

Unwind: Study Guide
American Literature Academic

Directions: *This study guide is optional. It will not be taken for a grade. However, this study guide will guide you through the novel and help draw your attention to portions of the book that have been deemed important. Completing this study guide will assist you in preparing for the exam which will take place on the second day of class. We will talk about what the exam will look like on the first day of class. Have fun! Read well!*

Part One: Triplicate

(*Page numbers correspond with the hard copy of the book and not the online pdf copy.)

1 – CONNOR (pp. 3 – 19)

1. Why have Connor’s parents decided to unwind him?
2. How does he find out?
3. What is the setting of Unwind?

2 – RISA (pp. 19 – 27)

1. Where does Risa live?
2. What is her talent?
3. Why does the state decide to have her unwound?
4. How does she escape from the bus?

3 - LEV (pp. 27 – 37)

1. What is a tithe (as it relates to Unwind)?
2. Why is Lev honored with a huge party?
3. Why is Pastor Dan so important to Lev?
4. How is Lev “taken prisoner”?

4 – *CONNOR* (pp. 37 – 38)

1. Who is “the boy in white” (p. 38)?
2. Who is “the girl (who) stops fighting” (38) and agrees to work with Connor?
3. What has brought these three together?

5 - *COP* (pp. 39 – 40)

1. Explain Officer J.T. Nelson. Who is he? How would you describe him?
2. How is the officer tricked while looking for the AWOL Unwind?

6 – *LEV* (pp. 40 – 43)

1. How does Lev decide to trick his “kidnappers”?

7 – *CONNOR* (pp. 43 – 46)

1. What is Lev’s response to Connor’s question, “So, what’s it like . . . knowing your whole life you’re going to be sacrificed?” (p. 44):
2. Please tell me about Humphrey Dunfee.
3. How does Lev convince Connor and Risa to untie him?

8 – *RISA* (pp. 47 – 50)

1. Why does Risa continue her argument with Connor?
2. What does Risa finally realize about Connor?
3. What does Connor reveal about the “argument”?

Part Two: Storked

9 - *MOTHER* (pp. 53 – 55)

1. How old is the mother who wants to give up her child?

2. Explain the importance of the dumpsters (p. 53).

3. What is “The Storking Initiative”?

10 – RISA (pp. 55 – 57)

1. How does Risa secure supplies?

2. Who passes the trio in the neighborhood?

3. Why do you think Shusterman includes this detail?

11 – CONNOR (pp. 57 – 64)

1. Connor is relieved, but Lev and Risa are irritated after they read the newspaper. Why?

2. What keeps Connor from getting on the bus?

3. Who accepts responsibility for “storking” the baby?

12 – RISA (pp. 64 – 67)

1. What “story” do Connor and Risa make up about themselves?

13 – LEV (pp. 67 – 70)

1. Why is Lev’s “rescue” note ignored?

14 – CONNOR (pp. 70-76)

1. Where does the “group” hide?

2. What does the reader learn about Connor when it comes to “storked” babies?

3. When Connor and Risa decide to switch stalls, what do they discover?

15 – LEV (pp. 76 – 80)

1. Whom does Lev call after he reports his “situation” to the secretary?
2. What does Lev do when the police arrive to save him and arrest Connor and Risa?

16 - TEACHER (pp. 81 – 84)

1. Choose three adjectives to describe the teacher, and explain why you choose them.

17 - RISA (pp. 84 – 88)

1. What do Connor and Risa do to cause a stampede?

18 – LEV (pp. 89 – 90)

1. Lev has three realizations in this very brief portion of the book. What are they?

19 – CONNOR (pp. 90 – 112)

1. Where do Risa and Connor go after the “clapping” incident?
2. What does the reader know about “Clappers” at this point?
3. What advice does “The Dragon Lady” give Risa about survival?
4. What does Connor find when he opens the trapdoor?

5. Explain the following characters:

Hayden -

Mai -

Roland -

6. What new information does the reader learn about Humphrey Dunfee?

7. To whom does Connor finally write his letter?

20 – RISA (pp. 112 – 117)

1. Who takes the baby, Didi?
2. What does Nurse Greta inspire Risa to consider?

Part Three: Transit

21– LEV (pp. 121 – 140)

1. Explain Cyrus Finch.
2. What is so important about Cy’s right temporal lobe?
3. What’s so important about Joplin, Missouri?
4. Why does Lev say he wants to help Cy?

22 – RISA (pp. 140 – 147)

1. Why do Connor and Risa continue to stay together?
2. What are “The Fatigues”?
3. Who is the “Akron AWOL”?
4. What is his significance to the other Unwinds?
5. What is Risa’s opinion of Roland?

23 – CONNOR (pp. 147 – 148)

1. What is Connor’s opinion of Roland?

24 - RISA (pp. 148 – 152)

1. Who surprises Risa in the restroom?
2. What are his initial intentions?

3. How does Connor react when he sees what's going on?

4. What is Roland's reaction to this news?

25 - *CONNOR* (pp. 153)

1. What rumor is circulating about Roland?

2. What does Roland offer Risa as an apology?

Part Four: Destinations

26 - *PAWNBROKER* (pp. 157 - 161)

1. What does Lev want to pawn?

2. How much does he ask for?

3. How much does he actually get for his item?

4. How does he go about getting the extra cash?

27 - *CONNOR* (pp. 161 - 176)

1. How are the Unwinds being "shipped" to their next destination?

2. Why is Emby being unwound?

28 - *RISA* (pp. 176 - 183)

1. Where does the cargo plane land?

2. What is the Graveyard?

3. Who is in charge?

29 - *LEV* (183 - 185)

1. Why are Lev and CyFi and Lev in Joplin, Missouri?

2. How has CyFi and Fry's relationship changed?

30 - CY-TY (pp. 185 – 191)

1. Why are CyFi and Fry wandering the streets of Joplin?

2. What do they determine about Cy's donor?

3. What does CyTy dig up?

31 – LEV (pp. 192 – 194)

1. What does Lev want CyTy's "parents" to tell him?

2. Page 193 – Lev, “. . . knows he's been changed by this moment, transformed . . .” How and Why?

Part Five: GRAVEYARD

32 - The ADMIRAL (pp. 197 – 199)

1. What are the 10 rules (Demandments) of The Graveyard?

33 – RISA (pp. 199 – 202)

1. To what job is Risa ultimately assigned?

34 – CONNOR (pp. 202-226)

1. What is Connor's duty assignment?

2. What is Roland's duty assignment?

3. How many Unwinds are at the Graveyard?

4. What is Connor's theory about the Admiral?

5. Who arrives on the next plane?
6. What does Connor do when Lev asks him, “So how are things” (209)?
7. What reason does the Admiral use to get Connor to come to his plane?
8. Why does Lev wake Connor up in the middle of the night?
9. What does Connor learn about the Admiral’s bright-white smile?
10. What is in crate 2933?
11. What does the Admiral tell the Unwinds about the Golden’s sudden disappearance?
12. What was the U.S. military’s role in the Heartland War?
13. Explain three details the reader learns about the Admiral in Chapter 34.

35 – *LEV* (pp. 226 – 230)

1. How has Lev changed?
2. What rumor does Lev start to keep kids away from him?

36 – *RISA* (pp. 231 – 238)

1. What is Connor’s excuse for kissing Risa?
2. What does Connor tell Risa not to do? Why?
3. What is Lev’s duty assignment?
4. Why is he given this duty?
5. What happens at the work call run by Cleaver?
6. Summarize the conversation between Lev and Risa that takes place after the work call.

37 - *EMBY and The ADMIRAL* (pp. 238 – 241)

1. What is the Admiral's last name?
2. What does the reader learn about the Admiral?

38 – *MOB* (pp. 241-242)

1. What does Roland suggest happened to Emby?

39 – *ROLAND* (p. 243)

1. Who sends Roland a note?
2. What does the note say?
3. How does Roland respond to the note?

40 – *CONNOR* (pp. 244 – 245)

1. What does Connor give Roland that Connor claims Roland did not give to his victims?

41 – *MOB* (p. 245)

1. Where is the mob headed?

42 – *RISA* (p. 246)

1. Who is with the Admiral when the Mob attacks?

43 – *MOB* (pp. 246 – 247)

1. What is the condition of Air Force One at the end of this chapter?

44 – *CONNOR* (pp. 247 – 248)

1. What “deal” does Connor propose to Roland?

45 – *MOB* (pp. 248 – 249)

1. When the Mob cannot get to the Admiral, what does it attack?

46 – *CONNOR* (pp. 249 – 254)

1. Whom does the Mob attack and kill?
2. What does Cleaver imply about the death of the Golden's?
3. Who calms the Mob?
4. What does he say that snaps the Mob back to “sanity”?
5. What is wrong with the Admiral?

47 – *First Year Residents* (pp. 254 – 256)

1. What does the Admiral refuse?
2. What does Roland tell the doctor?

48 – *Risa* (pp. 256 – 258)

1. According to Risa, two types of people become Juvey-Cops. What are these types?

49 – *Roland* (pp. 258 – 259)

1. How does Roland gain the attention of the Juvey-Cop?

50 – *Connor* (pp. 259 – 261)

1. What do the Juvey-Cops tell Roland, Risa, and Connor about the Admiral?
2. What does Roland discover about Connor?

Part Six: Unwound

51 – *Camp* (pp. 265 – 267)

1. Please describe the harvest camp:

52 – *Risa* (pp. 267 – 280)

1. What “special skill” of Risa’s interests the counselor?

53 – Connor (pp. 270 – 273)

1. How long has Dalton been at Happy Jack?
2. Why has he survived so long?
3. What are the two types of Unwinds?

54 – Lev (pp. 273 – 274)

1. Who marches by the volleyball wearing all white?

55 – Risa (pp. 274 – 276)

1. What is Risa’s “job”?

56 – Connor (pp. 276 – 279)

1. What happens to Connor as he’s trying to leave for dinner?

57 – Lev pp. (279 – 284)

1. What is life like for the tithes at Happy Jack?
2. With whom has Lev secretly been meeting?
3. In reality, what are the little round band-aids?

58 – Connor (pp. 285 – 287)

1. What happens between Connor and Risa?

59 – Roland (pp. 286 – 287)

1. How does Roland behave as he is taken to the Chop Shop?

60 – Harvest (pp. 287 – 288)

1. What does it “take” to Unwind a human being?

61 – Roland (pp. 288 – 294)

1. What is your reaction to Roland’s Unwinding? How do you feel about this process?

62 – Lev (pp. 294 – 300)

1. What does the pastor show the tithes that disgusts Lev?
2. Who does Lev see on his way back to the tithing house?

63 – Guard (pp. 300 – 302)

1. How do Mai and Blaine gain access to the Chop Shop?

64 – Connor (pp. 302 – 304)

1. Why have the guards come to Connor’s room?
2. How does he handle the situation?

65 – Clappers (pp. 304 – 313)

1. What role did Mai play in killing the Goldens?
2. What happens to Blaine?
3. For whom does Mai “clap”?
4. Who do the Unwinds believe is responsible for blowing up the Chop Shop?

Part Seven – Consciousness

66 – Connor (pp. 317 – 319)

1. How does Connor get his new identity?
2. What does Connor realize about his new arm?

67 – *Risa* (pp. 319 – 322)

1. Who “saves” both Connor and Risa?
2. Why does Risa refuse surgery that will allow her to walk again?

68 – *Lev* (pp. 323 – 329)

1. What is Lev’s physical situation?
2. What does Pastor Dan share with Lev?
3. Who is petitioning for guardianship of Lev?
4. How does Pastor Dan explain his departure from the church, but not from God?

69 – *Unwinds* (pp. 329 – 335)

1. Who is now running the Graveyard?
2. Why is Emby invited to Harlan’s (Humphrey’s) party?
3. What is Connor’s plan for the Unwinds?
4. What happens when all of Harlan’s “parts” come together at the party?