Chapter 1

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. germinate
 | 1. precepts
 | 1. desolate
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| 1. valiantly
 | 1. rote
 | 1. monotonous
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| 1. perturbed
 | 1. blasphemy
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**Questions:**

1. List the main characters introduced to the reader in the first chapter. Provide a brief description of each character.

David – a boy, main character, curious, independent

Sophie – brave, sensible, careful

Mrs. Wender (Sophie’s mother) – kind, protective

Rosalind

Mary

1. Why did Mary caution David not to tell his dream to anyone?

“other people, as far as she knew, did not have such pictures in their heads” (5)

* The danger of being different
1. The city David dreams about contains images with which he is not familiar. Name at least three. How does his dream help establish the setting of the book?
* “carts running with no horses to pull them” (5) – cars
* “things in the sky, shiny fish-shaped things that certainly were not birds (5) – airplanes
* “the lights lay like strings of glow-worms along the shore, and a few of them seemed to be sparks drifting on the water, or in the air” (5) – electric lights
* Tells us that David lives in a world without our modern technological developments
1. How does David feel about the images he sees in his dream?
* He describes it as “wonderful”, “beautiful, fascinating” (5).
1. What is the image of God as decreed by Waknuk society? Quote directly.

“And God created man in His own image. And God decreed that man should have one body, one head, two arms, and two legs…” (10)

It is very clear EXACTLY how a human is supposed to look; anything different is considered dangerous, including a small deviation like Sophie’s extra toe.

1. David gives an indication of special abilities in reference to Mrs. Wender. What are these abilities? Why does this allow David to especially appreciate his promise?

“I could feel her anxiety strongly…I was surprised by her, for there had been no sign before that she could think in that way. I thought back to her, trying to reassure her and show her that she need not be anxious about me, but the thought didn’t reach her.” (11)

“Her own thoughts were all worry and shapelessness as she kept looking at me. I tried again, but still couldn’t reach them.” (12)

“It was no good thinking back to her, so I tried clumsily to emphasize in words that I had meant what I said.” (12)

We see here that David’s ability to communicate telepathically allows him to feel people’s emotions. This gives him a clearer sense of what people are feeling that cannot be achieved with words.

1. What connection between education and experience does David make? Why does it upset him?

“I was abruptly perturbed – and considerably puzzled, too. A blasphemy was, as had been impressed upon me often enough, a frightful thing. Yet there was nothing frightful about Sophie. She was simply an ordinary little girl – if a great deal more sensible and brave than most. Yet, according to the Definition…” (14)

David has been told that any kind of “deviation” is terrible and scary, but his experience with a deviated person shows him that this is not true. This upsets him because he is discovering that what he has been told may not be entirely true.

Chapter 2

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. tedious
 | 1. rectitude
 | 1. pious
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| 1. ominous
 | 1. menace
 | 1. mutant
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| 1. meticulous
 | 1. deviation
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**Questions:**

1. What is the name of David’s community? Who built it? What position does his family hold because of this?

The community is called Waknuk because of a long-forgotten “tradition” (15). This shows us that the people are trying to follow the old ways but don’t fully understand the past.

Waknuk was built by David’s grandfather, Elias Strorm, fifty years earlier (15).

“I lived, in fact, on the most prosperous farm in a prospering district.” (22) David lives on the biggest, wealthiest, and oldest farm in the community. His father is a man of “local consequence” (17), which means that he is an important person in the community.

1. What is the big sign that hangs facing the main door to David’s house? Explain why this is an example of foreshadowing.

“WATCH THOU FOR THE MUTANT!” (18) This warns us that there may be mutants in unexpected places.

1. How is David’s father “a man of local consequence”?

“He was still the largest landowner, he still continued to preach frequently on Sundays and to explain with practical clarity the laws and held in heaven…and he appointed the laws temporal” (17). David’s father is a moral and legal authority in the community.

1. What was the procedure in the Waknuk district regarding ‘offences”?
* Call the inspector when things “did not look *right*” (19) – shows that there are no exact rules for deviations
* “slaughterings and burnings” (19)
* Humans?
1. What are the differences between the livable areas, the Fringes, and the Badlands? Considering the effects of radiation, explain the existence of these three states.
* Livable areas – “stability of stock and crops” (20)
* Fringes – “where nothing was dependable” (20)
* Badlands – “about which nobody knew anything…usually anybody who went to the Badlands died there, and the one or two men who had come back from them did not last long” (20)
* The nuclear event appears to have happened out west, so the radiation lessens as you go east. Near the radiation, the majority of crops, animals, and humans are deviated. Further east, the effects are not so bad.
1. Who were the Fringe people? What problems did the Fringe people impose on the people of Waknuk?

People with deviations who “came out into civilized parts to steal grain and livestock and clothes and tools and weapons, too, if they could; and sometimes they carried off children.” (20)
2. What evidence is there in Waknuk of an earlier civilization?

References to the “Old People” (17).

1. Who were the Old People and what were they like?

They built structures in “superhuman fashion” (17).