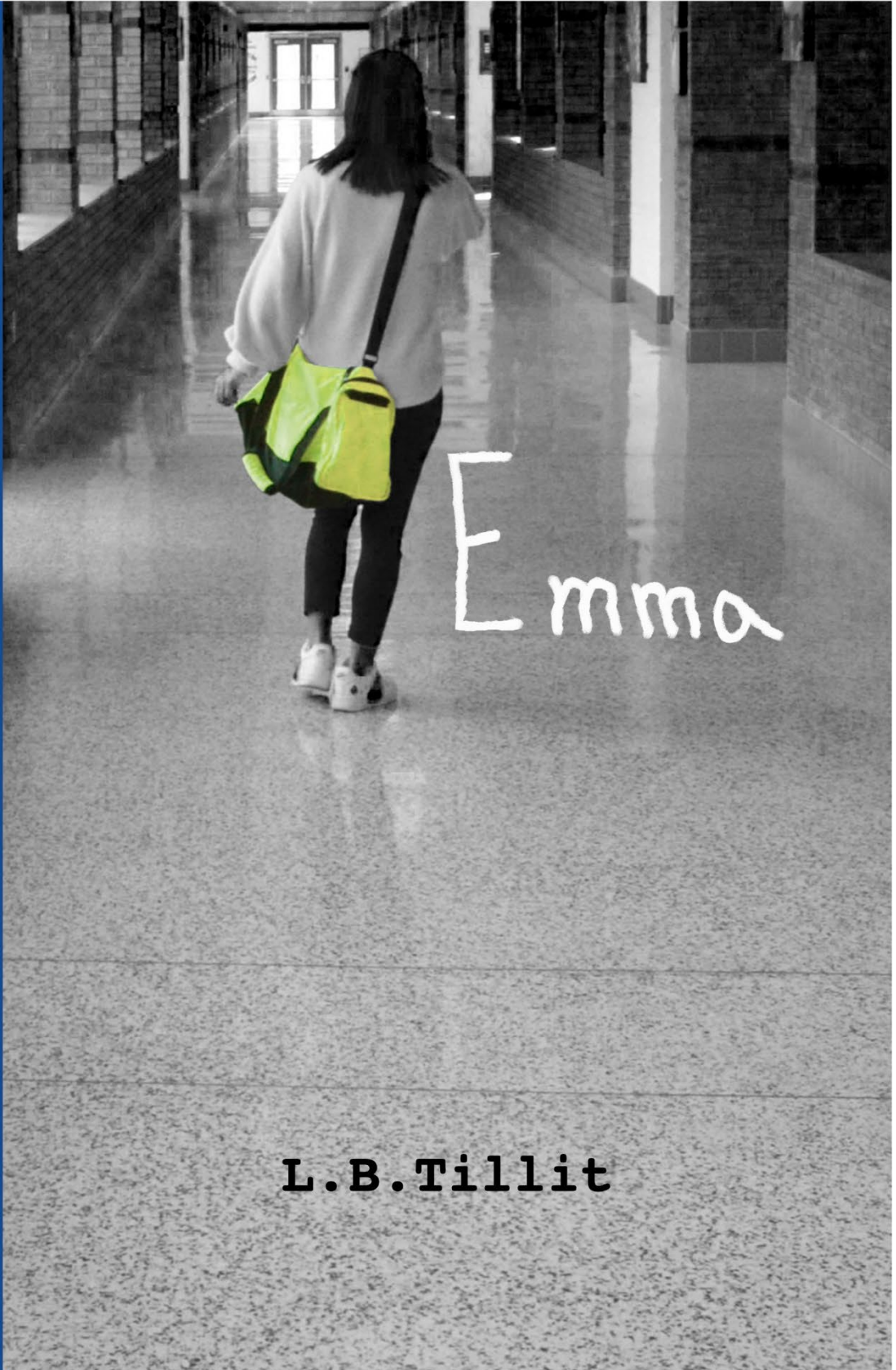


READING GUIDE



L.B.Tillit

Purpose

This reading guide will help the reader focus on building vocabulary, strengthen reading fluency, follow the plot, focus on themes, use inferring skills, and discover character growth. It will provide opportunities for readers to engage in authentic discussion while encouraging an understanding of varying perspectives.

PLEASE NOTE: *Emma's* reading guide focuses heavily on characterization. Why Emma acts, thinks, or feels a certain way can be inferred from the reading. However, the intention is for the reader to piece together the plot events that begin to transform how Emma acts, reacts, and changes. The reader must be willing to be critical and reflective as they tackle Emma's story.

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MY EASY READ BOOKS, LLC
GUIDED READING FOR *EMMA*, BY L.B. TILLIT
NOTICE TO TEACHERS

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Chapter 1 Out

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

cater—provide food and drinks for events

coliseum—very large building with arena for sports, concerts, or other events

Questions

Why did Emma not want her mother to know where she was going that Saturday morning?

Why was Emma headed to Blake's state Wrestling tournament?

What made Emma's brother, Joseph, perfect?

Reflections

How did Emma feel about Blake? Notice that Blake did not respond to her flirting. Why was that? Do you think she was doing the right thing by showing up at the tournament to show Blake how she feels? Discuss.

Why did Emma want to scream every time her brother got a special honor? Why do you think she did not want to tell her mother how she felt? Do you think Emma had a good reason to feel the way she did? Can you relate?

Chapter 2 Transit

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

expectation—belief in what should or will happen

have a cow—be very upset

transit—local transportation

Reflection

Emma felt she could not live up to her parents' expectations. What expectations did they have of her that caused her to feel like a failure?

Chapter 3 Chastity

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

autism/on the spectrum—Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological (dealing with the nerves) and developmental (how people develop, grow, learn, think, interact) disorder. It impacts people in different ways and some more intensely than others, which is why it is often referred to as “being on the spectrum.” Most often the disorder impacts how a person with autism interacts and communicates with other people. It often impacts behavior and learning as well.

concession stand—place people can buy snacks and drinks at an event

dig—say something mean/rude/a put-down

light rail—an above-ground train

merge—come together

prude—a person who is easily shocked when others talk about sex.

racist—showing prejudice and hatred toward a specific racial or ethnic group

sleazy—a mean way to say someone is acting in a way that is improper/makes others feel uncomfortable

stereotyping—when someone makes a statement about a whole group of people that is not true for everyone in that group, or when someone has a set idea about a person because they belong to a specific group, but that idea is wrong

trashy—a very mean way to call someone tasteless or less than because of how they look or act

Questions

Even though Emma liked the way Chastity dressed, what choices did Chastity make that Emma thought made Chastity “trashy?”

Why did Chastity tell Emma to be careful about liking Blake? How did Emma respond?

Reflections

Do you think Chastity was being “racist” or “stereotyping” when she called Emma Miss China? Discuss.

Emma was upset because she felt like she could not live up to the name “Miss China.” Why did she feel that way, and do you think it played a role in how she reacted to Chastity?

Emma stated: *I was good at fighting and liked to sass people who deserved it. To be real, maybe even to some people who didn't deserve it.* What does this tell you about Emma's personality?

Chapter 4 Fans

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

throw shade—say something slightly disrespectful

Questions

Why did Ozzie say Emma sounded angry? What did Emma think of Ozzie?

What did Emma think of Zonta? Explain why she felt that way.

Why did Emma think she had no Asian friends?

Reflection

In book 3, *Blake*, Blake was bullied by Carlos, but Blake won the support of his wrestling team and others. Why do you think it was important to Blake that Hancock High showed up at this state championship tournament?

Chapter 5 Surprise

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

ACT and SAT— tests used by colleges and universities to measure how ready a student is for college or university. ACT and SAT scores are used by the colleges and universities to compare students. This is often one factor used to help decide who should be admitted.

temples—the sides of the head behind the eyes

Questions

In book 2, *Zonta*, Zonta began to like Joseph Tang-Lee, Emma's brother, while he was tutoring her. In this book, Emma stated that Joseph was still tutoring Zonta. But what else seems to be happening between Joseph and Zonta?

What happened between Blake and Emma that helped them both know that they liked each other?

Reflections

When did Emma's head begin to hurt? What does this tell us about Emma?

Why did Emma think Coach Miller shook his head at her? Do you agree with this worry? Explain.

Chapter 6 Perfect Seat

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

look pitiful—look very sad

Questions

Why did Emma move seats?

What made her choose the row where she ended up sitting?

Reflection

Who were the people that Emma had chosen to sit next to? Do you think this will become a problem? Explain.

Chapter 7 Penny

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

therapy—healing treatment

Reflections

Why did Emma think that it was important for Blake's mother, Ms. Long-Hunt, to know that Blake's father, Cole P. Dockings, had been very mean? Was Emma right?

What did Penny's behavior towards Emma tell you about Penny?

Chapter 8 First Time

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

jarring—jerking/jolting

onesies—clothes where the tops and bottoms are made out of one piece of fabric

singlet—a tight, one-piece, stretchy uniform for wrestling

Question

Why was this Blake's family's first time to see him wrestle that season? Why did this surprise Emma?

Chapter 9 Third Place

Question

What confused Emma about Blake as she watched him wrestle? Why didn't she ask Penny or her mother about it?

Reflection

Did Blake win or lose third place? How do you think Blake will react to the results?

Chapter 10 Blame

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

scrunch up—squeeze together

Questions

Emma stated: *There was a look in Blake's eyes that hit me hard. I knew that feeling and I knew it well.*

What does Emma mean by this?

What was Ms. Long-Hunt's reaction when she saw Coach Miller say something to Blake that clearly upset Blake?

Why did Emma think that she was the reason for Blake losing the match?

Reflections

What did Ms. Long-Hunt ask Emma about liking Blake? Why did the conversation surprise Emma? Do you think it should have surprised Emma? Discuss.

Ms. Long Hunt did not think Emma caused Blake to lose. She stated, "Because he's always got you in his head. Today is not any different." How do you think Emma will respond? Explain.

Chapter 11 What Now?

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

chugging—taking large gulps of a drink and drinking it quickly

Questions

Why did Emma suddenly feel she needed to get away from Blake's family?

What was the real reason Blake messed up on his match and lost?

What did Blake still have a chance of winning?

Reflection

When Emma found out that she was NOT on Blake's mind while he wrestled, she was suddenly a little hurt. Then she stated: *What was wrong with me?* What do you think she means? What back and forth thoughts make her ask that question? Discuss.

Chapter 12 Truth

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

4—four, for

grounded—punishment when child is not allowed to leave house for fun activities

k—okay

rmr—remember

thnx—thanks

ttyl—talk to you later

Questions

What hadn't Emma realized when she promised she'd stay and watch Blake wrestle for 5th place?

What did Emma tell her mother so that she could stay at the wrestling tournament without getting into trouble?

Reflections

What did Emma NOT tell her best friend Billy, even though they texted the whole time? Do you think this could cause an issue? Explain.

How had Emma's story that she told her mother been a "half-truth?" How did Emma feel about the half-truth that she told? How did she justify her actions (*justify*—give a reason for that makes it okay)? What does this tell you about Emma's inner conflict?

Chapter 13 5th Place

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

bonded—connected, become close

fireman's carry—in wrestling, when the wrestler moves into their opponent and manages to roll them over their shoulder and land the opponent with their back against the mat

Questions

How did Blake do in his match for 5th place? How did his fans react?

How did Emma think she was going to get home? How had she been wrong?

What did Emma ask Blake about wrestling? How did Blake respond?

Reflections

Emma stated this about Blake's mother as she watched Blake wrestle and all the fans cheer him on: *I saw a tear escape, and I quickly looked away. I knew at that moment that it didn't matter if Blake won or lost. I could see that his mother felt it was all worth it.* What do you think Emma meant? And what did she mean when she said that her own mother never looked at her that way. Discuss.

Why didn't Blake normally like to touch others? Does this mean he can't touch others? Discuss.

Chapter 14 Slammed

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

ached—hurt

bundle—a collection of things. In this case, the person was wrapped up (bundled up) in a blanket, so it is a collection of a person and a blanket tightly wrapped together.

condo—short for condominium, which is an apartment that has an owner

hurling—throwing

Question

What happened when Emma was walking home late?

Reflections

What made the situation strange to Emma? Do you think it was strange? Explain.

What might be some reasons that the person in the bundle did not want to show herself? Discuss.

Chapter 15 First Period

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

tote—bag

Questions

What did Blake do for Emma as soon as she got to class?

Why did Emma like it when Blake talked about wrestling with her?

Reflections

Why did Emma feel like her family did not care when she got home late? Did she have good reason to feel this way?

Are Blake and Emma clearly a couple? Explain.

Chapter 16 Lilly

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

pushover—someone who lets people get away with treating them any way they want to

Question

How did Emma respond to Lilly telling Blake to move? How did Blake and Lilly keep the argument from getting worse?

Reflections

After Emma became angry with Lilly, Emma reflected on her own actions by stating: *Why did I have to lose it so quickly? I was proud that people knew I wasn't a pushover. It was who I was to others . . . the girl-with-attitude. I was okay with that. But I was never the mean girl. At least, I didn't think so.* What does this statement reveal about Emma's personality? Discuss.

What did Emma suspect about Lilly? Do you think she is right? Explain.

Chapter 17 Happy

Questions

Why was Emma happy for Blake?

Why did Blake want to make sure it was okay with Emma for him to sit with his friends?

Chapter 18 Billy

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

lead someone on—to pretend but not really mean it

Question

What did Billy challenge Emma on about her texting?

Reflections

Why did Billy think Emma was “leading Blake on”? What did this have to do with Billy and Emma becoming friends when they were in middle school?

How did Emma react to Billy claiming she was just using Blake? Does her reaction reveal anything about Emma? Discuss.

How did Emma and Billy resolve (fix) their argument? Do you think their argument is really resolved? Discuss.

Chapter 19 Rumor

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

literally—actually

assaulting—attacking

Questions

What rumor did Chastity share with Emma about Joseph and Zonta? What was Emma's reaction?

In Emma's anger, she began to think about something that happened two years earlier. What took place and why was Emma so upset back then?

Reflections

Why do you think Chastity kept "bothering" Emma? Explain.

Why do you think Emma compared Zonta to Silvia? Do you think it is fair? Discuss.

Chapter 20 Mad

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

chitchat—small talk

Question

What three things told Blake that Emma was mad, even though she said she was fine?

Reflections

Why did Emma's anger suddenly stop?

What did Emma realize about her anger?

Why did Emma kiss Blake? Do you think she meant it?

Chapter 21 Joseph

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

amiss—wrong

drilled—trained/lots of repeating until someone learns something

foul—rotten/awful/bad

on mute—quiet/no sound

sick—1. awful 2. awesome, cool

wench—an old word for a young woman, but can also mean prostitute

Questions

What was the real reason that Emma wanted to talk to Joseph? What did she pretend she needed from him?

What did Emma tell Joseph to make sure he knew that Zonta was no good for him? How did this backfire on her?

Reflections

Even though Emma was just pretending that she wanted Joseph's help with Biology, she was not lying that she was doing badly in that class. What do you learn about Emma's study habits? Who did she blame for her bad grades? Discuss.

Why did Emma feel badly at the end of this chapter? But why do you think her feelings towards Zonta hadn't really changed? Discuss.

Chapter 22 Rules

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

2—to, too, two

abt—about

call someone out—to point out a truth, to make a point about something someone did

ur—you're, your

yt—you there?

Question

When Emma and Blake were texting, Emma stated: *He(Blake) wasn't out of touch. He was calling me out.* How did Blake call Emma out? What ended up happening because of the texting?

Reflections

Emma began to think about her Biology grades and stated: *I told myself I would figure it out one way or another, but I was starting to wonder if I even had a clue. I could only pretend for so long that everything would work out.* What did she mean? Do you think that this means she will begin to do something about it? Discuss.

Why did Emma like the fact that Blake called her out? What was it that she liked so much about Blake?

Why didn't she text Billy? What was keeping her from texting Billy like she used to all the time?

Chapter 23 Just Like That

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

overdramatic—over-the top, making too much out of something

Questions

How did Billy change once Blake and Emma were a couple?

What was Emma's new reality?

What did Emma tell herself was the real reason she has not taken Blake home yet?

Reflection

At the end of the chapter, Emma stated: *I kept telling myself that everything would work itself out. I didn't want to face the fact that I was slipping into a deeper hole.* What did she mean? Do you agree with her? Discuss.

Chapter 24 Missed

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

nvm—nevermind

tbh—to be honest

wyd—what are you doing

Question

Why was Emma upset with Billy when she tried to text him?

Reflection

Emma stated: *I swallowed, but I wouldn't cry, even if he was being a jerk. I wouldn't give him that power! But still, I worried. Had I really just lost my best friend? I told myself that Billy would get over it soon. He had to!* What did Emma hope Billy would “get over”? Do you think Billy was to blame for Emma being so upset? Discuss how much of this was Billy's fault, and how much of it was Emma's fault?

Chapter 25 Ready

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

ACT and SAT—tests used by colleges and universities to measure how ready a student is for college or university. ACT and SAT scores are used by the colleges and universities to compare students. This is often one factor used to help decide who should be admitted.

refusal—not willing to do something

Question

What made Emma stop eating in the middle of dinner? What was she *not* ready for? Why did it upset her so much?

Reflection

What was the reason behind the fact that Emma had not paid attention when her mother signed her up for the test? What does this tell you about Emma's real feelings towards Blake?

Chapter 26 Oak Park

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

masts—tall poles in the middle of ships

Reflections

Emma said that no one stopped her when she left the table and then walked out of the house. What did this reveal about how her family was probably feeling? How did Emma feel about the fact that no one came after her? Discuss.

Why do you think Emma missed those early days when she played on the new playground?

Why do you think Lilly did not stop and talk to Emma?

When Emma saw Lilly just walk into Oak Park she stated: *I stood there with my mouth wide open. What was Lilly thinking? She wasn't allowed in there!* If Emma tells Lilly, do you think that it will matter to Lilly? Discuss.

Chapter 27 Dusk to Dawn

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

perimeter—the outside edge around

Questions

Why did Emma follow Lilly onto the wooden ship?

What did Emma discover about why Lilly was in the belly of the ship?

Reflections

Why did Emma become so angry when Lilly said “you people” to Emma? But why did her anger fade when Lilly explained what she meant?

Lilly stated that she did have a place to go, but that she sometimes just needed her space. Why did Emma think that she was lying? Do you agree with Emma? Discuss.

Chapter 28 Point of View

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

sarcastic—saying something that is the opposite of what is meant by the words spoken. Being sarcastic can be meant to be funny or to insult

specialty—the thing someone is really good at

Questions

What did Emma say was her specialty?

Why did Emma feel like she could talk to Lilly about her worries?

Why did Lilly laugh at Emma's worries about being ready for the SAT?

Reflections

Lilly said to Emma, *"Look, we all got our stuff. For me, I just have to take it a day at a time. Seems like you got to figure it out a whole lifetime-at-a-time. Looks like it sucks for each of us where we are."*

What do you think she meant by this? Do you agree with Lilly?

Emma answered Lilly, *"Maybe there's somewhere in between a day and a lifetime?"* Do you think Emma is beginning to think a little differently about her own problems? Explain.

Chapter 29 Lights Out

Reflection

What do Joseph's texts and the fact that Emma's parents did not turn their lights off until she came home tell you about Emma's family? Do you think Emma is beginning to see this too? Discuss.

Chapter 30 First Period

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

ditch—get rid of

to get someone—to understand each other on a deeper level

Question

When Blake spoke to Emma about Lilly, he stopped and told her that he could not tell her a secret that Lilly had made him promise not to share. How did Emma respond to him?

Reflections

Why do you think was Emma looking for Lilly for the first time?

Emma stated: *If I asked him to break a promise, then I was going to lose that one thing between us that I really liked. I got him, and he seemed to get me.* What do you think Emma means? How do Blake and Emma seem to “get each other”?

Chapter 31 All Good

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

stashed—stored/hidden away

Question

Emma did not get much information from Lilly, but what did she learn?

Reflections

Why do you think Lilly was not telling Emma everything she was asking her?

After Emma told Lilly she was not done with her, Lilly did not get angry with Emma. Instead, she laughed and said, “That’s for sure.” What does this tell you about Lilly?

Chapter 32 Biology

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

combo—short for combination/collection

Questions

What plan did Emma put in place?

What did Tammy say to Emma that upset her?

Reflections

Did Emma have a good reason to be upset with Tammy? Was Tammy being racist? Did Emma handle it in a good way?

How did she pull Mateo into her issue with Tammy? How do you think Mateo will react to Emma?

Chapter 33 Mateo

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

pouted—to stick out one's bottom lip and act like a sad child

racist—showing prejudice and hatred toward a specific racial or ethnic group

stereotyping—when someone makes a statement about a whole group of people that is not true for everyone in that group, or when someone has a set idea about a person because they belong to a specific group, but that idea is wrong

Question

What did Mateo try to teach Emma about the difference between stereotyping and being racist?

What did he finally say that caused Emma to see that she had messed up?

Reflections

Mateo told Emma: *You do you. But I don't want to have anything to do with you being mad at the world.* She argued back that she was not mad at the world. Who do you think is right? Explain.

What lesson do you think Emma learned from Mateo?

Why do you think Emma reached out to Mateo at the end of the chapter to help her with the biology term?

Chapter 34 Lunch

Questions

What do Blake and Emma's friends at lunch ask them about dating? How did they answer the question?

Why was everyone surprised about Blake's answer about where he and Emma spent time together?

Reflections

How are Emma and Blake's reactions to the questioning different? Explain why you think they are so different?

Why did Billy still not believe that Emma was really dating Blake for the right reasons? Do you think he had reason to feel that way?

Chapter 35 Invite

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

draped—to hang over something

mussed up—messy/rough

whimpered—a small cry

Questions

What didn't Blake understand at first when Owen and Chastity were telling them about the perfect place for them to hide? When he did understand, how did he react?

Why did Blake ask about Carlos coming to the party? How did Owen answer him, and what was Owen making very clear to Blake?

Why did Blake think it was a good idea to go to the party? Why did Emma agree to go as well?

Reflection

Both Emma and Blake reacted strongly to Owen and Chastity's comments about a hiding place. What do Emma and Blake's reactions tell you about where they are in their relationship?

Chapter 36 Chorus

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

glimpse—quick look

mellow—calm/relaxed

lyrics—a song's words

sick—1. awful 2. awesome, cool

Questions

What did Emma discover in one of Mateo's notebooks when she sat in the hall with him? How did Mateo react?

What did Mateo agree to do for Emma?

Reflections

Do you think when Mateo quoted his lyric, *"I see through your lies. You can't hide from me,"* that he was calling Emma out? Explain.

When Emma said that she thought that she and Mateo were the same, he disagreed by saying, *"Don't mistake quiet and careful for being pissed."* What do you think Mateo meant? What did Emma realize about Mateo? Discuss.

Chapter 37 Stubborn

Questions

Who was in Joseph's room, and what was the surprise that Joseph had planned for Emma?

What did Emma assume Joseph had told Zonta? Was she right?

Why had Zonta really stopped talking to Emma?

Reflections

Why did Emma suddenly start shaking and crying? What set her off so she could no longer control herself? Was this a good thing? Discuss.

Zonta helped Emma work through her real feelings. What did Emma discover were her real reasons for hating Zonta? Who was she *really* angry with? Did this realization help Emma in any way? Discuss.

What did Emma finally realize about Zonta's own pain? What difference did that realization make in Emma being okay with Zonta dating Joseph?

Chapter 38 Stand Out

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

mad—crazy good

sux—sucks/is awful

Questions

Emma texted Mateo about the favor he wanted from her. She asked if it was drugs. What was Mateo's response? And what did Emma realize she was doing?

What was the favor that Mateo asked for from Emma? What does this favor reveal about Mateo?

Reflections

What did Emma begin to realize about how she judged others? Do you think she was right about this? Explain.

Why do you think Emma laughed at the favor that Mateo asked? How did this laughter impact Emma?

Chapter 39 First Lesson

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

being in the know—aware/to know something others might not know.

Questions

What did Mateo tell Emma she needed to do to get good notes? Why did Emma not want to follow his directions at first?

What did Emma find out about Tammy? How did this information change the whole situation?

Reflections

Mateo challenged Emma when he said, *“You really don’t trust anyone, do you?”* This statement made Emma think. What did she realize about who she trusted? How is this a sign that Emma’s thinking is changing? Discuss.

Mateo told Emma at the end of the chapter, *“You know, there are a few perks to being invisible to most people.”* What did he mean, and how did this help him?

Chapter 40 Pick Up

Questions

Why did Emma still not want to tell her parents that she was dating Blake?

What surprised Emma when she picked up Blake?

Reflection

Why had Emma not expected to pick up Blake in that neighborhood? What was it about Blake that made her assume he lived in a nice neighborhood? Do you think Emma should or should not be upset about this? Discuss.

Chapter 41 Confused

Questions

Why was Emma angry?

What secret did Emma think Lilly wouldn't let Blake tell?

When Blake asked Emma if she had a problem with him not having money, Emma had to think. What did she realize was her real issue? How did they resolve it?

Reflections

Although Emma was angry, how did she decide to handle her anger this time? What shift does this show in Emma?

How did Blake's personality play a role in helping Emma work through her anger? Discuss.

Chapter 42 Wrong

Question

Who did Emma realize she had been reading wrong all along? What had she been wrong about?

Reflections

What does Emma's realization show about how she is changing?

At the end of the chapter, Blake said, "*Welcome to my world.*" What did he mean? And how does this statement show another similarity between Emma and Blake? How are Blake and Emma similar and different? Do these similarities and differences work for them as a couple? Discuss.

Chapter 43 Party

Questions

Why was the party a shocker to both Emma and Blake?

Even though Emma and Blake were both not okay with the type of party it was, what made Emma and Blake feel at ease with each other?

Reflection

Emma stated: *I knew he was trying to prove he could take me on a date, but I realized that he had already proven the most important thing to me. We were a match.* What did she mean? Do you agree with her? Discuss.

Chapter 44 6th Street

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

gawked—looked

relic—an object that is very old but also tells something about the past

Question

Where did Emma take Blake after the party?

Reflections

What did Emma mean when she referred to the Seaberg family as having ties to “Hancock royalty?”

Why do you think Emma headed to 6th Street? What do you think she is planning to do? Discuss.

Chapter 45 Roxy

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

sick—1. awful/messed up 2. awesome, cool

Questions

What was Billy's reaction to Emma and Blake showing up? How did Emma handle Billy's reaction?

Why did Billy suddenly laugh out loud? What did Emma hope that his laughter meant?

Reflection

Why didn't Emma tell her parents that she called Mrs. Seaberg by her first name, Roxy? How did Emma try to honor her parents' culture but at the same time honor Roxy's culture? Do you think it was important for Emma to call Mrs. Seaberg Roxy?

Chapter 46 Good Time

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

professed—declared, announced, stated

Questions

What did Emma tell Billy about how she felt about Blake?

Even though Blake was confused with Billy and Emma's back and forth statements, why did he decide to stay?

Reflections

Emma told Blake and Billy, *"So I wanted to tell you both at the same time that I'm going to tell my parents, and I don't care how they react."* I looked at Billy. *"If they are upset, that doesn't make you right. I'm not the same girl I was in middle school."* Why was this a breakthrough for Emma? How has Emma changed?

Why wasn't Emma sorry about what she did to Billy in middle school? How does this statement help heal the issue between Billy and Emma?

Chapter 47 1 a.m.

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

panting—breathing heavily

Questions

Why did Emma follow Lilly with her car? How did Lilly react to her following her?

Why didn't Lilly always sleep at her aunt's house? Why did this shock Emma?

Reflections

Emma stated: *I was ready to make things right with Lilly. I was on a roll. I'd left her in the belly of the pirate ship at the playground overnight and felt I'd made the wrong choice. This was my chance to make it right.* What did Emma mean when she said, "I was on a roll"? What did she think would happen? How did Lilly respond to Emma's need to help her?

Emma felt that Lilly was not telling her the full truth, but what made her finally believe Lilly? Do you think Lilly told her the whole truth? Discuss.

Chapter 48 Glass of Water

Questions

What did Emma do at school before she spoke to her parents? What plan had she already begun to put into play? Was her plan making a difference?

What surprised her when she spoke to her parents about pulling up her grades?

Reflections

What did Emma mean when she said, *“I’ve been throwing a glass of water on a huge fire for some time now?”*

What did the discussion between Emma’s parents about Emma’s grades reveal about her parents?

What had Emma been wrong about all along? But what had she been right about when it came to celebrating Joseph?

Even though the talk with her parents did not go well at all, why did Emma still feel lighter? What had she finally let go of?

Chapter 49 Special

Question

How did Emma's mother try to make things right with Emma? How did this make Emma feel?

Reflection

Emma answered her mother in Mandarin. Why was this a big deal? What message did she send her mother by speaking Mandarin?

Chapter 50 Real

Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

snide—mocking, nasty, mean

Questions

What was one thing that Emma had stopped doing which told her that she was working out her anger?

When Chastity said she thought she and Emma were alike, what did Emma *think* she meant? But what did Chastity mean?

Reflections

Why did Chastity keep reaching out to Emma? What did she finally tell Emma about why she keeps talking to her? Does this change Emma's view of Chastity? Do you think there is a chance they could be friends? Discuss.

How does the following statement show how Emma has changed? What has she learned? *I felt my shoulders relax as I gave Chastity a smile. "I've never really been alone." Then I laughed out loud. "I just pushed almost everyone around me away. There is a difference."*