

Task for *The Messenger*

Chapter Questions Task

Instructions: The following chapter questions have been separated in order to summarise the novel efficiently. Please find your allocated questions and record your responses electronically. Please make sure your answers are detailed and in full sentence format. Collectively, we will use your answers to create a class booklet. It is therefore your responsibility to make sure your allocated responses are detailed and correct in order to effectively work as a team.

Part one: "The First Message"

The holdup

Student 1:

1. Marv's car plays a major role in this first scene. Describe the car (including the make and model). Why is it important to the scene?
2. Describe the robbery from Ed's point of view.
3. Explain what happens from the moment the getaway car leaves to when the police catch the robber.
4. What part do the media play in this scene?

Sex should be like math; an introduction to my life:

Student 2:

1. Why does Ed become a cab driver? How does he feel about himself and his life?
2. In three sentences, summarize Ed's home and upbringing.
3. Who is the Doorman, and why is he important to Ed?
4. Who are Leigh, Katherine and Tommy and what is their connection to Ed?
5. Describe Ed's favourite pastime regarding the doorman and Audrey.

Student 3:

1. Why does Ed, "hate the sound of car doors slamming," (p. 21)?
2. What is the comparison Ed makes between math and sex?
3. Why does Audrey refuse to love anyone?
4. What is the importance of cards in Ed's life? Throughout your reading, keep track of the purpose of the Annoyance card games. What is the author's purpose for including them when and where he does?

The ace of diamonds:

Student 4:

1. How does Ed receive this card? What does he mean by, "Maybe it's meant to be"? Describe his attitude toward it throughout the chapter.
2. Discuss Ed's relationship with his mother.

The judge and the mirror:

3. Contrast how the media in previous chapters treated Ed to how the judge addresses him.
4. What is the robber's threat? What does Ed mean when he says that he sees the robber's threat as words on his face when he looks in his rear view mirror?

Watching, waiting, raping:

Student 5:

1. When Ed reads about the robber's sentence, he thinks, "It makes more sense to look forward." How does this illustrate Ed's personality?
2. Why does Ed feel that he and not someone else was chosen, "to care"?

Pieces:

3. What is Ed supposed to do at Edgar Street?
4. Why does this chance meeting in the grocery store with the woman and her daughter from Edgar Street solidify Ed's desire to change their situation?

Harrison Avenue:

Student 6:

1. In three sentences, recap Milla Johnson's story. What was Ed's mission at this address?

Being Jimmy:

2. What do you understand about Ed after reading the scene with his mother?
3. Milla Johnson helps Ed as much as he comforts her. How?
4. Who is calling Ed? For what purpose?

The barefoot girl; the shoebox; another stupid human:

Student 7:

1. Explain the give and take relationship in the Ed/Sophie segment. What was the meaning of Sophie's barefoot run for her? For Ed?
2. Copy three quotes from what you have read up to this point that show Ed as a real person and not as a character in a book.
3. What does he mean when he says, "Beautiful women are the torment of my existence"?

Edgar Street revisited:

Student 8:

1. This is a powerful and emotional chapter. What were you mentally saying to Ed as you read it?

Murder at the cathedral:

2. What did you think when Ed talked to the reader (p. 89 - But you're far from this)?
3. Ed is questioning why he was chosen. What would you tell him if he asked you?

4. Ed allowed the man to walk away. Do you think that he'll stay away, or that he'll continue to be frightened of Ed?

Part two: "The Stones of Home"

Aftermath:

Student 9:

1. What is the Annual Sledge game? What does it symbolize to Marv? To Ed?
2. Why does Sophie seek out Ed in the park? How does she react to the Doorman?

The visit:

3. Why did Keith and Daryl beat up Ed? If the message from their boss is about caring, why are they so violent? Isn't that contradicting what they want Ed to do?

The envelope:

Student 10:

1. Who do you think is sending Ed the cards?
2. What is motivating about the words in the letter to Ed, "Very impressive indeed; congratulations, and you did it"?

Just Ed:

3. What two words from Audrey demoralize Ed? Why do they have this effect?
4. When the word just is used to describe a person, their beliefs or their occupation, is the effect always disheartening?
5. What does Ed reveal through his concern/anguish about the cards in his conversation with Audrey?

Cabs, the hooker, Alice:

Student 11:

1. Why do Alice's actions make such an impression on Ed?

The stones:

2. How do Ed's words, "Don't blame it anymore, Ed. Take it." change the course of his life? What do they mean? What does 'it' stand for?
3. What do Ed's words, "How well do we let ourselves know each other," mean?
4. Why doesn't the anonymous cab fare just give Ed the names of the next three people he must help? Why does he make Ed trek to the rocks by the river?

The priest:

Student 12:

1. The priest tells Ed to have faith. What does he mean? Faith in what?
2. How is Ed supposed to help the priest?

Juveniles; the cops show up:

3. Detail Ed's plan to help the priest.
4. What is different about Ed's response when the priest calls him a saint compared to when Sophie called him the same thing?
5. In three sentences, summarize the fun fair scene. Describe your emotional reaction.

The easy one and the ice cream; the colour of her lips; blood and roses; the face of clubs:

Student 13:

1. In three sentences each, summarize the Angie Carusso and Gavin Rose stories. What does Ed give to each person?

Part three: "Trying Times for Ed Kennedy"

1. What does the Sledge Game have to do with the story? Zusak spends fourteen pages on it. Why?
2. Why does Ed feel guilty at the end of the game?

Twenty dollars for the dog and the card:

Student 14:

1. Which card does Ed get? What names are on it?
2. What is Doorman's part in this scene?

Dig:

3. What does Ed mean when he says about Marv, "I think that he finally understands that what's important to him doesn't have to be me"?
4. What's happening between Ed and Audrey?
5. What's the purpose of using the writers to show Ed his next three missions? Why didn't Zusak just give the names of the places on the Ace of Spades card?

The benefit of lying; the power and the glory; a moment of truth:

Student 15:

1. In three sentences, summarize the Glory Road story.
2. What is meant by, "It's about...small things that are big"?
3. Ed says, "Sometimes people are beautiful. Not in looks. Not in what they say. Just in what they are." Describe someone that you know with this kind of beauty.

Student 16:

1. Describe the stone that Mr. Tatupu gives to Ed. What does it symbolize to Ed?
2. Why doesn't Ed tell Mr. Tatupu about the cards?

Clown Street; chips; the Doorman and me:

Student 17:

1. What's the irony when Audrey says to Ed, "You used to just be. Now you are somebody"? What does she mean? Why does this change in Ed concern her?
2. Why is Ed both happy and sad that he is changing?
3. The young man who led Ed to the stones visits him again. What is his purpose in the story? What angle does he present?

The woman; a phone call:

Student 18:

1. Why did Zusak choose the name Clown Street to show Ed that his next mission was with his mother? (Hint: names of people and places that authors choose are never random).
2. Was Ed supposed to do something? To learn something? Or both this time? Explain.
3. Ed says, "She assaults me with her version of the truth." What does this mean? Who is right? Ed or his mother?
4. Ma says, "It takes a lot of love to hate you like this." What does she mean?

The Bell Street Theatre; the last reel:

Student 19:

1. Explain: who, what, where, when and why about Bernie Price.
2. What does Ed learn from Bernie about the why when he asks why he was chosen?
3. Who was this mission supposed to help? Explain the message for this person.
4. Who was doing the digging? Why?

Part four: "The Music of Hearts"

The suitcase; Cat Ballou; Roman Holiday

Student 20:

1. "If I'm ever going to be okay, I'll have to earn it," Ed says to the priest. Why?

The kiss; the grave; the fire:

2. What do all of these nouns in the title symbolize?

The casual suit:

Student 21:

1. Show how Ed has come to terms with his family relationships.
2. "I'd rather choose the sun than wait for it." What does Ed mean?
3. What is Ed's message to his mother when he says, "It's the person, Ma, not the place"?
4. How has Milla made Ed feel privileged?

To feel the fear:

Student 22:

1. The cards say: 'Roman Holiday', 'The Suitcase' and 'Cat Ballou'. What does Ed deduce from these movie titles?

Ritchie's sin:

2. What was Ritchie's sin? What message was Ed to give him?
3. What was Ed supposed to take from this mission?
4. What does Ritchie mean when he tells Ed that driving a cab is, "an excuse"?

God bless the man with the beard, the missing teeth and poverty:

Student 23:

1. What is the purpose of this brief scene?

The secret Marv; each to each:

2. What is Marv's story?
3. What does Marv tell Ed about his money?

The swings:

Student 24:

1. What happens at the swings?
2. Predict the future for Marv, Suzanne and Melinda (realistically; not your wishes).

Audrey, part one; three nights to wait; Marv's afterthought; Audrey, part two; three minutes to take; the end:

3. What is the message that Ed must find for himself?

Part five: The Joker: the laughter; the weeks; the end is not the end; the folder; the message:

Student 25:

1. Why does the Joker card seem to laugh at Ed?
2. "Maybe everyman can live beyond what they're capable of." What does it mean?
3. Who is the man in the cab? What does he tell Ed about the cards? Who chose Ed? Why?

Student 26:

1. What does Ed mean when he says, "I am the message"?
2. What is Ed's message?
3. Who is this message for? Explain your answer.