



PROMPTS for Discussion and Writing

Title:	Sylvia Doe and the 100-Year Flood
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COMMON CORE COMPATIBLE

***Sylvia Doe and the 100-Year Flood* and its educational
materials are well-suited for Common Core and similar
state standards.**

Educational materials for *Sylvia Doe and the 100-Year
Flood*:

Prompts for Discussion and Writing
Activities, Assignments, and Quizzes
Vocabulary

Go to robertbeattybooks.com/education for links to the
PDF files, teacher testimonials, and other resources.

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and/or group discussion prompts for *Sylvia Doe and the 100-
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After Reading the Book

1. **At the beginning of the book, Sylvia doesn't know what race she is or where she comes from.** Do you think it's important to know where you come from, what people you come from, and how you fit in to the history that came before you?
2. **Sylvia often has to work through failure.** What kinds of things does Sylvia fail at before she succeeds? How does thinking of herself as someone who fails at things help or hinder her? What is your relationship to failure? How does it make you feel? How do the people around you think about failure? How might you think about failure differently?
3. **Sylvia often refers to "the bond of the herd."** Who/what are part of Sylvia's "herd"? What does it take to be part of a herd? What are the advantages and drawbacks? Why might some animals organize themselves in herds? How might being a part of a herd make someone feel?
4. **For much of the book, Sylvia is trying to figure out where she is "supposed to be" or where she "belongs."** What kinds of things make Sylvia feel like she "belongs" somewhere? How does she figure out where or what she is "supposed" to be? What kinds of experiences help you feel like you "belong" somewhere? Have you ever felt like you were "supposed to be" in a different time or place? If so, what made you feel that way?
5. **In chapter 11 on pages 75 and 76, Sylvia reflects on whether she would rather be a peregrine falcon or a crow.** What do the falcon and the crow symbolize to Sylvia? Where in the book do you see Sylvia behaving more like a falcon, and where does she behave more like a crow? Are you drawn more to the image of the falcon or the image of crow, and why? What animal inspires you, and why?



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6. **One theme of the book is climate change.** What events in the book do Sylvia and Mason attribute to climate change? What do you know about climate change? What do you think about it? Why do you think people disagree about climate change? How could people learn more about it?
7. **The book contrasts an orphanage system with a foster care system.** Why do you think orphanages were more popular in Jorna's time and foster care is the preferred option now? What issues does the book raise about orphanages and about foster care? What is your opinion on these issues, and why?
8. **Sylvia has many different feelings about the river over the course of the novel.** What are some of the things the river symbolizes for Sylvia? What does Mason tell Sylvia about the river? What does the river symbolize to you in the story, and why?
9. **The events of the novel lead Sylvia to think a lot about time.** How does it make Sylvia feel to think about what came before her and what will come after her? How often do you think about these things? Take some time to imagine what came before you and what will come after you in the place and time that you live. What sorts of things did you imagine?
10. **The events of the novel pit humans against nature.** Sometimes, people are fighting nature, such as sandbagging to protect buildings from the flood. At other times, though, Mason advises Sylvia to "go with the current" and give in to the forces of nature. What messages do you see in the book about how humans should get along with nature? How have your experiences shaped your relationship to nature?



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11. **Sylvia is often a scientific thinker.** What are some places in the book where Sylvia figures out what something is or what an explanation might be for something? How would you describe Sylvia's thinking process in these places? What does she do, step by step? How and when might this way of thinking be useful to you?
12. **Sometimes, Sylvia relies more on her intuition.** At the end of the novel when Sylvia is about to reunite with her family, she thinks that "sometimes you just had to let go and allow the current to carry you." What does it mean to "let go and allow the current to carry you?" Have you ever done this? When in the novel do you see Sylvia letting the current carry her? In what kinds of situations do you think it's a good idea to follow your intuitions or instincts, and why do you think this?



Quotes to Think and Write About

There are many quotable moments in *Sylvia Doe and the 100-Year Flood* that invite reflection and writing. Choose a quote below, or one of your favorite lines from the book, to think about and explore through writing:

“‘You need a home,’ Mason said. ‘I’ve got a home!’ she replied fiercely. He tipped his chin up at her, clearly displeased with her sharp tone. ‘Not Highground. A real home, Sylvie.’” (19)

“‘There was too much . . . too much . . .’ ‘Too much what?’ he asked as he gathered supplies. ‘Concrete,’ she said finally. ‘City ain’t gonna kill ya,’ he grumbled. ‘You’ve got to at least try.’” (19)

“The time before that, they’d found her sleeping out in the field, the horses standing all around her like they were guarding her. The horses were her friends, her brothers and sisters, the only family she had.” (20)

“She couldn’t pretend she wasn’t scared, but she didn’t want to be sent back to the barn like a milquetoast little kid. She wanted to be useful.” (24)

“Kitty immediately understood what she wanted, and she was all for it. There’s nothing faster than a horse that agrees with the direction you’ve pointed it in.” (33)



“She looked around her, hoping to see a farmhouse or any other kind of human habitation. There was nothing but darkness and trees and rain. She looked at her dying Kitty Hawk and the dying boy. It all seemed so hopeless. She couldn’t call an ambulance. And she couldn’t ride for help.... She needed Nurse Raylin or Mason or somebody. Anybody! But there was no Mason. And there was no nurse. There was just her.” (37)

“She had been through the school’s CPR course twice. But she had failed it both times. That was the way it was with her. At nearly everything she tried. The first time she tried riding a horse, she fell off it. The first time she took an algebra test, she bombed it. The first time she skated on the ice of Highground’s frozen pond, she fell through it. Failure after failure.” (37)

“Sylvia had learned from her *Field Guide to Ecology* how important it is that the various elements of the natural environment stay in balance, but there had been nothing in there about all this.” (52)

“She’d always liked that, the idea of being half one thing and half another. Sometimes, when she looked at her light brown complexion, she wondered if she was, too. She just had no idea what the halves were.” (53)

“Sylvia thought that sometimes she was the primary cause of her problems.” (64)

“This is what she and the horses were meant to be doing—running together, free and fast across the solid ground.” (69)

“‘Whatever’s happening, there’s no sense trying to fight it,’ he said. ‘The river’s too powerful. Sometimes it’s better just to swim with the current and let it take you. You know what I mean?’” (74)



“Sylvia knew Mason wanted to do what people thought was best for her. The administrators and teachers at Highground were always talking about finding her a home, getting her to where she was supposed to be. But that phrase ‘supposed to’ had always made her clench her jaw. What did that actually mean? Where was she *supposed* to be?” (75)

“She often wondered where she’d come from, who her people had been, what parts of her came from her mother or father, and what parts were just plain her.” (83)

“She had no idea whether she came from this area or not. For all she knew, she’d been born in a glass-walled skyscraper.... All she knew was that the only place she’d ever felt at home was with her horses at Highground.” (84)

“He seemed like a runner. And every runner has a reason. So what was his?” (85)

“All this time she’d thought of herself as a runaway. But maybe she wasn’t a runaway at all. Maybe she was more of a run-to.” (86)

“And yet, there it was, just flowing along, powerful and strong, as if it didn’t care about or even know all the things that it had done, as if this was how the water had always been. Such strange things this river of wonders and woes had brought into her life.” (91)

“But there was a stubbornness in her, something drawing her forward, telling her that she had to face whatever fate had in store for her today.” (98)



“‘I just didn’t feel like I belonged down there,’ she said. There was that word again. *Belong*. And something about the way she’d said it made Miss Solomon pause. The social worker pushed up her glasses again, then narrowed her eyes a little as she studied Sylvia. ‘When you say you felt like you didn’t belong, was it because the Glowermans are white? Because if that’s the—’ ‘It’s not that,’ Sylvia interrupted her. ‘Not at all.’” (103)

“She knew she’d always been a little different from other kids, but she often wondered what they saw when they looked at her. Maybe her faded plaid flannel shirt and her old leather riding boots had told this boy all that he thought he needed to know about her. Or maybe she smelled like wet horses and didn’t realize it. Perhaps it wasn’t anything like that at all.” (117-118)

“‘Girls like us need to stick together’.... With Madison being four years older, and her blond/blue hair, white skin, and pristine blue sneakers compared to Sylvia’s jet-black hair, light brownish skin, and old leather boots, it was physically impossible for them to look any more different from each other. But apparently, to Madison, there was something that made them an ‘us.’” (120)

“‘Jorna, please,’ she said. ‘Whatever it is, I’m not going to judge you.’ ‘Then you tell me who you are,’ he said, turning around and suddenly challenging her, like she was the one keeping secrets from him rather than the other way around. ‘What do you mean?’ she asked, taken aback. ‘I told you who I am.’ ‘You told me your name,’ he said. ‘But what are you doing here? Why are you helping me like this? And how did you learn all this stuff?’” (140)



“As she and Jorna finally went quiet and just sat for a while, there wasn’t any kind of awkwardness between them. They didn’t need to talk. Or move. Or do anything. She felt an unusual kind of contentment just being there with him, like for once, she was exactly where she belonged, doing exactly what she was supposed to be doing. *Belonged*. There was that word again. For years she had wondered where she belonged. Was it possible that it wasn’t a place but a person? Was it a family, a friend? Someone to love and to love her in return?” (148)

“But tonight, all those striving toward the same goal—these were their parents, these were their brothers and sisters, and this was their home, their barrier against the storm.” (158)

“Riding free brought her a sense of joy. It had taken years of practice, but she had reached the point where she didn’t steer her horse or control its speed with her reins as much as by shifting her heels and calves and changing her position in the saddle. Her horse wasn’t just an animal that she told what to do, but an extension of her own body.” (178)

“He told me that the soil we walk on is what’s left over from what used to be here, the life and death of trees and grasses and animals and even our ancestors. He said that the soil is compressed over time and becomes the layers of the earth, and those layers turn into the rock—a record of everything that has come before us.” (186)

“She had lived on this river most of her life, thinking only about the present, about who she was, and the animals and people that lived here now. She had never given much thought to the others who had come before her. But more and more, she was beginning to realize that there had been many others. And after her, many would follow.” (186)



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“She wondered how the people from the past affected her. Was she an entirely new thing walking upon the earth? Or was she—whether she knew it or not—a product of all that had come before her? Her parents, her people, whoever they were—were their layers in her now, even as disconnected as she was from them? The way she acted, what she cared about, how she treated people, how she viewed the world—in our lives, were there echoes through time, like waves on the water?” (187)

“She knew that horses had fears and anxieties, just like humans, and probably worse, because they were prey animals. But when it came to sticking together and fighting to survive, they had such bold and heroic hearts.” (213)

“Had he somehow jumped from his timeline to hers? Or were all the timelines happening at once? Was the universe like a giant celestial, mechanical clock? Or was it more like a watery sponge?” (216)

“Her rational mind was telling her that the entire universe was in motion. But her heart was telling her that the only important thing was the world she could see around her, the world she was feeling, the world she was sharing with Jorna. It was her anchor, her safe harbor. Nothing mattered except this moment, this life, on this rooftop with Jorna. Time had no meaning to her.” (217)

“In fact, she had the unsettling feeling that they weren’t controlling most of what was happening to them. They weren’t the sun and the moon and the flowing water; they were the driftwood.” (222)



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“As her heart swelled, she leaned forward and pressed her lips to his. He kissed her back, and for a moment there was no his time and her time. There were no stars spiraling in the universe, no water flowing through the tunnels of time; there was just the now. After she’d seen him drowning in the river and dragged him out of the water, she had breathed life into him. Now, it felt like he was breathing life into her.” (242)

“But as she blocked the tunnel, sure that she was saving the lives of many, many innocent people downstream, she also knew that she was destroying the one life she had finally found for herself.” (244)

“She’d been so focused on getting Jorna back to his family that she now had no idea what to do with herself. Or even how to feel.” (245)

“Sylvia had left friendship and love behind her. And she had destroyed the only way back to it. All that lay ahead was empty motion. But she knew she had to wrap her mind around the fact that this was the world she was in. Like it or not, she had to face the cold, desolate reality of continuing on.” (252)

“She had missed her chance of going back to where she belonged. She was in the wrong place, and she had lost too much.” (255)

“More and more, it felt as if her old life at Highground was fading behind her. It was as if the river had washed it out of her. The current had cut a new course across the earth, and she was walking on its soil.” (261-262)

“‘Sometimes, it’s the things you do to yourself that hurt the most,’ he said, and she couldn’t agree more.” (264)



“There’s always the floods, and there’s always the nutrients—in one form or another. You know what I mean?” (265)

“The river giveth and the river taketh away, I guess.” (266)

“The jacket was a different style than the one she’d had before, and no longer a girl’s size, but a woman’s size. It fit her body perfectly. She felt like a young medieval knight who had damaged her chain mail in a great battle and was now donning an entire new suit of armor.” (267)

“There is one more thing I want to say about some of the troubles you’ve been having. When you find yourself swimming in difficult water, you don’t always have to fight it. Sometimes it’s all right to just let the current take you for a while, and see what’s around the next bend. Sometimes things will get better.” (267)

“There was only one thing she knew for sure, and that was something was telling her not to leave this valley, no matter what. Whether it was in this century or the one before it, this place was her true home. It was where she belonged. Something—beyond Mason, beyond the horses—something deep down in her soul was telling her she had to stay.” (272)

“She hadn’t told him where she was going, but she was pretty sure he’d figured she was heading upstream. Toward freedom. From the state system. From Highground. Even from him, and the love and security he’d provided over the years. All of it.” (283)

“There were some things you could adapt to, but others you couldn’t, especially if you were a cold-blooded reptile in freezing water.” (284)



“Something pushed her forward. It was everything she’d been through. And it was Jorna. But more than anything, it was the deep and insatiable desire to get to where she belonged, wherever, or whenever, that was.” (285)

“She had no idea to what kind of parents she had been born, but she knew she had no innate talent for anything, no magical powers, and no special gifts. Nothing ever came easy to her. Nothing ever worked the first time. Fall and fail and learn and climb—that was her way. Whether it was horseback riding or rock climbing or science or finding the path through her life, failure was how she got to where she was going.” (286)

“Maybe she had imagined the whole thing. Everything. Maybe it had all just been some sort of delusion—a strange, twisted fantasy filled with weird creatures, a deserted town, a Cherokee traveler, and a golden-eyed, waterlogged boy who had made her heart long for another world.” (287)

“Getting an idea, she dug into her gear and pulled out the sapphire hammer that Adawosga had made. Number nine on the Mohs hardness scale, she remembered—hard enough to cut through anything other than diamond. Into the boulder’s surface she carved a two-inch-wide letter J, the perfect size and shape to hold the tip of the crowbar. As with Adawosga, she was engraving the first letter of her love’s name. But this time it wasn’t a gravestone—it was a life stone.” (291)

“It left her wondering about everything she had been through and all that she had seen, about the river and the earth, about the land and the floods. Over the course of hundreds of millions of years, which one was more powerful? The hard, immovable mountains that blocked the water? Or the pliant, flowing water that shaped the mountains? She didn’t know the answer. All she knew was that she had pushed the boulder out of her way. And now she had to face the river.” (294)



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“She saw no automobiles, billboards, traffic lights, video signs, or any of the other things she would expect to see. She liked the fact that people were riding horses down the center of the street as if it was the most normal thing to do in the world.” (298)

“But as she looked down the street, something else pulled at her, told her to keep going to see what was farther on. She had come all this way, but she sensed her journey was not yet done. She walked down the rest of Main Street, past the shops and small restaurants, and then reached the outskirts of town, along the road that ran parallel to the river. Always the river. She was traveling on instinct.” (301)

“Staring up at the sign, she said, ‘Wah-yah,’ in the way a Cherokee person would pronounce it, letting the currents of the familiar sound pass through her with the ease of water flowing to lower ground. These were sounds she had heard before, back in the ancient times of her life.” (302)

“She had gone against the current to get here. She had swum upstream in the river of time. Despite all she was seeing, and all the feelings welling up inside her, she wasn’t sure it was real. Or if she belonged here. She didn’t know the people who had just sat down for dinner. She didn’t even know what year it was. But like Mason had told her the last time they were together, sometimes you just had to let go and allow the current to carry you. And right now, it was carrying her toward the people gathered around that table.” (304)

“The pull of the woman’s embrace felt like a wave of warm ocean water washing over Sylvia, and she knew then that she was still alive and not dreaming.” (306)



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“She wrote about place, and family, and the people who came before her, and how little each of us knows about our own history. She wrote about the current of time, how it’s always flowing, pushing us forward, such that we can barely look back to see what was behind us. *Life is all forgetting. Each of us is born, and lives, and does the best we can, and loves the people around us, and maybe that particular now is all that matters.* But a part of her kept wondering how much different and deeper the world around us would feel if we understood a little more about what had come before. And what was going to come after.” (308-309)

“A field guide, she thought. For the lost ones. For Jorna and Mason and Adawosga and Ms. Romeroz—anyone who might need a little company along the way. She knew that writing this didn’t make much sense, that it told a story that few people would care about. Was her book about the river, or was it about her? Was it written to help and guide others, or was it for her own understanding?” (310)



Questions As You Read

After you read each of these sections of the book, consider these questions:

Chapters 1 – 4 (pp 1 - 21)

1. Why did Sylvia run away from her foster home?
2. What kind of place is Highground Home for Children? What kinds of children live there? What do you imagine life is like there?
3. Why are there sandhill cranes everywhere?
4. Why is Sylvia's last name *Doe*?
5. What do you think has caused the huge storm?
6. Why do you think Sylvia can't remember anything about her earlier life?
7. Why do you think the river is glowing with blue light? What might the light be?
8. Who is Kitty Hawk and what is Sylvia's relationship with her?
9. Who is Mason and what is Sylvia's relationship with him?
10. Who is Miss Solomon in relation to Sylvia?



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Chapters 5 – 6 (pp 22 - 39)

1. Why do you think the horses have left their usual pastures?
2. Who is Goliath?
3. Why does Mason want Sylvia to return to the barn?
4. Why doesn't Sylvia return to the barn when Mason tells her to?
5. Why does it make no sense that there is a jaguar climbing out of the river?
6. How does Sylvia feel about the river?
7. How does Sylvia get the boy out of the river?
8. Can horses hold their breath under water?
9. Is Sylvia good at things the first time she tries them?
10. How does Sylvia try to revive the drowned boy?



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Chapters 7 – 9 (pp 40 - 62)

1. Where does Sylvia think the boy might have come from?
2. Who do you think the boy might be hiding from, and why?
3. Why do you think the boy won't tell Sylvia his name?
4. Why does Sylvia leave the boy alone?
5. Why does Sylvia walk back to Highground instead of riding Kitty Hawk?
6. Why does Sylvia love her barn jacket so much? And if she loves it so much, why does she give it away to the boy?
7. Why are the crops and forests not doing well?
8. Where are the horses?
9. How do the horses react to seeing Sylvia?
10. What has trapped the horses?



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Chapters 10 – 12 (pp 63 - 86)

1. How does Sylvia rescue the horse Beatrice?
2. What are the dogs Sylvia sees swimming in the river, and why is she surprised to see them?
3. How does Sylvia get the gate open?
4. What's the first thing Sylvia does when she is back safe in the barn?
5. What happened to Mason and Goliath?
6. Why do you think the river is flooding more than it ever has before?
7. What is a 100-year flood?
8. How do you think the boy lit the fire?
9. What is the boy's name?
10. Where did the boy's last name come from and what might it mean about his family?



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Chapters 13 – 15 (pp 87 - 110)

1. Why does Sylvia stay with the boy instead of going back to the barn?
2. What is the dark blue crystal that Sylvia finds?
3. How does Sylvia identify the crystal?
4. Why is Sylvia surprised that Jorna doesn't have a phone?
5. What is Bainbridge?
6. How does Sylvia find out about Bainbridge?
7. Where do you think Sylvia's scars might have come from?
8. How do you think Sylvia and Miss Solomon feel about each other? What in the text makes you think this?
9. Why does Miss Solomon think Sylvia might have run away from her foster home with the Glowermans?
10. What is Sylvia's relationship with Mason?



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Chapters 16 – 17 (pp 111 - 138)

1. Who is Mrs. Bingman?
2. Who is Madison?
3. Who is Ms. Romero?
4. What is Sylvia's relationship with Ms. Romero?
5. How does Sylvia think she is different from the other kids?
6. What might Madison mean when she describes Sylvia and herself as "girls like us"?
7. Why do you think Jorna stayed instead of continuing to run away?
8. Why is Sylvia so surprised when she and Jorna find a Carolina parakeet in the river?
9. Why does Jorna know so much about gemstones?
10. Why does finding the rose quartz make Jorna sad?



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Chapters 18 – 19 (pp 139 - 159)

1. What is Sylvia's only memory of her parents? What do you think this means about how she came to Highground?
2. Why is Jorna on the run?
3. How did Jorna end up in the river?
4. Why does Jorna say that he stayed instead of running away?
5. Why does Kitty Hawk start squealing and wake Sylvia up?
6. Why does Sylvia send Jorna off on Kitty Hawk to hide?
7. Why are police and firefighters at Highground?
8. How does Sylvia try to help Mason deal with the flooding?
9. What has happened to Madison?
10. Why does Mrs. Bingman scream?



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Chapters 20 – 21 (pp 160 - 188)

1. Why is Jorna so freaked out by the helicopter?
2. Why does Sylvia get angry at Jorna?
3. What are some of the reasons Sylvia comes up with for why Jorna says he was born in 1888?
4. What year does Jorna say he thinks it is?
5. What makes Sylvia ultimately believe Jorna about when he is from?
6. Why are the trees in the present smaller than they were in Jorna's time?
7. Why do you think Sylvia decides to try to get Jorna home instead of staying to help at Highground?
8. What does Sylvia tell Mason about where she has gone?
9. Why is it surprising to see Bristol's pandas?
10. What kinds of fossils do Sylvia and Jorna find in the cave?



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Chapters 22 – 23 (pp 188 - 208)

1. How do Valiant and Jorna get injured?
2. Why do Valiant and Jorna have to be rescued?
3. Who helps rescue Valiant and Jorna?
4. Who is Adawosga?
5. What is Adawosga doing there?
6. When is Adawosga from and how does Sylvia figure that out?
7. What does Adawosga do with Sylvia's sapphire?
8. What are the Chutes?
9. Why do you think Sylvia has never heard of Sapphire Cove?
10. What do Sylvia and Jorna find when they get to Sapphire Cove?



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Chapters 24 – 26 (pp 209 - 230)

1. How do Sylvia and Jorna figure out how to escape the whirlpool?
2. Why does Sylvia have to force Jorna to eat?
3. Where did Jorna's bracelet come from and what does it say?
4. What does Sylvia dream about when she and Jorna are sleeping on the roof of the hotel?
5. What is equine therapy and how does Sylvia know about it?
6. What happens to the river at the Chutes?
7. Why do you think Sylvia thinks the answer to what is going on lies in the Chutes?
8. What are the brown things on the rock by the chutes and why is Sylvia surprised to see them?
9. What do you think Sylvia's theory is about the whirlpools, and why do you think that?
10. Why does Sylvia do something so dangerous by climbing into the hole at the Chutes?



Chapters 27 – 29 (pp 231 - 251)

1. Why does Jorna go with Sylvia through the hole in the Chutes when he begs her not to go?
2. Where do Sylvia and Jorna think the blue water is coming from?
3. Where and when is the first place Sylvia and Jorna end up as they go through the Chutes?
4. What does it mean that “the Chutes were a labyrinth of time”?
5. Where and when is the second place Sylvia and Jorna end up as they go through the Chutes?
6. How is the storm connected to what is happening at the Chutes?
7. Why does Sylvia leave Jorna in his own time if he is the only person her age she’s ever connected with?
8. Why does Sylvia block the tunnel leading to Jorna’s time?
9. What does Sylvia lose when she goes through the Chutes back to Highground? What does she still have after she goes through the Chutes?
10. What does Sylvia realize when she sees the cuts on her arms from the rocks in the Chutes?



Chapters 30 – 31 (pp 252 - 268)

1. Why isn't Sylvia happy to see the horse herd at Highground again?
2. Why does Sylvia go to her Physics class when she is still exhausted and hurt from going through the Chutes?
3. What question about time does Sylvia ask Ms. Romero?
4. Why does Ms. Romero not think that Sylvia's question about time is strange?
5. What does Sylvia figure out about Ms. Romero, and how does she figure it out?
6. What does Sylvia decide about Highground's founder, and why does she decide this? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
7. Why does Highground not feel like home to Sylvia anymore?
8. What does Mason say when Sylvia asks him why people live next to the river if it floods? What do you think this means?
9. What is Mason's advice to Sylvia about what to do when things get difficult? Do you agree with this advice? Why or why not?
10. What do you think Miss Solomon is going to tell Sylvia, and why do you think that?



Chapters 32 – 34 (pp 269 - 287)

1. Does Miss Solomon want Sylvia to go to Bainbridge?
2. How does Mason want to stop Sylvia's being sent to Bainbridge?
3. Why won't Mason's plan work?
4. What does Sylvia tell Mason to do about Miss Solomon? Why do you think she tells him this?
5. What does Sylvia tell Mason she is taking from Highground, and why do you think she takes it?
6. What does Sylvia think Mason will tell the Bainbridge authorities when they come looking for her? Why does she think this is what he will do?
7. What does Sylvia think will happen to the alligator she sees in the river? What does she think will happen to the jaguar?
8. What is pushing Sylvia to go back through the Chutes, even though it is so dangerous? What in the text makes you think this?
9. What does Sylvia have to do to get to the Chutes now that she has to go up the waterfall?
10. What does Sylvia mean when she thinks "failure was how she got to where she was going"?



Chapters 35 – Epilogue (pp 288 - 310)

1. Why might Sylvia think she may have imagined everything that has happened?
2. What is Sylvia's mantra as she tries to get back to her time? Why does it help her keep going?
3. How does Sylvia move the boulder blocking the tunnel she wants to go in?
4. Why does Sylvia try to block the tunnel again after she passes through it?
5. How do you think that Sylvia knows that Jorna's time is the time she is supposed to be in?
6. Would you like to live in Jorna's time in a town like Sapphire Cove? Why or why not?
7. Why does Sylvia not look for Jorna but instead passes through Sapphire Cove and keeps walking along the river?
8. Where did the names of the horses at Highground come from?
9. Where did Sylvia's field guides at Highground come from?
10. Why do you think Sylvia puts the book she writes in a jar and tosses it in the river?