



Handout

Chapter Questions

Chapter 7

1. As chapter seven begins, Cole finds himself needing to “clear the anger and pressure from his mind.” Does this bode well for Cole’s healing process? Why or why not?
2. What weapon does Cole create and how does he make it? What does he intend to use it for?
3. Cole plans on escaping the island, yet still attempts to kill Spirit Bear. What does this say about Cole, and his respect for life?
4. As Cole inches towards Spirit Bear, he stops, looks around, and becomes aware that nobody is watching and he could easily back away. What compels him to keep approaching Spirit Bear?
5. Describe Spirit Bear and its characteristics.
6. What do you think will happen when Cole gets close enough to kill Spirit Bear?

Chapter 8

1. Describe Spirit Bear’s attack on Cole.
2. As Cole lays bleeding, he thinks to himself “What luck... [t]o end up on an island with a stupid bear that didn’t have brains enough to run away.” Has Cole realized his responsibility for what has happened?
3. Cole states he would rather be in a prison cell than on the island. What are his reasons?
4. What does Cole’s crushing of the caterpillar indicate about his personality, even in his beaten state?
5. Look back to Peter’s comments at the Circle on page 50. What parallels are there between what Peter wanted for Cole and what has happened to him?
6. Do you feel bad for what has happened to Cole? Why or why not?

Chapter 9

1. Cole comments that “Nobody else cared about him, so why should he care about himself?” Is it true that nobody else cares about him? Even if nobody cares about Cole, why should he care about himself?
2. What happens to the tree with the sparrow’s nest during the electrical storm?
3. Why do you think Cole calls out to see if the baby sparrows are okay?