



Monster Discussion Questions

Beginning - July 6

pages 1-43

1. Why is it best to cry at night while someone is screaming?
2. Where is the narrator, at the beginning of the story?
3. What does the narrator feel he has walked into?
4. What does the narrator decide to write in the notebook he is given?
5. What does the narrator name his future film? Why?
6. Who is the narrator?
7. How does Steve envision the opening of his film?
8. Who is on trial for murder?
9. Who is Mr. Sawicki?
10. According to Mr. Sawicki, what is wrong with the film's ending?
11. According to Sandra Petrocelli, who are the monsters in the community?
12. Identify Alguinaldo Nesbitt.
13. According to Kathy O'Brien, what is the wonder and beauty of the American system of justice?
14. Who discovers the body and the missing cigarettes?
15. Why does Sal Zinzi call Detective Gluck with a tip about the robbery?
16. What happens to Tony in the park with Steve?

Tuesday, July 7 - Wednesday, July 8

pages 45-88

1. According to Steve's notes on July 7th, what do they talk about in jail?
2. From whom does Sal Zinzi get information about the robbery?
3. Who tells Wendell Bolden that he was involved in the robbery?
4. What do James King, Peaches, Johnny, and Steve talk about on the stoop?
5. How does Bolden's assault charge get dropped?
6. Why does Jerry want Steve to be Batman?
7. Why do they take away your shoelaces and belt in jail?
8. How does Steve feel in the courtroom?
9. What does the man called Sunset say after reading Steve's play?
10. What does Miss O'Brien say part of her job is?
11. What is Steve's dream?
12. Does Detective Karyl want the death penalty in this case?
13. What is Steve's answer when the older prisoner asks, "Why should you walk?"
14. According to O'Brien, are people innocent until proven guilty?
15. What reason does Osvaldo Cruz give for taking part in the robbery?

Thursday, July 9

pages 89-125

1. What does Acie say about his upcoming verdict?
2. Why does Miss O'Brien put the pictures of Mr. Nesbitt in front of Steve on the table?
3. Why does Steve say he wants to open his shirt when Miss O'Brien looks at him?
4. Why does Steve laugh when King gives him a threatening look?
5. What was Osvaldo's job in the robbery?
6. What three of Osvaldo's actions does O'Brien point out to show he is not a fearful person?
7. What did Mr. Harmon used to dream about for his baby son?
8. What question does Steve ask himself after his father's visit?
9. Steve says he thinks his dad thinks the same as Miss O'Brien does about him. What do they think?
10. What does Detective Williams tell Mrs. Harmon when she asks why they were handcuffing Steve?

Friday, July 10 - Saturday, July 11 - Sunday, July 12

pages 127-159

(July 10)

1. What cheap trick does Petrocelli use on July 10th?
2. What is the guard's reaction to Steve's gagging when cleaning the floors?
3. Describe Steve's reaction to Dr. Moody's testimony about how Mr. Nesbitt actually died.

What was James King's reaction to it?

(July 11)

4. How does Steve feel when Miss O'Brien smiles at him?
5. What is Miss O'Brien's response to Steve's telling her he isn't guilty?
6. Does Ernie think he is guilty? Why or why not?
7. What does Mama bring to Steve?
8. What does Steve think as he lies on his cot after Mama's visit?
9. What phrase does King use when talking about the robbery?
10. What is Steve's reaction to King's asking him if he would be the lookout?

(July 12)

11. What happens at the church service in jail?
12. What reason does Steve give for so many fights in jail?
13. Why is it funny to Steve that they don't allow kids in the visiting area?

Monday, July 13

pages 161-200

1. What does Mrs. Henry say in her testimony?
2. Why does Mrs. Henry hesitate to testify against King?
3. Whose gun is used in the shooting?
4. What do Bobo and King do after the robbery?
5. What sign does Steve give Bobo and King that the store is all clear?
6. According to Bobo, was the shooting of Mr. Nesbitt accidental?
7. When Briggs questions Bobo, what point does he try to make?
8. What three points does O'Brien make when questioning Bobo?

Tuesday, July 14 (part 1 to "King rests.")

pages 201- 237

1. Why does King's lawyer want to make sure the jury connects him to Steve?
2. Steve says, "Maybe we are here _____."
3. What would Steve have told Jerry if he had been there?
4. What is the essence of Nipping's testimony?
5. Why does O'Brien decide Steve should testify?
6. Why couldn't King testify?
7. What game did O'Brien and Steve play? Why?
8. What does Steve say truth is?
9. What does Inmate 2 say about truth and survival?
10. Does Steve tell the truth on the witness stand?
11. What is Mr. Sawicki's testimony?

Tuesday, July 14 ("King rests." to the end) - Friday, July 17 - December 5 months later pages 238-281

1. What main points does Briggs make in his closing arguments to the jury?
2. What main points does O'Brien make in her final arguments to the jury?
3. According to Petrocelli, what is this case about?
4. How does Petrocelli describe the crime?
5. What reason does Petrocelli give the jury to urge them to convict Steve Harmon?

(July 17)

6. What does Steve say the reason is that so many guys in jail talk about appeals?
7. What is the jury's verdict for King?
8. What is the jury's verdict for Steve Harmon?
9. What is O'Brien's reaction to Steve's open arms to give her a hug?
10. What is the last image of Steve in the film?

(December, 5 months later)

11. What is Steve doing with his camera? Why?
12. What did Steve's father say to him after the trial?
13. What final question is Steve trying to answer?

