

RACE Responses: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly

The Prompt: Explain how this quote relates to the final chapter in *The Pigman*:
"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do."

--John Baptiste Molière

Since you are comparing TWO things, you have to have a quote from both of them, and you have to elaborate on both!

Reword (the question) and **Answer** it in one clear sentence. (See examples.)

Terrible: *The Pigman* is a book about two kids and an old man.

Bad: It's like *The Pigman* because it talks about responsibility.

Better: This quote relates to the last chapter in *The Pigman* because that is where John discusses what he learned about being responsible for his actions.

Best: Molière's quotation relates to the final chapter in *The Pigman* because both of them express that personal responsibility requires action.

Better Than Best: Both Molière's quotation and the final chapter of *The Pigman* maintain that responsibility requires action.

Cite textual evidence. (See examples.)

Terrible: Responsibility is important.

Bad: John says it is important to be responsible and so does the quote.

Better: John says, "Our life would be what we made of it. Nothing more, nothing less," and that is the same thing the quote means.

Best: In Chapter 15 of *The Pigman*, John says, "Our life would be what we made of it." This is the same sentiment Molière expresses when he writes we are held responsible "for what we do not do."

Elaborate: Explain how the evidence supports the answer/claim. (See examples.)

Terrible: I think responsibility is important. I agree with John. And the other guy.

Bad: John didn't do a lot of things he should have done in the story, so he is responsible for those things too. He and Lorraine trashed Mr. Pignati's house and didn't accept responsibility.

Better: This quote from John shows that he now understands he can't deny responsibility by claiming, "I didn't do it," as many children do. Personal responsibility sometimes requires us to DO something, like watch out for someone else's interests instead of just our own. Sometimes people have to take action to prevent bad things from happening, and John did not do so. In fact, he and Lorraine not only threw a party and trashed Mr. Pignati's house, but they failed to visit Bobo in the zoo as they had promised. If they had lived up to this promise, they would have found out Bobo was already dead and known NOT to take Mr. Pignati, in his weakened condition, to visit him.

Best: (Same as above, but add this): This is precisely what Molière's quote suggests: We are also responsible for things that we *should* have done but did not. John and Lorraine should not have thrown a party in Mr. Pignati's house, and they instantly understood that it was wrong when they saw Mr. Pignati at the door, but it wasn't until the following day that they realized there were other things they *should* have done instead of the party. They are responsible for both. It is a difficult lesson, but an important one on the road to adulthood.

Paragraph Examples

Terrible: *This doesn't demonstrate knowledge or answer question.*

The Pigman is a book about two kids and an old man. Responsibility is important. I think responsibility is important. I agree with John. And the other guy.

Bad: *This vaguely answers the question but has no proper citations or elaboration.*

It's like *The Pigman* because it talks about responsibility. John says it is important to be responsible and so does the quote. John didn't do a lot of things he should have done in the story, so he is responsible for those things too. He and Lorraine trashed Mr. Pignati's house and didn't accept responsibility.

Better: *This response is proficient.*

This quote relates to the last chapter in *The Pigman* because that is where John discusses what he learned about being responsible for his actions. John says, “Our life would be what we made of it. Nothing more, nothing less,” and that is the same thing the quote means. This quote from John shows that he now understands he can’t deny responsibility by claiming, “I didn’t do it.” Personal responsibility sometimes requires us to DO something, like watch out for someone else’s interests instead of just our own. Sometimes people have to take action to prevent bad things from happening, and John did not do so. In fact, he and Lorraine not only threw a party and trashed Mr. Pignati’s house, but they failed to visit Bobo in the zoo as they had promised. If they had lived up to this promise, they would have found out Bobo was already dead and known NOT to take Mr. Pignati, in his weakened condition, to visit him. Like Molière says, "It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do."

So, here’s a great RACE response with the parts labeled:

Both Molière’s quotation and the final chapter of *The Pigman* maintain that responsibility requires action (**RA**). In Chapter 15 of *The Pigman*, John says, “Our life would be what we made of it.” (**C1**) This shows that he finally understands he can’t deny responsibility by claiming, “I didn’t do it,” as many children do. Personal responsibility sometimes requires us to DO something, like watch out for someone else’s interests instead of just our own. Sometimes people have to take action to prevent bad things from happening, and John did not do so. In fact, he and Lorraine not only threw a party and trashed Mr. Pignati’s house, but they failed to visit Bobo in the zoo as they had promised. If they had lived up to that promise, they would have found out Bobo was already dead and known NOT to take Mr. Pignati, in his weakened condition, to visit him. (**E1**) This situation reflects precisely what Molière means when he writes we are held responsible “for what we do not do.” (**C2**) We are responsible for things that we *should* have done but did not. Obviously, John and Lorraine should not have thrown a party in Mr. Pignati’s house, and they instantly understood that when they saw him at the door, but it wasn’t until the following day when they realized there were other things they *should* have done instead. They are accountable for both taking care of the house *and* visiting Bobo, and the failure to live up to both responsibilities has disastrous and permanent consequences. (**E2**) It is a difficult lesson, but an important one on the road to adulthood.

(When you write your RACE response, you do not need to include the labels!)