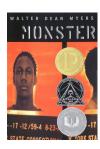
Monster Discussion Questions



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?

- 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?

- 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?