

Summer Reading

Al Capone Does My Shirts, By Gennifer Choldenko

Part 1: Comprehension Questions

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer the following questions **while reading** the novel Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko. It would be good idea to answer the questions **one chapter at a time, while you are reading**. Trying to answer 114 questions all at once after finishing the book is very difficult. Be sure to put your answers in **complete sentences**. You may handwrite your answers or type them.

CHAPTER 1

Devil's Island

1. What is the main character's name?
2. How does he feel about moving to Alcatraz?
3. What does his father do for work?
4. What is his sister's name?

CHAPTER 2

Errand Boy

5. What does Moose want to do when he wakes up?
6. What does he have to do instead?
7. What happened to Natalie on the train the night before?
8. Describe the visitor they have at the end of the chapter.

CHAPTER 3

Trick Monkey

9. Who is Piper?
10. What is the "Dinner Party of Death" described by Theresa?
11. Where does Theresa take Moose and Natalie first?
12. What "tricks" can Nat do?

CHAPTER 4

American Laugh-Nosed Beet

13. Why does Moose ask Nat "the sun get up okay this morning?" each day?
14. What does Natalie want for breakfast every day?
15. Why does the family get onto the boat?
16. What kinds of books does Natalie like?
17. How does the family finally get Natalie off the boat?

CHAPTER 5

Murderers Darn My Socks

18. Why did Moose's mom kick Mrs. McCraw out of the house?
19. What does the note from Warden Williams say?
20. Who does the laundry in Moose's family?

CHAPTER 6

Sucker

21. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
22. Who is at the meeting with Moose?
23. List at least two of the rules of Alcatraz.
24. What "favor" is Moose asked to do for Warden Williams?

CHAPTER 7

Big For Seventh Grade

25. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
26. How does Moose feel about his new school?
27. Who is Scout?
28. What is Piper's essay/speech about?
29. What is Moose's essay/speech about?
30. What is Piper's "project" that she wants Moose's help with?

CHAPTER 8

Prison Guy Plays Ball

31. What position does Moose play in the baseball game?
32. What happens during the game that Moose thinks is "UNBELIEVABLE"?

CHAPTER 9

Nice Little Church Boy

33. Who is Jimmy?
34. Who is Annie?
35. How do kids get baseballs from the convicts?

CHAPTER 10

Not Ready

36. What news does Moose get on the phone?

CHAPTER 11

The Best In the Country

37. In this chapter, we learn about many different "treatments" Moose's mother has tried with Natalie. List at least four of them.
38. What reason does Mr. Purdy give for asking Natalie to leave?
39. What is the plan for "getting Natalie ready" to try the Esther P. Marinoff again?
40. Do you think the plan will be successful? Explain why or why not.

CHAPTER 12

What about the electric chair?

41. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
42. What does Piper promise to do for Moose if he helps with her prison laundry scheme?
43. What does Moose say happens to a prisoner if his library book is ten days overdue?
44. How successful is Piper's laundry plan?

CHAPTER 13

One-Woman Commando Unit

45. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
46. What does Mrs. Kelly want the family to do to "help" Natalie?
47. What is Moose's mother's new job?
48. Why is Moose upset about his mother's new job?

CHAPTER 14

Al Capone's Baseball

49. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
50. What does Moose ask Scout to do for him?
51. What does Scout ask Moose to do for him?

CHAPTER 15

Looking For Scarface

52. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
53. Why is Natalie upset at the beginning of this chapter?
54. How does Natalie get cool in the hot weather?
55. Where is Moose planning to take Natalie?
56. Why don't Theresa and Jimmy go with them?

CHAPTER 16

Capone Washed Your Shirts

57. Where do the events of this chapter take place?
58. What is in the three bags Piper brings on the boat to school?
59. What good news does Moose receive from Scout?
60. How do the students at Moose's school react when Piper gives them back their clothes?

CHAPTER 17

Baseball On Tuesday

61. What bit of bad news does Moose receive from his mother?

CHAPTER 18

Not On My Team

62. Why is this chapter called "Not On My Team"?

CHAPTER 19

Daddy's Little Miss

63. What do Moose and the other kids go down to the docks for at the beginning of this chapter?
64. Why are Annie, Jimmy, Moose, and Piper called to Warden Williams's house?
65. Why do you think this chapter is called "Daddy's Little Miss"?

CHAPTER 20

Warning

66. What does Natalie do when Moose accidentally knocks over her button box?
67. Why does Mr. Trixle pay a visit to Moose's apartment that evening?

CHAPTER 21

It Never Rains On Monday

68. What do you think will happen when the kids try to meet Al Capone's mama on the boat to Alcatraz?

CHAPTER 22

Al Capone's Mama

69. Piper tries repeatedly to get Mrs. Capone's attention on the boat, without any success. What is it that eventually captures Mrs. Capone's attention?
70. Copy the last two paragraphs of this chapter into your notebook. Why do you think Moose is so stricken by these thoughts?

CHAPTER 23

She's Not Cute

71. The title of this chapter comes from a conversation Moose and Scout have. What do you think causes the tension between the two friends?
72. What does Natalie do that Moose thinks is "the funniest thing" he's ever heard?
73. What does Moose discover at the end of the chapter that he describes as "a magnet"?

CHAPTER 24

Be a Regular Sister

74. Moose is pulled in two directions at the beginning of this chapter: keep looking for a baseball vs. going back. What pulls him in these two opposite directions?

CHAPTER 25

My Gap

75. The title of this chapter refers to Moose's thought that "The thought of Scout worming his way through my hole in my fence and finding my ball makes me nuts. Is this really just about baseball for Moose?"
76. This chapter ends with a cliffhanger when Moose discovers his sister is missing. What do you think happened to Natalie?

CHAPTER 26

Convict Baseball

77. What is the significance of the number 105?

CHAPTER 27

Idiot

78. Why is Moose so upset in this chapter?
79. What does Piper figure out about "105" at the end of the chapter?
80. What do you think Piper means when she says, "This is the beginning"?

CHAPTER 28

Tall For Her Age

81. Why are Moose's parents so happy at the beginning of the chapter?
82. Why is Moose so upset at the end of the chapter?

CHAPTER 29

Convict Choir Boy

83. What happens to the con's baseball?
84. What does Piper want from Moose?
85. What do the cons call #105?

CHAPTER 30

Eye

86. Why can't Moose find Natalie's button box?
87. Why does Natalie start screaming?
88. How does Moose finally calm Natalie down?
89. Why is this chapter called "Eye"?

CHAPTER 31

My Dad

90. As Moose and his father clean the apartment after Natalie's tantrum, Moose asks his dad, "How come you always do what Mom tells you?" How does Moose's father answer this question?
91. Moose then asks, "Did I cause Natalie to be the way she is?" How does his dad answer this question?

CHAPTER 32

The Button Box

92. Why does Moose's dad talk to Moose's mom about in this chapter?
93. In the second-to-last paragraph, Moose thinks, "This is the sister I might have had." Explain how you think Moose is feeling at that moment.

4. What do you think is going to happen to Natalie? Do you think she will successfully get into the Esther P. Marinoff School?

CHAPTER 33

The Sun and the Moon

95. What two big events in Natalie's life are coming up?
96. What does Piper do when she pays Moose and Natalie a visit?
97. This chapter ends with the statements... "This is terrible. This is good." What is so terrible/good? Why?

CHAPTER 34

Happy Birthday

98. Who does Moose's mother invite to Natalie's birthday party?
99. Who does Natalie want to invite to her party?
100. What gifts does Natalie receive?
101. Why is "the word we buzzing inside" Moose's head at the end of the chapter?

CHAPTER 35

The Truth

102. Why is this chapter called "The Truth"?
103. Why do you think it is so important for Moose's mother to keep Natalie young?

CHAPTER 36

Waiting

104. What are they "waiting" for in this chapter?
105. What news do they get on the phone?

CHAPTER 37

Carrie Kelly

106. Why does Moose call Mrs. Kelly?
107. Why does Moose visit the Warden?
108. What is the Warden's reply to Moose's plea for help?

CHAPTER 38

What Happened?

109. Why does Moose's mother stay in her room all day?
110. What does Moose decide to do as a last effort to help Natalie?
111. What is "The Mom Rule"?

CHAPTER 39

The Warden

112. What's the good news?

CHAPTER 40

Al Capone Does My Shirts

113. What does Moose find in his shirt?
114. What do you think happened?