

Ungifted Summer Reading Assignment

Chapters 1-5

1. Why is Donovan interested in ancestry.com?
2. Who is Dr. Schultz? What is his one rule?
3. Why does Donovan say that he will never die of stress?
4. Why did Donovan's parents receive a letter recommending their son for a gifted program?
5. What does the expression "you've been riding the gravy train longer" mean?
6. What does "the Youkilis factor" mean?

Vocabulary

scoffed – an expression of scorn, contempt, or mockery

conceded – to grant as a right or privilege

knoll – a small round hill

skewered – to criticize or ridicule sharply and effectively

melancholy – a depression of spirits

reverie – daydream

chastened – to correct by punishment or suffering

insurrection – an act or instance of revolting against civil authority or an established government

Chapters 6-10

1. What does Mr. Osborne mean when he says, "a mosquito couldn't make it through the screening process"?
2. What was Donovan's recurring nightmare?
3. What does Chloe suggest is Donovan's gift?
4. What about public schools or "normal" kids made Noah jealous?
5. What field trip did Donovan's class take?
6. What example does Dr. Shultz give for the meaning of insanity?

Vocabulary

vaunted – highly or widely praised or boasted about

brandished – to shake or wave menacingly

bestowing – conveying as a gift

bewildered – perplexed or confused by a multitude of considerations

forlorn – sad and lonely because of isolation or desertion

conviction – the process of finding a person guilty of a crime

conundrum – a riddle whose answer is a pun

über – being a superlative example of its kind

Chapters 11-15

1. Why was Chloe unsure of whether to wear the sneakers?
2. How were the Daniels trying to humiliate Abigail?
3. What was Noah's invention idea for YouTube?
4. What did the Daniels make Noah out to be in front of Dierdre and Heather?
5. Why was most of the faculty not worried about Donovan's failing grades?

Vocabulary

lurked – to lie in wait in a place of concealment especially for an evil purpose

brash – done in haste without regard for consequences

schmoozing – to chat in a friendly and persuasive manner especially so as to gain favor

ruefully - regretfully

heisted – stole

beseeking – begging for urgently or anxiously

bastion – a fortified area or stronghold

Chapters 16-20

1. How is Katie feeling about Human Growth and Development? What has it become for her?
2. How did Dr. Shultz find Donovan?
3. What was Donovan's consequence for the Atlas fiasco?
4. What did Chloe do that was so unbelievable?
5. How did the Daniels try to cheer up Donovan at school?

Vocabulary

mongrel – a cross between types

irate – arising from anger

squander – to spend extravagantly or foolishly

contender – a competitor for a championship or high honor

microfiche – a sheet of microfilm containing rows of images of printed pages

jounce – to move in an up-and-down manner

indignant - feeling or showing anger because of something unjust or unworthy

blazoned – published widely

Chapters 21-26

1. Donovan couldn't have made Tin Man go any faster, but what did he have that the others didn't?
2. At what point and for what purpose did Donovan finally go down to see the team?
3. What happened to the Academy at the robotics competition?
4. Who hacked into the library computer and helped Donovan cheat on the retest?
5. How did Noah get kicked out of the Academy?
6. What quality of Donovan's was always getting him in trouble as well as saving his life while he was hiding out at the Academy?

Vocabulary

atrocious – extremely wicked

pretenses – a claim made or implied

affably – pleasantly; friendly

expounded – defended with argument

cowed – destroyed the courage of; intimidated

immaculate – having no stain or blemish

fiasco – a complete failure

infamy – evil reputation brought about by something grossly criminal, shocking, or brutal

