

Jasper Jones Notes

Make the book smallest font text on ibooks so we have the same pages

a) Hypocrisy in the father.

Page 13 - "He asked me if I understood what I'd just said. I didn't. Then he softened and explained that it was rude to discuss somebody's racial heritage."

Page 151 - "And my father listened blankly, like he was barely tolerating them, like he knew better, but he said nothing in Jasper's defense."

b) Town social currency & Charlie's disregard of Jeffrey's race

Page 14:

"Corrigan is a town whose social currency is sports."

"Jeffrey's parents are Vietnamese, so he's ruthlessly bullied and belted about."

c) Charlie's development

Page 21&22:

"What are you talking about? No we don't! We go to the police!"

Page 151&152:

"Then someone mentioned Jasper Jones. The same way they did when the post office burned to the ground. With tilted eyebrows and suspicion. And my father listened blankly, like he was barely tolerating them, like he knew better, but he said nothing in Jasper's defense."

"And soon enough, they would link Jasper back to that spot. He was right. This town was looking for an excuse. And that coincidence would be more than enough for them."

On the Sue Findlay incident

"On the short trip home, he explained to me the cause of Sue Findlay's outburst. Some months ago her husband, Ray, had been killed in the war. They'd had a rocky marriage, but she'd taken it very badly. And only yesterday her eldest son had announced he'd been balloted through to Vietnam. She'd taken that even worse.
"That doesn't make it right," I said indignantly. "That's got nothing to do with Mrs. Lu! It's not fair!"

Also relates to corrupt authority with Laura's dad

"Would they do that? I mean, Laura's dad was even on the news, asking people to come forward, asking people in the city to keep their eyes out."

"Mate, Laura's old man is the worst out of the whole lot."

I am taken aback.

"How do you mean?"

"Let's just say he was down at the station as well," Jasper says bitterly.

"What, and he knew they were beating you?"

"Knew? He dint just know, he was sticking the boot in most of all. Pissed as a rat and twice as angry. Screamin at me, spittin. Where is she? What did you do? Stinkin of turps, worse than my old man."

I can't believe what I'm hearing. It seems so far-fetched. My head is spinning, and I'm not sure if it is the Black Bush.

"But ... but he's the shire president."

"So?"

"It's just ... it's hard for me to believe, is all."

"Shars yer tits! Oi!"

Eliza looks down, walks a little faster.

I am horrified. I hope she doesn't think I'm with them. Warwick Trent has his cock out and is waving it at her. They all cheer. Thankfully, she has turned away.

They laugh. They turn. They lose interest. Eliza Wishart is almost gone. I watch her disappear. I should have said something, I should have stood up. **Defended her honor.** I'm an idiot. I want to go. I sit down, a little woozy."

"You're coming home! You shouldn't be out here! Come on! Get in the car!"

I rip my hands from her grasp with an ease that surprises me."

"And neither should you. This"—I point at the backseat of the car—"this means I don't have to do what you say anymore."

I step forward. I'm not afraid of her.

"Excuse me? Yes you do, young man! Now get in the car. I won't ask you again!"

"No! You dug this hole, you fill it in. I'm not going with you."

"I can see now that we did the wrong things for the right reasons"

d) Charlie Reinforces trust on Jasper & Disregard of Jasper's race

Page 54:

"But aside from that, I trust him. I really do. And not because I have to. I think he's probably the most honest person in this town. He has no reason to lie. He has no reputation to protect. Last night I never suspected him of pulling the wool. Not once."

"I think Jasper Jones speaks the whole truth in a town of liars."

"I mean, if it were Jeffrey Lu who'd woken me last night to lead me silently to that awful scene, I wouldn't doubt his story for a moment. I wouldn't even question him. So why should it be different for Jasper Jones?"

e) Language techniques/Conventions

Idiom - "I never suspected him of pulling the wool" - show how the traditional the town relate to context

Simile - "It's like watching a puppy crossing a busy street"

Repetition on Stream Of Conscience: "Thisiswhathappened" and "The Shire president"

The use of shire president in the stream of conscience allows us to see that being the Shire President should be a respected title and expect nothing less but to be just. But Shire President abuses Laura.

Capitalisation - "Jasper Jones has a terrible reputation in Corrigan. He's a Thief, a Liar, a Thug, a Truant."

Metaphor - "They reckon I'm just half an animal with half a vote." "My exit from the window is a little like a foal being born." "It's like iv'e got to crawl out of my own eggshell and emerge."

Characterisation of Jasper Jones - "Jasper Jones has outgrown his clothes. His button-up shirt is dirty and fit to burst, and his short pants are cut just past the knee. He wears no shoes. He looks like an island castaway."

Point of View, Characterisation, Personification (idk what though), Imagery

Symbolism - "Why Jasper Jones has to strip off his shirt and hand it back at the end."
- "Two black dragonflies in the sky."

f) The "Other"

Valued qualities of a man:

"Warwick Trent holds the record for the most peaches stolen from the tree of Mad Jack Lionel. He's got four pits in his pocket from four separate excursions. He's had real, actual sex. More than once. He's been in more fights than anyone, and won most of them, including one with a middle-aged miner outside the Sovereign. He is feared and revered, and he knows it. He has a tattoo."

Charlie does not have these values, instead he's bullied for being smart.

"Their message is simple: *Don't be too clever.*"

Relate it to: "Corrigan is a town whose social currency is sports."

"But at least I have something over them, even though it's a lonely celebration."

"Jasper Jones has outgrown his clothes. His button-up shirt is dirty and fit to burst, and his short pants are cut just past the knee. He wears no shoes. He looks like an island castaway."

g) Resilience from Jeffrey

"I'm still nervous, though. I look at Jeffrey, casually laying his gear bag down among theirs."

"Fuck off, gook," and my gut knots." - Charlie's perspective

"I don't understand, because Jeffrey has tried this before and it never ends without some kind of humiliation."

"Everyone laughs, watching Jeffrey jog out to fetch his ball in his pressed whites. He is jostled and bumped around the pack. He's so small. Someone kicks his ankle and says, "Fuck off, Cong." Jeffrey stumbles, but keeps going, head high."

h) Moral Duality

"It's hard to understand. The folks who watch Jasper play, who barrack for him like he was one of their own, are the same ones who might cut their eyes at him should he walk their way a few hours after the game. But they'll smile and cheer and shake their heads in wonderment if he takes a run through the center or if he nails one from the pocket. His teammates too. They'll surround him and scruff at his hair in celebration, they'll applaud and pat his arse, but once the game is over, the pattern returns. He's back to being shunned by the boys and privately reviled, and privately adored by the girls. Jasper hands his shoes and his jersey back, and leaves them to their changeroom."

Related to corrupt authority

i) Issues Women Face

“Shars yer tits”

Warwick Trent said this in front of the cricket coach, yet the coach did nothing.

Women subject to men in the novel. This leads to the mother of Eliza not trusting her daughters.

“I just came down the street for a while to see Charlie. I wasn’t far away. I’ve been right here. I told Dad before I left.”

“Don’t tell me lies!”

“I’m not,” Eliza says plainly, with a shrug.

Her mother slaps her hard, just once, across the face. I feel ashamed and awkward. Eliza seems unmoved.”

“... because this woman had betrayed her eldest daughter [Laura]. She turned her back to the truth and now Laura was gone.”

“So far, neither of them has spoken. The secret has stayed with the Wisharts, sealed shut in a jar, locked in a dusty cupboard.”

Eliza did not speak about it because she did not feel she needed to, or she would not have a voice anyway due to her age. But her mother is the person she is looking towards to expose the father.

As a result, the book hints to Eliza burning her house down.

“The flames are all but tamed in an hour or so. The house is gutted, the roof has collapsed. It’s an empty black shell.”

“Eliza hasn’t moved. She stands alone.”

The mother feared speaking against the Shire President of the town. As men back then had more power.

“And where was her mother? Where was she in all this? She heard their car roar to a start, and she opened her curtain to see her father weaving dangerously out of the drive and down the street. Then she could hear Laura crying through the wall that separated them. But still she didn’t leave her little bubble. She stayed. Safe. And she didn’t stir, though she was restless and confused.”

“And her mother didn’t believe her, can you imagine? Not a word of it. She defended him. She stood there and called Laura a liar. Her own daughter. And him? He sat at the table, quiet and calm. The shire president. And when he burst into her room later, he hissed and he leered and he threatened her. He wasn’t even sorry. He had no love in him. And she spat and yelled and flailed her thin arms with all the courage she had left, and he raised his hand and hit her, hard, in the face, which he’d never done. He knocked her down to shut her up. And he swung again, twice, right at the core of her, right where the trouble was. And as she struggled to suck in air, he squeezed her jaw and he warned her, his ugly red face, his rancid medicine breath, he warned her not to say another word. To anybody. He turned to go. As her single last act of defiance, Laura threw her glass paperweight at his back. She missed. It hit the wall and smashed. He slammed the door.”

Another example is Charlie’s mother Ruth. She has to play the role of a content wife in front of the town, submitting to her husband. But due to her comparing herself to other women in the community, it caused her to cheat and leave for good. She had too many expectations of a man. But her husband is not a typical stereotypical man that she wished she had - a man that worked in the mines and had constant money to support the family.

j) Class Division

“This is the old part of town, where two-story houses with large trees out the front are common. It is the only part of Corrigan which hints toward any division of class.”

“We round into Sullivan Street, which seems significantly busier. The lawns are lush and thick and well kept, and two rows of trimmed peppermint trees track down its length. ”

k) Charlie's Mother Hates Corrigan

“My mother has become so hard. It's perplexing. She's always been curt and impatient, but there used to be warmth beneath it all. I don't know. Maybe she's finally fed up. It's crystal-clear to everyone except my father that she hates Corrigan. I suspect she always has. Of course, I can only speculate, but the fact that my parents were married and moved ”

l) Vietnam War Causes

“It happened yesterday. It was my ma's brother and his wife. My aunt and uncle. They won't tell me much more than that. It happened in the village that she grew up in. I don't know. I think it was a bomb.”

“On the short trip home, he explained to me the cause of Sue Findlay's outburst. Some months ago her husband, Ray, had been killed in the war. They'd had a rocky marriage, but she'd taken it very badly. And only yesterday her eldest son had announced he'd been balloted through to Vietnam. She'd taken that even worse.”

m) Racism in Jasper Jones

“ message is simple: Stay away from Jasper Jones.”

“Jasper Jones has a terrible reputation in Corrigan. He's a Thief, a Liar, a Thug, a Truant. He's lazy and unreliable. He's a feral and an orphan, or as good as. His mother is dead and his father is no good. He's the rotten model that parents hold aloft as a warning: This is how you'll end up if you're disobedient. Jasper Jones is the example of where poor aptitude and attitude will lead”

“In families throughout Corrigan, he's the first name to be blamed for all manner of trouble.”

“ Nobody took her by the shoulders.” - Mrs Lu in Sue Findlay Incident

“Surrounding folks just stared”

“People looked on like they were some exhibit.”

In the same Findlay incident, the focus is redirected from Mrs Lu to Jasper Jones in an instant.

“And soon enough, they would link Jasper back to that spot. He was right. This town was looking for an excuse. And that coincidence would be more than enough for them.”

Could also be used to show Charlie's development.

“Fucking Cong.” “Red fucking rat.”

“I mean, I know people have always bin afraid of me. Kids specially, but old people too. Wary.

They reckon I'm just half an animal with half a vote.” - metaphor

Perspective of Jasper

n) Characterisation on Jasper Jones' Father

“And he dint kill Laura either, if that's what you're thinkin about. No chance. He might be a worthless, jobless drunk, and he might come home swingin from the fuckin bootstraps some nights, but he hasn't got that in him. He couldn't kill his way out of a morgue, my old man.

Probably be too much effort, if anything. That, and Laura would've beat the piss out of him first." Jasper smiles ruefully."

This is why "You mean you stole this?" I ask, handing it back to his outstretched fingers. "Well, I dint pay for it. Lifted it from my old man. Right out from under him. He was out of it, huggin an empty one, so I helped meself to the full one on the table."

This is an example of Moral and Ethics a theme in the book

— **Morals and Ethics** can also relate to Charlie helping Jasper put Laura's body in the dam. He knew it was morally wrong, but he also knew Jasper was not lying and would have been imprisoned unjustly.

o) Corrupt Authority

"Charlie, come on, mate. Who d'you reckon?"

"Sarge. The local constabulary, Charlie."

"Would they do that? I mean, Laura's dad was even on the news, asking people to come forward, asking people in the city to keep their eyes out."

"Mate, Laura's old man is the worst out of the whole lot."

I am taken aback.

"How do you mean?"

"Let's just say he was down at the station as well," Jasper says bitterly.

"What, and he knew they were beating you?"

"Knew? He dint just know, he was sticking the boot in most of all. Pissed as a rat and twice as angry. Screamin at me, spittin. Where is she? What did you do? Stinkin of turps, worse than my old man."

I can't believe what I'm hearing. It seems so far-fetched. My head is spinning, and I'm not sure if it is the Black Bush.

"But ... but he's the shire president."

"So?"

"It's just ... it's hard for me to believe, is all."

In this quote the Sarge presents himself as someone who is upright.

"The sarge might be a philistine, and his advice might have been hackneyed and pointless, but there was something comforting in his expansive frame and his certain tone. And glancing across at my mother, who looked like a snake poised to strike, **I almost wished he wouldn't leave.**"

But then Charlie, though almost convinced, saw through his fake appearance and recalled on the beating the Sarge placed on Jasper.

"I remember thinking that if I hadn't seen the cuts and bruises on Jasper's face for myself, I wouldn't have thought for a second that this burly paternal copper was capable of locking up an innocent boy without charge and beating him."

Beatings include: punches, cigarette burns.

Pete Wishart is also part of the corrupt authority. As seen above he also beat up Jasper, and considered the worst. Racism is obviously part of the situation but moral duality too. People in the town look up to Pete Wishart as a prime example of just as he is the shire president.

"I mean, you're still protected by law, by ..."

"Christ, Charlie! I ain't protected by shit. See, that's you bein afraid."

p) Mateship

The attack on the Lu's beating up the garden. Simply because:

“It’s not his fault you pissed away your job, you worthless bastard. It’s got nuthin to do with him.”
A neighbour named Harry Rawlings.

Mateship Charlie and Jeffrey along with Jasper.

q) Context

Historical context of the year the book was set on:

1960s the baby steps of beginning controversial changes in the laws which allowed indigenous communities to have the very basic human rights.

Since 1901 the White Australian Policy has been in place. Which aimed to keep Australia a white country excluding migrations of people from countries like Asia and excluded indigenous Australians.

1962 - referendum on the inclusion of indigenous people. The change in the ‘Flora and Fauna’ act which recognised indigenous people as part of the environment, but not humans. The referendum won in 1962 which removed the act. Which meant Indigenous people were now considered human to the white people’s eyes. 1962 indigenous Australians also gained the right to vote.

Vietnam war - between America and Communist in Vietnam. 2 halves of Vietnam after WW2 communist and non communist. Truce then had an election to decide democratic or communism. America decided to step in to protect ‘democracy’ in Vietnam.

Context of Author.

Jasper Jones written by Craig Silvey published the book in 2008. Same year Kevin Rudd the prime minister of Australia apologised to the indigenous people for Australia’s past. This made Jasper Jones a more appealing novel as it was set in a time of controversial changes that affected indigenous people. Craig Silvey lives in Fremantle. He grew up in south-west of Western Australia. In an interview Craig said the book was set on nature of friendship, the secrets and traditions of a town. Specifically set the book in 1965.

Context in the text:

The book was set in 1965. Which meant it followed up upon these changes in history. It clearly shows the Town of Corrigan, being full of traditional people. Because Corrigan is set in mining town, it was isolated from the city. Changes and communication within the city would not be easily brought over to a town full of traditionalist. They were not hard to convinced, shown in the racism against Jasper and Jeffrey. The bullying of Charlie. The qualities of a typical Australian were not seen in these characters according to the town.

r) Issues

Racism, Domestic Violence, Prejudice, Sexism, Sexual Abuse,

Racism - Jeffrey & Jasper

Domestic Violence - Attack on the Lu’s.

Prejudice - Sue Findlay incident and Attack on the Lu’s. Sue attacked the Lu’s simply because they were Vietnamese and thought somehow they were the cause for the war. She needed someone to blame, yet not knowing that the Lu’s were also being affected.

Sexism - the role of women is to subject to men as it were a very traditional town. So example, Laura’s mum fearing to speak out against her husband. Charlie’s mother pretending she was content with her life so she would not get judged by the town.

Sexual abuse - to Eliza at the cricket courts where Warwick Trent asked her to show her tits in front of the coach. As you can see the coach did not do anything. Sexual abuse to Laura which caused her to commit suicide.

Laura’s rape from her father.

“he visited Laura’s room as well. But he didn’t tap politely. He crept in, drunk. Always drunk. Always discreet. There were no locks.”

“Her mother seemed the same as ever, serenely unaware.”

“She could sense movement. She could hear odd squeaks and shifts. Sounds that Eliza translated in her mind as two people grappling. But then Laura began shouting, screaming, which was soon muffled into sounds that made Eliza feel ill. This had never happened.”

“Something was very wrong. A measure of milky poison had caught hold and infected her, and now she was in trouble. She was rotten inside. Something worse than disease.”

s) Factors of Bildungsroman

Themes:

Coming of age- Jasper as an adolescent along with his friends, Jasper (thought slightly older), Eliza and Jeffrey. All going through adolescence. Coming of age involves puberty which allowed love - Charlie and Eliza. This also involved the growth of Charlie maturing.

Personal growth- Life as an education is a good example to describe Charlie's situation. He was placed in situations that no other kid should have gone through, for example facing racism and a more serious case of suicide. He learnt from this and made him more mature to his understandings of simply being of different race.

Identity and Self- He also discovered in himself that he could lie to people who deceive the town. Lying to the sarge about the circumstances of why he was thought to have been missing to cover up for Jasper. This leads again to the theme 'moral and ethics'. He also gets a new perspective on people, although he knew from the beginning of the book that the town of Corrigan was full of liars, he experienced it first hand enough to change his values. He learns about others also - about Jasper and Eliza. He discovered his talents from Jasper who 'lies' to set himself free from the racism. The town's actions influence him. For example, Charlie was a very naive and innocent at the beginning. He did not know how to respond on certain situations. The analogy of a baby horse is how to describe him at the beginning when answering to Jasper. So like a baby horse, Charlie stumbles in his head but trusts Jasper like a baby horse would trust his mother. At the end, he knew how to weave around situations and understood the circumstances. Also he learns to master his anger through his mother.

Love- Falls in love with Eliza and made relationships with people he did not know he could. For example, Eliza, Jack Lionel, Jasper.

Search for the meaning of Life- Charlie challenges the stereotypes, racism and discrimination. He makes us question on if masculinity is always about having sex or drinking.

Conventions:

Audience- idk

Character- youth to adulthood

Chronicle of Events- maturing due to situations (chronological events)

Conflict- Conflicts between Charlie and his mother. And other conflicts he face allows him to deepen self knowledge and strengthen or challenge his morality.

Dialogue- Charlie is innocent. "But... It's the shire president" dialogue allows us readers to understand how although Charlie is white, he has an optimistic view on each person except those who have done something against him. He refuses to believe that authority could be so corrupt but understands it anyway due to the racism in the town.

u) Messages/Ideas

Women's roles were projected in the novel

Disregard of race

Child Abuse

Dual morality

Mateship

Stereotypes

Acceptance/Overcoming fears and insecurities

acceptance/overcoming fear “Mr. Lionel. Hello. Sorry. I’m sorry.”
He decides to steal from the peaches of Jack but stumbles on the way. Though he tries to overcome his fear, he knows that he’s built a relationship with Jack and apologises anyway.

“to pilfer and eat a peach from the property of Mad Jack Lionel assures you instant royalty.”

Stealing from the peach is more of overcoming insecurities.

QUESTIONS

1. HOW HAS ISSUES PRESENTED IN THE NOVEL ENCOURAGED/OR INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARACTER?

Letters: c, a, d, i, m, o more letters I forgot which one

2. HOW HAS ‘THE OTHER’ BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN JASPER JONES

Letters: b, d, f, g, j**, m,

J can just be used to describe the setting. So like the class division emphasises the ‘other’ in a way.

3. WHAT INFLUENCES DOES CONTEXT HAVE ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN IDEAS PRESENTED IN JASPER JONES

Letters: b*, d*, f*, i, j, m, n*, o, q

4. EXPLAIN THE PERSPECTIVE OF ISSUES PRESENTED IN JASPER JONES

A, b, d, e, f, g, h, i, l, m, o, q, r

5. HOW HAS POINT OF VIEW BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO HIGHLIGHT ATTITUDES TOWARDS IDEAS IN JASPER JONES?

Do not understand

6. HOW HAS THE GENERIC CONVENTIONS OF BILDUNGSROMAN INFLUENCE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN IDEAS IN JASPER JONES?

u, a, basically most of the things in this affects this question.

LETTER E AFFECTS ALL THE QUESTIONS