

Chapters One – Five Comprehension Check

As you read and take notes using the note-taking technique described on page 12, use the Comprehension Check questions below to help guide your understanding of all aspects of the novel. You may want to use these questions to help you take notes. After reading the given chapters, answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Chapter One

1. What was Max's nickname in daycare? Why was he called that?
2. What does Max mean by "...the year Gram and Grim took me over..."?
3. Who is Freak?
4. What does Grim mean when he says that Maxwell is "getting to look a lot like *him*"?
5. When does Freak move into the duplex down the street from Max?

Chapter Two

1. Where does Max live? Why?
2. How does Max describe himself?
3. What does Max mean by "...your basic chunk of chain-link heaven"?
4. Who is "the Fair Gwen"? Describe her as Max would.
5. What is Kevin doing as the movers are moving them in to their new home?

Chapter Three

1. Why is Kevin waving his crutch up at the tree and trying to jump up and down?
2. What does Max do to help? What do they end up doing?
3. Why do you think Kevin isn't embarrassed to have Max pulling him in the wagon?

Chapter Four

1. Why does Kevin refer to his mom as "the Fair Gwen of Air"?
2. Describe Kevin's fascination with knights?
3. Describe the relationship Kevin makes between King Arthur's men and today's robots.
4. According to Kevin, what is robotics and how is it used?
5. When comparing TV to books, Kevin says, "Books are like truth serum—if you don't read, you can't figure out what's real." What do you think he means by this?
6. Explain why Gwen is so worried about Kevin being with Max.

Chapter Five

1. Why does Gwen call to apologize?
2. Why do you think Max feels so uncomfortable about having dinner with Kevin and Gwen?
3. What does Freak mean when he says, "What she means is, you're a *spitting image* of your old man"?
4. Why does Max begin to cry as he lies down on his bed that night?