

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Pigman* by Paul Zindel  
Discussion Questions: Chapters 11 and 12

1) Poem o' the Day

**The Rider**

A boy told me  
if he roller-skated fast enough  
his loneliness couldn't catch up to him,

the best reason I ever heard  
for trying to be a champion.

What I wonder tonight  
pedaling hard down King William Street  
is if it translates to bicycles.

A victory! To leave your loneliness  
panting behind you on some street corner  
while you float free into a cloud of sudden azaleas,  
pink petals that have never felt loneliness,  
no matter how slowly they fell.

—Naomi Shihab Nye

[Review pp. 98-99 in *The Pigman*.]

This is an appropriate poem to share after finishing Chapter 10 in *The Pigman* because both \_\_\_\_\_

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Which of the characters from the novel do you imagine is the speaker in the poem? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? Quote a line from the poem to explain: \_\_\_\_\_

The characters in the novel deal with their loneliness in different ways. Explain what each one does.

John: \_\_\_\_\_

Lorraine: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Pignati: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Review Chapter 11. Read Chapter 12. [Update your chapter titles in the Literature section of your binder.]

3) Answer (*all* the parts of) the following questions.

a. How does John react to Mr. Pignati's heart attack? How does Lorraine respond? What good qualities does each reveal during this trauma? What weaknesses?

b. After dressing up in the Pignatis' clothes, how does John and Lorraine's relationship change? Why?

