The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

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Introduction

The The Five People You Meet in Heaven lesson plan contains a variety of teaching materials that cater to all learning styles. Inside you'll find 30 Daily Lessons, 20 Fun Activities, 180 Multiple Choice Questions, 60 Short Essay Questions, 20 Essay Questions, Quizzes/Homework Assignments, Tests, and more. The lessons and activities will help students gain an intimate understanding of the text; while the tests and quizzes will help you evaluate how well the students have grasped the material.

Target Grade: 7th-12th (Middle School and High School)

Length of Lesson Plan: Approximately 129 pages. Page count is estimated at 300 words per page. Length will vary depending on format viewed.

Completely Customizable!

Each lesson plan is downloadable in PDF and Word. The Word file is viewable with any PC or Mac and can be further adjusted if you want to mix questions around, add your own headers for things like "Name," "Period," and "Date." The Word file offers unlimited customizing options so that you can teach in the most efficient manner possible. Once you download the file, it is yours to keep and print for your classroom.

Lesson Plan Calendars

The Lesson Plan Calendars provide daily suggestions about what to teach. They include detailed descriptions of when to assign reading, homework, in-class work, fun activities, quizzes, tests and more. Use the entire lesson plan, or supplement it with your own curriculum ideas. Calendars cover one week, two week, four week and eight week units. Determine how long your The Five People You Meet in Heaven unit will be, then use one of the calendars provided to plan out your entire lesson.
Chapter Abstracts

Chapter abstracts are short descriptions of events that occur in each chapter. They highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of important characters. The Chapter Abstracts can be used to review what the students have read, or to prepare the students for what they will read. Hand the abstracts out in class as a study guide, or use them as a “key” for a class discussion. They are relatively brief, but can serve to be an excellent refresher of the text for either a student or teacher.

Character and Object Descriptions

Character and Object Descriptions provide descriptions of the significant characters and objects/places in the book. These can be printed out and used as an individual study guide for students, a “key” for leading a class discussion, a summary review prior to exams, or a refresher for an educator. The character and object descriptions are also used in some of the quizzes and tests in this lesson plan. The longest descriptions run about 200 words. They become shorter as the importance of the character or object declines.

Multiple Choice Questions

The 180 Multiple Choice Questions in this lesson plan will test a student’s recall and understanding of the text. Use these questions for quizzes, homework assignments or tests. The questions are broken out into sections, so they focus on specific chapters or acts within a book or play. This allows you to test and review the book as you proceed through the unit. Typically, there are 5-15 questions per chapter, act or section.

Short Essay Questions

The 60 Short Essay Questions listed in this section require a one to two sentence answer. They ask students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the text by describing what they’ve read, rather than just recalling it. The short essay questions evaluate not only whether students have read the material, but also how well they understand and can apply it. They require more thought than a multiple choice question, but are shorter than the essay questions.

Essay Questions/Writing Assignments

These 20 Essay Questions/Writing Assignments can be used as essay questions on a test, or as stand-alone essay topics for a take-home or in-class writing assignment. Students should have a full understanding of the unit material in order to answer these questions. They often include multiple parts of the work and ask for a thorough analysis of the overall text. They nearly always require a substantial response. Essay responses are typically expected to be one (or more) page(s) and consist of multiple paragraphs, although it is possible to write answers more briefly. These essays are designed to challenge a student’s understanding of the broad points in a work, interactions among the characters, and main points and themes of the text. But, they also cover many of the other issues specific to the work and to the world today.
Daily Lessons

This section of the lesson plan contains 30 Daily Lessons. Daily Lessons each have a specific objective and offer at least three (often more) ways to teach that objective. Lessons include classroom discussions, group and partner activities, in-class handouts, individual writing assignments, at least one homework assignment, class participation exercises and other ways to teach students about the text in a classroom setting. You can combine daily lessons or use the ideas within them to create your own unique curriculum. They vary greatly from day to day and offer an array of creative ideas that provide many options for an educator.

Fun Classroom Activities

Fun Classroom Activities differ from Daily Lessons because they make "fun" a priority. The 20 enjoyable, interactive classroom activities that are included will help students understand the text in fun and entertaining ways. Fun Classroom Activities include group projects, games, critical thinking activities, brainstorming sessions, writing poems, drawing or sketching, and countless other creative exercises. Many of the activities encourage students to interact with each other, be creative and think "outside of the box," and ultimately grasp key concepts from the text by "doing" rather than simply studying. Fun activities are a great way to keep students interested and engaged while still providing a deeper understanding of the work and its themes.

Quizzes/Homework Assignments

The Quizzes/Homework Assignments are worksheets that can be used in a variety of ways. They pull questions from the multiple choice and short essay sections, the character and object descriptions, and the chapter abstracts to create worksheets that can be used for pop quizzes, in-class assignments and homework. Periodic homework assignments and quizzes are a great way to encourage students to stay on top of their assigned reading. They can also help you determine which concepts and ideas your class grasps and which they need more guidance on. By pulling from the different sections of the lesson plan, quizzes and homework assignments offer a comprehensive review of the text in manageable increments that are less substantial than a full blown test.

Tests

Use the Test Summary page to determine which pre-made test is most relevant to your students' learning styles. This lesson plan provides both full unit tests and mid-unit tests. You can choose from several tests that include differing combinations of multiple choice questions, vocabulary questions, short answer questions, short essay questions, full essay questions, character and object matching, etc. Some of the tests are designed to be more difficult than others. Some have essay questions, while others are limited to short-response questions, like multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. If you don't find the combination of questions that best suits your class, you can also create your own test.

Create Your Own Quiz or Test

You have the option to Create Your Own Quiz or Test. If you want to integrate questions you've developed for your curriculum with the questions in this lesson plan, or you simply want to create a unique test or quiz from the questions this lesson plan offers, it's easy to do. Cut and paste the information from the Create Your Own Quiz or Test page into a Word document to get started. Scroll through the sections of the lesson plan that most interest you and cut and paste the exact questions you want to use into your new, personalized
Lesson Plan.

**Evaluation Forms**

Use the Oral Reading Evaluation Form when students are reading aloud in class. Pass the forms out before you assign reading, so students will know what to expect. You can use the forms to provide general feedback on audibility, pronunciation, articulation, expression and rate of speech. You can use this form to grade students, or simply comment on their progress.

Use the Writing Evaluation Form when you're grading student essays. This will help you establish uniform criteria for grading essays even though students may be writing about different aspects of the material. By following this form you will be able to evaluate the thesis, organization, supporting arguments, paragraph transitions, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. of each student's essay.

**Lesson Plan Calendar**

Lesson plan calendars give you daily suggestions about what to teach. Determine how long your *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* unit will be, then use one of the following calendars to plan out your entire lesson. In some cases, you may want to assign some of the reading over the weekend preceding the unit. This will give students some context for the start of the unit.

**Definitions:**

* Review Chapter Abstracts - Chapter abstracts are synopses of each chapter that you can use to review the reading assignments with your students.

* Daily Lessons - There are 30 daily lessons detailed in this lesson plan. Select a new daily lesson each day.

* Fun Activities - There are 20 fun activities in this lesson plan. They serve as a way for students to interact with the material in an enjoyable, educational way.

* Read Aloud in Class - Ask students to take turns reading aloud from where they left off in their most recent reading assignment. Use the Oral Reading Evaluation Form in this lesson plan to evaluate their reading skills.

* In-Class Handout - An in-class handout can be one of the quizzes/homework assignments, vocabulary games, worksheets, or an essay/writing assignment. It's something the students can complete and turn in during class, or begin in-class and take home to finish as a homework assignment.

**One Week Lesson Calendar**

**Before the Unit Begins**

Homework: Read through *Chapter 4 of The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 - Introduce Unit</th>
<th>Day 2 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 3 - Quiz</th>
<th>Day 4 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 5 - Final Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 4</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 8</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 11</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 14</td>
<td>Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 1-8</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 7-16</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 24-30</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Fun Activity from Fun Activities 1-10</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 11</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Read Aloud in</td>
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</table>
Class
Homework Assignment:
Read through Chapter 8

Activities 2-10
Homework Assignment:
Read through Chapter 14
and assign an essay, due
the week following the test

### Two Week Lesson Calendar

**Before the Unit Begins**

Homework: Read through *Chapter 2 of The Five People You Meet in Heaven.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 - Introduce Unit</th>
<th>Day 2 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 3 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 4 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 5 - Quiz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 2</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 4</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 6</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 8</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 1-3</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 4-6</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 7-9</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 10-12</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Activity from Fun Activities 1-5</td>
<td>1 Activity from Fun Activities 1-5</td>
<td>1 Activity from Fun Activities 1-5</td>
<td>1 Activity from Fun Activities 6-10</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 8 and study for quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 4</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 6</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 8</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 10</td>
<td>Test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 6 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 7 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 8 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 9 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 10 - Final Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 11</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 12</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 13</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 14</td>
<td>Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 13-16</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 17-20</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 21-25</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 26-30</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Activity from Fun Activities 11-15</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 12 and choose a homework assignment from one of the a Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Read Aloud in Class</td>
<td>Read through Chapter 13 and choose a homework assignment from one of the a Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review for Test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 12</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 13</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 14</td>
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</table>

### Four Week Lesson Calendar

**Before the Unit Begins**

Homework: Read through *Chapter 1 of The Five People You Meet in Heaven.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 - Introduce Unit</th>
<th>Day 2 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 3 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 4 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 5 - Quiz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 1</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 1-2</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 2</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 3</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
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<td>Students Read Aloud in In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Review Homework</td>
<td>Review Homework</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 2 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 3-4 1 Activity from Fun Activities 1-3 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 3 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daily Lesson 5 1 Activity from Fun Activities 4-6 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 6-7 Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 6 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 7 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 8 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 9 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 10 - Mid Unit Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 8 1 Activity from Fun Activities 7-8 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 5 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 5 Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 9-10 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 6 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 6 Review Homework Daily Lesson 11 1 Activity from Fun Activities 9-10 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 7 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 7 Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 12-13 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
<td>Test Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 8 and assign an Essay, due the week following the final test</td>
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<tr>
<th>Day 11 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 12 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 13 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 14 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 15 - Quiz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 8 Review Test 1 Daily Lesson from Daily Lessons 16-17 1 Activity from Fun Activities 12-13 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 10 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 9 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 16-17 1 Activity from Fun Activities 12-13 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 10 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 10 Review Homework Daily Lesson 18 1 In-Class Handout Homework Assignment: Choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Homework 1 Daily Lesson from Daily Lessons 19-20 1 Activity from Fun Activities 13-14 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 11 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 11 Quiz 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 21-22 Read Aloud in Class 1 Activity from Fun Activities 15-6 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 12 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<th>Day 16 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 17 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 18 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 19 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 20 - Final Test</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 12 Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 25-26 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 14 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 13 Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 25-26 1 In-Class Handout Read Aloud in Class Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 14 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 14 Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 27-28 1 In-Class Handout 1 Activity from Fun Activities 19-20</td>
<td>1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 29-30 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<tr>
<th>Day 21 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 22 - Review Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 13 1 Activity from Fun Activities 20-21 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 15 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Homework 1 Lesson from Daily Lessons 31-32 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
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<th>Day 23 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 24 - Review Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 14 1 Activity from Fun Activities 22-23 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 16 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 33-34 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
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<th>Day 25 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 26 - Review Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 15 1 Activity from Fun Activities 24-25 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 17 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 35-36 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
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<th>Day 27 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 28 - Review Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 16 1 Activity from Fun Activities 26-27 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 18 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 37-38 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
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<th>Day 29 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 30 - Review Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 17 1 Activity from Fun Activities 28-29 Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 19 and choose a homework assignment from one of the Daily Lessons</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 39-40 1 In-Class Handout Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for the test</td>
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</table>
# Eight Week Lesson Calendar

**Before the Unit Begins**

Homework: Read through Chapter 1 of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 - Introduce Unit</th>
<th>Day 2 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 3 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 4 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 5 - Quiz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 1</td>
<td>Daily Lesson 1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lessons 2</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 2</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Read Aloud in Class</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 2 and complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 3 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Fun Activity 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Read Aloud in Class</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 6 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 7 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 8 - Quiz</th>
<th>Day 9 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 10 - Review Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Lesson 4 Fun Activity 3</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 3</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 4</td>
<td>Fun Activity 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 3 and complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 6 Read Aloud in Class</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 7 Fun Activity 4</td>
<td>In-Class Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Homewor Assignment: Read through Chapter 4 and complete the Daily Lesson</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 11 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 12 - Quiz</th>
<th>Day 13 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 14 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 15 - Quiz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Lesson 8 Students Read Aloud in Class</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 5</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 10 1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 11 Fun Activity 7</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 5 and study for quiz</td>
<td>Quiz Daily Lesson 9 Fun Activity 6</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 6 and complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson</td>
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<td>Read Aloud in Class</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 16 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 17 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 18 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 19 - Review Unit</th>
<th>Day 20 - Mid-Unit Test</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Lesson 12 Fun Activity 9</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 7</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 14 1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Review Homework 1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Test on first half of The Five People You Meet in Heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignment: Read through Chapter 7 and complete the Daily Lesson</td>
<td>Review Homework Daily Lesson 13 1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Review for Test Homework Assignment: Study for test</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Assign an Essay, due on Day 38</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read Aloud in Class</td>
<td>Homework Assignment: Complete the Daily Lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 21 - Review Unit</td>
<td>Day 22 - Review Unit</td>
<td>Day 23 - Review Unit</td>
<td>Day 24 - Review Unit</td>
<td>Day 25 - Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Lesson 15</td>
<td>Review the Test</td>
<td>Review Homework</td>
<td>Review Chapter Abstracts up to Chapter 9</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the Test</td>
<td>Daily Lesson 16</td>
<td>Daily Lesson 17</td>
<td>Daily Lesson 9</td>
<td>Daily Lesson 18</td>
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<td>Homework Assignment:</td>
<td>1 In-Class Handout</td>
<td>Fun Activity 11</td>
<td>Review Homework</td>
<td>Fun Activity 13</td>
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<td>Read through Chapter 8</td>
<td>Homework Assignment:</td>
<td>Homework Assignment:</td>
<td>Fun Activity 12</td>
<td>Homework Assignment:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete the Daily</td>
<td>Read through Chapter 9</td>
<td>and complete the Daily</td>
<td>Complete the Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**Chapter Abstracts**

Chapter abstracts are short descriptions of events that occur in each chapter. They highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of characters and objects. The Chapter Abstracts can be used to review what the students have read, or to prepare the students for what they will read. Hand the abstracts out in class as a study guide, or use them as a “key” for a class.
discussion. They are relatively brief, but can serve to be an excellent refresher of the text for either a student or teacher.

**Chapter 1 Abstract**

* In Chapter 1, the reader meets the protagonist, Eddie, an injured war veteran and maintenance worker at Ruby Pier who is unhappy with his life's accomplishments.
* He hoped to achieve more grandiose things and feels lonely and unfulfilled.

**Chapter 2 Abstract**

* Ruby Pier has served an important role in Eddie's life; it is where he spent his childhood, he met his wife, Marguerite, there and spent his entire adult life working there.

**Chapter 3 Abstract**

* Today is Eddie's eighty-third birthday and through the author's use of flashback, the reader learns about other birthdays and milestones in Eddie's life, beginning with his birth in 1920.

**Chapter 4 Abstract**

* Eddie is unaware of his last moments on earth, when he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart at the Pier; rather, his last memory is of feeling her tiny hands in his.

**Chapter 5 Abstract**

* This chapter is the beginning of Eddie's journey through and to Heaven, signified by his traveling through the changing colored atmosphere and sea.
* Eddie feels no pain and hears only silence.
* All his worries are gone.

**Chapter 6 Abstract**

* Through a flashback, the reader is introduced to Mickey Shea.
* This part of the story takes place on Eddie's fifth birthday.

**Chapter 7 Abstract**

* Eddie awakens in a teacup ride to find that he is at the Ruby Pier of his childhood.
* He feels no pain and is thrilled to feel so young again, but he still feels quite alone.
Chapter 8 Abstract

* Eddie runs around the park, stopping in front of the freak show house, which has long since been shut down.
* A Blue Man speaks to Eddie and tells Eddie that he has been waiting for him.

Chapter 9 Abstract

* The Blue Man tells Eddie that he feels young because the Blue Man is part of Eddie's youth.
* Eddie is surprised to discover that Ruby Pier is a part of Heaven, but the Blue Man explains that Heaven has many steps.
* The Ruby Pier of Eddie's childhood is Eddie's first step.
* Eddie cannot speak because in Heaven, voices come later. This helps people to be better listeners.
* The Blue Man explains to Eddie that Heaven is for understanding one's life on earth.

Chapter 10 Abstract

* The reader flashes back to when Eddie was seven, and then eight years old.
* The Blue Man explains that he turned blue from silver nitrate poisoning, which was prescribed when he was a child because he wet the bed frequently.
* The Blue Man's skin turned blue and he eventually got a job at the freak house at Ruby Pier, where people finally accepted him.
* The Blue Man tells Eddie about the time when Eddie's baseball rolled into the road and Eddie chased after it. The Blue Man, who was at that instant driving down the road, swerved to avoid hitting Eddie.
* The Blue Man was so nervous, he had a heart attack and died. Eddie attended the stranger's funeral, without knowing how he died.

Chapter 11 Abstract

* Eddie learns from the Blue Man that all people are connected, even strangers are interwoven in everyone's life.
* Eddie also learns that one action impacts the next, and so on and so on, until all people are affected.
* Eddie asks the Blue Man if he saved the little girl at the Pier.
* The Blue Man hugs Eddie, then disappears.

Chapter 12 Abstract

* The readers are transported back to Ruby Pier of the present, where they are waiting for the ambulance to come for Eddie.
* A flashback takes the reader to when Eddie confides in his brother that he has found the girl he wishes to marry.
* Joe breaks Eddie's confidence, causing Eddie to grow angry.
* The brothers fight, and Eddie's mother makes peace.

Chapter 13 Abstract

* Eddie saves his money to attend engineering school, but then, decides to enlist in the army during wartime.
* The second person Eddie meets in Heaven is the Captain. They are on the desolate battlefield once occupied by Eddie and other
soldiers.
* Eddie and three other soldiers are captured in the Philippines and imprisoned and forced to work in coal mines.
* Rabozzo, the weakest of the four soldiers, is murdered by the enemy.
* Eddie's talent as a juggler saves the three remaining men; he uses stones as weapons to aid their escape.

Chapter 14 Abstract

* Albom brings the reader to the time prior to when Eddie leaves for war. Marguerite tells Eddie she will wait for him.
* The story shifts back to the war, where Eddie burns enemy tents.
* He tries to save an innocent child trapped in a burning tent, when he realizes he is shot in the leg and pulled from the tent.
* The Captain shoots Eddie in the leg to save him. The Captain then dies in a landmine while he is trying to escape.
* Eddie understands the Captain's reasons for shooting him and realizes he needs to let go of his anger and resentment of a life that did not go as expected.

Abstract

* Eddie learns that dying is not the end, it is only the beginning.
* The Captain tells Eddie that now, he too can move on.
* The Captain teaches Eddie that sacrifice is essential and when something precious is sacrificed, it is not lost.

* Eddie forgives the Captain for his injury.
* The battlefield turns lush and green and unscarred.
* Eddie still wonders whether he saved the little girl at the park.
* The readers, back in the present, see that the workers are at a loss because Eddie is not there to begin the day.

* Eddie is now transported to a diner on a mountain range, where he sees his father inside.
* Eddie's father is abusive and neglectful, even when Eddie tries to work with him at the Pier, his father never praises Eddie.
* Eddie resents Joe, who works at a pool, and gets to come home clean and smelling of seawater.
* Eddie fights with his father when he returns home from the war; Eddie's father makes him get a job when he is feeling lost.
* The third person Eddie meets is a woman who says that Eddie's father is a part of her eternity, even though he is not really there.

* Ruby, the old woman, is actually the one for whom Ruby Pier is named. Ruby teaches Eddie that he has to make peace with himself.
* The reader flashes back to a birthday celebration. Marguerite and Eddie are married now. They receive a phone call from Eddie's mother, who reveals that Eddie's dad is ill with pneumonia.
* After Eddie's father's death, Eddie moves to be near his mother and takes a job at the Pier, doing exactly what he never wanted to do.
* Flashback to Eddie's thirty-seventh birthday, when Eddie talks to his friend Noel about an accident at a park and going to the racetrack.

* Ruby points out that Eddie's father was, in fact, helpful by making Eddie get a job.
* Ruby also reveals to Eddie that Mickey Shea tries to assault Eddie's mother He stops when Eddie's father walks in; his father is in a rage.
* Eddie's father follows Mickey to the pier, where Mickey throws himself into the ocean; Eddie's father dives in and saves Mickey.
* Eddie's father is found wet on the beach hours after he saves Mickey.
* Eddie's father is hospitalized and calls out the window to his wife and sons one night when he was alone.
Eddie’s father dies of pneumonia which he developed after hanging out of the window and being exposed to cold air.

Ruby’s husband, Emile, was Eddie’s father’s roommate in the hospital.

Ruby teaches Eddie that he must forgive his father and let go of his anger, that is only a “curved blade,” harming Eddie.

The reader flashes back to Eddie’s funeral, and learns that a co-worker speaks of how much Eddie loved his wife.

The fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven is a youthful Marguerite. They are at a wedding reception.

The flashback is now to Eddie’s thirty-eighth birthday. Marguerite and Eddie both work at the Pier.

The couple is unable to have children and they discuss adoption.

Eddie’s brother works as a salesman and earns three times as much money as Eddie. This makes Eddie feel inadequate.

The reader now returns to Heaven where Marguerite and Eddie share how much they love each other and have missed one another.

The flashback is now to Eddie’s thirty-ninth birthday. Eddie and Noel are at the racetrack where Eddie won big.

Eddie bets the entire winnings because he is angry after fighting with Marguerite on the phone, and he loses it all.

Marguerite feels bad about the fight and drives to the track to find Eddie. On the way, she is in a car accident and is badly injured.

Marguerite spends six months in the hospital and her relationship with Eddie struggles; the couple is now unable to adopt the baby.

News comes three years later that Marguerite will die of a brain tumor; Eddie is lost without Marguerite, especially after the war.

Marguerite and Eddie discuss how much they have missed each other because of her early death at age forty-seven.

Marguerite teaches Eddie that lost love is still love, just in another form.

Eddie learns that Marguerite has never left him, even though her life ended.

The reader is taken back to the present, where an estate attorney looks for any of Eddie’s assets, only to discover he has none.

The estate attorney feels sorry for Eddie that he has nothing to show for his life.

The reader understands that Eddie’s riches have been in his character, rather than in his material possessions.

Marguerite is gone now and Eddie only sees white and hears only silence.

Next, he hears shrieking and sees brown-skinned children playing in a river. One of the children beckons him to come near.

The reader flashes back to several of Eddie’s birthdays, his 51st, 60th, 68th, 75th and 82nd.

Each birthday is not celebrated because Eddie is alone.

Eddie reflects on his loneliness and on his eighty-second birthday, he visits the graves of his parents and wife.

Eddie misses Marguerite and thinks about their life together.

The girl who beckons Eddie is named Tala, the young child who was burned in the tent fire during the war.

Tala hands Eddie a stone and asks him to wash her with it, causing her wounds to disappear and be healed.

Tala explains to Eddie that he did have worth on earth because he kept children safe.

Tala tells Eddie that he saved the girl from the falling ride, and the hands Eddie felt in his were hers bringing him to the safety of Heaven.

Eddie feels as though he is being washed, and all of his pain and worries vanish.

Eddie sees in a vision all the families and children he has kept safe over the years from his work at the Pier.

The children are gone now, Marguerite returns, and Eddie hears God calling him “home.”

Three days after Eddie’s accident, the park reopens and Eddie’s assistant is promoted to Eddie’s job.
* Eddie's things are packed away with other Ruby Pier memorabilia, saved for posterity and remembrance.
* The key that shredded the cable on Freddy Fall belonged to the great-grandson of Ruby, for whom the park was named.

* The park stays open and children come and go.
* Amy or Annie will grow old, and when she goes to Heaven, she will meet Eddie at the Stardust Band Shell, and he will teach her how all people are connected and that all actions impact others.
* The final chapter is the denouement and the plot is resolved.

**Character Descriptions**

This section provides a short description of all the major characters in the book. This can be printed out as a study guide for students, used as a "key" for leading a class discussion, or you can jump to the quiz/homework section to find worksheets that incorporate these descriptions into a variety of question formats.

**Characters**

**Eddie Maintenance** - This protagonist meets the love of his life in the place where he grew up; despite this, he despises this place the most. A war veteran who has been toughened by life, this character is the kind of person who spends his life making sure others are safe.

**Eddie's Father** - The rough, abusive nature of this character impacts his family in negative ways, however, this person still demonstrates loyalty and forgiveness in an effort to save a wayward friend.

**Joe** - This person acts as a foil for the protagonist, even though the two characters are close.

**Marguerite** - This person demonstrates extraordinary love and forgiveness by never complaining about the limitations caused by other family members. This character represents a pure concept of Heaven and love.

**The Blue Man** - This character turned to silver nitrate in an effort to cure bed wetting. This, however caused more severe physical damage. As a result, this character works in carnivals, and eventually dies from a heart attack after a child runs into the road.

**Ruby** - The Pier comes to exist because of this character. This person teaches the need for forgiveness.

**The Captain** - This character's heroism saves many others yet ironically it also causes his own death.

**Tala** - This character represents acceptance and forgiveness and highlights the importance of the good things one does during life before death.

**Amy or Annie** - This character is saved by a maintenance worker at the Pier. Representing neglect, innocence and purity, this person brings joy to one who has no children.

**Object Descriptions**

This section provides a short description of all the major objects in the book. This can be printed out as a study guide for students, used as a "key" for leading a class discussion, or you can jump to the quiz/homework section to find worksheets that incorporate these descriptions into a variety of question formats.

**Objects**
Ruby Pier of the Present - An ocean side park with rides and games that teems with people during summertime, despite the advent of giant theme parks.

Ruby Pier in the Beginning - The grand entrance bedecks this park before a fire destroys its original glory and its owner's wealth.

Ruby Pier in Eddie's Childhood - A carnival sideshow visits this place during days of old, before viewing deformed people for entertainment becomes unacceptable.

The Model-A Ford - This object, representing a sign of the times, almost causes the demise of one character, but instead, its owner dies of a heart attack.

The Philippines - A war zone or a peaceful spot for children.

The Rifle and Bayonet - The first clues to remind of wartime, these objects hold a helmet and dog tags.

The Bamboo Prison - Deprivation and abuse occur here for four men.

The Coal Mines - Brutal work occurred here, followed by a murder and escape.

The Tent Barracks - An innocent life is regretfully lost here. This place is also where an injury saved another life.

The Apartment House - Two generations exist here.

The Maintenance Shed - Many days are spent here mending parts from the rides.

Freddy's Free Fall - This is the beginning and the end, representing both safety and danger for some of the characters.

Heaven - Here, lessons are taught, realized and learned. In the end, acceptance and resolve prevail.

The Stone - A symbol of life, death and rebirth.

Multiple Choice Questions

This section contains 180 multiple choice questions about The Five People You Meet in Heaven. Multiple choice questions test a student's recall and understanding of the text. Use these questions for chapter quizzes, homework assignments or tests. Jump to the quiz/homework section for the multiple choice worksheets.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 1

1. Where does the reader first meet Eddie?
   a) At a dance with Marguerite.
   b) In his apartment.
   c) Ruby Pier.
   d) In the hospital where he is first born.

2. What does Eddie do for a living?
   a) He is in the military.
   b) He is a carnival clown.
   c) He is a handyman.
   d) Performs maintenance at an amusement park.
3. What is the significance of the day in Chapter One for Eddie?
   a) It is his birthday.
   b) It is Christmas day.
   c) It is his co-worker's wife's birthday.
   d) It is the opening day of the season at Ruby Pier.

4. Where does Eddie meet the love of his life?
   a) At a church dance.
   b) At Ruby Pier.
   c) Overseas when he was a soldier.
   d) At an eating establishment.

5. What does the young man at the Pier lose, causing havoc later?
   a) His wallet.
   b) A vintage coin.
   c) His car key.
   d) A medal from the war.

6. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?
   a) A magic trick.
   b) A pipe cleaner rabbit.
   c) A rabbit made from balloons.
   d) An ice cream cone.

7. What happens to the little girl that Eddie talks with on the platform of Freddie Fall?
   a) She loses her mommy.
   b) She is kidnapped.
   c) She is in an accident with the Freddie Fall cart.
   d) She falls off the ride.

8. How does Eddie feel about the safety of Ruby Pier?
   a) He feels happy that it is one of the last small amusement parks still open.
   b) He is worried that it will be closed due to safety hazards.
   c) He is concerned that it is old and the rides are worn.
   d) He is proud that it has a perfect safety record.

9. What happens to the Freddie Fall car?
   a) It will not move to make the ride operate.
   b) Its safety harness does not work, causing passengers to be in danger.
   c) It gets stuck in the air and cannot come down.
   d) The car is tilted and passengers are in danger.

10. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?
    a) A penny has lodged in the cable, causing it to stick.
    b) The young man's lost car key has shredded the cable.
    c) A teenager decides to hang on the cable as a dare.
    d) The cable has rusted after years of use and salt-water air.
11. Who prevents a fatal accident at the Freddie Fall?
   a) A ride attendant.
   b) Marguerite.
   c) Eddie.
   d) The young man.

12. What happens to Eddie at the end of Chapter One?
   a) He dies in an accident at the Pier.
   b) He celebrates his birthday.
   c) He becomes crippled from an accident at the Pier.
   d) He quits his job at the Pier.

13. Who does the author introduce in a flashback at the end of Chapter One?
   a) Eddie's girlfriend.
   b) Eddie's father.
   c) Eddie's brother.
   d) Eddie's friend.

14. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?
   a) Ferris Wheel.
   b) Roller coaster.
   c) Freddy Free Fall.
   d) Bumper cars.

15. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?
   a) At the movies.
   b) At a concert.
   c) At a restaurant.
   d) At a dance at the Pier.

16. What dance does Eddie recall before the time he was crippled?
   a) "You Are the Love of My Life."
   b) "Starry Eyed-Hop."
   c) "I Finally Found You."
   d) "You Made Me Love You."

17. How does Eddie's leg become crippled?
   a) From an accident at the Pier.
   b) From a car accident.
   c) Getting it caught in a ride.
   d) From the war.

18. Whose philosophy reads, "When your time came, it came, and that was that"?
   a) Eddie's father.
   b) A child's.
   c) Marguerite's.
   d) Eddie's.
1. What is Eddie’s last memory of being alive?
a) Marguerite.
b) Working at the Pier.
c) The cart falling on the little girl.
d) The war.

2. What does Eddie see when he dies?
a) Heaven.
b) Marguerite.
c) Different colors and changing landscape.
d) God.

3. What does Eddie feel after he has died?
a) Nothing.
b) Pain.
c) Calm and no pain.
d) Love.

4. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?
a) Under water.
b) In a field.
c) In Heaven.
d) At the Pier.

5. How old is Eddie in Chapter Two?
a) Five years old.
b) Eighty.
c) Seventy-five.
d) Seventy-two.

6. What color is the sea that Eddie sees?
a) Crystal clear.
b) Green.
c) Yellow, and changing.
d) Blue.

7. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?
a) With a nice dinner.
b) At a picnic at the Pier.
c) With a pony ride.
d) With a party at home.

8. What does Uncle Mickey give Eddie for his birthday?
a) A signed baseball.
b) A bottle of wine.
c) A play pistol and cowboy hat.
d) A silver dollar.

9. What does Uncle Mickey do to Eddie during his birthday?
   a) Kisses him.
   b) Gets into a fight with him.
   c) Slaps Eddie's shoulders in congratulations.
   d) Bumps Eddie's head several times.

10. Who is Uncle Mickey?
    a) Marguerite's brother.
    b) Eddie's father's brother.
    c) He works with Eddie's dad at the Pier.
    d) An old friend of Marguerite's.

11. What does the author use as symbolism in Chapter Two?
    a) The birthday song.
    b) The Pier.
    c) People.
    d) Colors.

12. How does the author portray Uncle Mickey in Chapter Two?
    a) As malicious.
    b) As insensitive to a child.
    c) As oblivious.
    d) As kind.

13. What does Eddie hear once he dies?
    a) Nothing; quiet.
    b) Angels.
    c) Music.
    d) Laughter.

14. To whom does Eddie run for refuge from Uncle Mickey?
    a) His mother.
    b) His brother.
    c) His father.
    d) Marguerite.

15. What color does Eddie see when he first dies?
    a) Pumpkin color.
    b) Black.
    c) Sky blue.
    d) Bright white.

16. What is the last thing Eddie remembers physically feeling before he dies?
    a) Fear.
    b) Suffocation.
c) The little girl’s hands in his own.

17. What does Eddie think the little girl’s name is?
   a) Tala.
   b) Alice or Alexis.
   c) Amy or Annie.
   d) Olivia.

18. What does Eddie remember thinking, right after he dies?
   a) Will he have a chance to redo anything in life?
   b) Will he see his father?
   c) Did he save the little girl?
   d) Did he live a good life?

Multiple Choice - Chapter 3

1. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?
   a) In heaven.
   b) In his bed.
   c) In the teacup ride on Ruby Pier.
   d) In the Philippines.

2. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?
   a) He can walk without his cane.
   b) He floats.
   c) He is young again.
   d) He looks different.

3. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?
   a) Wonderful, but alone.
   b) Sad and alone.
   c) Young, but skeptical.
   d) Happy and alive.

4. What is different about Ruby Pier when Eddie wakes up?
   a) It is the Ruby Pier of the present.
   b) It is the new Ruby Pier.
   c) It is the Ruby Pier of the past.
   d) It is Ruby Pier of Eddie’s childhood.

5. What does Eddie discover he CANNOT do when he wakes up?
   a) Breathe.
   b) Run.
   c) Move.
   d) Talk.
6. What does Eddie do, just because he can, in Chapter Three?
   a) Breathes in the moment.
   b) Rides the rides.
   c) Runs around the park.
   d) Yells in elation.

7. In Chapter Three, where does Eddie stop at the Pier?
   a) In front of the Freddy Fall.
   b) In front of the popcorn machine.
   c) In front of the Ferris Wheel.
   d) In front of the freak show.

8. When was the freak show shut down?
   a) Twenty-five years ago.
   b) Five years ago.
   c) Fifty years ago.
   d) Eighty years ago.

9. Whom does Eddie see in front of the freak show?
   a) The woman with a beard.
   b) Conjoined twins.
   c) A giant man.
   d) A man whose skin is blue.

10. Who says, “Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you.”?
    a) Marguerite.
    b) The man whose skin is blue.
    c) One of the conjoined twins.
    d) Eddie's father.

11. When is Chapter Three set?
    a) Before Eddie was born.
    b) In the future.
    c) In Eddie's past.
    d) During the present.

12. What is the author doing in Chapter Three?
    a) Weaving together past with present.
    b) Weaving together present with future.
    c) Showing readers Eddie’s weaknesses.
    d) Showing readers Eddie’s future.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 4

1. Who is the first person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) His brother.
   b) His dad.
c) The Blue Man.
d) Dominiguez, his assistant from Ruby Pier.

2. Why does Eddie feel like his body is that of a child in Chapter Four?
a) His childhood was the happiest time of his life.
b) He was a child when he knew the Blue Man.
c) Because he has gotten younger.
d) Because he tried to save a child during his life on earth.

3. What does Eddie first ask the first person he meets in Heaven?
a) Why is the Pier Heaven?
b) How old is Eddie now?
c) How long will Eddie be at the Pier?
d) How did Eddie die?

4. How long has Eddie been at the Pier after he died?
a) Time doesn't matter, infinity.
b) One thousand years.
c) One hour.
d) One minute.

5. What does Eddie learn about Heaven in Chapter Four?
a) It has many steps.
b) It is subjective.
c) It is difficult to attain.
d) It is a dream.

6. In death, what step is Ruby Pier for the Blue Man?
a) The third step.
b) The first step.
c) The final step.
d) The second step.

7. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?
a) It will change once Eddie learns his lessons.
b) It is only permitted during urgent situations.
c) It will come; silence helps people listen.
d) It has disappeared forever.

8. According to the Blue Man, what is Heaven for?
a) To finally achieve peace.
b) To have a resting place.
c) To remain until loved ones come to join you.
d) Understanding one's life on earth.

9. What causes the Blue Man's death?
a) He fell from a ride.
b) Eddie's baseball.
10. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?
a) He wants to join the carnival, so he swallows pills.
b) Drinking poisonous cleaning fluid.
c) An overdose of silver nitrate.
d) Eating too many blueberries.

11. Why can't Eddie play with the erector set he received for his eighth birthday?
a) He has to attend a funeral.
b) His father takes it away.
c) It breaks before he can use it.
d) He misbehaved.

12. What does the Blue Man find at Ruby Pier?
a) A place where he is invisible.
b) Solace.
c) A home.
d) A place to hide.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 5

1. What does Eddie learn from the Blue Man?
a) That Eddie has to pay for the role in his death.
b) That one should appreciate what one has.
c) That life is short.
d) That everyone is connected.

2. What is happening at the Ruby Pier of the present in Chapter Five?
a) The rides have all ceased working.
b) People await the ambulance.
c) A sideshow has come to visit.
d) Business, as usual.

3. Who says, "you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind."?
a) Uncle Mickey.
b) The Blue Man.
c) Eddie's father.
d) Eddie.

4. What literary device does the author repetitively use to reveal clues about Eddie's life?
a) Simile.
b) Metaphor.
c) Personification.
d) Flashback.
5. What birthday does Eddie celebrate in Chapter Five?
   a) Eighteenth.
   b) Twenty-first.
   c) Thirteenth.
   d) Seventeenth.

6. With whom does Eddie first share the news that he found the girl he wishes to marry?
   a) His best friend.
   b) His mother.
   c) His father.
   d) Joe.

7. Who says, "the human spirit knows, deep down, that all lives intersect....death doesn't take someone, it misses someone else, and in the small distance between being taken and being missed, lives are changed."
   a) The funeral director.
   b) The priest.
   c) Eddie.
   d) The Blue Man.

8. What happens between Eddie and his brother in Chapter Five?
   a) They get into a fight.
   b) They decide to never speak again.
   c) They get into an accident.
   d) They part ways forever.

9. In the scene played out in Chapter Five, what does Joe do to make Eddie angry?
   a) He lies to Eddie.
   b) He steals Eddie's girl.
   c) He shares Eddie's news of marriage plans.
   d) He punches Eddie.

10. What world event is happening in Chapter Five?
    a) War in Europe.
    b) A new President is being elected.
    c) The Great Depression.
    d) The Stock Market Crash.

11. Who restores peace to Eddie's household in Chapter Five?
    a) Eddie
    b) Eddie's father.
    c) Eddie's mother.
    d) Joe

12. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?
    a) That he embraces dying.
    b) That Heaven is a mystical place.
    c) That he is afraid of dying.
    d) That The Five People You Meet in Heaven teaches lessons.
Multiple Choice - Chapter 6

1. As discovered in Chapter Six, for what is Eddie saving his money?
   a) To attend school to become a construction worker.
   b) To attend school to become a mathematician.
   c) To attend school to become a teacher.
   d) To attend school for engineering.

2. What does Eddie decide to do for a profession when he is young?
   a) He becomes a maintenance worker.
   b) He becomes a teacher.
   c) He enlists in the army.
   d) He becomes an engineer.

3. Who says, "War is not a game. If there’s a shot to be made, you make it, you hear? No guilt. No hesitation..."?
   a) Eddie's brother.
   b) Eddie's father.
   c) The Captain.
   d) Mickey Shea.

4. Who is the second person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) Joe
   b) The Captain.
   c) The girl whom Eddie tries to save at the Pier.
   d) His girlfriend.

5. What happens to Eddie’s leg?
   a) He gets caught in a landmine.
   b) He is beaten by enemy soldiers.
   c) He falls from a tree.
   d) The Captain shoots him to prevent Eddie from entering a burning tent.

6. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?
   a) In a small hut.
   b) Bamboo barracks.
   c) In a steel box.
   d) Under ground.

7. What do Eddie and the other three soldiers have to do while imprisoned?
   a) Build new enemy huts.
   b) Work in a coal mine.
   c) Beat other inmates.
   d) Share military secrets.

8. What happens to Rabozzo when he becomes ill?
   a) He is murdered by enemy soldiers.
b) He is left behind by the others.

c) He dies of hunger.

d) He dies of dysentery.

9. What talent does Eddie have that eventually helps him escape from prison during the war?

a) He sings.

b) He juggles.

c) He's a comedian.

d) He does magic tricks.

10. What do Eddie and the other two soldiers decide to do before escaping?

a) Steal from the enemy camps.

b) Burn the barracks and blow up the mines.

c) Take enemy soldiers captive.

d) Have a funeral for Rabozzo.

11. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

a) That she will marry another man.

b) That she will wait for him.

c) That she loves him.

d) That she cannot wait for him.

12. Why does Eddie try to return to a burning tent?

a) He wants to save his friend.

b) He thinks a child is inside.

c) He left his backpack inside.

d) He wants to die.

**Multiple Choice - Chapter 7**

1. What is the significance of the field in the opening of Chapter Seven?

a) The burnt tents used to rest here.

b) Eddie gets rescued here.

c) It is the Captain's burial ground.

d) Rabozzo dies here.

2. Who says, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, he says, you don't actually lose it."

a) The Captain.

b) Marguerite.

c) Eddie.

d) Rabozzo.

3. From what does the Captain save his men?

a) Friendly fire.

b) A landmine.

c) The coal mine.

d) Burning tents.
4. What happens to the field where Chapter Seven opens?
   a) It turns to a forest.
   b) It becomes lush, green, and unscarred.
   c) It disappears.
   d) It burns up.

5. Why is Ruby Pier closed in Chapter Seven?
   a) No one comes to visit after the accident.
   b) The little girl's mom has brought a lawsuit against the park.
   c) The rides have been condemned.
   d) Eddie's peers feel his loss.

6. What lesson does Eddie learn in Chapter Seven?
   a) That sacrifice is essential.
   b) That love is painful.
   c) That war causes permanent damage.
   d) That forgiveness is easy.

7. What promise did the Captain make?
   a) To return Rabozzo's body to his home.
   b) To save many lives.
   c) To come home from the war soon.
   d) To leave none of his men behind.

8. What does Eddie wonder about in Chapter Seven?
   a) Whether he saves the girl at Ruby Pier.
   b) Whether Rabozzo went to Heaven.
   c) Whether he will ever return to Ruby Pier.
   d) Whether the Captain felt any pain before he died.

9. What does the Captain receive from Eddie?
   a) Eddie's dog tags.
   b) A medal of honor.
   c) Validation that the rest of the men made it out safely.
   d) Forgiveness for shooting him in the leg.

10. Who says, "dying is not the end, it is only the beginning."?
    a) Eddie.
    b) Rabozzo.
    c) The Captain.
    d) The enemy soldier.

11. Who usually starts the workday at Ruby Pier?
    a) All of the maintenance workers.
    b) Eddie.
    c) The ride operators.
    d) The owner.
12. What purpose does Amy or Annie serve in the story thus far?
   a) To give purpose to the setting.
   b) To shock the reader.
   c) To foreshadow events.
   d) To build suspense.

**Multiple Choice - Chapter 8**

1. Who is the third person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) Rabozzo.
   b) The little girl from the tent.
   c) His father.
   d) An old woman.

2. Where is Chapter Eight set?
   a) In a helicopter, leaving a battle.
   b) On a farm, hosting a carnival.
   c) In a field, in a car.
   d) On a mountain range, in a diner.

3. Who mentally hurts Eddie in Chapter Eight?
   a) Uncle Mickey.
   b) His mother.
   c) His brother.
   d) His father.

4. How does Eddie’s father treat his sons?
   a) Carelessly.
   b) Neglectfully.
   c) Respectfully.
   d) Lovingly.

5. Why is Eddie envious of Joe?
   a) Eddie’s father loves Joe more than Eddie.
   b) Joe has a new car.
   c) Joe gets to come home clean.
   d) Joe has a beautiful wife.

6. What happens between Eddie and his father?
   a) The mend their differences.
   b) They discuss their bad relationship.
   c) They ignore each other.
   d) They argue and never speak again.

7. Why is Eddie’s father not able to speak?
   a) He is indifferent.
   b) He needs to listen in order to learn his lessons.
c) He is being punished for his abusive behavior during his lifetime.
d) He is a part of the woman's eternity, but not truly present.

8. Who says, "You have peace when you make it with yourself."?
a) Ruby.
b) Eddie's wife.
c) Marguerite.
d) Eddie's mother.

9. How does Eddie feel when he returns home from the war?
a) Depressed and helpless.
b) Useless and used.
c) Sad and resentful.
d) Angry and hurt.

10. What does the reader learn about Eddie's character in Chapter Eight?
a) He is lazy, angry and resentful.
b) He is diligent and regimented.
c) He is dependable, trustworthy and kind.
d) He is motivated, yet unfulfilled.

11. What literary device is used when discussing the accident that occurs at another park?
a) Metaphor.
b) Flashback.
c) Foreshadowing.
d) Simile.

12. How does Eddie feel about his father?
a) Pathetic and useless.
b) Resentful.
c) Longing for acceptance.
d) Angry and hateful.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 9

1. How does Eddie's father help Eddie?
a) He makes Eddie get a job.
b) He forgives Eddie.
c) He gives Eddie the apartment.
d) He gives Eddie money.

2. What does Mickey Shea do to anger Eddie's father?
a) Hits Eddie.
b) Tries to assault Eddie's mother.
c) Steals money from Eddie's father.
d) Causes Eddie's father to lose his job.
3. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?
   a) An ocean lifeguard.
   b) Eddie's father.
   c) A carnival worker.
   d) Eddie.

4. Why does Eddie's father forgive Mickey Shea?
   a) Mickey Shea saved Eddie's father once.
   b) Eddie's father owes Mickey Shea money.
   c) Eddie's father does not love his wife.
   d) Mickey has a drinking problem and does not act out on purpose.

5. How old was Eddie's father when he died?
   a) Seventy.
   b) Forty-seven.
   c) Fifty-six.
   d) Eighty-five.

6. For whom does Eddie's father cry when he is hospitalized?
   a) Mickey Shea
   b) His mother.
   c) God.
   d) His wife, Joe, and Eddie.

7. Who is Eddie's father's hospital roommate?
   a) Mickey Shea.
   b) Ruby.
   c) The Blue Man.
   d) Ruby's husband, Emile.

8. To what does Ruby compare anger?
   a) Fire.
   b) A curved blade.
   c) Sinfulness.
   d) A magnet.

9. What does Eddie tell his father at the diner?
   a) That he is angry with him.
   b) That he loves him.
   c) That he was foolish for trying to save Mickey.
   d) That he is letting go of his anger.

10. Who pays for Eddie's funeral?
    a) The little girl's mother.
    b) Eddie's estate.
    c) The park owner, from his own pocket.
    d) The park owner, with Eddie's paycheck.
11. What does Eddie’s co-worker say about Eddie?
   a) "Eddie was a great worker."
   b) "Eddie was a kind soul."
   c) "Eddie loved children."
   d) "Eddie really loved his wife."

12. With whom does Eddie’s father die?
   a) Eddie.
   b) No one.
   c) His wife.
   d) Joe.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 10

1. Where does Eddie meet the fourth person in Heaven?
   a) At a diner.
   b) At the Pier.
   c) At a wedding reception.
   d) On the boardwalk.

2. Who is the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) Eddie’s father.
   b) Marguerite
   c) Ruby’s husband.
   d) Amy or Annie.

3. What does Joe do for a living?
   a) Maintenance man.
   b) Car dealer.
   c) Salesman.
   d) Stock broker.

4. What was Eddie’s promotion?
   a) Head of maintenance.
   b) Cashier.
   c) Ticket taker.
   d) Manager.

5. Eddie and Marguerite save money for what big event?
   a) Adoption of a child.
   b) Wedding anniversary party.
   c) A new apartment.
   d) New car.

6. How does Eddie come across big money?
   a) Gets a raise at work.
   b) Joe lends him the money.
c) He finds it beneath a ride.
d) Wins at the racetrack.

7. Why does Marguerite spend six months in the hospital?
   a) She is a nurse.
   b) She is pregnant and on bed rest.
   c) She has pneumonia.
   d) She is in a car accident.

8. What does Eddie tell Marguerite?
   a) He forgives her.
   b) He loves her and he is sorry.
   c) He wished he could save her.
   d) He wishes he had been a better husband.

9. Who says, "weddings are for possibilities."
   a) Noel.
   b) Marguerite.
   c) Ruby.
   d) Eddie.

10. What is the result of Marguerite's hospitalization?
    a) They lost the chance to adopt the baby.
    b) More bills for Eddie.
    c) Permanent injury.
    d) Estranged marriage between Eddie and Marguerite.

11. From what does Marguerite eventually die?
    a) Broken heart.
    b) Lung cancer.
    c) Brain tumor.
    d) Pneumonia.

12. What does Eddie say to Marguerite about the war?
    a) "It was unbearable."
    b) "Too much bloodshed caused too much pain."
    c) "I killed ten men."
    d) "I lost myself."

Multiple Choice - Chapter 11

1. How old is Marguerite when she dies?
   a) Thirty-nine.
   b) Seventy-five.
   c) Forty-seven.
   d) Sixty-two.
2. What is the lesson in Chapter Eleven?
   a) Life is short and there is no time for regret.
   b) Forgiveness comes easily with love.
   c) Lost love is still love; it just takes a different form.
   d) It's better to have loved and lost than never loved at all.

3. Who says, "Life has to end; love doesn't."
   a) Eddie's boss.
   b) Eddie's attorney.
   c) Eddie.
   d) Marguerite.

4. What do Eddie and Marguerite discuss in Chapter Eleven?
   a) The pain of missing one another for so many years.
   b) The baby they could never have.
   c) Eddie's father.
   d) The war.

5. Of what does Marguerite assure Eddie in Chapter Eleven?
   a) That she felt no pain when she died.
   b) His love has remained with her, and hers, with him.
   c) That she always forgave him.
   d) That Heaven is a good place to be.

6. For what are Eddie's co-worker and estate attorney looking?
   a) Cash.
   b) The deed to Eddie's apartment.
   c) The keys to Ruby Pier.
   d) Bank statement or other valuables.

7. About what in his own life is the estate attorney pleased?
   a) His family.
   b) His job.
   c) His wife.
   d) His nest egg.

8. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?
   a) One thousand dollars.
   b) Nothing to speak of.
   c) One hundred dollars.
   d) Only the amount of his last paycheck.

9. How many years of Eddie's life does the author reveal through this storyline?
   a) Forty-seven.
   b) Eighty-two.
   c) Eighty.
   d) Seventy-five.
10. When is the story set in Chapter Eleven, after the author reveals the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) The past.
   b) The moment frozen when the ride crashes.
   c) The present.
   d) The future.

11. In Chapter Eleven, where is the story set?
   a) The Pier and Eddie’s car.
   b) The ocean.
   c) The Pier and Eddie’s apartment.
   d) The boardwalk.

12. How many lessons have been learned thus far?
   a) Three.
   b) Five.
   c) Ten.
   d) Four.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 12

1. What color does Eddie see in Chapter Twelve?
   a) Gold.
   b) Blue.
   c) White.
   d) Black.

2. What does Eddie hear at the opening of Chapter Twelve?
   a) Laughter.
   b) Angels singing.
   c) Silence.
   d) Singing.

3. What does Eddie see?
   a) Brown-skinned children playing in a river.
   b) Devastation of war.
   c) Angels.
   d) Marguerite, beckoning him.

4. In Chapter Twelve, who beckons Eddie to come nearer?
   a) Marguerite.
   b) His father.
   c) God.
   d) A small girl.

5. What is Eddie’s first birthday after Marguerite’s death?
   a) Seventy.
   b) Fifty-one.
c) Forty-seven.
d) Sixty-two.

6. How does Eddie spend his first birthday after Marguerite’s death?
a) He lights a candle for her on his cake.
b) He does not celebrate any more.
c) He works.
d) He visits Marguerite’s grave.

7. How does Eddie spend his sixtieth birthday?
a) He goes to work and fishes.
b) He visits the place he and Marguerite first met.
c) He rides the rides on the Pier.
d) He sleeps all day.

8. Who calls Eddie to wish him a happy sixty-eighth birthday?
a) Ruby’s husband.
b) His buddy from the war.
c) His boss.
d) Joe.

9. What does Eddie do on his seventy-fifth birthday?
a) Goes fishing.
b) Takes a drive.
c) Works at the park.
d) Goes to the racetrack.

10. How does Eddie spend his last birthday?
a) He visits his family’s and Marguerite’s graves.
b) He goes to church.
c) He works.
d) He walks the boardwalk.

11. On what does Eddie reflect during his last birthday?
a) The war.
b) His job.
c) The times he spent with Marguerite.
d) His life.

12. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?
a) Free.
b) Abandoned.
c) Regretful.
d) Unhappy and unfulfilled.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 13
1. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) His mother.
   b) His father.
   c) Tala.
   d) Annie or Amy.

2. Who is Tala?
   a) The girl who dies in the tent in the Philippines.
   b) A child Eddie kept safe by doing his job at the Pier.
   c) His daughter.
   d) The girl Eddie saves from Freddy Fall.

3. How does Eddie help to make Tala whole again?
   a) He listens to her story.
   b) He washes her with the stone.
   c) He washes her with water from his canteen.
   d) He kisses her forehead.

4. From what had Tala been wounded?
   a) Fire, set by Eddie during the war.
   b) An accident.
   c) A ride.
   d) She had been beaten.

5. Why was Eddie sad when he was living?
   a) He was scarred by the war.
   b) He felt as though he accomplished nothing.
   c) He missed his wife.
   d) He hated his father.

6. Who says, "Is where you were supposed to be, Eddie Main-ten-ance"?
   a) Tala.
   b) Annie or Amy.
   c) Eddie's boss.
   d) Joe.

7. What lesson does Tala teach Eddie?
   a) That forgiveness is freeing.
   b) That acceptance provides happiness.
   c) That love conquers all.
   d) That his life mattered.

8. What does Eddie realize about his life as a maintenance worker, after speaking with Tala?
   a) That keeping the Pier clean was worthwhile.
   b) That many people looked up to him.
   c) That it was mundane.
   d) That he saved many children by keeping them safe on the rides.
9. What does Eddie learn about the last day he was alive?
   a) That many people cried when he died.
   b) That the little girl was killed by the cart and will meet him in Heaven.
   c) That he saves the little girl from the falling cart.
   d) That the park had to close without him.

10. Who finally leads Eddie to Heaven?
    a) Marguerite; her love guides him to Heaven.
    b) Tala; her hands were in his.
    c) Rabozzo; he shows Eddie that he is really okay.
    d) His father; he has to seek Eddie’s forgiveness.

11. What does Eddie feel that ultimately brings him peace?
    a) He rides the Freddie Fall ride without fear of its disrepair.
    b) Being under water, as if being reborn.
    c) Flying through the clouds, freely.
    d) Being washed and cleansed from his hurts.

12. What is the one word Eddie hears from God?
    a) Peace.
    b) Free.
    c) Welcome.
    d) Home.

Multiple Choice - Chapter 14

1. How long after Eddie’s death does the park reopen?
   a) One week.
   b) One day.
   c) Three weeks.
   d) Three days.

2. Who takes over Eddie’s job?
   a) The tall man from the carnival.
   b) Eddie’s assistant.
   c) Uncle Mickey.
   d) Joe.

3. What happens to Eddie’s belongings?
   a) They are sent to Eddie’s long time friend.
   b) The estate attorney takes them.
   c) They are packed away with Ruby Pier memorabilia.
   d) His apartment is pillaged by teenagers visiting the park.

4. Whose key is the cause of the Freddy Fall cable being shredded?
   a) Ruby’s great-grandson.
   b) Tala’s father.
c) Amy or Annie’s brother.
d) The assistant maintenance worker.

5. Later, where does Amy or Annie meet an old man?
a) At the Freddy Fall, at the Pier.
b) At the bench where Eddie made her pipe cleaner animals.
c) In the Stardust Band Shell, at the Pier
d) On the boardwalk of the Pier.

6. What is the final lesson taught in The Five People You Meet in Heaven?
a) Each person affects the other and that other person affects the next person, and so on.
b) Each action causes a reaction.
c) Kindness prevails over all other actions.
d) Love heals all things.

7. Who says, “The world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.”?
a) Eddie, in the Epilogue.
b) Tala, in the Epilogue.
c) The author, in the Epilogue.
d) Annie or Amy, in the Epilogue.

8. Where does the story end?
a) In Heaven.
b) In the present, at the Pier.
c) In the future, at the Pier.
d) In the past, at the Pier.

9. Who will be one of Annie or Amy’s people she meets in Heaven?
a) Her mom.
b) Tala.
c) Her spouse.
d) Eddie.

10. What does the author show the reader through all of Eddie’s five people?
a) That Heaven is different for everyone.
b) That kindness does not get overlooked.
c) That strangers are important.
d) That we are all tied together.

11. Chapter Fourteen serves as what part of the plot?
a) The falling action.
b) The climax.
c) The introduction.
d) The denouement, or resolution.

12. How does the book end?
a) Tala’s cleansing is the resolution.
b) The story comes full circle.
c) Marguerite welcomes Eddie home.

d) The resolution is left for the reader to decide.

Multiple Choice Answer Key

Chapter 1

1. c.
2. d.
3. a.
4. b.
5. c.
6. b.
7. c.
8. d.
9. d.
10. b.
11. c.
12. a.
13. b.
14. c.
15. d.
16. d.
17. d.
18. d.

Chapter 2

1. c.
2. c.
3. c.
4. a.
5. a.
6. c.
7. b.
8. c.
9. d.
10. c.
11. d.
12. b.
13. a.
14. a.
15. a.
16. c.
17. c.
18. c.

Chapter 3

1. c.
2. a.
3. a.
4. d.
5. d.
6. c.
7. d.
8. c.
9. d.
10. b.
11. c.
12. a.

Chapter 4

1. c.
2. b.
3. d.
4. a.
5. a.
6. d.
7. c.
8. d.
9. b.
10. c.
11. a.
12. c.

Chapter 5

1. d.
2. b.
3. b.
4. d.
5. d.
6. d.
7. d.
8. a.
9. c.
10. a.
11. c.
12. a.

Chapter 6

1. d.
2. c.
3. d.
4. b.
5. d.
6. b.
7. b.
8. a.
9. b.
10. b.
11. b.
12. b.
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Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer each question with the appropriate short response.

Short Answer Questions - Chapter 1

1. Where does the reader first meet Eddie?

2. What does Eddie do for a living?

3. What is the significance of the day in Chapter One for Eddie?

4. Where does Eddie meet the love of his life?

5. What does the young man at the Pier lose, causing havoc later?

6. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?

7. What happens to the little girl that Eddie talks with on the platform of Freddie Fall?

8. How does Eddie feel about the safety of Ruby Pier?
9. What happens to the Freddie Fall car?

10. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?

11. Who prevents a fatal accident at the Freddie Fall?

12. What happens to Eddie at the end of Chapter One?

13. Who does the author introduce in a flashback at the end of Chapter One?

14. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?

15. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?

16. What dance does Eddie recall before the time he was crippled?

17. How does Eddie's leg become crippled?

18. Whose philosophy reads, "When your time came, it came, and that was that"?

Short Answer Questions - Chapter 2
1. What is Eddie’s last memory of being alive?

2. What does Eddie see when he dies?

3. What does Eddie feel after he has died?

4. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?

5. How old is Eddie in Chapter Two?

6. What color is the sea that Eddie sees?

7. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?

8. What does Uncle Mickey give Eddie for his birthday?

9. What does Uncle Mickey do to Eddie during his birthday?

10. Who is Uncle Mickey?
11. What does the author use as symbolism in Chapter Two?

12. How does the author portray Uncle Mickey in Chapter Two?

13. What does Eddie hear once he dies?

14. To whom does Eddie run for refuge from Uncle Mickey?

15. What color does Eddie see when he first dies?

16. What is the last thing Eddie remembers physically feeling before he dies?

17. What does Eddie think the little girl’s name is?

18. What does Eddie remember thinking, right after he dies?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 3**

1. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?

2. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?

3. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?
4. What is different about Ruby Pier when Eddie wakes up?

5. What does Eddie discover he CANNOT do when he wakes up?

6. What does Eddie do, just because he can, in Chapter Three?

7. In Chapter Three, where does Eddie stop at the Pier?

8. When was the freak show shut down?

9. Whom does Eddie see in front of the freak show?

10. Who says, "Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you."?

11. When is Chapter Three set?

12. What is the author doing in Chapter Three?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 4**

1. Who is the first person Eddie meets in Heaven?
2. Why does Eddie feel like his body is that of a child in Chapter Four?

3. What does Eddie first ask the first person he meets in Heaven?

4. How long has Eddie been at the Pier after he died?

5. What does Eddie learn about Heaven in Chapter Four?

6. In death, what step is Ruby Pier for the Blue Man?

7. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?

8. According to the Blue Man, what is Heaven for?

9. What causes the Blue Man’s death?

10. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?

11. Why can’t Eddie play with the erector set he received for his eighth birthday?
12. What does the Blue Man find at Ruby Pier?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 5**

1. What does Eddie learn from the Blue Man?

2. What is happening at the Ruby Pier of the present in Chapter Five?

3. Who says, "you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind."

4. What literary device does the author repetitively use to reveal clues about Eddie's life?

5. What birthday does Eddie celebrate in Chapter Five?

6. With whom does Eddie first share the news that he found the girl he wishes to marry?

7. Who says, "the human spirit knows, deep down, that all lives intersect...death doesn't take someone, it misses someone else, and in the small distance between being taken and being missed, lives are changed."?

8. What happens between Eddie and his brother in Chapter Five?

9. In the scene played out in Chapter Five, what does Joe do to make Eddie angry?
10. What world event is happening in Chapter Five?

11. Who restores peace to Eddie’s household in Chapter Five?

12. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 6**

1. As discovered in Chapter Six, for what is Eddie saving his money?

2. What does Eddie decide to do for a profession when he is young?

3. Who says, “War is not a game. If there’s a shot to be made, you make it, you hear? No guilt. No hesitation....”?

4. Who is the second person Eddie meets in Heaven?

5. What happens to Eddie’s leg?

6. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?

7. What do Eddie and the other three soldiers have to do while imprisoned?

8. What happens to Rabozzo when he becomes ill?
9. What talent does Eddie have that eventually helps him escape from prison during the war?

10. What do Eddie and the other two soldiers decide to do before escaping?

11. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

12. Why does Eddie try to return to a burning tent?

Short Answer Questions - Chapter 7

1. What is the significance of the field in the opening of Chapter Seven?

2. Who says, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, he says, you don't actually lose it."?

3. From what does the Captain save his men?

4. What happens to the field where Chapter Seven opens?

5. Why is Ruby Pier closed in Chapter Seven?

6. What lesson does Eddie learn in Chapter Seven?
7. What promise did the Captain make?

8. What does Eddie wonder about in Chapter Seven?

9. What does the Captain receive from Eddie?

10. Who says, "dying is not the end, it is only the beginning."

11. Who usually starts the workday at Ruby Pier?

12. What purpose does Amy or Annie serve in the story thus far?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 8**

1. Who is the third person Eddie meets in Heaven?

2. Where is Chapter Eight set?

3. Who mentally hurts Eddie in Chapter Eight?

4. How does Eddie’s father treat his sons?
5. Why is Eddie envious of Joe?

6. What happens between Eddie and his father?

7. Why is Eddie’s father not able to speak?

8. Who says, “You have peace when you make it with yourself.”?

9. How does Eddie feel when he returns home from the war?

10. What does the reader learn about Eddie’s character in Chapter Eight?

11. What literary device is used when discussing the accident that occurs at another park?

12. How does Eddie feel about his father?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 9**

1. How does Eddie’s father help Eddie?

2. What does Mickey Shea do to anger Eddie’s father?

3. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?
4. Why does Eddie's father forgive Mickey Shea?

5. How old was Eddie’s father when he died?

6. For whom does Eddie’s father cry when he is hospitalized?

7. Who is Eddie’s father’s hospital roommate?

8. To what does Ruby compare anger?

9. What does Eddie tell his father at the diner?

10. Who pays for Eddie’s funeral?

11. What does Eddie’s co-worker say about Eddie?

12. With whom does Eddie’s father die?

Short Answer Questions - Chapter 10

1. Where does Eddie meet the fourth person in Heaven?
2. Who is the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?

3. What does Joe do for a living?

4. What was Eddie’s promotion?

5. Eddie and Marguerite save money for what big event?

6. How does Eddie come across big money?

7. Why does Marguerite spend six months in the hospital?

8. What does Eddie tell Marguerite?

9. Who says, "weddings are for possibilities."?

10. What is the result of Marguerite's hospitalization?

11. From what does Marguerite eventually die?
12. What does Eddie say to Marguerite about the war?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 11**

1. How old is Marguerite when she dies?

2. What is the lesson in Chapter Eleven?

3. Who says, “Life has to end; love doesn’t.”?

4. What do Eddie and Marguerite discuss in Chapter Eleven?

5. Of what does Marguerite assure Eddie in Chapter Eleven?

6. For what are Eddie’s co-worker and estate attorney looking?

7. About what in his own life is the estate attorney pleased?

8. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?

9. How many years of Eddie’s life does the author reveal through this storyline?

10. When is the story set in Chapter Eleven, after the author reveals the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?
11. In Chapter Eleven, where is the story set?

12. How many lessons have been learned thus far?

Short Answer Questions - Chapter 12

1. What color does Eddie see in Chapter Twelve?

2. What does Eddie hear at the opening of Chapter Twelve?

3. What does Eddie see?

4. In Chapter Twelve, who beckons Eddie to come nearer?

5. What is Eddie’s first birthday after Marguerite’s death?

6. How does Eddie spend his first birthday after Marguerite’s death?

7. How does Eddie spend his sixtieth birthday?

8. Who calls Eddie to wish him a happy sixty-eighth birthday?
9. What does Eddie do on his seventy-fifth birthday?

10. How does Eddie spend his last birthday?

11. On what does Eddie reflect during his last birthday?

12. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 13**

1. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

2. Who is Tala?

3. How does Eddie help to make Tala whole again?

4. From what had Tala been wounded?

5. Why was Eddie sad when he was living?

6. Who says, "Is where you were supposed to be, Eddie Main-ten-ance"?
7. What lesson does Tala teach Eddie?

8. What does Eddie realize about his life as a maintenance worker, after speaking with Tala?

9. What does Eddie learn about the last day he was alive?

10. Who finally leads Eddie to Heaven?

11. What does Eddie feel that ultimately brings him peace?

12. What is the one word Eddie hears from God?

**Short Answer Questions - Chapter 14**

1. How long after Eddie’s death does the park reopen?

2. Who takes over Eddie’s job?

3. What happens to Eddie’s belongings?

4. Whose key is the cause of the Freddy Fall cable being shredded?

5. Later, where does Amy or Annie meet an old man?
6. What is the final lesson taught in The Five People You Meet in Heaven?

7. Who says, “The world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.”?

8. Where does the story end?

9. Who will be one of Annie or Amy’s people she meets in Heaven?

10. What does the author show the reader through all of Eddie’s five people?

11. Chapter Fourteen serves as what part of the plot?

12. How does the book end?

**Short Answer Key**

**Chapter 1**

1. Where does the reader first meet Eddie?

   *Ruby Pier.*

2. What does Eddie do for a living?

   *Performs maintenance at an amusement park.*
3. What is the significance of the day in Chapter One for Eddie?

It is his birthday.

4. Where does Eddie meet the love of his life?

At Ruby Pier.

5. What does the young man at the Pier lose, causing havoc later?

His car key.

6. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?

A pipe cleaner rabbit.

7. What happens to the little girl that Eddie talks with on the platform of Freddie Fall?

She is in an accident with the Freddie Fall cart.

8. How does Eddie feel about the safety of Ruby Pier?

He is proud that it has a perfect safety record.

9. What happens to the Freddie Fall car?

The car is tilted and passengers are in danger.

10. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?

The young man's lost car key has shredded the cable.

11. Who prevents a fatal accident at the Freddie Fall?

Eddie.

12. What happens to Eddie at the end of Chapter One?

He dies in an accident at the Pier.

13. Who does the author introduce in a flashback at the end of Chapter One?

Eddie's father.

14. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?

Freddy Free Fall.

15. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?

At a dance at the Pier.

16. What dance does Eddie recall before the time he was crippled?

"You Made Me Love You."
17. How does Eddie’s leg become crippled?

From the war.

18. Whose philosophy reads, “When your time came, it came, and that was that”?

Eddie’s.

Chapter 2

1. What is Eddie’s last memory of being alive?

The cart falling on the little girl.

2. What does Eddie see when he dies?

Different colors and changing landscape.

3. What does Eddie feel after he has died?

Calm and no pain.

4. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?

Under water.

5. How old is Eddie in Chapter Two?

Five years old.

6. What color is the sea that Eddie sees?

Yellow, and changing.

7. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?

At a picnic at the Pier.

8. What does Uncle Mickey give Eddie for his birthday?

A play pistol and cowboy hat.

9. What does Uncle Mickey do to Eddie during his birthday?

Bumps Eddie’s head several times.

10. Who is Uncle Mickey?

He works with Eddie’s dad at the Pier.

11. What does the author use as symbolism in Chapter Two?

Colors.

12. How does the author portray Uncle Mickey in Chapter Two?
13. What does Eddie hear once he dies?

Nothing; quiet.

14. To whom does Eddie run for refuge from Uncle Mickey?

His mother.

15. What color does Eddie see when he first dies?

Pumpkin color.

16. What is the last thing Eddie remembers physically feeling before he dies?

The little girl's hands in his own.

17. What does Eddie think the little girl's name is?

Amy or Annie.

18. What does Eddie remember thinking, right after he dies?

Did he save the little girl?

Chapter 3

1. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?

In the teacup ride on Ruby Pier.

2. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?

He can walk without his cane.

3. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?

Wonderful, but alone.

4. What is different about Ruby Pier when Eddie wakes up?

It is Ruby Pier of Eddie's childhood.

5. What does Eddie discover he CANNOT do when he wakes up?

Talk.

6. What does Eddie do, just because he can, in Chapter Three?

Runs around the park.

7. In Chapter Three, where does Eddie stop at the Pier?

In front of the freak show.
8. When was the freak show shut down?

Fifty years ago.

9. Whom does Eddie see in front of the freak show?

A man whose skin is blue.

10. Who says, “Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you.”?

The man whose skin is blue.

11. When is Chapter Three set?

In Eddie’s past.

12. What is the author doing in Chapter Three?

Weaving together past with present.

Chapter 4

1. Who is the first person Eddie meets in Heaven?

The Blue Man.

2. Why does Eddie feel like his body is that of a child in Chapter Four?

He was a child when he knew the Blue Man.

3. What does Eddie first ask the first person he meets in Heaven?

How did Eddie die?

4. How long has Eddie been at the Pier after he died?

Time doesn’t matter, infinity.

5. What does Eddie learn about Heaven in Chapter Four?

It has many steps.

6. In death, what step is Ruby Pier for the Blue Man?

The second step.

7. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?

It will come; silence helps people listen.

8. According to the Blue Man, what is Heaven for?

Understanding one’s life on earth.

9. What causes the Blue Man’s death?
10. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?

An overdose of silver nitrate.

11. Why can’t Eddie play with the erector set he received for his eighth birthday?

He has to attend a funeral.

12. What does the Blue Man find at Ruby Pier?

A home.

Chapter 5

1. What does Eddie learn from the Blue Man?

That everyone is connected.

2. What is happening at the Ruby Pier of the present in Chapter Five?

People await the ambulance.

3. Who says, “you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind.”?

The Blue Man.

4. What literary device does the author repetitively use to reveal clues about Eddie’s life?

Flashback.

5. What birthday does Eddie celebrate in Chapter Five?

Seventeenth.

6. With whom does Eddie first share the news that he found the girl he wishes to marry?

Joe.

7. Who says, “the human spirit knows, deep down, that all lives intersect....death doesn't take someone, it misses someone else, and in the small distance between being taken and being missed, lives are changed.”?

The Blue Man.

8. What happens between Eddie and his brother in Chapter Five?

They get into a fight.

9. In the scene played out in Chapter Five, what does Joe do to make Eddie angry?

He shares Eddie's news of marriage plans.

10. What world event is happening in Chapter Five?
11. Who restores peace to Eddie’s household in Chapter Five?

Eddie’s mother.

12. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?

That The Five People You Meet in Heaven teaches lessons.

Chapter 6

1. As discovered in Chapter Six, for what is Eddie saving his money?

To attend school for engineering.

2. What does Eddie decide to do for a profession when he is young?

He enlists in the army.

3. Who says, ”War is not a game. If there’s a shot to be made, you make it, you hear? No guilt. No hesitation....”? 

Mickey Shea.

4. Who is the second person Eddie meets in Heaven?

The Captain.

5. What happens to Eddie’s leg?

The Captain shoots him to prevent Eddie from entering a burning tent.

6. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?

Bamboo barracks.

7. What do Eddie and the other three soldiers have to do while imprisoned?

Work in a coal mine.

8. What happens to Rabozzo when he becomes ill?

He is murdered by enemy soldiers.

9. What talent does Eddie have that eventually helps him escape from prison during the war?

He juggles.

10. What do Eddie and the other two soldiers decide to do before escaping?

Burn the barracks and blow up the mines.

11. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

That she will wait for him.
12. Why does Eddie try to return to a burning tent?

*He thinks a child is inside.*

**Chapter 7**

1. What is the significance of the field in the opening of Chapter Seven?

*It is the Captain's burial ground.*

2. Who says, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, he says, you don't actually lose it."?

*The Captain.*

3. From what does the Captain save his men?

*A landmine.*

4. What happens to the field where Chapter Seven opens?

*It becomes lush, green, and unscarred.*

5. Why is Ruby Pier closed in Chapter Seven?

*Eddie's peers feel his loss.*

6. What lesson does Eddie learn in Chapter Seven?

*That sacrifice is essential.*

7. What promise did the Captain make?

*To leave none of his men behind.*

8. What does Eddie wonder about in Chapter Seven?

*Whether he saves the girl at Ruby Pier.*

9. What does the Captain receive from Eddie?

*Forgiveness for shooting him in the leg.*

10. Who says, "dying is not the end, it is only the beginning."?

*The Captain.*

11. Who usually starts the workday at Ruby Pier?

*Eddie.*

12. What purpose does Amy or Annie serve in the story thus far?

*To build suspense.*
Chapter 8

1. Who is the third person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   An old woman.

2. Where is Chapter Eight set?
   On a mountain range, in a diner.

3. Who mentally hurts Eddie in Chapter Eight?
   His father.

4. How does Eddie's father treat his sons?
   Neglectfully.

5. Why is Eddie envious of Joe?
   Joe gets to come home clean.

6. What happens between Eddie and his father?
   They argue and never speak again.

7. Why is Eddie's father not able to speak?
   He is a part of the woman's eternity, but not truly present.

8. Who says, "You have peace when you make it with yourself."?
   Ruby.

9. How does Eddie feel when he returns home from the war?
   Depressed and helpless.

10. What does the reader learn about Eddie's character in Chapter Eight?
    He is dependable, trustworthy and kind.

11. What literary device is used when discussing the accident that occurs at another park?
    Foreshadowing.

12. How does Eddie feel about his father?
    Longing for acceptance.

Chapter 9

1. How does Eddie's father help Eddie?
He makes Eddie get a job.

2. What does Mickey Shea do to anger Eddie’s father?

Tries to assault Eddie’s mother.

3. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?

Eddie’s father.

4. Why does Eddie’s father forgive Mickey Shea?

Mickey has a drinking problem and does not act out on purpose.

5. How old was Eddie’s father when he died?

Fifty-six.

6. For whom does Eddie’s father cry when he is hospitalized?

His wife, Joe, and Eddie.

7. Who is Eddie’s father’s hospital roommate?

Ruby’s husband, Emile.

8. To what does Ruby compare anger?

A curved blade.

9. What does Eddie tell his father at the diner?

That he is letting go of his anger.

10. Who pays for Eddie’s funeral?

The park owner, with Eddie’s paycheck.

11. What does Eddie’s co-worker say about Eddie?

“Eddie really loved his wife.”

12. With whom does Eddie’s father die?

No one.

Chapter 10

1. Where does Eddie meet the fourth person in Heaven?

At a wedding reception.

2. Who is the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?

Marguerite
3. What does Joe do for a living?

Salesman.

4. What was Eddie’s promotion?

Head of maintenance.

5. Eddie and Marguerite save money for what big event?

Adoption of a child.

6. How does Eddie come across big money?

Wins at the racetrack.

7. Why does Marguerite spend six months in the hospital?

She is in a car accident.

8. What does Eddie tell Marguerite?

He loves her and he is sorry.

9. Who says, "weddings are for possibilities."

Marguerite.

10. What is the result of Marguerite's hospitalization?

They lost the chance to adopt the baby.

11. From what does Marguerite eventually die?

Brain tumor.

12. What does Eddie say to Marguerite about the war?

"I lost myself."

Chapter 11

1. How old is Marguerite when she dies?

Forty-seven.

2. What is the lesson in Chapter Eleven?

Lost love is still love; it just takes a different form.

3. Who says, "Life has to end; love doesn't."

Marguerite.

4. What do Eddie and Marguerite discuss in Chapter Eleven?
The pain of missing one another for so many years.

5. Of what does Marguerite assure Eddie in Chapter Eleven?

*His love has remained with her, and hers, with him.*

6. For what are Eddie’s co-worker and estate attorney looking?

*Bank statement or other valuables.*

7. About what in his own life is the estate attorney pleased?

*His nest egg.*

8. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?

*Nothing to speak of.*

9. How many years of Eddie’s life does the author reveal through this storyline?

*Seventy-five.*

10. When is the story set in Chapter Eleven, after the author reveals the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?

*The present.*

11. In Chapter Eleven, where is the story set?

*The Pier and Eddie’s apartment.*

12. How many lessons have been learned thus far?

*Four.*

**Chapter 12**

1. What color does Eddie see in Chapter Twelve?

*White.*

2. What does Eddie hear at the opening of Chapter Twelve?

*Silence.*

3. What does Eddie see?

*Brown-skinned children playing in a river.*

4. In Chapter Twelve, who beckons Eddie to come nearer?

*A small girl.*

5. What is Eddie’s first birthday after Marguerite’s death?

*Fifty-one.*
6. How does Eddie spend his first birthday after Marguerite’s death?

He does not celebrate any more.

7. How does Eddie spend his sixtieth birthday?

He goes to work and fishes.

8. Who calls Eddie to wish him a happy sixty-eighth birthday?

Joe.

9. What does Eddie do on his seventy-fifth birthday?

Works at the park.

10. How does Eddie spend his last birthday?

He visits his family’s and Marguerite’s graves.

11. On what does Eddie reflect during his last birthday?

The times he spent with Marguerite.

12. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?

Unhappy and unfulfilled.

Chapter 13

1. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

Tala.

2. Who is Tala?

The girl who dies in the tent in the Philippines.

3. How does Eddie help to make Tala whole again?

He washes her with the stone.

4. From what had Tala been wounded?

Fire, set by Eddie during the war.

5. Why was Eddie sad when he was living?

He felt as though he accomplished nothing.

6. Who says, “Is where you were supposed to be, Eddie Main-ten-ance”?

Tala.

7. What lesson does Tala teach Eddie?
8. What does Eddie realize about his life as a maintenance worker, after speaking with Tala?

That he saved many children by keeping them safe on the rides.

9. What does Eddie learn about the last day he was alive?

That he saves the little girl from the falling cart.

10. Who finally leads Eddie to Heaven?

Tala; her hands were in his.

11. What does Eddie feel that ultimately brings him peace?

Being washed and cleansed from his hurts.

12. What is the one word Eddie hears from God?

Home.

Chapter 14

1. How long after Eddie’s death does the park reopen?

Three days.

2. Who takes over Eddie’s job?

Eddie’s assistant.

3. What happens to Eddie’s belongings?

They are packed away with Ruby Pier memorabilia.

4. Whose key is the cause of the Freddy Fall cable being shredded?

Ruby’s great-grandson.

5. Later, where does Amy or Annie meet an old man?

In the Stardust Band Shell, at the Pier

6. What is the final lesson taught in The Five People You Meet in Heaven?

Each person affects the other and that other person affects the next person, and so on.

7. Who says, “The world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.”?

The author, in the Epilogue.

8. Where does the story end?

In the present, at the Pier.
9. Who will be one of Annie or Amy's people she meets in Heaven?

_Eddie._

10. What does the author show the reader through all of Eddie's five people?

_That we are all tied together._

11. Chapter Fourteen serves as what part of the plot?

_The denouement, or resolution._

12. How does the book end?

_The story comes full circle._

**Short Essay Questions**

The 60 short essay questions listed in this section require a one to two sentence answer. They ask students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the text. Students must describe what they've read, rather than just recall it.

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 1**

1. What does the reader learn about "Eddie Maintenance" in Chapter One?

2. What are the first images the reader gets of Ruby Pier?

3. What happens at Freddy Free Fall to cause Eddie to reevaluate the safety of this ride?

4. The readers learn that today is Eddie's birthday. What is his mood as the little girl approaches him in Chapter One?

5. What happens when Eddie realizes the danger is not over at the Freddy Free Fall?
6. Before Eddie speaks to the little girl at the park, about what/whom was he daydreaming?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 2**

7. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Two, “The Journey.”

8. Discuss the significance of Albom’s use of color in Chapter Two?

9. What is the symbolism of the water in Chapter Two?

10. Discuss the foreshadowing of Uncle Mickey’s character with regard to his actions towards Eddie on his fifth birthday.

11. Eddie no longer feels any pain. Why might his loss of pain be significant to being in Heaven?

12. How does the author traverse time and introduce the reader to different points in Eddie’s life?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 3**

13. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Three, ”The Arrival”.

14. Why is Eddie confused about the fact that he is still on Ruby Pier?

15. How is Eddie feeling, now that he has awakened in Heaven?

16. Discuss Eddie’s encounter with the first character he meets in Heaven, the Blue Man.

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 4**

17. Why is it significant that Eddie’s body feels like that of a child when he first meets the Blue Man?

18. What is the significance, or lack of significance, of time in Heaven?

19. What is Eddie’s role in the death of the Blue Man?

20. The Pier serves as a home for the Blue Man, and as a place with many memories for Eddie, some fond, some unpleasant. Discuss the significance of the encounters at the Pier in Chapter Four as a place to confront damaged emotions.

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 5**

21. The Blue Man tells Eddie, “there are no random acts...we are all connected...” Explain this quote as it relates to the Blue Man and Eddie.
22. How does Albom reveal the relationship between Joe and Eddie in Chapter Four?

23. What does Eddie feel from the Blue Man when the Blue Man hugs Eddie?

24. What happens in the plot when Eddie asks the Blue Man if he saves the little girl at the Pier?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 6**

25. In Chapter Six, what do the readers learn of Eddie’s expectations of himself and from his life? Are these expectations met?

26. How does Eddie’s time spent on the Pier save him during the war?

27. What does Eddie learn about his leg injury in Chapter Six, and who shares with Eddie this revelation?

28. Eddie tries to return to the burning tent to save a child. What does this action reveal about Eddie’s character?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 7**

29. Discuss the meaning of the Captain’s quote, “When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don’t actually lose it.”
30. When the action returns to Ruby Pier, the reader finds the park closed. How does Eddie’s death impact the Pier?

31. The Captain tells Eddie that dying is only the beginning. What could the Captain mean by this statement?

32. In Chapter Seven, how does Mitch Albom use suspense to propel the action?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 8**

33. What was Eddie’s relationship like with his father?

34. Describe Eddie’s relationship with Joe.

35. How does Eddie feel when he returns home from the VA hospital?

36. Why is the stranger Eddie meets in Chapter Eight so significant in his life?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 9**

37. Eddie’s father saves Mickey Shea. Considering Mickey’s actions, what does this rescue say about Eddie’s father?

38. How does Eddie’s father die?
39. Explain Ruby's lesson to Eddie.

40. Why does Ruby know all of the details of Eddie's father?

Short Essay Question - Chapter 10

41. Why is a reception hall an appropriate place for Eddie to meet Marguerite in Heaven?

42. How do Eddie's actions on his thirty-ninth birthday contribute to Marguerite's accident?

43. For what was Eddie supposed to save his money, instead of gambling?

44. How is Eddie's and Marguerite's relationship impacted by the fallout from the track and Marguerite's accident?

Short Essay Question - Chapter 11

45. What does Marguerite teach Eddie in Heaven?

46. How does the estate attorney view Eddie's life?
47. Is the estate attorney’s view of Eddie accurate? Why or why not?

48. At this point, Albom has shown the reader a span of seventy-five years in only ten, short chapters. How is Albom’s storytelling effective?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 12**

49. How does Albom use Eddie’s birthdays to pass time in Chapter Twelve?

50. What does the reader learn about Eddie through the short snippets describing his various birthdays?

51. What symbols does the author use in Chapter Twelve?

52. How does the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven reveal Eddie’s character?

**Short Essay Question - Chapter 13**

53. Who is the child Eddie meets in Heaven, and why is she significant?

54. Eddie washes Tala with a stone. What is the significance of this action?
55. What does Tala teach Eddie?

56. Clearly, Chapter thirteen is used as the falling action for the reader. How is Tala’s lesson a resolution for Eddie, as well?

Short Essay Question - Chapter 14

57. How does the reader know that Eddie’s memory will be kept alive at the Pier?

58. How is the person whose key shredded the cable connected to the Pier?

59. How will Amy or Annie’s visit to Heaven be connected to Eddie?

60. How is Chapter Twelve used as the denouement?

Short Essay Answer Key

1. What does the reader learn about “Eddie Maintenance” in Chapter One?

Eddie works at Ruby Pier as a maintenance man. He never meant for maintenance to be his profession; however, he is resigned to doing this job and takes pride in the safety of the park. Eddie works hard. He is a war veteran with an injury to his leg that now causes him to walk with a cane. He met Marguerite, the love of his life, at the Pier and he remembers dancing gracefully with her before his war injury. Eddie is kind to the children at the Pier and watches out for them.

2. What are the first images the reader gets of Ruby Pier?

Ruby Pier is a small carnival park with rides and kind people, like Eddie. It used to be a much more celebrated place, complete with fireworks and dance contests, before the advent of big theme parks; but nonetheless, children still frequent Ruby Pier.
3. What happens at Freddy Free Fall to cause Eddie to reevaluate the safety of this ride?

A car is tilted and the passengers hang on for their lives. Eddie instructs the attendants to remove the passengers, and because of Eddie’s directions, the passengers are saved. Eddie takes pride in the perfect safety record of the Pier, so he wonders how this mishap could have occurred.

4. The readers learn that today is Eddie’s birthday. What is his mood as the little girl approaches him in Chapter One?

Eddie seems resigned and tired. He has lived a difficult life, but he mostly misses Marguerite. Still, Eddie is kind, and he takes time to make a pipe cleaner rabbit for the little girl who approaches him.

5. What happens when Eddie realizes the danger is not over at the Freddy Free Fall?

Eddie shouts for the attendants not to release the cart because he notices the shredded cable. The little girl for whom Eddie just made the pipe cleaner rabbit is on the platform, crying for her mommy, who has neglected to watch her. Eddie’s shouts cannot be heard above the crowd’s cheers, so he abandons his cane and lunges to save the little girl on the platform.

6. Before Eddie speaks to the little girl at the park, about what/whom was he daydreaming?

Eddie was remembering his first date with Marguerite, and how they danced at the Stardust Band Shell to the song, “You Made Me Love You.”

7. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Two, “The Journey.”

This is the beginning of Eddie’s trip to Heaven. He will meet five people, but before he does so, he passes through different atmospheres and sees different colors, signifying various times in his own life. The journey begins with calm and no worries, a perfect way to be introduced to Heaven.

8. Discuss the significance of Albom’s use of color in Chapter Two?

First, Eddie travels through a pumpkin-colored sky and winds up in a yellow sea that changes color. The pumpkin-colored sky is curious, but brings Eddie immediate calm and relief of his pain. He wonders about the little girl he tries to save on the Pier. The yellow, changing sea signifies different times in Eddie’s life, introducing a new life, rebirth, here in Heaven.

9. What is the symbolism of the water in Chapter Two?

Once Eddie is under the water in the sea, he feels release of his worries. Everything is quiet and pain free. Water is a symbol for rebirth and renewal, the journey Eddie will undergo in Heaven.

10. Discuss the foreshadowing of Uncle Mickey’s character with regard to his actions towards Eddie on his fifth birthday.

It is Eddie’s birthday, so Uncle Mickey bumps Eddie on the head five times, each for one year of Eddie’s life. To rough house with a five-year old might seem a bit insensitive, which indicates Uncle Mickey’s lack of awareness of his own actions. Uncle Mickey’s carelessness is foreshadowed for future events in the novel.

11. Eddie no longer feels any pain. Why might his loss of pain be significant to being in Heaven?

Eddie spent much of his life on Earth in pain, both physical and emotional. His war injury causes him to be crippled, and he dies because he is crushed by a falling cart; both excruciating circumstances. Eddie’s physical pain is taken away, causing him to feel light and free, like he is floating. Eddie misses his love, Marguerite, and experienced pain with his own family, most specifically, with his father. Eddie’s emotional pain is removed as well, providing him a worry-free beginning to his journey through Heaven.

12. How does the author traverse time and introduce the reader to different points in Eddie’s life?
Mitch Albom uses flashback to traverse through time and introduce the reader to different points in Eddie's life. The reader is taken to Eddie's fifth birthday party on the Pier in Chapter Two; yet, the reader is aware of Eddie's advanced age when the events in the novel begin. The use of flashback provides clarity to different times, without causing any confusion about the setting, characters, or events.

13. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Three, "The Arrival".

Eddie finally wakes up in Heaven to discover he is in a teacup ride on Ruby Pier. Realizing he is in Heaven is complicated by the fact that Eddie is on the Ruby Pier of his childhood. The chapter aptly named, "The Arrival," indicates the significance of Ruby Pier in Eddie's life, both during life on Earth and in death.

14. Why is Eddie confused about the fact that he is still on Ruby Pier?

Not only is Eddie confused about waking up on Ruby Pier, he is able to walk without his cane. Eddie has not arrived at the Ruby Pier of the present; he is at the Ruby Pier of his childhood, seventy-five years ago.

15. How is Eddie feeling, now that he has awakened in Heaven?

Eddie feels wonderful, now that he has awakened in Heaven, as he no longer needs a cane and is finally carefree; however, he does feel alone. He is fascinated that he can walk without assistance, so he runs around the park, stopping at the freak house, which was shut down fifty years ago.

16. Discuss Eddie's encounter with the first character he meets in Heaven, the Blue Man.

Eddie's first encounter with another character in Heaven is with a peculiar man whose skin is Blue. Eddie and the Blue Man are in front of the freak house, where the man greets Eddie. Moreover, the man knows Eddie and is expecting him. He says, "Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you."

17. Why is it significant that Eddie’s body feels like that of a child when he first meets the Blue Man?

Eddie's body feels like that of a child because Eddie was a child when he knew the Blue Man. Eddie was only seven-years old when he first encounters the Blue Man, and eight-years old when he attends the Blue Man's funeral.

18. What is the significance, or lack of significance, of time in Heaven?

The Blue Man tells Eddie that Eddie has been in Heaven for "a minute, an hour or a thousand years." The Blue Man's explanation represents that people and places are more significant than time in Heaven. Also, Heaven has many steps. Ruby Pier and the Blue Man is Eddie's first step of more to come, therefore, time is once again insignificant.

19. What is Eddie's role in the death of the Blue Man?

Eddie was playing ball with a baseball he received on his seventh birthday, and the ball rolled into the street. Eddie chased after the ball, running in front of a Model A Ford, driven by the Blue Man. The Blue Man nearly ran over Eddie and had a heart attack because of his fright. The heart attack caused the death of the Blue Man. Eddie spends his eighth birthday attending the Blue Man's funeral. Eddie did not know what happened until he learned of the encounter from the Blue Man in Heaven.

20. The Pier serves as a home for the Blue Man, and as a place with many memories for Eddie, some fond, some unpleasant. Discuss the significance of the encounters at the Pier in Chapter Four as a place to confront damaged emotions.

The Pier serves as a place of mostly happy memories for the Blue Man. Here, the Blue Man found a home and acceptance from people who were not afraid of him. The Blue Man plays cards with Pier workers, even Eddie's father. It is comfort for him amidst a life of angst and pain. For Eddie, the Pier holds fond memories of meeting Marguerite, but these memories are foiled by those of despondency. Eddie feels as though his life as a maintenance worker has been unfulfilling and worthless. Eddie never wanted to turn out like his father. All of the confrontations that occur in Chapter Four reveal much emotion for Eddie and for the Blue Man.
21. The Blue Man tells Eddie, "there are no random acts...we are all connected..." Explain this quote as it relates to the Blue Man and Eddie.

The Blue Man explains to Eddie that "Strangers are just family you have yet to know." Eddie does not understand why the Blue Man had to die and Eddie gets to live. Clearly, at age eight, Eddie does not understand his connection to the man whose funeral he attends; however, the Blue Man tries to tell Eddie that not all things are fair in life and death. The Blue Man says, "...the human spirit knows, deep down, that all lives intersect....death doesn't take someone, it misses someone else, and in the small distance between being taken and being missed, lives are changed" (p. 48, line 19, ff.). Although the two were strangers at the time of Eddie's childhood, without Eddie, the Blue Man would not have achieved Heaven. Without the Blue Man, Eddie would not have any understanding of the first step of Heaven.

22. How does Albom reveal the relationship between Joe and Eddie in Chapter Four?

The reader learns that Joe and Eddie are clearly close, as Eddie shares with Joe the news that he has found the girl he wishes to marry. Although the reader sees the bond between the two men, it is also clearly revealed that some resentment and anger underscore their relationship. When Joe and Eddie fight, it becomes apparent that jealousies and inadequacies are as prevalent in their relationship as the love they share with one another.

23. What does Eddie feel from the Blue Man when the Blue Man hugs Eddie?

When the Blue Man puts his arms around Eddie, Eddie feels all the things the Blue Man has ever felt in his life. Eddie now understands his first lesson.

24. What happens in the plot when Eddie asks the Blue Man if he saves the little girl at the Pier?

Albom uses flashback, once again, to return to the Ruby Pier of the present. The action reveals characters awaiting the ambulance for Eddie, and Eddie's question posed to the Blue Man of whether he saves the little girl clearly connects to the action of the present, seen by the readers.

25. In Chapter Six, what do the readers learn of Eddie's expectations of himself and from his life? Are these expectations met?

Eddie has high expectations for himself. He tries to save money to attend engineering school, but enlists in the military during wartime, instead. Eddie's war injury physically and emotionally cripples him, and he returns home to become a maintenance worker at the Pier. Eddie never wanted to spend his life working at the Pier, so he feels as though his life has been worthless.

26. How does Eddie's time spent on the Pier save him during the war?

Eddie became an accomplished juggler at the Pier. When he and three other soldiers are being held as prisoners in the Philippines, he juggles stones to distract the guards. The guards, entertained, are caught off guard by the stones, which Eddie now uses as weapons to escape.

27. What does Eddie learn about his leg injury in Chapter Six, and who shares with Eddie this revelation?

Eddie learns that the Captain shoots him in the leg to save his life. Eddie plans to enter the burning tent to save a little girl inside; however, the Captain shoots him to prevent Eddie from entering such a perilous situation.

28. Eddie tries to return to the burning tent to save a child. What does this action reveal about Eddie's character?

Even in wartime, Eddie worries about others, especially innocent children. Eddie does not have to consider the enemy, but he realizes an innocent child is inside the tent, and he risks his life to save her. As in the beginning of the novel, Eddie puts the safety of children ahead of his own well-being.

29. Discuss the meaning of the Captain's quote, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don't actually lose it."

The Captain says this when he and Eddie discuss Eddie's leg injury and the Captain's death. The Captain saves Eddie's life, but in the
Eddie has to sacrifice an injury to his leg. The Captain then sacrifices his own life so his men could keep theirs. This quote is the basis of Eddie's second lesson and applies to the rest of Eddie's life, too.

30. When the action returns to Ruby Pier, the reader finds the park closed. How does Eddie's death impact the Pier?

Eddie's co-workers feel lost without him. They cannot get their workday started because Eddie used to be the one to begin their day. Eddie always believed that his work on the Pier was worthless. Clearly, he has impacted more people than he ever imagined.

31. The Captain tells Eddie that dying is only the beginning. What could the Captain mean by this statement?

Eddie is learning that every life impacts another, both in life and in death. The Captain has been waiting for Eddie for many years, and now that the Captain has taught Eddie his second lesson, and Eddie has forgiven the Captain for shooting him in the leg, the Captain can move on. Eddie will do the same for people to come, thus, continuing the cycle.

32. In Chapter Seven, how does Mitch Albom use suspense to propel the action?

Eddie still wonders whether he saved the little girl from the falling cart; so does the reader. Albom uses this piece of information to compel the reader to continue the novel. Each time Eddie wonders, he is learning something else about himself in the meantime. Likewise, the readers are learning Eddie's lessons, too, and continue to discover events as the action rises.

33. What was Eddie’s relationship like with his father?

Eddie’s father was abusive and neglectful towards his sons; he drinks excessively and beats them for no reason. Eddie never felt adequate in the eyes of his father; yet, he always wanted his father’s love and approval. Even when Eddie rises early and works with his father, his father never praises Eddie, leaving Eddie feeling sad and never good enough.

34. Describe Eddie’s relationship with Joe.

Eddie feels resentment towards Joe, even though he loves him. Joe has a job at the pool, and he returns home clean and smelling of seawater. Eddie is envious because he returns home dirty and stained with grease from working at the repair shop.

35. How does Eddie feel when he returns home from the VA hospital?

Eddie is withdrawn and does not bother with anyone. As a result, Eddie’s father pushes him to get a job, which causes a physical confrontation. Eddie’s anger and resentment cause him to fight back against his father for the first time; however, his defense causes an even greater rift between the two men.

36. Why is the stranger Eddie meets in Chapter Eight so significant in his life?

Ruby is significant in Eddie’s life because she is the one for whom the Pier is named. Without her, there would be no Ruby Pier; no work for Eddie’s father; no work for Eddie; and the course of Eddie’s life would be much different. Ruby explains details of Eddie’s father’s death, which will, in turn, impact Eddie’s resolution with his father.

37. Eddie’s father saves Mickey Shea. Considering Mickey’s actions, what does this rescue say about Eddie’s father?

The reader learns that although Eddie’s father is abusive and neglectful, he is also loyal and forgiving. Eddie’s father discovers Mickey Shea trying to assault Eddie’s mother. Clearly angry, Eddie’s father goes after Mickey with a hammer. He follows Mickey to the pier to discover Mickey throwing himself into the water. Knowing that Mickey has many shortcomings, and being friends for such a long time, Eddie’s father jumps into the water, saving Mickey Shea and eventually, leading to his own death.

38. How does Eddie’s father die?

After saving Mickey Shea from drowning, Eddie’s father lies on the beach for several hours before being found. He is taken to the hospital where he calls for his wife and sons, who are not present, at the time. Eddie’s father calls for his wife while hanging out the hospital window, in the cold, where he is found dead hours later.
39. Explain Ruby’s lesson to Eddie.

Ruby’s lesson to Eddie is of forgiveness. She explains that anger is a “curved blade” that only causes harm to the person harboring the anger. Eddie must forgive his father, and he is now able to do so because he understands his father a bit more. Eddie sees that his father is a loyal person who understands when a friend experiences difficulty. Eddie feels compassion for his father, therefore, causing the reader to also share some empathy with this abusive man. Eddie learns that he has to let go, and although his father cannot hear him in the diner, Eddie tells him that he forgives him.

40. Why does Ruby know all of the details of Eddie’s father?

Ruby’s husband was the hospital roommate of Eddie’s father. Emile, Ruby’s husband was also dying; therefore, Ruby knows of Eddie’s father.

41. Why is a reception hall an appropriate place for Eddie to meet Marguerite in Heaven?

Eddie is known as a caring, loving person who loved his wife a great deal. A wedding reception is an obvious place to revisit their love. Moreover, Marguerite says that weddings are “about possibilities.” Marguerite and Eddie’s relationship was a love story. Eddie tells Marguerite he loves her and misses her. They dance gracefully at the reception.

42. How do Eddie’s actions on his thirty-ninth birthday contribute to Marguerite’s accident?

Eddie and his friend, Noel, visit the racetrack for Eddie’s birthday. Eddie has won money and calls Marguerite to share the good news. Marguerite is angry that Eddie gambled, and they argue. Marguerite feels bad about fighting with Eddie on his birthday, so she drives to the track to see him. During the drive, teenagers throw a bottle from an overpass, causing Marguerite’s car accident. If Eddie hadn’t gambled or called Marguerite, she might not have been in the car.

43. For what was Eddie supposed to save his money, instead of gambling?

Eddie and Marguerite were saving their money for a soon-to-be-adopted baby. Marguerite is angry because Eddie should not be spending his money at the racetrack.

44. How is Eddie’s and Marguerite’s relationship impacted by the fallout from the track and Marguerite’s accident?

Marguerite must spend six months recovering from injuries in the hospital. As a result of the events, Eddie and Marguerite’s relationship suffers, but they work through their difficulties, becoming close again.

45. What does Marguerite teach Eddie in Heaven?

Marguerite teaches Eddie that life might end, but love does not. The two discuss how much they’ve missed each other, and the pain of Marguerite’s early death from a tumor. Eddie learns that Marguerite was always with him, and he with her.

46. How does the estate attorney view Eddie’s life?

Because Eddie has no financial gains to show for his life on earth, the estate attorney feels sorry for him. He calls Eddie a “poor slob” and is pleased that he has saved his own nest egg, so he does not have to wind up like Eddie.

47. Is the estate attorney’s view of Eddie accurate? Why or why not?

The estate attorney view of Eddie is not accurate. Although Eddie does not have capital or physical wealth to reflect his time on earth, Eddie was loved by many, both children and adults. He was a compassionate, kind man, whose riches could not be measured by material wealth.

48. At this point, Albom has shown the reader a span of seventy-five years in only ten, short chapters. How is Albom’s storytelling effective?
Albom has used many literary devices to control the story line and take the reader on a journey through Eddie's life. Using flashback, suspense, and foreshadowing, the author propels the rising action towards the climax.

49. How does Albom use Eddie's birthdays to pass time in Chapter Twelve?

Albom describes Eddie's fifty-first, sixtieth, sixty-eighth, seventy-fifth, and eighty-second birthdays to show the passing of time. With each event, the reader learns more about Eddie's character and state of mind.

50. What does the reader learn about Eddie through the short snippets describing his various birthdays?

The reader learns that Eddie grows more and more lonely as the time passes. His fifty-first birthday passes without celebration, since Marguerite is no longer present to share it with him. Eddie's sixtieth birthday is spent at work and fishing, and his sixty-eighth is noted by Joe, who calls from Florida to acknowledge the day. When Eddie turns seventy-five, he continues to work, and his eighty-second birthday is spent in tribute to the loved ones who passed before him. Each of the milestones is spent alone, melancholy, and reflective.

51. What symbols does the author use in Chapter Twelve?

Albom uses the color white to represent purity; children to signify innocence; and water, cleansing and rebirth. Eddie only hears silence in this chapter, indicating that once again, he must listen and be aware of his surroundings in order to learn his final lesson.

52. How does the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven reveal Eddie's character?

The fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven is a child. Throughout Eddie's life, he cares for children. The children bathing in the river remind the reader that Eddie has always been kind and wishes only for children to be safe, a statement clearly obvious even in Eddie's last actions on earth.

53. Who is the child Eddie meets in Heaven, and why is she significant?

Tala is the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven. She is significant because she is the one who was trapped in the burning tent in the Philippines; the fire caused by Eddie during the war. She is also important because she will link the storyline and explain to the reader the significance of Amy or Annie, in the beginning of the novel.

54. Eddie washes Tala with a stone. What is the significance of this action?

Mothers wash their children in the river with the stone. When Eddie washes Tala, her wounds disappear and her flesh becomes whole again. This action symbolizes her healing and Eddie's becoming whole again, physically and emotionally. She teaches Eddie his last lesson.

55. What does Tala teach Eddie?

Tala tells Eddie that he "keeps children safe." She shows Eddie just how meaningful his life has been on earth, and she explains to Eddie that without him, many children would have died. Tala also reveals that Eddie does save the little girl at the Pier, and the hands Eddie feels in his were her own.

56. Clearly, Chapter thirteen is used as the falling action for the reader. How is Tala's lesson a resolution for Eddie, as well?

Eddie finally learns that his life has been meaningful. It is revealed to him how many children and families he has kept safe through his work at the Pier. Eddie feels peace, is reunited with Marguerite, and is welcomed home by God.

57. How does the reader know that Eddie's memory will be kept alive at the Pier?

Three days after Eddie's death, the park reopens. Eddie's belongings are kept with Ruby Pier's memorabilia, indicating that he and his story will not be forgotten.
58. How is the person whose key shredded the cable connected to the Pier?

The key belongs to the great-grandson of Ruby; Ruby Pier’s namesake. Not only is he connected to the Pier because of the physical events that transpire once the cable is shredded; he is linked to specific characters, further proving “The world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.” (p. 196, l. 24)

59. How will Amy or Annie’s visit to Heaven be connected to Eddie?

Eddie will be there waiting for Amy or Annie in the Stardust Band Shell. Here, Annie or Amy will learn that all people are connected and that each person affects another.

60. How is Chapter Twelve used as the denouement?

Albom provides a final connection for the reader in this chapter. The reader is returned to the present at the Pier, and is reminded that the little girl whose life Eddie saves will eventually be one of her Five People in Heaven. The story comes full circle. This chapter is the denouement in the plot.

Essay Topics/Writing Assignments

These 20 essay questions can be used as essay questions on a test, or as stand-alone essay topics for a take-home or in-class writing assignment. Students should have a full understanding of the text in order to answer these questions. They ask for a thorough analysis of the text.

1. The Blue Man tells Eddie, “That there are no random acts. That we are all connected. That you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind.” (p. 48, ll. 1-3) Show how this quote is one of the main lessons throughout the novel. Be sure to cite at least three specific examples and connect them back to the quote.

2. The Captain tells Eddie, “When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don’t actually lose it.” (Chapter 7) How is the Captain’s statement relevant to Eddie’s entire life, not just to his leg injury? Be sure to cite at least three examples.

3. Marguerite tells Eddie “Life might end, but love does not.” At the point in the novel that Marguerite shares this insight with Eddie, he is learning that he has made many connections with various people on earth. How might Eddie now understand that Marguerite’s advice is relevant to the relationships he has had with other family members, as well as with her? How might her advice be connected to Eddie’s job and relationships with the children he keeps safe?

4. Mitch Albom tells the story of Eddie by using many effective literary devices. How does his use of flashback, foreshadowing, and suspense propel the novel?

5. Mitch Albom effectively uses symbolism throughout the novel. Discuss why his use of color as a symbol works to help deliver the impact of the rising action.
6. THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN is didactic in nature. Cite and discuss three lessons that resonate with you. First, identify their relevance in the novel. Then, discuss these lessons as they impacted you. If you do not have three particularly favorite lessons, identify the three lessons that would apply to most people in today's society.

7. The reader first meets Eddie as an eighty-three year old man who performs maintenance at Ruby Pier. As the story unfolds, the reader learns of Eddie's younger years, and the action takes the reader back to the moment of his death when Eddie finally comes "home" to Heaven. Discuss how the novel comes full circle, being sure to reference several main points from Eddie's life.

8. In most novels, minor characters are simply used to assist the plot. In THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN, however, Albom uses minor characters to more profoundly impact his protagonist. Discuss how Mickey Shea, Eddie's father, and Ruby are essential to move the plot along.

9. The theme of childhood innocence clearly plays an essential role in this novel as related to the life of the protagonist. Identify several examples of how childhood innocence helps to teach Eddie about the importance of his own life.

10. Eddie learns that his life has helped to save the lives of many others. How might the five people Eddie meets in Heaven be impacted if Eddie had NOT been involved in their lives? Discuss how the Blue Man, Tala, Amy or Annie, Marguerite, and Ruby might have entirely different lives if it were not for Eddie.

11. Consider the fact that Eddie still worked at the Pier at age eighty-three. Next, recall Eddie's relationship with his father and his brother. Using facts from the novel, write an essay where Eddie's father and Eddie's brother are two of the people Eddie meets in Heaven. What lessons would they teach Eddie? How might their interactions play out?

12. Write an essay about the concept of Heaven. What is your idea of Heaven? What was Eddie's expectation, before meeting the Blue Man? How does Eddie's actual journey through Heaven compare to your own thoughts of such a place?

13. Mitch Albom effectively uses his own experiences with relatives to create Eddie and his other characters. Draw connections between the people in Albom's life and those in Eddie's life. Write an essay paralleling the similarities and contrasting the differences.

14. Albom includes the time Eddie serves in the war as an important part of Eddie's life. How is Eddie's emotional state similar to the physical destruction caused by war? How does Eddie finally make peace with himself throughout the novel?
15. The estate attorney at the end of the novel comments on what a “poor slob” Eddie is because he has no material possessions. How is Eddie actually rich, without consideration of material possessions?

16. Tala is the fifth and most important person Eddie meets in Heaven. What does she teach Eddie? Why is Tala so important in Eddie’s life? Why does Albom introduce her as Eddie’s last person, rather than using Marguerite, Eddie’s great love?

17. Albom introduces the reader to a little girl in Chapter One named Amy or Annie. Why is her name unspecified? Aside from the fact that Eddie tries to save her, what is her role in Eddie’s life? What is Eddie’s role in her life? How will the story continue to spin, even after the end of the novel, as outlined by the author?

18. Mitch Albom introduces silence as an effective symbol several times throughout the novel. Identify three different instances where silence is employed, and explain why its use is so effective. Make sure to cite your references.

19. Many themes are seen throughout the novel. Three that are most prevalent include: forgiveness, acceptance, and the importance of love in a person’s life. Using the three aforementioned themes as points in your response, highlight what you have learned about these themes as used in the novel.

20. Albom changes the setting many times throughout the novel, but Ruby Pier remains as the main focus. Discuss how the Ruby Pier of Eddie’s childhood, the Ruby Pier of the past, and the Ruby Pier of the present serve as effective settings for the novel.

Daily Lessons

This section contains 30 daily lessons. Each one has a specific objective and offers at least three (often more) ways to teach that objective. Lessons include classroom discussions, group and partner activities, in-class handouts, individual writing assignments, at least one homework assignment, class participation exercises and other ways to teach students about the text in a classroom setting. Use some or all of the suggestions provided to work with your students in the classroom and help them understand the text.

Lesson 1

Objective: The book begins with the main character, Eddie, a maintenance man at Ruby Pier amusement park. Most students are young adults, and intense struggle and old age are in the distant future. It is important for students to connect their own lives, the life of the author, and the life of the protagonist. The objective of this lesson is to familiarize the students with the main character and provide relevance to Eddie’s struggles.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Eddie lived through a war, was married, is impacted by his parents and works at a profession where he is
unfulfilled. What are some of the experiences that have been highlighted in Chapter One? How old is Eddie? What are some of the struggles the reader discovers that Eddie has had to face?

Task #2 - Individual Writing assignment: Write a one to two page reflection on the following questions: Consider your life at age 83. Where will you be? What is your profession? Do you have a family? Where do you live? What will you have accomplished professionally? What will you have accomplished personally? What struggles might you have had to face? How have you overcome those struggles? Write your reflections in a journal and be prepared to discuss your answers in pairs. Each answer should be well developed and include appropriate detail.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Share reflections with classmates and discuss the answers to the questions posed in the writing assignment.

Homework: In preparation for the next lesson, write a one page response about the point of view of this novel. Who tells the story? How would the story differ if the point of view changed? What kind of tone does the narrator evoke? Be sure to support your answers with examples from the novel.

Lesson 2

Objective: The reader learns specifics about Eddie's life throughout the first chapter. He is a kind person who seems to garner respect from others, especially children. This lesson will provide the opportunity for a more in-depth character analysis while considering the concept of point of view. Students shall consider Eddie's emotional and physical characteristics from the point of view of the children on the Pier.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Consider Eddie's life: his war injury, his career at the Pier, his marriage to Marguerite, his work at the age of 83. In a journal, jot down notes that describe Eddie as one might imagine him if they were a child meeting him in person. How have all of Eddie's experiences shaped his personality and demeanor?

Task #2 - Individual Creative Writing: From the point of view of a child on the Pier, write a character sketch of at least one page in length, highlighting Eddie's emotional and physical characteristics. A stranger should be able to read your essay and feel as though he knows Eddie as a child might see him.

Task #3 - Group Sharing: How do the children view Eddie? Do they trust him? Do they look up to him? Share the character sketches from Task #2 with the class.

Homework: In preparation for the next lesson, bring three pieces of reference material on Mitch Albom's life.

Lesson 3

Objective: Mitch Albom draws parallels between important people in his life and the life of his characters. This objective will explore the connections between Eddie and Mitch Albom.

1) Task #1 - Research: Using the reference material brought to class, gather information about important people and relevant events in the life of Mitch Albom. Record relevant research and cite all reference sources.

Task #2 - Visual Design and Oral Presentation: Create a chart drawing parallels between Albom's life and Eddie's life. Your chart should be in color and large enough to be seen from the back of the room. It should be easily interpreted and neatly designed.

Task #3 - Class Discussion: What similarities do you see between Eddie's life and Mitch's life? What are the differences between the two lives? Why do you think life experiences impact the characters created by authors? Is Eddie's character believable/realistic?

Homework: Read Chapter Two.
Lesson 4

Objective: In Chapter Two, Albom uses color as a powerful symbol. This objective will explore the author's use of color as an effective symbol, indicating movement, emotion, and the beginning journey of the protagonist, by creating a storyboard.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Why is the author's use of color as a symbol so powerful? What emotions does the reader feel when considering the colors as they are used symbolically? What, specifically, does the color white generally represent? What emotions does the main character feel as he progresses throughout Chapter Two? How are Eddie's emotions directly connected to the colors Albom uses?

Task #2 - Storyboard: Students will draw a series of five scenes outlining Chapter Two using visual cues to create a storyboard. First, consider Chapter Two in five scenes. The first scene is when Eddie floats in the pumpkin colored atmosphere; the second is when Eddie remembers trying to save the little girl; third, when Eddie is over the yellow sea; fourth, when the sea changes colors and he is under water; and fifth, Eddie's fifth birthday. Create a storyboard in five scenes, using the appropriate colors to outline each scene. The only words on your storyboard should be short phrases that explain the meaning behind the symbolism of each color. Your finished storyboard will be orally presented in front of the class.

Homework: Please read Chapter Three and in preparation for the next lesson, please write a one page response of what your image of Heaven might be.

Lesson 5

Objective: Heaven in this novel is not the same as commonly shared images of Heaven, as seen in the Bible or depicted in art. Heaven, in this novel, changes. Today's objective will address traditional versus independent views of what Heaven might be like.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: What are some "traditional" images of Heaven? How is Heaven commonly depicted in art or the Bible? Next, using last night's homework, share individual images of what Heaven might be like. What does it look like? What does it feel like? Who is in your Heaven? Where is your Heaven? Does your idea of Heaven differ from commonly shared images of Heaven as seen in art or in the Bible? How are your images of Heaven similar to or different from traditional views of Heaven?

Task #2 - Drawing: Create a visual drawing of what you perceive Heaven to be. You may choose to use color, or not, but please be able to explain your drawings in detail.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Share your drawings with a partner and explain what your image of Heaven includes.

Homework: Research various works of art and literature and bring to class three representations or literary descriptions of Heaven. All sources must be cited, please.

Lesson 6

Objective: Chapter 2: Albom introduces minor characters throughout the novel who reappear at different points in the story. The objective of this lesson will explore the author's use of foreshadowing in Uncle Mickey's character.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Define the term foreshadowing. Why is foreshadowing used in literature? How might the author foreshadow events to come? What minor characters might be used to foreshadow? Predict where foreshadowing might occur in the story.

Task #2 - Independent Notes: Consider the character of Uncle Mickey. How might his actions towards young Eddie foreshadow events in the novel? How does Eddie feel about Uncle Mickey? How do you know? Identify possible character flaws that might reappear later in the novel.
Task #3 - Independent Writing: Using the definition of foreshadowing as discussed, and referring back to your notes on Uncle Mickey, write a one page prediction paper on how Mitch Albom will reintroduce Uncle Mickey later in the novel. Be sure to include appropriate details of Uncle Mickey's personality to support your prediction.

Homework: In preparation for the next lesson, please write a one page reflection of why Albom's use of flashback is useful in telling Eddie's story.

Lesson 7

Objective: Chapter 3 In Chapter Three, Albom intersects the past with the present. The objective of this lesson will prove the effectiveness of Albom's technique by having students rewrite Chapter Three simply by using past tense and present tense. Then, students will discuss in groups why Albom's use of flashback is a more effective way to tell Eddie's story.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Why is Albom's use of flashback effective? Is it ever distracting? Why or why not? Would the novel be as engaging if Albom simply told the story by using past tense?

Task #2 - Group Work: Students should work in groups of three and be assigned a task: speaker, scribe, or historian. Each student is responsible for contributing to the group; however, the speaker will present the group's findings to the rest of the class, the scribe will write notes for the speaker as discussed in the group, and the historian will be responsible for accurately citing quotations from the novel to prove the group's argument. The group should revisit Chapter Three and rewrite the chapter, simply by using past and present tense. Each group should be prepared to present its findings to the remainder of the class.

Task #3 - Oral Presentation: Each group should present its chapter rewrite to the class and reiterate why Albom's method is more effective.

Homework: Read Chapter Four.

Lesson 8

Objective: Chapter 3 In Chapter Three, Eddie feels young again. Emotionally, Eddie's pain still lingers, but his physical pain is gone. This lesson will address the theme of healing.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: As Eddie first awakens at the Ruby Pier of his childhood, he feels young and pain free yet still lonely. What might Eddie be thinking when he first wakes? How might Eddie feel about the fact that his physical pain has disappeared? What might Eddie be seeing upon his awakening? Smelling? Hearing? Eddie still feels alone as he discovers his surroundings. Next, Eddie decides to run around the park, stopping in front of the freak house when the Blue Man speaks to him. How do you think Eddie feels when the Blue Man speaks to him? What might Eddie be thinking? For what might Eddie be wishing?

Task #2 - Independent Notes: Consider the theme of healing. What does it mean to be "healed"? Eddie's physical pain is gone, but he still carries much emotional baggage and feels alone. What does Eddie have yet to discover before he may be emotionally healed? Please take notes on these questions in your journals.

Task #3 - Independent Writing: In response to today's lesson, pretend you are Eddie. How might YOU feel if you were Eddie? What thoughts might you have? What fears might you sense? Write a one page reflection of what YOU could be thinking.

Homework: Write a one page response predicting how the Blue Man might need to be healed.

Lesson 9
**Objective:** Chapter 4 Chapter Four introduces Eddie's lessons. This lesson will allow students to consider the first lesson, understanding one's life on earth. This theme will span throughout the entire novel, but it begins at the Ruby Pier of Eddie's childhood.

1) **Task #1 - Class Discussion:** Now that Eddie has met the first person, the Blue Man, he begins to learn lessons. Eddie does not understand why his Heaven includes Ruby Pier or the Blue Man. The first lesson Eddie learns is as the Blue Man says, "Heaven is for understanding one's life on earth, the greatest gift that God can give you." This lesson is as much for the Blue Man as it is for Eddie. Chapter Four examines wounded emotions: How is this theme of "understanding" relevant for each of the two characters?

**Task #2 - Reflection Writing:** Write a two page reflection of how the theme of understanding one's life on Earth is relevant to Eddie and to the Blue Man. Be sure to include reference to the Blue Man's nervousness being the cause of his bed-wetting; the Blue Man's career as a freak show member; Eddie's resentment towards Ruby Pier; and Eddie's unawareness of how he impacted the Blue Man's life.

**Task #3 - Work in Pairs:** Discuss your individual "purpose" on Earth. What do you think you are called to do? What profession might you pursue? Do you think you fully understand your life on Earth now, or will that epiphany come later in adulthood, or beyond?

**Homework:** Reflect on your life thus far. Where might you first arrive in Heaven? Who might you meet? Write your answers in your journal.

**Lesson 10**

**Objective:** Chapter 4: The Blue Man tells Eddie that "people are unable to talk when they first come because it helps them listen." This activity will help students to understand the important lesson of listening by having students participate in a simulated activity and then sharing and reflecting upon their experiences.

1) **Task #1 - Class Lecture/Take Notes/Activity:** Teacher will give a lecture and write notes on the board regarding the characters introduced thus far and the themes strewn throughout the novel, including the important theme of listening. Only half the class is permitted to talk and ask questions on the lecture; the other half must only listen. After twenty minutes passes, all students are permitted to ask questions about the lecture.

**Task #2 - Class Discussion:** The theme of listening is shaped after the quote, "People are unable to talk when they first come because it helps them listen." Why is it important to listen, as much as it is to speak? Did the students who were permitted to talk, fully understand the lecture? Did the students who were banned from talking fully understand the lecture? How did each group feel about being allowed to or prevented from talking? How might a balance of speaking and listening work best, especially in a classroom setting?

**Task #3 - Independent Writing:** Consider how much you speak and listen on any given day. Do you speak more than you listen? Do you listen more than you speak? How might you improve your balance between contributing to and listening to a conversation? Write a one page reflection on the answers to these questions.

**Homework:** Read Chapter Five.

**Lesson 11**

**Objective:** Chapter 5: The lesson in Chapter Five is that all people are connected in some way. Everyone's actions impact others. This lesson will reveal this connection to students through an assignment in which they will write a truthful story about how five of their classmates are connected to themselves.

1) **Task #1 - Class Discussion:** Consider the Blue Man's lesson, "there are no random acts...we are all connected...you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind." (p. 48, ll. 1-3) Next, look around at your peers. Obviously, you are all connected because you share the same class. There are many more connections between some of you. What are some other connections shared by you and your peers? Consider connections outside of school, too. What are some of these connections? Consider
the environment and global warming - our lives even impact our earth.

Task #2 - Individual Nonfiction Writing: Using the aforementioned quote, analyze the concept that we are all connected and everyone's life impacts another. Choose five of your peers and write a truthful story that describes how you are all connected. You make the sixth person.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Work in pairs and discuss how you might be connected in the FUTURE to some of your peers NOT included in your story. Is this quote realistic? Be able to support your opinion with cohesive arguments for or against its validity.

Homework: Read Chapter Six.

Lesson 12

Objective: Eddie's relationships between his family members seem tentative, at best. This lesson will examine the relationships Eddie has with Joe and with his mother.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: What does the reader know about Eddie's mother? What does Eddie's mother's role seem to be in the family? What does the reader know about Joe? How does Eddie feel about his brother? How do you know?

Task #2 - Write a Dialogue: Refer back to the flashback in Chapter Five to Eddie's seventeenth birthday. His mother is grilling steak. Eddie confides in his brother about a girl he wants to marry, but Joe tells the family Eddie's secret. Eddie had not intended that his brother reveal this confidence, and the two brothers fight. Write the dialogue that accompanies this argument. Rather than simply creating random, angry dialogue, use the cues of Eddie's relationship with his brother in your words.

Task #3 - Write a Dialogue: Eddie's mother dances with him and assures him that it's all right about the girl. Then, she coaxes the brothers to dance together, and they make peace with each other. Write the dialogue between Eddie's mother and Eddie. Again, do not create a "random" scene; rather, use clues about Eddie's mother to reflect their dialogue.

Homework: In preparation for the next lesson, write a one page reflection of a self-discovery you have had in your lifetime. What did you learn from the experience to which you refer? Did your lesson impact the way you lived your life after your "epiphany"?

Lesson 13

Objective: Chapter Six continues Eddie's journey in Heaven. Students shall discuss Eddie's journey as he discovers more about his life by answering questions about his journey of self-discovery, and by making connections about Eddie's life at the Pier and his relationships with others.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Even in wartime, Eddie's life at Ruby Pier serve to be useful when he escapes imprisonment by juggling stones. What is Eddie learning about himself on his journey in Heaven? What is Eddie discovering about his time spent at Ruby Pier? Although Eddie is trying to survive a war, he still manages to take time to try and save an innocent child from the burning tent. What do Eddie's actions say about his character? How does the war emotionally and physically harm Eddie? What impact does the war have on Eddie's life at home? Where does Eddie go after he returns from the war? Now, physically and emotionally scarred, Eddie still takes time to protect children. Again, what do his actions say about his character?

Task #2 - Individual Writing Assignment: From Eddie's perspective, write a journal entry about being home from the war. Write about your (Eddie's) experience in the Philippines, as well as about your life upon your return home. How do you feel about what you have/have not accomplished? What do you want in your life next? What relationships are important to you?

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Share your journal entries with a partner. Compare feelings and emotions. Discuss how Eddie is feeling now that he has returned home.
Lesson 14

Objective: Chapter 6: Albom's craft makes clear connections between Eddie and the other characters by bringing the story full circle. Chapter Six begins to make a clear connection between the children, Amy/Annie and the child in the burning tent. In this lesson, students shall analyze Albom's use of children in the story and predict the outcome of the novel.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Consider the author's use of children. Amy or Annie appears in Chapter One and Eddie tries to save her. In Chapter Six, again, Eddie tries to save an innocent child in a burning tent. Clearly, Albom's reference to the innocence of children is being repeated. How might Albom connect the children in the end of the novel?

Task #2 - Individual Writing/Critical Thinking: Using clues from what you have read thus far, predict the outcome of the novel. WITHOUT PEEKING AT THE END, write the ending to the novel.

Task #3 - Group Discussion: Why is the theme of innocence so important in this novel, thus far? Why is the theme of innocence appropriate for Eddie? What kind of person is Eddie? Why do children like Eddie?

Homework: In preparation for tomorrow's lesson, think about a sacrifice you have made in your life. Write a one page reflection of how you felt when you made that sacrifice.

Lesson 15

Objective: Chapter 7: The Captain tells Eddie, "When you sacrifice something that is precious...you don't actually lose it. You pass it on to someone else." Students shall consider aforementioned quote and discuss its meaning as related to the protagonist, along with make predictions of what will happen next in the plot.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion - The Captain tells Eddie, "When you sacrifice something that is precious...you don't actually lose it. You pass it on to someone else." Eddie sacrificed his leg and lost something, but he gained something as well. Eddie forgives the Captain for the injury, but Eddie still does not fully understand what he has gained. The Captain goes away, and the landscape becomes lush and green and unscarred. What could Eddie have gained? Why is Eddie unaware of what he has gained? What more does Eddie have to learn? What does the changing landscape suggest about Eddie? About the Captain?

Task #2 - Creative Writing - Write a letter from Eddie to the Captain. The letter is to explain that Eddie forgives the Captain for shooting him in the leg. It should also include Eddie's feelings about the Captain's sacrifice. Be sure to use facts from Chapter Seven in your letter, rather than creating "new" details.

Task #3 - Oral presentation - Read your letters aloud to the class. You should act as though you are Eddie, and your intonation should reflect the seriousness of this lesson.

Homework: Read Chapter Eight.

Lesson 16

Objective: Chapter 7: It is important for the students to make connections between the literature they read and their own lives; therefore, they should reflect on their own lives by writing a self-assessment considering their strengths, weaknesses, goals, and relationships with others, just as Eddie has had to do on his journey.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Eddie's co-workers are at a loss because Eddie usually starts their workday. Eddie's presence is missed
and the park does not open. Consider how life would be impacted if you were not present. How does the class dynamic change if one student is not present? How does the tone of the class change? Consider what it might be like if you were invisible. Whose lives would be changed? How would the daily routine be affected?

Task #2 - Individual Reflection Writing: Your assignment is to write a self-assessment. Consider the relationships in your life. What would be different if you were no longer present in those relationships? Think about your goals, talents, hobbies, areas of strength and weakness. Your reflection should be at least three pages in length.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Tell your partner how he or she fits into your daily routine. Tell him/her how your life might change if s/he were invisible. Explain how the class dynamic would be changed if s/he were not present. Then, share your reflections with your partner.

Homework: Eddie has had to consider all of his relationships and think about his presence on Earth. Write a one page journal entry, from Eddie's point of view, about what he has learned thus far in his journey through Heaven. Be sure to include how Eddie's image of himself is changing.

Lesson 17

Objective: Chapter 8: This chapter serves as Eddie's realization that he needs to begin to make peace with himself, as Ruby says, "You have peace when you make it with yourself." (p. 113, ll. 3, 4) In this lesson, students shall examine Eddie's life and decide with what parts of his life he must find peace.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: "You have peace when you make it with yourself." (p. 113, ll. 3, 4) Using the aforementioned quote, analyze Eddie's life. What parts of Eddie's life are lacking peace? How might he begin to make peace with himself? Which relationships must Eddie rectify before peace can come? How might Eddie achieve such a lofty goal of peace?

Task #2 - Work in Pairs: Answer the following questions with a partner - How is Albom using Eddie's journey for peace as a theme in the novel? Does Eddie's quest for peace assist him in understanding the lessons he learns in Heaven? Why or why not?

Task #3 - Individual Creative Writing: Write a letter to Eddie from God, explaining the purpose of sending Eddie on this journey through Heaven. Explain to Eddie what you (God) hope for Eddie to learn in Eddie's quest for peace. In groups of three, share your letters aloud. Once you have finished reading your letters, write a response from Eddie to God. In your response, include any questions that Eddie might have about his journey that might help him to achieve his peace.

Homework: Read chapter Nine.

Lesson 18

Objective: Chapter 8 Albom is beginning to tie together all of the characters and events in Eddie's life. This lesson will clarify the connections as students will create a flowchart of the characters and events thus far.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Think about the connections Albom has made thus far. How are the characters connected? How do the events of the plot tie in with the characters? How do the characters and events impact Eddie's journey in Heaven?

Task #2 - Flowchart: Albom is beginning to create a circle of connections between the characters introduced thus far, and with the events of the novel. Create a flowchart of characters and events while depicting their connection. Your chart should be clearly read and easily interpreted. Be prepared to explain how the novel is coming "full circle" as you continue to read.

Homework: As you connected the events and characters in your flowcharts, now, to your charts, add the lessons that Eddie has learned, thus far. Be sure the lessons are appropriately placed in the chart in order to clearly depict Eddie's journey.
Lesson 19

Objective: Chapter 9: This chapter introduces another side to Eddie's father. Finally, Eddie realizes that his father is worthy of forgiveness. Students will analyze the character of Eddie's father and write a character sketch, capturing all sides of his personality.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Eddie's father has been mentioned several times as a negative and abusive man in Eddie's life. Chapter Nine shows the reader a different side of Eddie's father. What does the reader learn about Eddie's father? What kind of person COULD Eddie's father really be if he did not have the stresses of life to impact his personality? Does the reader gain any empathy for Eddie's father?

Task #2 - Individual Writing Assignment: Your assignment is to write a character sketch, considering ALL facets of Eddie's father's personality. Your sketch should delve deeply into Eddie's father's personality, while still depicting him as Eddie sees him.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Share your character sketches with one another. Challenge each other's perspectives and add to one another's details.

Homework: From Eddie's perspective, write a letter to his father, explaining that he forgives his father for being harsh to him as a child because he now understands his father. The letter should be one page in length.

Lesson 20

Objective: Chapter 9: Anger is described as "a curved blade" in this chapter. This lesson will allow students to analyze Ruby's quote, "anger is a curved blade...," as related to Eddie's life, as well as to review the lessons he learned thus far.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: In Chapter Nine, Eddie learns about the detriment of holding onto anger. Ruby says, "It is a curved blade...It does not attack the person who has harmed you. The harm is to you." Consider Ruby's statement and recall Eddie's life. How has anger affected Eddie's life? If he were not angry, how might his life have been different?

Task #2 - Group Work: Discuss the life Eddie might have had if he had met Ruby on Earth and learned her lesson earlier, rather than while in Heaven. Write down your suppositions in the form of a report which you will then present to the class.

Task #3 - Independent Writing Assignment: Consider a time when your own anger came back to hurt you. Describe that incident and then compare and contrast it to Eddie's anger.

Homework: Read chapter Ten.

Lesson 21

Objective: Chapter 10 Albom uses Eddie's brother as a foil to Eddie. This lesson will examine the two characters as foils by comparing and contrasting Eddie and Joe.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Compare and contrast Joe and Eddie. How are their lives similar? How are their lives different? How has Joe's life affected Eddie's perception of his own life?

Task #2 - Independent Writing Assignment: Your assignment is to write an essay, comparing and contrasting Joe and Eddie. Your essay should include physical and emotional aspects of the two personalities. It should be at least five paragraphs and two pages in length.

Homework: Consider the story if Joe's and Eddie's professions had been reversed. Joe is now the maintenance worker at the Pier and Eddie is now a salesman. How might Eddie's lessons in Heaven be different? Would his personality remain the same? Would he learn any of the same lessons? Why or why not? What lessons might Joe learn in Heaven? Record your answers in your journals.
Lesson 22

Objective: Chapter 10: Eddie and Marguerite's decisions in Chapter Ten change the course of their life plan. Students will consider cause and effect and analyze the power of making decisions by analyzing the plot, answering reflection questions, and sharing their answers with the class.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: In Chapter Ten, Eddie's decision to gamble and Marguerite's decision to drive to the racetrack result in the couple's plans to be changed forever. How does Eddie's decision impact the couple's plans? How does Marguerite's decision impact her life and her life with Eddie?

Task #2 - Independent Writing Assignment: Consider the power of cause and effect. Think about decisions you have made in your lives. How has a decision you made changed the outcome of a grander plan? If no decisions have impacted your life dramatically, think of scenarios where a decision might change the course of a person's destiny. Be prepared to discuss your answers in class after writing a two page paper.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs and Share with Class: Consider Eddie and Marguerite's decisions in Chapter Ten. What if Eddie had never gone to the track? What if Eddie did win at the track, but Eddie and Marguerite never fought? Rewrite the events of Chapter Ten as if Eddie's and Marguerite's decisions were different. Read your rewritten chapters to the class.

Homework: Read Chapter Eleven.

Lesson 23

Objective: Chapter 11: At this point in the novel, the reader has learned about many people and events over the course of seventy-five years of Eddie's life. This lesson will assist students with event recall and serve as an effective review of the plot for the unit test by creating a timeline and review material.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Thus far, the events of the novel have spanned over seventy-five years. What are some things the reader learns about Eddie's life over the course of the plot? What is Eddie learning on his journey through Heaven? Who has Eddie met in Heaven? What events have been important in Eddie's life?

Task #2 - Timeline: Your assignment is to create a timeline of the events in Eddie's life. You should include the events discussed as well as more major details. Your timeline should be neat and presented on posterboard.

Task #3 - Review: Using the events and people included on your timelines, create twenty-five review questions to help prepare for an evaluation. Be sure each question has an answer (written on a separate piece of paper); the questions should be factual, not inferential, in nature.

Homework: At this point in the story, the plot is now nearing a climax. Make up flash cards from the events on your timelines to serve as unit test review.

Lesson 24

Objective: Chapter 11: Eddie does not consider himself a success. The estate attorney in Chapter Eleven does not consider him a success either. Everyone's definition of success differs, but clearly, Eddie is a success because he spends his life helping others, specifically children. This lesson will require students to consider various definitions of "success."

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Eddie does not view himself as "successful." The estate attorney in Chapter Eleven also considers Eddie a failure because he has no possessions to show for his life. Do you think Eddie is successful? Why or why not? How could Eddie have
been more successful, if at all?

Task #2 - Independent Writing Assignment: Your assignment is to come up with your own definition of "success." What is success? What would make you consider your own life a success? Please be specific and write your answers in a one page paper. Be prepared to share your papers with the class.

Task #3 - Work in Pairs: Interview one another - Who is the most successful person you know? What makes him or her so successful? Does that person view him/herself as a success? Why or why not?

Homework: Read Chapter Twelve.

Lesson 25

Objective: Chapter 12 Albom highlights Eddie's relationship with Marguerite by contrasting Eddie's loneliness with the joy of their reunion in Heaven. This lesson will examine the author's ability to develop the plot by examining the relationship between Eddie and Marguerite.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Albom uses the sharp contrast of Eddie's unhappy years alone with the joy of Eddie's and Marguerite's reunion. What does the reader know about the difficulty of Eddie's years without Marguerite? How does Mitch Albom highlight the happiness and completeness of Eddie's reunion with Marguerite in Heaven? Was Eddie's and Marguerite's marriage happy? How do you know? How does the action continue to rise, just with the use of Marguerite and Eddie as characters?

Task #2 - Work in Pairs: Answer the following questions by discussing with a partner: How might the plot have differed if the relationship between Eddie and Marguerite was not so strong? Even though Marguerite is not alive, how does she impact Eddie while he is still on Earth?

Task #3 - Independent Writing: In a two page analysis paper, answer the following question: How has the plot developed just by Albom's use of the relationship between Eddie and Marguerite? You may use your discussion notes to guide your answers. Also, be sure to cite examples from the text to support your answer.

Homework: Read Chapter Thirteen.

Lesson 26

Objective: Chapter 12 Albom uses birthdays, typically days to celebrate, to highlight the passing of time. Readers learn how Eddie spends many of these days, most specifically in Chapter Twelve, his 51st, 60th, 68th, 75th, and 82nd birthdays. This lesson will help students to analyze the passing of time for Eddie and examine what Eddie feels at each milestone.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: After Marguerite's death, Eddie does not celebrate his birthdays. Specifically, his 51st, 60th, 68th, 75th, 82nd birthdays are highlighted in Chapter Twelve. How does Eddie spend each birthday? How does Eddie feel with each milestone? Does Eddie share any of these birthdays with anyone else? Why or why not? Explain your answers.

Task #2 - Written Dialogue with Three People: Your assignment is to become the "ghost of birthdays past, present, and future," and visit Eddie on the aforementioned dates. Talk to Eddie about his youth, about each of the present dates listed above, and of his future. Create a dialogue between Eddie and you, the ghost. What is Eddie feeling? What do you say to Eddie to console him? Record your dialogue and be prepared to present it to the class.

Task #3 - Independent Writing Assignment: Eddie reaches many milestones, each more significant than the next; however, he does not celebrate any of the birthdays seen in Chapter Twelve. Plan a birthday party for Eddie, celebrating his 75th birthday. Who might be present, alive or dead? Who might give a speech to honor Eddie? What might that person say in his/her speech? How does Eddie feel about what the celebration? Describe this party and the answers to these questions in a one page paper.
Lesson 27

Objective: Chapter 13: Even in the end, Albom uses symbolism as a powerful tool. This lesson will require students to recognize the significance of being washed and how this symbolism is used in the resolution of the novel.

1) Task #1 - Independent Writing: Even in the denouement, Albom uses symbolism as a powerful tool. Albom has used water throughout the novel, but in Chapter Thirteen, he has Eddie wash Tala; then, Tala washes Eddie. Consider the symbolism of water and being washed. Write a one page reflection on the symbolism of being washed. Why is this symbol so significant as a part of the denouement?

Task #2 - Class Discussion: Both Tala and Eddie become whole again and is healed through their cleansing. What does Eddie washing Tala represent? What does Tala washing Eddie signify? Why is their cleansing effective as a powerful way to resolve the plot? What does Eddie finally feel?

Task #3 - Journal Reflection: In your journals, consider the possibilities of a varied ending using water as a symbol. What if Eddie traveled back to the ocean as his last stop? What if that ocean were now blue, instead of yellow, when he first traveled past it? Would the ending have as much of an impact as it does when Tala and Eddie wash one another? Why or why not? Record your answers in your journals.

Homework: Read Chapter Fourteen.

Lesson 28

Objective: Chapter 13: The resolution of the novel becomes clear. Eddie finally realizes that his life has served a purpose. This lesson will clarify Eddie's point of view at this point in the novel.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Eddie finally realizes, through his being cleansed and after his journey, that he lived a meaningful life after all. He learns that he successfully saves Amy or Annie, and that his life spent protecting families and children was, indeed, important. How does Eddie finally feel once he accepts himself?

Task #2 - Creative Writing: Write a letter to God from Eddie's point of view. What does Eddie tell God, now that God is welcoming Eddie home? Be specific. Your letter should be at least one page in length.

Task #3 - Journal Writing: Now that Eddie realizes his life has a purpose, consider the beginning of the story when Eddie awakens in the teacup ride at Ruby Pier. If Eddie had known then all the lessons he learned on his journey through Heaven, how might his view of Ruby Pier been different when he woke up in the teacup? Would Eddie have welcomed being back at the Ruby Pier of his childhood? Answer these questions in your journals with a one page response.

Homework: Write a letter from God, welcoming Eddie home. Your letter should reflect the fact that Eddie now understands his life and is completing his journey in Heaven. The letter should be one page in length.

Lesson 29

Objective: Chapter 14: Albom clearly ties everything and everyone together to come full circle. This lesson will make final connections between events in the plot.

1) Task #1 - Class Discussion: Now that you have reached the denouement, you clearly see how the author ties everyone and everything together. How are the children, Amy or Annie and Tala connected to Eddie? How is Ruby Pier connected to Eddie's time at war? What
was Eddie's purpose in life? Why are each of the five people Eddie meets in Heaven so important in Eddie's journey through Heaven?

Task #2 - Flowchart: Your assignment is to add to your flowchart that you started at Chapter Eight. Now, the chart should connect and bring all events back to the beginning. Be sure to include Eddie's epiphany, as well as the resolution seen in the ending chapters.

Task #3 - Drawing Conclusions: Reiterate each of the lessons Eddie learns throughout the novel. How is each lesson connected to the next? How does each lesson propel Eddie in his journey through Heaven?

Homework: Study the lessons Eddie learns and be prepared to answer questions about the lessons on a test.

Lesson 30

Objective: Chapter 14: Now that the students see that all things and people are connected, they can appreciate the purpose of Albom's minor characters. This lesson will require students to apply their knowledge of the novel and one of its minor characters to a creative assignment.

1) Task #1 - List: List all minor characters. Who are they? Next, list in bullet form the purpose of each minor character in the novel.

Task #2 - Class Discussion: Consider the end of the novel. For the purposes of this task, time has passed. Amy or Annie has grown old and now, she will meet Eddie in Heaven on her own journey. What does she say to Eddie? What does Eddie say to her? They meet at the Stardust Band Shell. What does it look like in Amy or Annie's Heaven? What lesson might Amy or Annie learn from Eddie?

Task #3 - Creative Writing: Write the next chapter, but begin where time has passed. Amy or Annie has grown old and is now visiting Eddie as one of her people she meets in Heaven. Write about their meeting and be sure to include their dialogue. Stay true to Mitch Albom's method of tying everyone together. All events, conversations, and lessons should be relevant to staying connected. Your chapter should be at least five pages in length.

Homework: Prepare for unit test and essay assignment.

Fun Classroom Activities

The 20 enjoyable, interactive classroom activities that are included will help your students understand the text in amusing ways. Fun Classroom Activities include group projects, games, critical thinking activities, brainstorming sessions, writing poems, drawing or sketching, and more that will allow your students to interact with each other, be creative, and ultimately grasp key concepts from the text by "doing" rather than simply studying.

1. Let's go to the Movies

Watch the movie, "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" and identify similarities and differences between the novel and the movie.

2. Movie Comparison

Watch the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." Compare and contrast the character of Harry Bailey to that of Eddie.

3. Storyboard

Create a storyboard of THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN. Be sure your drawings are accompanied by appropriate captions, explaining the action of each cell.

4. Game Time!
Turn THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN into a game. Create a game board, pawns, rules, and instructions. Your game should utilize facts from the novel in its play.

5. Heaven Photo Essay

Create a photo essay of your Heaven. Using at least twenty photos, arrange them creatively to tell your story. Be sure to include captions to indicate why the pictures are relevant to you.

6. Five People YOU Meet in Heaven

Create a photo essay of the five people you might meet in Heaven. Be sure to identify the five people and explain their importance to you. Also, be sure to include captions that explain the lessons these people might teach you.

7. Home Movies

Make a home movie of a scene or of the entire novel. Be sure your characters and events follow the plot.

8. Move Over Barbara Walters

Write an interview between Eddie and the five people he meets in Heaven. Be sure to use the events of the story to frame your questions and answers.

9. Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

Create a review game in the form of "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" or "Jeopardy", using facts, characters, conflicts, settings, rising action, falling action, and denouement to guide your questions.

10. Journaling

Keep a journal from Eddie's point of view. The journal should reflect Eddie's thoughts and feelings as he participates in his journey through Heaven.

11. Sketch a Scene

Create an artistic drawing of one or more scenes from the novel. Be sure your rendering accurately depicts the characters and/or events from the novel.

12. Become the Artist

Create an artistic interpretation, using any artistic media, of one or more lessons from the novel. Be sure your rendering accurately depicts the lessons from the novel.

13. Characters Converse

Create a dramatic dialogue between Eddie and each of the five people he meets in Heaven. Be sure your dialogue accurately reflects the characters and their relationships.

14. Mime Time

Create a dramatic interpretation of a scene or of the entire play. Be sure the lessons Eddie learns are included in your interpretation.

15. I Write the Songs...

Create a score or original song lyrics to accompany the novel. Be sure your music and/or lyrics accurately reflect the mood of the novel.

16. Rap it Up!
Turn the flashbacks of Eddie's birthdays into a rap song. Be sure to use the actual events from the birthdays as the basis for your rap.

17. Brangelina or Bennifer?

Assign the role of each character to modern day actors and actresses. Identify why each character is assigned to each famous person.

18. Love Letter

Write a love letter from Marguerite to Eddie. Clearly, you will need to add your own interpretation here; however, be sure to include references from their relationship in your letter.

19. Collage

Create a collage of your interpretation of the novel. You should cover a paper no smaller than 11x14 inches and be sure your pictures overlap, leaving no negative space on the paper.

20. Your Way

Rewrite the ending of the novel. Be sure to include reference to Amy or Annie, but you may chose to end the novel differently, if you prefer.

Worksheets and Evaluation Forms

The following worksheets may come in handy for grading in-class student performance.

*Note: These forms are included as printable Word and PDF files with your purchase.*

Oral Reading Evaluation Sheet
Reading Assignment Sheet
Writing Evaluation Form

Oral Reading Evaluation Sheet

Name: ___________________________________________  Period: _______________________________________

5 = Above Average       3 = Average       1 = Below Average

Audibility - Projecting your voice so your audience can hear and understand you.

5  4  3  2  1

Pronunciation - Ability to recognize words before you say them and pronounce all the sounds correctly.

5  4  3  2  1
**Articulation** - Using your tongue, mouth and lips to pronounce all the sounds correctly.

5 4 3 2 1

**Vocal Variety/Expression** - Using appropriate pitch, volume and flow.

5 4 3 2 1

**Rate** - Reading a speed, or pace that is easy to follow.

5 4 3 2 1

**Comments:**

**Reading Assignment Sheet**

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Name: ___________________________________________  Period: _______________________________________

Reading Assignment Sheet
## Writing Evaluation Form

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Quizzes & Homework Assignments

Use these as possible quizzes for your lesson plans. Alternatively, they can be used as homework assignments. They are designed to test your students’ understanding or the material at different stages throughout the unit. You may easily create your own tests using our Quiz and Test Generator related to this product.

One Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 1 to Chapter 11
Two Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 1 to Chapter 10
Four Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 1 to Chapter 4
Four Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 8 to Chapter 11
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 1 to Chapter 2
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 3 to Chapter 3
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 4 to Chapter 5
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 6 to Chapter 6
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 8 to Chapter 9
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 10 to Chapter 11
Eight Week Lesson Plan Quiz - Chapter 12 to Chapter 13

Quiz: Chapter 1 to Chapter 11

Name: ___________________________   Period: ___________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions
Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Where does the reader first meet Eddie?
   a) In the hospital where he is first born.
   b) Ruby Pier.
   c) At a dance with Marguerite.
   d) In his apartment.

2. Who says, "you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind."
   a) Eddie.
   b) The Blue Man.
   c) Eddie's father.
   d) Uncle Mickey.

3. How many years of Eddie's life does the author reveal through this storyline?
   a) Seventy-five.
   b) Eighty-two.
   c) Eighty.
   d) Forty-seven.

4. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?
   a) In a field.
   b) Under water.
   c) At the Pier.
   d) In Heaven.

5. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?
   a) In a small hut.
   b) Under ground.
   c) In a steel box.
   d) Bamboo barracks.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?

2. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?
3. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?

4. Why does Eddie’s father forgive Mickey Shea?

5. Whom does Eddie see in front of the freak show?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 1 to Chapter 11

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. b.
3. a.
4. b.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?
   
   In the teacup ride on Ruby Pier.

2. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?

   Nothing to speak of.

3. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?

   It will come; silence helps people listen.

4. Why does Eddie’s father forgive Mickey Shea?

   Mickey has a drinking problem and does not act out on purpose.
5. Whom does Eddie see in front of the freak show?

A man whose skin is blue.

**Quiz: Chapter 1 to Chapter 10**

Name: ___________________________________________  Period: _________________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**Directions:** Circle the correct answer.

1. Whose philosophy reads, "When your time came, it came, and that was that"?
   a) Eddie's.  
   b) Eddie's father.  
   c) A child's.  
   d) Marguerite's.

2. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?
   a) The young man's lost car key has shredded the cable.  
   b) A teenager decides to hang on the cable as a dare.  
   c) A penny has lodged in the cable, causing it to stick.  
   d) The cable has rusted after years of use and salt-water air.

3. What happens to Eddie's leg?
   a) He is beaten by enemy soldiers.  
   b) He gets caught in a landmine.  
   c) The Captain shoots him to prevent Eddie from entering a burning tent.  
   d) He falls from a tree.

4. Who prevents a fatal accident at the Freddie Fall?
   a) Eddie.  
   b) Marguerite.  
   c) The young man.  
   d) A ride attendant.

5. What does Eddie see when he dies?
   a) God.  
   b) Marguerite.  
   c) Heaven.  
   d) Different colors and changing landscape.

**Short Answer Questions**
Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. From what does Marguerite eventually die?

2. What is happening at the Ruby Pier of the present in Chapter Five?

3. With whom does Eddie's father die?

4. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?

5. In Chapter Three, where does Eddie stop at the Pier?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 1 to Chapter 10

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. a.
2. a.
3. c.
4. a.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. From what does Marguerite eventually die?
Brain tumor.

2. What is happening at the Ruby Pier of the present in Chapter Five?

*People await the ambulance.*

3. With whom does Eddie’s father die?

*No one.*

4. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?

*Eddie’s father.*

5. In Chapter Three, where does Eddie stop at the Pier?

*In front of the freak show.*

**Quiz: Chapter 1 to Chapter 4**

Name: ___________________________________________  Period: _________________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**Directions:** Circle the correct answer.

1. What does Eddie learn about Heaven in Chapter Four?
   a) It has many steps.
   b) It is a dream.
   c) It is difficult to attain.
   d) It is subjective.

2. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?
   a) It will come; silence helps people listen.
   b) It is only permitted during urgent situations.
   c) It will change once Eddie learns his lessons.
   d) It has disappeared forever.

3. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?
   a) With a party at home.
   b) At a picnic at the Pier.
   c) With a nice dinner.
   d) With a pony ride.

4. What is the last thing Eddie remembers physically feeling before he dies?
5. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?
   a) Sad and alone.
   b) Wonderful, but alone.
   c) Happy and alive.
   d) Young, but skeptical.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What does Uncle Mickey do to Eddie during his birthday?

2. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?

3. What does the young man at the Pier lose, causing havoc later?

4. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?

5. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 1 to Chapter 4
Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. a.
2. a.
3. b.
4. b.
5. b.

Short Answer Key

1. What does Uncle Mickey do to Eddie during his birthday?

_Bumps Eddie's head several times._

2. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?

_An overdose of silver nitrate._

3. What does the young man at the Pier lose, causing havoc later?

_His car key._

4. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?

_Freddy Free Fall._

5. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?

_It will come; silence helps people listen._

Quiz: Chapter 8 to Chapter 11

Name: ___________________________________________  Period: _________________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

_Directions: Circle the correct answer._

1. About what in his own life is the estate attorney pleased?
   a) His job.
   b) His nest egg.
   c) His family.
   d) His wife.
2. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?
   a) One thousand dollars.
   b) Only the amount of his last paycheck.
   c) Nothing to speak of.
   d) One hundred dollars.

3. Why does Marguerite spend six months in the hospital?
   a) She is in a car accident.
   b) She is pregnant and on bed rest.
   c) She has pneumonia.
   d) She is a nurse.

4. What does Mickey Shea do to anger Eddie's father?
   a) Causes Eddie's father to lose his job.
   b) Steals money from Eddie's father.
   c) Tries to assault Eddie's mother.
   d) Hits Eddie.

5. Who pays for Eddie's funeral?
   a) The park owner, with Eddie's paycheck.
   b) The park owner, from his own pocket.
   c) Eddie's estate.
   d) The little girl's mother.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. When is the story set in Chapter Eleven, after the author reveals the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?

2. What is the lesson in Chapter Eleven?

3. Where is Chapter Eight set?

4. What does Joe do for a living?
5. How old is Marguerite when she dies?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 8 to Chapter 11

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. c.
3. a.
4. c.
5. a.

Short Answer Key

1. When is the story set in Chapter Eleven, after the author reveals the fourth person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   
   *The present.*

2. What is the lesson in Chapter Eleven?
   
   *Lost love is still love; it just takes a different form.*

3. Where is Chapter Eight set?
   
   *On a mountain range, in a diner.*

4. What does Joe do for a living?
   
   *Salesman.*

5. How old is Marguerite when she dies?
   
   *Forty-seven.*

Quiz: Chapter 1 to Chapter 2

Name: ___________________________________________   Period: _________________________________________
This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**Directions:** Circle the correct answer.

1. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?
   a) The cable has rusted after years of use and salt-water air.
   b) A teenager decides to hang on the cable as a dare.
   c) A penny has lodged in the cable, causing it to stick.
   d) The young man's lost car key has shredded the cable.

2. What does the young man at the Pier lose, causing havoc later?
   a) A vintage coin.
   b) His wallet.
   c) His car key.
   d) A medal from the war.

3. What happens to Eddie at the end of Chapter One?
   a) He becomes crippled from an accident at the Pier.
   b) He quits his job at the Pier.
   c) He celebrates his birthday.
   d) He dies in an accident at the Pier.

4. What does Eddie see when he dies?
   a) Heaven.
   b) God.
   c) Marguerite.
   d) Different colors and changing landscape.

5. How does Eddie feel about the safety of Ruby Pier?
   a) He feels happy that it is one of the last small amusement parks still open.
   b) He is worried that it will be closed due to safety hazards.
   c) He is concerned that it is old and the rides are worn.
   d) He is proud that it has a perfect safety record.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?

2. How old is Eddie in Chapter Two?
3. What does Eddie see when he dies?

4. What color does Eddie see when he first dies?

5. What does Eddie think the little girl's name is?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 1 to Chapter 2

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. d.
2. c.
3. d.
4. d.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?

   *A pipe cleaner rabbit.*

2. How old is Eddie in Chapter Two?

   *Five years old.*

3. What does Eddie see when he dies?

   *Different colors and changing landscape.*
4. What color does Eddie see when he first dies?

Pumpkin color.

5. What does Eddie think the little girl's name is?

Amy or Annie.

Quiz: Chapter 3

Name: ___________________________________________  Period: _________________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?
   a) He looks different.
   b) He can walk without his cane.
   c) He floats.
   d) He is young again.

2. Whom does Eddie see in front of the freak show?
   a) Conjoined twins.
   b) A giant man.
   c) The woman with a beard.
   d) A man whose skin is blue.

3. When was the freak show shut down?
   a) Five years ago.
   b) Twenty-five years ago.
   c) Fifty years ago.
   d) Eighty years ago.

4. In Chapter Three, where does Eddie stop at the Pier?
   a) In front of the freak show.
   b) In front of the Ferris Wheel.
   c) In front of the Freddy Fall.
   d) In front of the popcorn machine.

5. What is the author doing in Chapter Three?
   a) Weaving together past with present.
   b) Showing readers Eddie's future.
   c) Showing readers Eddie's weaknesses.
   d) Weaving together present with future.
Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?

2. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?

3. Who says, "Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you."

4. When is Chapter Three set?

5. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 3

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. d.
3. c.
4. a.
5. a.
Short Answer Key

1. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?

*He can walk without his cane.*

2. Where does Eddie wake up in Chapter Three?

*In the teacup ride on Ruby Pier.*

3. Who says, “Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you.”?

*The man whose skin is blue.*

4. When is Chapter Three set?

*In Eddie's past.*

5. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?

*Wonderful, but alone.*

Quiz: Chapter 4 to Chapter 5

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

**Directions:** Circle the correct answer.

1. Who is the first person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) His brother.
   b) Dominiguez, his assistant from Ruby Pier.
   c) The Blue Man.
   d) His dad.

2. According to the Blue Man, what is Heaven for?
   a) To remain until loved ones come to join you.
   b) Understanding one's life on earth.
   c) To have a resting place.
   d) To finally achieve peace.

3. What happens between Eddie and his brother in Chapter Five?
   a) They get into a fight.
   b) They get into an accident.
   c) They decide to never speak again.
They part ways forever.

4. In death, what step is Ruby Pier for the Blue Man?
   a) The first step.
   b) The third step.
   c) The final step.
   d) The second step.

5. What causes the Blue Man's death?
   a) An accident at the freak show.
   b) He fell from a ride.
   c) Eddie's baseball.
   d) Bad medicine.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What does the Blue Man find at Ruby Pier?
2. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?
3. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?
4. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?
5. What causes the Blue Man's death?
Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 4 to Chapter 5

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. c.
2. b.
3. a.
4. d.
5. c.

Short Answer Key

1. What does the Blue Man find at Ruby Pier?
   A home.

2. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?
   That The Five People You Meet in Heaven teaches lessons.

3. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?
   An overdose of silver nitrate.

4. What does Eddie learn about his voice in Heaven?
   It will come; silence helps people listen.

5. What causes the Blue Man's death?
   Eddie's baseball.

Quiz: Chapter 6

Name: ___________________________________________   Period: _________________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. What talent does Eddie have that eventually helps him escape from prison during the war?
   a) He's a comedian.
   b) He juggles.
c) He does magic tricks.
d) He sings.

2. What do Eddie and the other three soldiers have to do while imprisoned?
   a) Share military secrets.
   b) Build new enemy huts.
   c) Beat other inmates.
   d) Work in a coal mine.

3. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?
   a) That she cannot wait for him.
   b) That she will wait for him.
   c) That she will marry another man.
   d) That she loves him.

4. As discovered in Chapter Six, for what is Eddie saving his money?
   a) To attend school for engineering.
   b) To attend school to become a construction worker.
   c) To attend school to become a mathematician.
   d) To attend school to become a teacher.

5. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?
   a) In a small hut.
   b) In a steel box.
   c) Bamboo barracks.
   d) Under ground.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What do Eddie and the other two soldiers decide to do before escaping?

2. Why does Eddie try to return to a burning tent?

3. What does Eddie decide to do for a profession when he is young?
4. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

5. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 6

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. d.
3. b.
4. a.
5. c.

Short Answer Key

1. What do Eddie and the other two soldiers decide to do before escaping?
   
   *Burn the barracks and blow up the mines.*

2. Why does Eddie try to return to a burning tent?

   *He thinks a child is inside.*

3. What does Eddie decide to do for a profession when he is young?

   *He enlists in the army.*

4. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

   *That she will wait for him.*

5. Where does the reader learn that Eddie and three other soldiers are being held?

   *Bamboo barracks.*

Quiz: Chapter 8 to Chapter 9
This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**Directions:** Circle the correct answer.

1. What does Eddie tell his father at the diner?
   a) That he loves him.
   b) That he is angry with him.
   c) That he is letting go of his anger.
   d) That he was foolish for trying to save Mickey.

2. With whom does Eddie's father die?
   a) Joe.
   b) His wife.
   c) Eddie.
   d) No one.

3. Why does Eddie's father forgive Mickey Shea?
   a) Eddie's father owes Mickey Shea money.
   b) Eddie's father does not love his wife.
   c) Mickey has a drinking problem and does not act out on purpose.
   d) Mickey Shea saved Eddie's father once.

4. Who is Eddie's father's hospital roommate?
   a) Mickey Shea.
   b) Ruby.
   c) The Blue Man.
   d) Ruby's husband, Emile.

5. Who says, “You have peace when you make it with yourself.”?
   a) Eddie's mother.
   b) Eddie's wife.
   c) Marguerite.
   d) Ruby.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Who is Eddie's father's hospital roommate?
2. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?

3. What does Eddie’s co-worker say about Eddie?

4. Why does Eddie’s father forgive Mickey Shea?

5. What literary device is used when discussing the accident that occurs at another park?

Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 8 to Chapter 9

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. c.
2. d.
3. c.
4. d.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. Who is Eddie’s father’s hospital roommate?

   *Ruby’s husband, Emile.*

2. Who tries to save Mickey Shea from drowning?

   *Eddie’s father.*
3. What does Eddie’s co-worker say about Eddie?

“Eddie really loved his wife.”

4. Why does Eddie’s father forgive Mickey Shea?

Mickey has a drinking problem and does not act out on purpose.

5. What literary device is used when discussing the accident that occurs at another park?

Foreshadowing.

Quiz: Chapter 10 to Chapter 11

Name: ___________________________________________    Period: _________________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. How does Eddie come across big money?
   a) Joe lends him the money.
   b) Wins at the racetrack.
   c) Gets a raise at work.
   d) He finds it beneath a ride.

2. What is the lesson in Chapter Eleven?
   a) Forgiveness comes easily with love.
   b) It’s better to have loved and lost than never loved at all.
   c) Life is short and there is no time for regret.
   d) Lost love is still love; it just takes a different form.

3. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?
   a) Only the amount of his last paycheck.
   b) One thousand dollars.
   c) Nothing to speak of.
   d) One hundred dollars.

4. For what are Eddie’s co-worker and estate attorney looking?
   a) The keys to Ruby Pier.
   b) The deed to Eddie's apartment.
   c) Cash.
   d) Bank statement or other valuables.
5. Why does Marguerite spend six months in the hospital?
   a) She is pregnant and on bed rest.
   b) She has pneumonia.
   c) She is a nurse.
   d) She is in a car accident.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Who says, "weddings are for possibilities."?

2. How many years of Eddie's life does the author reveal through this storyline?

3. What does Joe do for a living?

4. What does Eddie say to Marguerite about the war?

5. Of what does Marguerite assure Eddie in Chapter Eleven?

**Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 10 to Chapter 11**

**Multiple Choice Answer Key**

1. b.
2. d.
Short Answer Key

1. Who says, "weddings are for possibilities."?

Marguerite.

2. How many years of Eddie’s life does the author reveal through this storyline?

Seventy-five.

3. What does Joe do for a living?

Salesman.

4. What does Eddie say to Marguerite about the war?

"I lost myself."

5. Of what does Marguerite assure Eddie in Chapter Eleven?

His love has remained with her, and hers, with him.

Quiz: Chapter 12 to Chapter 13

Name: ________________________________  Period: ________________________________

This quiz consists of 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Who is Tala?
   a) His daughter.
   b) A child Eddie kept safe by doing his job at the Pier.
   c) The girl who dies in the tent in the Philippines.
   d) The girl Eddie saves from Freddy Fall.

2. How does Eddie spend his sixtieth birthday?
   a) He sleeps all day.
   b) He visits the place he and Marguerite first met.
   c) He rides the rides on the Pier.
   d) He goes to work and fishes.
3. What does Eddie do on his seventy-fifth birthday?
   a) Works at the park.
   b) Takes a drive.
   c) Goes to the racetrack.
   d) Goes fishing.

4. How does Eddie help to make Tala whole again?
   a) He washes her with the stone.
   b) He listens to her story.
   c) He kisses her forehead.
   d) He washes her with water from his canteen.

5. What is Eddie's first birthday after Marguerite's death?
   a) Sixty-two.
   b) Forty-seven.
   c) Fifty-one.
   d) Seventy.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

2. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?

3. Why was Eddie sad when he was living?

4. What does Eddie feel that ultimately brings him peace?

5. What does Eddie see?
Quiz Answer Key: Chapter 12 to Chapter 13

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. c.
2. d.
3. a.
4. a.
5. c.

Short Answer Key

1. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

Tala.

2. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?

Unhappy and unfulfilled.

3. Why was Eddie sad when he was living?

He felt as though he accomplished nothing.

4. What does Eddie feel that ultimately brings him peace?

Being washed and cleansed from his hurts.

5. What does Eddie see?

Brown-skinned children playing in a river.

Tests

Six pre-generated tests are included for your convenience. There is a mid-book test and a final test produced with three distinct levels of difficulty. You may easily create your own tests using our Quiz and Test Generator related to this product.

Easy Mid-Book Test - Chapter 1 - Chapter 7

Easy Final Test - Complete Book

Medium Mid-Book Test - Chapter 1 - Chapter 7

Medium Final Test - Complete Book
Mid-Book Test (up to Chapter 7)

Name: ___________________________________________   Period: _________________________________________

This test consists of 15 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. What happens between Eddie and his brother in Chapter Five?
   a) They decide to never speak again.
   b) They get into a fight.
   c) They get into an accident.
   d) They part ways forever.

2. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?
   a) Bumper cars.
   b) Ferris Wheel.
   c) Roller coaster.
   d) Freddy Free Fall.

3. What is Eddie's last memory of being alive?
   a) The cart falling on the little girl.
   b) The war.
   c) Marguerite.
   d) Working at the Pier.

4. What causes the Blue Man to become blue?
   a) He wants to join the carnival, so he swallows pills.
   b) Drinking poisonous cleaning fluid.
   c) Eating too many blueberries.
   d) An overdose of silver nitrate.

5. What literary device does the author repetitively use to reveal clues about Eddie's life?
   a) Flashback.
   b) Personification.
   c) Metaphor.
   d) Simile.

6. What does Eddie do, just because he can, in Chapter Three?
a) Breathes in the moment.
b) Runs around the park.
c) Rides the rides.
d) Yells in elation.

7. Why is Ruby Pier closed in Chapter Seven?
a) The rides have been condemned.
b) The little girl's mom has brought a lawsuit against the park.
c) Eddie’s peers feel his loss.
d) No one comes to visit after the accident.

8. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?
a) At a dance at the Pier.
b) At a concert.
c) At a restaurant.
d) At the movies.

9. Whose philosophy reads, "When your time came, it came, and that was that"?
a) A child's.
b) Eddie's.
c) Marguerite's.
d) Eddie's father.

10. To whom does Eddie run for refuge from Uncle Mickey?
a) His father.
b) His mother.
c) His brother.
d) Marguerite.

11. What is the significance of the day in Chapter One for Eddie?
a) It is the opening day of the season at Ruby Pier.
b) It is his birthday.
c) It is Christmas day.
d) It is his co-worker's wife's birthday.

12. What promise did the Captain make?
a) To save many lives.
b) To return Rabozzo's body to his home.
c) To come home from the war soon.
d) To leave none of his men behind.

13. Who usually starts the workday at Ruby Pier?
a) The ride operators.
b) The owner.
c) Eddie.
d) All of the maintenance workers.

14. What is the significance of the field in the opening of Chapter Seven?
a) Rabozzo dies here.
b) Eddie gets rescued here.
c) It is the Captain's burial ground.
d) The burnt tents used to rest here.

15. What causes the Blue Man's death?
a) An accident at the freak show.
b) He fell from a ride.
c) Eddie's baseball.
d) Bad medicine.

**Short Answer Questions**

*Directions:* Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What dance does Eddie recall before the time he was crippled?

2. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?

3. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?

4. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?

5. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?

**Easy Mid-Book Test - Answer Key**
Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.
2. d.
3. a.
4. d.
5. a.
6. b.
7. c.
8. a.
9. b.
10. b.
11. b.
12. d.
13. c.
14. c.
15. c.

Short Answer Key

1. What dance does Eddie recall before the time he was crippled?
   "You Made Me Love You."

2. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?
   A pipe cleaner rabbit.

3. How does Eddie feel when he wakes up?
   Wonderful, but alone.

4. The reader learns that Mitch Albom is clearly trying to share what with the reader?
   That The Five People You Meet in Heaven teaches lessons.

5. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?
   Under water.

Final Test

Name: ___________________________________________   Period: _______________________________________

This test consists of 15 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions.

Multiple Choice Questions
Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. In Chapter Twelve, who beckons Eddie to come nearer?
   a) God.
   b) A small girl.
   c) His father.
   d) Marguerite.

2. What happens between Eddie and his brother in Chapter Five?
   a) They decide to never speak again.
   b) They get into a fight.
   c) They part ways forever.
   d) They get into an accident.

3. What causes the Blue Man's death?
   a) Bad medicine.
   b) He fell from a ride.
   c) Eddie's baseball.
   d) An accident at the freak show.

4. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?
   a) At a picnic at the Pier.
   b) With a party at home.
   c) With a pony ride.
   d) With a nice dinner.

5. What is the final lesson taught in The Five People You Meet in Heaven?
   a) Each person affects the other and that other person affects the next person, and so on.
   b) Kindness prevails over all other actions.
   c) Love heals all things.
   d) Each action causes a reaction.

6. What world event is happening in Chapter Five?
   a) War in Europe.
   b) The Great Depression.
   c) A new President is being elected.
   d) The Stock Market Crash.

7. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?
   a) At a concert.
   b) At the movies.
   c) At a dance at the Pier.
   d) At a restaurant.

8. What is different about Ruby Pier when Eddie wakes up?
   a) It is the new Ruby Pier.
   b) It is the Ruby Pier of the past.
c) It is the Ruby Pier of the present.
d) It is Ruby Pier of Eddie's childhood.

9. How does the author portray Uncle Mickey in Chapter Two?
   a) As malicious.
   b) As insensitive to a child.
   c) As kind.
   d) As oblivious.

10. Who says, "The world is full of stories, but the stories are all one."?
    a) Tala, in the Epilogue.
    b) Annie or Amy, in the Epilogue.
    c) The author, in the Epilogue.
    d) Eddie, in the Epilogue.

11. What happens to Eddie at the end of Chapter One?
    a) He dies in an accident at the Pier.
    b) He quits his job at the Pier.
    c) He celebrates his birthday.
    d) He becomes crippled from an accident at the Pier.

12. What does Eddie decide to do for a profession when he is young?
    a) He enlists in the army.
    b) He becomes a maintenance worker.
    c) He becomes a teacher.
    d) He becomes an engineer.

13. What is different about Eddie when he wakes up?
    a) He is young again.
    b) He can walk without his cane.
    c) He looks different.
    d) He floats.

14. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?
    a) That she will marry another man.
    b) That she loves him.
    c) That she will wait for him.
    d) That she cannot wait for him.

15. What does Eddie learn about Heaven in Chapter Four?
    a) It has many steps.
    b) It is a dream.
    c) It is subjective.
    d) It is difficult to attain.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.
1. What does Eddie think the little girl’s name is?

2. What is the result of Marguerite’s hospitalization?

3. Who is the first person Eddie meets in Heaven?

4. Where does Eddie meet the fourth person in Heaven?

5. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

Easy Final Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b.  
2. b.  
3. c.  
4. a.  
5. a.  
6. a.  
7. c.  
8. d.  
9. b.  
10. c.  
11. a.
Short Answer Key

1. What does Eddie think the little girl's name is?

*Amy or Annie.*

2. What is the result of Marguerite's hospitalization?

*They lost the chance to adopt the baby.*

3. Who is the first person Eddie meets in Heaven?

*The Blue Man.*

4. Where does Eddie meet the fourth person in Heaven?

*At a wedding reception.*

5. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

*Tala.*

Mid-Book Test (up to Chapter 7)

Name: ___________________________________________   Period: _________________________________________

This test consists of 5 multiple choice, 5 short answer, and 10 short essay questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. What does Eddie make for the little girl at the Pier in Chapter 1?
   a) A pipe cleaner rabbit.
   b) A rabbit made from balloons.
   c) A magic trick.
   d) An ice cream cone.

2. What is the author doing in Chapter Three?
   a) Weaving together present with future.
   b) Showing readers Eddie's weaknesses.
   c) Showing readers Eddie's future.
   d) Weaving together past with present.
3. What is the new ride at Ruby Pier?
   a) Ferris Wheel.
   b) Bumper cars.
   c) Freddy Free Fall.
   d) Roller coaster.

4. What does Eddie wonder about in Chapter Seven?
   a) Whether he saves the girl at Ruby Pier.
   b) Whether he will ever return to Ruby Pier.
   c) Whether Rabozzo went to Heaven.
   d) Whether the Captain felt any pain before he died.

5. What is different about Ruby Pier when Eddie wakes up?
   a) It is the Ruby Pier of the past.
   b) It is the new Ruby Pier.
   c) It is Ruby Pier of Eddie's childhood.
   d) It is the Ruby Pier of the present.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

2. To whom does Eddie run for refuge from Uncle Mickey?

3. What does Eddie do for a living?

4. What birthday does Eddie celebrate in Chapter Five?
5. What lesson does Eddie learn in Chapter Seven?

Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. Discuss the meaning of the Captain's quote, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don't actually lose it."

2. The Blue Man tells Eddie, "there are no random acts...we are all connected..." Explain this quote as it relates to the Blue Man and Eddie.

3. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Two, "The Journey."

4. How does Eddie's time spent on the Pier save him during the war?

5. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Three, "The Arrival."

6. What happens at Freddy Free Fall to cause Eddie to reevaluate the safety of this ride?
7. In Chapter Seven, how does Mitch Albom use suspense to propel the action?

8. Discuss the foreshadowing of Uncle Mickey's character with regard to his actions towards Eddie on his fifth birthday.

9. The readers learn that today is Eddie's birthday. What is his mood as the little girl approaches him in Chapter One?

10. Discuss Eddie's encounter with the first character he meets in Heaven, the Blue Man.

Medium Mid-Book Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. a.
2. d.
3. c.
4. a.
5. c.

Short Answer Key

1. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

That she will wait for him.

2. To whom does Eddie run for refuge from Uncle Mickey?

His mother.

3. What does Eddie do for a living?
Performs maintenance at an amusement park.

4. What birthday does Eddie celebrate in Chapter Five?

Seventeenth.

5. What lesson does Eddie learn in Chapter Seven?

That sacrifice is essential.

Short Essay Answer Key

1. Discuss the meaning of the Captain’s quote, “When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don’t actually lose it.”

The Captain says this when he and Eddie discuss Eddie’s leg injury and the Captain’s death. The Captain saves Eddie’s life, but in the process, Eddie has to sacrifice an injury to his leg. The Captain then sacrifices his own life so his men could keep theirs. This quote is the basis of Eddie’s second lesson and applies to the rest of Eddie’s life, too.

2. The Blue Man tells Eddie, “there are no random acts...we are all connected...” Explain this quote as it relates to the Blue Man and Eddie.

The Blue Man explains to Eddie that “Strangers are just family you have yet to know.” Eddie does not understand why the Blue Man had to die and Eddie gets to live. Clearly, at age eight, Eddie does not understand his connection to the man whose funeral he attends; however, the Blue Man tries to tell Eddie that not all things are fair in life and death. The Blue Man says, “...the human spirit knows, deep down, that all lives intersect....death doesn't take someone, it misses someone else, and in the small distance between being taken and being missed, lives are changed” (p. 48, line 19, ff.). Although the two were strangers at the time of Eddie’s childhood, without Eddie, the Blue Man would not have achieved Heaven. Without the Blue Man, Eddie would not have any understanding of the first step of Heaven.

3. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Two, “The Journey.”

This is the beginning of Eddie’s trip to Heaven. He will meet five people, but before he does so, he passes through different atmospheres and sees different colors, signifying various times in his own life. The journey begins with calm and no worries, a perfect way to be introduced to Heaven.

4. How does Eddie’s time spent on the Pier save him during the war?

Eddie became an accomplished juggler at the Pier. When he and three other soldiers are being held as prisoners in the Philippines, he juggles stones to distract the guards. The guards, entertained, are caught off guard by the stones, which Eddie now uses as weapons to escape.

5. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Three, “The Arrival.”

Eddie finally wakes up in Heaven to discover he is in a teacup ride on Ruby Pier. Realizing he is in Heaven is complicated by the fact that Eddie is on the Ruby Pier of his childhood. The chapter aptly named, “The Arrival,” indicates the significance of Ruby Pier in Eddie’s life, both during life on Earth and in death.

6. What happens at Freddy Free Fall to cause Eddie to reevaluate the safety of this ride?

A car is tilted and the passengers hang on for their lives. Eddie instructs the attendants to remove the passengers, and because of Eddie’s directions, the passengers are saved. Eddie takes pride in the perfect safety record of the Pier, so he wonders how this mishap could have occurred.

7. In Chapter Seven, how does Mitch Albom use suspense to propel the action?

Eddie still wonders whether he saved the little girl from the falling cart; so does the reader. Albom uses this piece of information to compel the reader to continue the novel. Each time Eddie wonders, he is learning something else about himself in the meantime. Likewise, the readers are learning Eddie’s lessons, too, and continue to discover events as the action rises.
8. Discuss the foreshadowing of Uncle Mickey's character with regard to his actions towards Eddie on his fifth birthday.

It is Eddie's birthday, so Uncle Mickey bumps Eddie on the head five times, each for one year of Eddie's life. To rough house with a five-year old might seem a bit insensitive, which indicates Uncle Mickey's lack of awareness of his own actions. Uncle Mickey's carelessness is foreshadowed for future events in the novel.

9. The readers learn that today is Eddie's birthday. What is his mood as the little girl approaches him in Chapter One?

Eddie seems resigned and tired. He has lived a difficult life, but he mostly misses Marguerite. Still, Eddie is kind, and he takes time to make a pipe cleaner rabbit for the little girl who approaches him.

10. Discuss Eddie's encounter with the first character he meets in Heaven, the Blue Man.

Eddie's first encounter with another character in Heaven is with a peculiar man whose skin is Blue. Eddie and the Blue Man are in front of the freak house, where the man greets Eddie. Moreover, the man knows Eddie and is expecting him. He says, "Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you."

Final Test

Name: ____________________________  Period: ____________________________

This test consists of 5 multiple choice, 5 short answer, and 0 short essay questions.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?
   a) His father.
   b) Annie or Amy.
   c) Tala.
   d) His mother.

2. Where does Eddie wind up on his journey through death in Chapter Two?
   a) In Heaven.
   b) In a field.
   c) Under water.
   d) At the Pier.

3. To what does Ruby compare anger?
   a) Sinfulness.
   b) A curved blade.
   c) A magnet.
   d) Fire.

4. How does Eddie feel about the safety of Ruby Pier?
   a) He is concerned that it is old and the rides are worn.
   b) He is worried that it will be closed due to safety hazards.
   c) He feels happy that it is one of the last small amusement parks still open.
d) He is proud that it has a perfect safety record.

5. What color does Eddie see when he first dies?
   a) Black.
   b) Sky blue.
   c) Bright white.
   d) Pumpkin color.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Directions**: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

2. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?

3. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

4. Who is Tala?

5. What does Joe do for a living?

**Short Essay Questions**

**Directions**: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. When the action returns to Ruby Pier, the reader finds the park closed. How does Eddie's death impact the Pier?
2. For what was Eddie supposed to save his money, instead of gambling?

3. Why is a reception hall an appropriate place for Eddie to meet Marguerite in Heaven?

4. How does the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven reveal Eddie’s character?

5. Why does Ruby know all of the details of Eddie’s father?

6. Why is it significant that Eddie’s body feels like that of a child when he first meets the Blue Man?

7. What does the reader learn about Eddie through the short snippets describing his various birthdays?

8. What is Eddie’s role in the death of the Blue Man?
9. Explain Ruby's lesson to Eddie.

10. What does Tala teach Eddie?

Medium Final Test - Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. c.
2. c.
3. b.
4. d.
5. d.

Short Answer Key

1. What does Marguerite tell Eddie before he leaves for the war?

*That she will wait for him.*

2. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?

*The young man's lost car key has shredded the cable.*

3. Who is the last person Eddie meets in Heaven?

*Tala.*

4. Who is Tala?

*The girl who dies in the tent in the Philippines.*

5. What does Joe do for a living?

*Salesman.*

Short Essay Answer Key

1. When the action returns to Ruby Pier, the reader finds the park closed. How does Eddie's death impact the Pier?
Eddie's co-workers feel lost without him. They cannot get their workday started because Eddie used to be the one to begin their day. Eddie always believed that his work on the Pier was worthless. Clearly, he has impacted more people than he ever imagined.

2. For what was Eddie supposed to save his money, instead of gambling?

Eddie and Marguerite were saving their money for a soon-to-be-adopted baby. Marguerite is angry because Eddie should not be spending his money at the racetrack.

3. Why is a reception hall an appropriate place for Eddie to meet Marguerite in Heaven?

Eddie is known as a caring, loving person who loved his wife a great deal. A wedding reception is an obvious place to revisit their love. Moreover, Marguerite says that weddings are "about possibilities." Marguerite and Eddie's relationship was a love story. Eddie tells Marguerite he loves her and misses her. They dance gracefully at the reception.

4. How does the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven reveal Eddie's character?

The fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven is a child. Throughout Eddie's life, he cares for children. The children bathing in the river remind the reader that Eddie has always been kind and wishes only for children to be safe, a statement clearly obvious even in Eddie's last actions on earth.

5. Why does Ruby know all of the details of Eddie's father?

Ruby's husband was the hospital roommate of Eddie's father. Emile, Ruby's husband was also dying; therefore, Ruby knows of Eddie's father.

6. Why is it significant that Eddie's body feels like that of a child when he first meets the Blue Man?

Eddie's body feels like that of a child because Eddie was a child when he knew the Blue Man. Eddie was only seven-years old when he first encounters the Blue Man, and eight-years old when he attends the Blue Man's funeral.

7. What does the reader learn about Eddie through the short snippets describing his various birthdays?

The reader learns that Eddie grows more and more lonely as the time passes. His fifty-first birthday passes without celebration, since Marguerite is no longer present to share it with him. Eddie's sixtieth birthday is spent at work and fishing, and his sixty-eighth is noted by Joe, who calls from Florida to acknowledge the day. When Eddie turns seventy-five, he continues to work, and his eighty-second birthday is spent in tribute to the loved ones who passed before him. Each of the milestones is spent alone, melancholy, and reflective.

8. What is Eddie's role in the death of the Blue Man?

Eddie was playing ball with a baseball he received on his seventh birthday, and the ball rolled into the street. Eddie chased after the ball, running in front of a Model A Ford, driven by the Blue Man. The Blue Man nearly ran over Eddie and had a heart attack because of his fright. The heart attack caused the death of the Blue Man. Eddie spends his eighth birthday attending the Blue Man's funeral. Eddie did not know what happened until he learned of the encounter from the Blue Man in Heaven.

9. Explain Ruby's lesson to Eddie.

Ruby's lesson to Eddie is of forgiveness. She explains that anger is a "curved blade" that only causes harm to the person harboring the anger. Eddie must forgive his father, and he is now able to do so because he understands his father a bit more. Eddie sees that his father is a loyal person who understands when a friend experiences difficulty. Eddie feels compassion for his father, therefore, causing the reader to also share some empathy with this abusive man. Eddie learns that he has to let go, and although his father cannot hear him in the diner, Eddie tells him that he forgives him.

10. What does Tala teach Eddie?

Tala tells Eddie that he "keeps children safe." She shows Eddie just how meaningful his life has been on earth, and she explains to Eddie that without him, many children would have died. Tala also reveals that Eddie does save the little girl at the Pier, and the hands Eddie feels in his were her own.
Mid-Book Test (up to Chapter 7)

Name: ___________________________________________  Period: ________________________________

This test consists of 5 short answer questions, 10 short essay questions, and 1 (of 3) essay topics.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Who says, "Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you."?

2. What promise did the Captain make?

3. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?

4. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?

5. What does Eddie wonder about in Chapter Seven?

Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. In Chapter Seven, how does Mitch Albom use suspense to propel the action?
2. Eddie no longer feels any pain. Why might his loss of pain be significant to being in Heaven?

3. What happens at Freddy Free Fall to cause Eddie to reevaluate the safety of this ride?

4. What is the symbolism of the water in Chapter Two?

5. What does the reader learn about "Eddie Maintenance" in Chapter One?

6. What does Eddie learn about his leg injury in Chapter Six, and who shares with Eddie this revelation?

7. Discuss the meaning of the Captain's quote, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don't actually lose it."

8. How does Albom reveal the relationship between Joe and Eddie in Chapter Four?
9. What are the first images the reader gets of Ruby Pier?

10. What is Eddie's role in the death of the Blue Man?

Essay Topics

Directions: Select JUST 1 of the 3 essay topics and write a few paragraphs of response.

1. Albom changes the setting many times throughout the novel, but Ruby Pier remains as the main focus. Discuss how the Ruby Pier of Eddie's childhood, the Ruby Pier of the past, and the Ruby Pier of the present serve as effective settings for the novel.

2. Mitch Albom tells the story of Eddie by using many effective literary devices. How does his use of flashback, foreshadowing, and suspense propel the novel?

3. Write an essay about the concept of Heaven. What is your idea of Heaven? What was Eddie's expectation, before meeting the Blue Man? How does Eddie's actual journey through Heaven compare to your own thoughts of such a place?

Hard Mid-Book Test - Answer Key

Short Answer Key

1. Who says, "Hello, Edward. I have been waiting for you."?

   The man whose skin is blue.

2. What promise did the Captain make?

   To leave none of his men behind.

3. What causes malfunction to the cable holding the Freddie Fall car in place?

   The young man's lost car key has shredded the cable.

4. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?

   At a picnic at the Pier.

5. What does Eddie wonder about in Chapter Seven?

   Whether he saves the girl at Ruby Pier.
Short Essay Answer Key

1. In Chapter Seven, how does Mitch Albom use suspense to propel the action?
   
   Eddie still wonders whether he saved the little girl from the falling cart; so does the reader. Albom uses this piece of information to compel the reader to continue the novel. Each time Eddie wonders, he is learning something else about himself in the meantime. Likewise, the readers are learning Eddie's lessons, too, and continue to discover events as the action rises.

2. Eddie no longer feels any pain. Why might his loss of pain be significant to being in Heaven?
   
   Eddie spent much of his life on Earth in pain, both physical and emotional. His war injury causes him to be crippled, and he dies because he is crushed by a falling cart; both excruciating circumstances. Eddie's physical pain is taken away, causing him to feel light and free, like he is floating. Eddie misses his love, Marguerite, and experienced pain with his own family, most specifically, with his father. Eddie's emotional pain is removed as well, providing him a worry-free beginning to his journey through Heaven.

3. What happens at Freddy Free Fall to cause Eddie to reevaluate the safety of this ride?
   
   A car is tilted and the passengers hang on for their lives. Eddie instructs the attendants to remove the passengers, and because of Eddie's directions, the passengers are saved. Eddie takes pride in the perfect safety record of the Pier, so he wonders how this mishap could have occurred.

4. What is the symbolism of the water in Chapter Two?
   
   Once Eddie is under the water in the sea, he feels release of his worries. Everything is quiet and pain free. Water is a symbol for rebirth and renewal, the journey Eddie will undergo in Heaven.

5. What does the reader learn about "Eddie Maintenance" in Chapter One?
   
   Eddie works at Ruby Pier as a maintenance man. He never meant for maintenance to be his profession; however, he is resigned to doing this job and takes pride in the safety of the park. Eddie works hard. He is a war veteran with an injury to his leg that now causes him to walk with a cane. He met Marguerite, the love of his life, at the Pier and he remembers dancing gracefully with her before his war injury. Eddie is kind to the children at the Pier and watches out for them.

6. What does Eddie learn about his leg injury in Chapter Six, and who shares with Eddie this revelation?
   
   Eddie learns that the Captain shoots him in the leg to save his life. Eddie plans to enter the burning tent to save a little girl inside; however, the Captain shoots him to prevent Eddie from entering such a perilous situation.

7. Discuss the meaning of the Captain's quote, "When you sacrifice something that is precious, you don't actually lose it."
   
   The Captain says this when he and Eddie discuss Eddie's leg injury and the Captain's death. The Captain saves Eddie's life, but in the process, Eddie has to sacrifice an injury to his leg. The Captain then sacrifices his own life so his men could keep theirs. This quote is the basis of Eddie's second lesson and applies to the rest of Eddie's life, too.

8. How does Albom reveal the relationship between Joe and Eddie in Chapter Four?
   
   The reader learns that Joe and Eddie are clearly close, as Eddie shares with Joe the news that he has found the girl he wishes to marry. Although the reader sees the bond between the two men, it is also clearly revealed that some resentment and anger underscore their relationship. When Joe and Eddie fight, it becomes apparent that jealousy and inadequacies are as prevalent in their relationship as the love they share with one another.

9. What are the first images the reader gets of Ruby Pier?
   
   Ruby Pier is a small carnival park with rides and kind people, like Eddie. It used to be a much more celebrated place, complete with fireworks and dance contests, before the advent of big theme parks; but nonetheless, children still frequent Ruby Pier.
10. What is Eddie's role in the death of the Blue Man?

Eddie was playing ball with a baseball he received on his seventh birthday, and the ball rolled into the street. Eddie chased after the ball, running in front of a Model A Ford, driven by the Blue Man. The Blue Man nearly ran over Eddie and had a heart attack because of his fright. The heart attack caused the death of the Blue Man. Eddie spends his eighth birthday attending the Blue Man's funeral. Eddie did not know what happened until he learned of the encounter from the Blue Man in Heaven.

Essay Topics Answer Key

Answers for Essay Topics are not included as there are an unlimited number of possible responses.

Final Test

Name: ___________________________  Period: ___________________________

This test consists of 5 short answer questions, 10 short essay questions, and 1 (of 3) essay topics.

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the question with a short answer.

1. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?

2. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?

3. With whom does Eddie's father die?

4. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?

5. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?
Short Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the questions with a short paragraph.

1. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Three, "The Arrival".

2. Is the estate attorney’s view of Eddie accurate? Why or why not?

3. Why does Ruby know all of the details of Eddie’s father?

4. Discuss the significance of Albom’s use of color in Chapter Two?

5. What is Eddie’s role in the death of the Blue Man?

6. How does the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven reveal Eddie’s character?

7. In Chapter Six, what do the readers learn of Eddie’s expectations of himself and from his life? Are these expectations met?
8. What symbols does the author use in Chapter Twelve?

9. How does the estate attorney view Eddie's life?

10. How does Eddie's father die?

**Essay Topics**

**Directions:** Select JUST 1 of the 3 essay topics and write a few paragraphs of response.

1. Albom includes the time Eddie serves in the war as an important part of Eddie's life. How is Eddie's emotional state similar to the physical destruction caused by war? How does Eddie finally make peace with himself throughout the novel?

2. Albom introduces the reader to a little girl in Chapter One named Amy or Annie. Why is her name unspecified? Aside from the fact that Eddie tries to save her, what is her role in Eddie's life? What is Eddie's role in her life? How will the story continue to spin, even after the end of the novel, as outlined by the author?

3. Mitch Albom introduces silence as an effective symbol several times throughout the novel. Identify three different instances where silence is employed, and explain why its use is so effective. Make sure to cite your references.

**Hard Final Test - Answer Key**

**Short Answer Key**

1. Where do Eddie and Marguerite have their first date?

   *At a dance at the Pier.*

2. How much money does Eddie have in the bank?
Nothing to speak of.

3. With whom does Eddie's father die?

No one.

4. How does Eddie feel about his life without Marguerite?

Unhappy and unfulfilled.

5. How does Eddie celebrate his birthday in Chapter Two?

At a picnic at the Pier.

Short Essay Answer Key

1. Discuss the significance of the title of Chapter Three, "The Arrival".

Eddie finally wakes up in Heaven to discover he is in a teacup ride on Ruby Pier. Realizing he is in Heaven is complicated by the fact that Eddie is on the Ruby Pier of his childhood. The chapter aptly named, "The Arrival," indicates the significance of Ruby Pier in Eddie's life, both during life on Earth and in death.

2. Is the estate attorney's view of Eddie accurate? Why or why not?

The estate attorney view of Eddie is not accurate. Although Eddie does not have capital or physical wealth to reflect his time on earth, Eddie was loved by many, both children and adults. He was a compassionate, kind man, whose riches could not be measured by material wealth.

3. Why does Ruby know all of the details of Eddie's father?

Ruby's husband was the hospital roommate of Eddie's father. Emile, Ruby's husband was also dying; therefore, Ruby knows of Eddie's father.

4. Discuss the significance of Albom's use of color in Chapter Two?

First, Eddie travels through a pumpkin-colored sky and winds up in a yellow sea that changes color. The pumpkin-colored sky is curious, but brings Eddie immediate calm and relief of his pain. He wonders about the little girl he tries to save on the Pier. The yellow, changing sea signifies different times in Eddie's life, introducing a new life, rebirth, here in Heaven.

5. What is Eddie's role in the death of the Blue Man?

Eddie was playing ball with a baseball he received on his seventh birthday, and the ball rolled into the street. Eddie chased after the ball, running in front of a Model A Ford, driven by the Blue Man. The Blue Man nearly ran over Eddie and had a heart attack because of his fright. The heart attack caused the death of the Blue Man. Eddie spends his eighth birthday attending the Blue Man's funeral. Eddie did not know what happened until he learned of the encounter from the Blue Man in Heaven.

6. How does the fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven reveal Eddie's character?

The fifth person Eddie meets in Heaven is a child. Throughout Eddie's life, he cares for children. The children bathing in the river remind the reader that Eddie has always been kind and wishes only for children to be safe, a statement clearly obvious even in Eddie's last actions on earth.

7. In Chapter Six, what do the readers learn of Eddie's expectations of himself and from his life? Are these expectations met?

Eddie has high expectations for himself. He tries to save money to attend engineering school, but enlists in the military during wartime, instead. Eddie's war injury physically and emotionally cripples him, and he returns home to become a maintenance worker at the Pier. Eddie never wanted to spend his life working at the Pier, so he feels as though his life has been worthless.
8. What symbols does the author use in Chapter Twelve?

Albom uses the color white to represent purity; children to signify innocence; and water, cleansing and rebirth. Eddie only hears silence in this chapter, indicating that once again, he must listen and be aware of his surroundings in order to learn his final lesson.

9. How does the estate attorney view Eddie's life?

Because Eddie has no financial gains to show for his life on earth, the estate attorney feels sorry for him. He calls Eddie a "poor slob" and is pleased that he has saved his own nest egg, so he does not have to wind up like Eddie.

10. How does Eddie's father die?

After saving Mickey Shea from drowning, Eddie's father lies on the beach for several hours before being found. He is taken to the hospital where he calls for his wife and sons, who are not present, at the time. Eddie's father calls for his wife while hanging out the hospital window, in the cold, where he is found dead hours later.

Essay Topics Answer Key

Answers for Essay Topics are not included as there are an unlimited number of possible responses.