lorraine's punishment for "trespassing"?  
**THEY HAVE LOST THE INNOCENCE + IRRESPONSIBILITY OF CHILDHOOD; THEY CAN NO LONGER CLAIM THEY DIDN'T KNOW BETTER.**
- 2) Responsibility
  - a. What does John mean when he says there is no one else to blame?  
**HE RECOGNIZES THAT HIS ACTIONS HAVE REAL (TRAGIC) CONSEQUENCES; IT'S HIS FAULT.**
  - b. What important lesson have John and Lorraine learned?  
**THEY ARE OLD ENOUGH TO ACT LIKE ADULTS, SO THEIR ACTIONS HAVE ADULT CONSEQUENCES.**
  - c. In Chapter 14, Lorraine compared the night she and John dressed up in the Pignatis' clothes to a playing kitten. What have they learned about this kind of "play"?  
**EVEN THOUGH IT'S "PLAY," YOU ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES THEY ARE NOW "OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER."**
- 3) Baboons
  - a. Why is the word *Baboons* repeated?  
**IT MUST BE IMPORTANT; HE WANTS US TO THINK ABOUT IT.**
  - b. To whom is John referring when he mentions baboons?  
**PEOPLE: "...MAYBE WE WERE ALL BABOONS, FOR THAT MATTER" (144).  
↳ THE CHARACTERS IN THE BOOK + MOST OF HUMANITY.**
  - c. How are the characters in this book like baboons or monkeys? (Remember their visit to the pet store in Chapter 8.)  
**↳ LONELY, CLINGING TO EACH OTHER FOR LOVE + ACCEPTANCE. ALSO, THEY WORRY ABOUT "ALL THE WRONG THINGS" (145).**
- 4) Cages
  - a. Explain the metaphor: What does "They build their own cages" mean?  
**THEY CREATE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. THEY TRAP THEMSELVES (WITH LYING).**
  - b. How do John and Lorraine build their own cage?  
**THEY LIE TOO MUCH, PRETEND TO BE ADULTS, AVOID/IGNORE RESPONSIBILITY**
  - c. How did the Pigman build his own cage?  
**LIES TO HIMSELF (DENIAL OF WIFE'S DEATH); PRETENDS TO BE YOUNG AGAIN**
- 5) Children
  - a. Who are the Pigman's children? Explain. **JOHN + LORRAINE HAVE PRETENDED TO BE HIS KIDS A COUPLE TIMES; JOHN SAYS MR. PIGNATI REMINDS HIM OF HIS REAL DAD; MR. PIGNATI TREATS THEM BETTER THAN THEIR PARENTS DO.**
  - b. How can the Pigman take his children with him?  
**HE TOOK THEIR CHILDHOOD, THE INNOCENCE + IRRESPONSIBILITY THAT GOES WITH YOUTH; THEY CAN NO LONGER AVOID RESPONSIBILITY BY SAYING THEY DIDN'T KNOW BETTER.**
  - c. What part of John and Lorraine has "died" as a result of the experience with the Pigman?  
**THEIR CHILDHOOD**