

Task for *Grace*

Comprehension questions

Outcomes: ([ACEEN021](#)), ([ACEEN022](#)), ([ACEEN028](#)), ([ACEEN030](#)), ([ACEEN035](#)), ([ACEEN038](#))

Complete the following questions and activities.

** This activity may be divided up with individuals or groups of students completing different chapters or chapter-combinations. Students can then work together to consolidate their understanding and negotiate correct responses to be published in a class-resource.*

Esplanade

1. What impressions does the opening scene of the Esplanade tell the reader about Grace? What sort of person is she? What clues are given about her past?

Grace of the Crocodiles

2. What is Grace's emotional state when she flees to the Kimberley?
3. What does Grace learn from the widows – Clara, Louise and Marion Dwyer – and why is it useful to her in coping with the trauma in her past?
4. What is Grace's relationship with her mother like in Sydney? Why doesn't Grace connect with her mother's lifestyle at this time?
5. Garth Stroller takes Grace on a tour of Crocodile Gardens on her third day working at the wildlife park. What does he show her and what is her reaction to each of these items? What is the significance of the mutant crocodiles?
6. The first letter from Grace's stalker is presented here. In what ways are its contents innocuous and innocent? In what ways is it threatening and disturbing?
7. Grace relates her first encounter with whom she comes to know as 'The Icelander'. In what way does his demeanour immediately put Grace on edge?
8. Grace has been away from her stalker for almost eighteen months now. In what ways is she still affected by the experience of his stalking?
9. What are Grace's accommodations at Crocodile Gardens like, and how does she feel about this?

Adoration

10. What are the main ideas in the stalker's next letter and how does it affect Grace?
11. In what ways does "The Icelander" try to pursue his relationship with Grace? Describe specific events.
12. What is the reaction of Grace's work colleagues and friends to her stalker's attentions? How does she feel about their reactions?
13. What legal remedies does Grace pursue to control Carl's attentions towards her? What is the effect of her legal actions?
14. What is an erotomaniac and how does Carl meet this definition?

15. What is the effect of the stalking on Grace's work and lifestyle?
16. Why does Grace leave her job at *Now* magazine?
17. Grace next tries out the job of "Mudcrawling"? What does this job involve and why is it done? How does Grace feel about this experience and what happens when she works there?
18. Grace stays hiding out at her new place in Forbes Street. What is her mental state at this time? What is Carl's reaction when he finds her again?
19. Why does Grace flee from the house at Forbes Street?

The First Modern Woman

20. Describe Molloy's discovery of the Salt End Woman.
21. Describe the relationship between John Molloy and Henric Fischer at this stage.
22. What does examination of the Salt End Woman's skeleton initially reveal or suggest?

Eureka!

23. How are John and Kate's reactions to the discovery of the Salt End Woman different? What do they tell the reader about their relationship at this early stage?

Adventure Tours

24. What sorts of people does Grace take on adventure tours? Why don't they like to be called tourists? How do they see themselves as different?
25. Describe Grace's changing perspective on Brett Stroller as he takes her on her orientation of the adventure tour through the mangroves. What causes her change of feeling?
26. Why does Grace and Brett's relationship sour when they go to the beach to wash off? What trick does Brett try to pull and what is Grace's reaction to it?
27. How does Grace appear to have adapted to the role of Adventure Tour leader? Contrast her behaviour with that of her clients.
28. What happens when the boy runs into the group? How do different people react? Why does Grace decide to take him with them and what are her intentions at this point?
29. What clues to the boy's identity are we given? How much of this does Grace know for certain?
30. When they get back to the park, how does Grace coax the boy out of the vehicle and inside?

Bathrooms

31. From the evidence given, where do you think the boy is from? Describe his home environment?
32. Where does the boy's obsession with *Titanic* originate, and why does he like the movie?
33. How long does the boy stay with Grace, and what are their lives like at this stage? How does Grace feel about the boy, and how does he feel about her?
34. Why does Grace decide to get rid of the boy, and how is this achieved?

The Capricorn Mug

35. What is the significance about John Molloy's Capricorn Mug, and how does he feel about it?
36. Why does John and Henri's relationship end? Describe the incident that makes their break final.
37. What are John's memories of Grace and her swimming? Why are these significant?
38. What is the first letter that John reads about? What does he think and feel about this?
39. What is the second letter that John reads about? What does he think and feel about this? What else does the reader learn through this letter?

Onward March

40. Where is John from? What was his childhood like? How did he gain an education and develop a future for himself?
41. How does John Molloy end up in Australia? What is his childhood in Australia like? How does he cope with difficulties?
42. What is the role that the book *Humanity's Onward March* plays in John Molloy's developing outlook on the world? What ideas from this book are important to him? What role does it play in his education?
43. What is meant by the quoted headline "Modern Woman Found by Ultra-modern Man"?
44. Describe Molloy's early life as an anthropologist. How does he get involved in the field of studies that will lead him to his famous discovery?
45. What is the third letter that John opens about? What does he think and feel about the contents?

The Nature Walk

46. Describe Grace's personality and demeanour as she takes a tour party around the Ecosystem Nature Walk. What qualities mark her personality at this point?

Charity

47. Describe the boy's new living conditions. How has he been hidden? How does he feel about his new situation?
48. Why does Sister Joseph assist with the hiding or detention escapees and others? What strategies does she have for helping them? What reasons does she give for her decision to help the boy in particular?
49. What do we learn from the boy's memories of the detention centre? What do we learn from the interview with him by the civil-rights lawyer?
50. Why does Sister Joseph decide to move the boy on and what plans does she make?

Park Nocturne

51. Why does Joel leave Grace? What are her feelings about this? What does John think about it?
52. What are John's memories of the week he and Kate broke up? What does the dead bull terrier symbolise?

53. What are John's memories of Grace's mental state at this stage of the stalking? How is it contrasted with his memory of her as a child in a park? What do these memories reveal of the person John thinks Grace is, and the effect the stalking has had on her?

Dark Lady of the Cinema

54. When and where does this chapter occur? What are the contents of the letter from Carl? What does this reveal about his mental state at this stage?

The Skeleton Handbook

55. What are the procedures for dealing with a skeleton discovery? What is Evan's opinion of these procedures?
56. What is Evan's life like at the Salt End Inn? What is his relationship with Kelly like?
57. Who is Bryon O'Malley and why is he contacted by Evan?

Into Africa

58. Why is John in North Western Australia? What is his assessment of Grace when he catches up with her?
59. What is the subject and content of John Molloy's lecture? Why does Grace attend it?
60. Why are John Molloy's claims about his Salt End Woman skeleton historically significant?
61. What is the question John is challenged with at the end of his lecture? Why is it a controversial question? What is the significance of John's response to this question and what does the reader learn about him from it?

Bone Dry

62. What is John Molloy's assessment of the skeleton at the Salt End Inn?
63. How is the treatment of skeletons under aboriginal culture different from treatment by western anthropological science? How does John Molloy's claim that his Salt End Woman is the oldest get validated?

Five-Jetty Night

64. Why do John and Kate move to Lion Island? How does John feel about this? What experiences make him feel this way?
65. What is life like on the island?
66. Why does John develop a secret affection for the 'Nordic girl' deckhand on the *Island Lady* ferry?
67. What is the 'locals-versus-tourists thing'? What is John's experience of this as an outsider?
68. John and Reece go beach worming. What is the substance of their conversation?
69. Describe the disastrous ferry-scene on the day that Kate leaves John. Is John correct in suspecting their presence had something to do with what went wrong?

The Living Night

70. What event is Grace taking a group of tourists to see?

71. When and why does Grace lose control of the group? What is her reaction to losing this control?
72. How does Drewe foreshadow the return of 'The Iclander' in this chapter?

Love Object

73. What is her opinion of her stalker at this point in the narrative?
74. Describe the events that bring Carl back into contact with Grace. How does he appear to her in the park and what happens? How did he find her?

Sewing Instructions

75. What information does the boy reveal in this chapter about his past and his time in the detention camp?
76. What information does Grace reveal to the boy about her experiences?
77. How effective are Grace and the boy in understanding each other's experiences?
78. Why do Grace and the boy make love?
79. How do the authorities find out that the boy is at the Salt End Inn?
80. Why and how does Kelly help them to escape?

Road Movie

81. What does Bryon do before he picks up Grace and the boy?
82. Why does Grace act distant with the boy in this chapter and thereafter?
83. Summarise the trip that Grace, Bryon and the boy take to escape the people hunting them? Why is this a symbolically-shared journey for all of them?

The Sacred Ibis

84. What was the cost to John for Bryon helping Grace? Why did John make this sacrifice?
85. How were John's claims about the Salt End Woman being 100,000 years old disproven? How does he feel about this?
86. Describe the method whereby John returns the remains to the aboriginal people. What is the ceremony he attends about?
87. How has the boy escaped authorities?
88. Why is Grace worried about her pregnancy? What is she going to do about it?

Scenario

89. What are Carl's plans for Grace now? How does he attempt to possess her once again?
90. How does Carl's plan go terribly wrong? What is his fate?
91. Why does Grace close the cabinet after finding the body of her stalker?
92. Why is the location of the stalker's death symbolically significant in terms of the parallels between Grace and John's character journeys?

The Island

93. Why do Grace and John return to the island at the end of the novel? What do they learn there?