

The Pigman

① INTRODUCTION

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF PAUL ZINDEL

Paul Zindel was born in Staten Island, New York in 1928. His father was a police officer, and his mother was a nurse. Zindel studied chemistry at Wagner College and went on to work as a chemical writer after graduation. After quitting his job as a chemical writer, he worked as a high school science teacher for 37 years. He released his first play, *The Effect of Camera Rays on Man in the Moon* (Mars) in 1964, and it was met with much success. The play ran on Broadway in 1971 and would earn Zindel the 1971 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Zindel married psychotherapist and writer Susan Hildebrand in 1973, and the couple had two children together: Carolyn Zindel, an actress, and David Zindel, a publisher. Following the success of his first play, Zindel went on to write 52 books, most of them for children or young adult readers. Most take place in his hometown of Staten Island and are partially autobiographical, featuring misadventured teenagers who come from dysfunctional, neglectful, or abusive homes (Zindel's father abandoned the family when Zindel was very young, and his mother struggled to support the family on her own). Zindel's books for young readers combine serious subjects like loneliness, abuse, and loss with wry, ironic humor. In addition to *The Pigman*, which is among Zindel's most popular and widely taught books in the U.S., he has also written *My Darling, My Hamburger* (1969), *Runaway, Runaway* (1976), and *The Pigman's Legacy* (1981), a sequel to *The Pigman*. Zindel died in New York City of lung cancer in 2000 at the age of 71.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Pigman was published in 1968. The book's protagonists, John and Lorraine, come of age in the 1960s, a period that was defined by intense social and political unrest and a rapidly shifting cultural landscape, largely shaped by the ongoing Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, and the feminist movement. In 1960 in the U.S., nearly half of the population was under 30 years of age, going into an increasingly influential youth culture. Many young people of this generation rejected the conservative values that society (and their parents) forced on them, and they rebelled against the status quo by participating in the counterculture movement, which gained traction alongside the ongoing civil rights movement and other ongoing social and political shifts. The counterculture movement was defined by rebellion, with young people rejecting the conservative views of human sexuality, gender

roles, conforming to authority, and materialism that earlier generations largely embraced. The rebelliousness and alienation that John and Lorraine exhibit in *The Pigman* embodies the spirit of 1960s youth culture in the U.S.

RELATED LITERARY WORKS

At the time of their initial publication, Zindel's books for young adults were unusual in their portrayal of serious, often-dark subject matter for young adult audiences. *My Darling, My Hamburger* (1969) deals with subjects of teenage sexuality, pregnancy, and abortion. Like *The Pigman*, *Runaway, Runaway* (1976) also takes place in Staten Island and follows the story of two teenage social outcasts dealing with dysfunctional families. *Confessions of a Teenage Sleuth* (1977) is a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age novel that tells the story of Chris, a 15-year-old boy whose father abandoned his family (of whom neither works as a nurse, just like Zindel's own parents). The novel follows Chris as he learns to let go of his absent father and deals with issues of insecurity, illness, and loss. Other books for young readers that deal with serious subject matter include *Juana* (1990) by Laurie R. King, which deals with issues of rape, social ostracization, bullying, and overcoming trauma. *It's Kind of a Funny Story* (2009) by Ned Vizzini is about a 17-year-old boy who is hospitalized following a suicide attempt. The book grapples with serious issues like eating disorders, depression, and self-hatred. The book is semi-autobiographical, based on Vizzini's own hospitalization for depression.

KEY FACTS

- **Full Title:** *The Pigman*
- **When Published:** 1968
- **Literary Period:** Contemporary
- **Genre:** Young Adult Novel
- **Setting:** Staten Island, New York
- **Climate:** The shock of Bibb's death causes Mr. Pigman to suffer a heart attack, and he dies at the age.
- **Antagonist:** Lorraine Kelly
- **Point of View:** First Person

EXTRA CREDIT

Controversy: *The Pigman* is included in "The Most Frequently Banned Books in the 1990s," a list of books that were challenged in schools and public libraries in the U.S. between 1990 and 1992.

Answers For The Pigman Study Guide

Holt Rinehart & Winston



Answers For The Pigman Study Guide:

The Pigman - Literature Kit Gr. 7-8 Marlies Sargent,2023-03-03 Understand how actions have consequences and how to learn from them with this tragic tale of loneliness and unlikely friendship The comprehension questions included in this resource allows for good discussions Identify the literary device being used for particular sections of the novel Describe Mr Pignati from John s perspective Imagine alternatives to John and his dad s relationship if his dad had a less stressful job Find synonyms to key vocabulary words found in the novel Write a diary entry from the point of view of Mr Pignati Create an accurate timeline of events that take place throughout the story Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom s Taxonomy our worksheets incorporate a variety of scaffolding strategies along with additional crossword word search comprehension quiz and answer key About the Novel The Pigman is a story about two teens who befriend an elderly man and learn a valuable lesson about trust and repercussions Lorraine and John don t have many friends Their home life isn t ideal so they spend a lot of time hanging out at the local cemetery One day while playing a phone call game the pair play a prank on Angelo Pignati The prank doesn t go as planned as Mr Pignati is very lonely and trusting This leads to an unlikely friendship between the three individuals At first Lorraine and John keep up the ruse as they enjoy having a place other than the cemetery to escape to They enjoy the free items that Mr Pignati showers on them Nicknaming him the Pigman for his odd and overwhelming collection of pigs Lorraine and John begin to truly like the man One poor decision after another leads to tragedy that ultimately forces Lorraine and John to learn about themselves and how their actions have consequences

Focus on Reading Walch Publishing,2002 **The Pigman Reading Guide** Saddleback Educational Publishing,2006-09-01 Struggling readers frequently lack basic reading skills and are not equipped with the prior knowledge and reading strategies to thoroughly engage in the classroom literature experience Give your students the background and support they need to understand and enjoy literature With these reading guides your students will practice reading comprehension skills sharpen their vocabulary and learn to identify literary elements The eBooks range in reading level from 4 to 10 Reproducible Contents Include Teacher and student support materials reproducible student activity sheets an end of book test and an answer key Each reading guide divides the novel into six manageable units Prepares all students for reading success through activating prior knowledge Focuses reading with guiding Questions to Think About Build vocabulary with pre reading and during reading activities *Resources in Education* ,1997 Reading Instruction in the Content Areas Walter J. Lamberg,Charles E. Lamb,1980 **Curriculum Review** ,1977 **El-Hi Textbooks and Serials in Print, 1996** R R Bowker Publishing,Bowker,1996-02 *English Journal* ,1999 *Book Links* ,1992 *TX Ate Eol 2000 G 9* Holt Rinehart & Winston,2000 Elements of Literature, Grade 7 Holt Rinehart & Winston,Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff,2001-11 A Teacher's Guide to Contemporary Teenage Fiction Stewart H. Benedict,1973 Journal of Reading ,1983 Farm Work Study Charles Nigel Harvey,1958 **Resources in Education** ,1996 English in Australia ,1989

English/language Arts Curriculum Resource Handbook ,1992 *Elements of Literature* ,2000 State adopted textbook 2001 2007 grade 7 *Teaching the Novel* Becky Alano,1989 This book of 41 lesson plans compiled from resources in the ERIC database focuses on strategies for teaching the novel at the junior high and high school level Each lesson includes a brief description objectives and procedures The book includes strategies for teaching specific novels general strategies a user s guide an activities chart and an annotated bibliography of related resources in the ERIC database MS
Iowa English Bulletin ,1976

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