Chapter 11

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. propitious
 | 1. appease
 | 1. lament
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| 1. crude
 | 1. propensity
 | 1. aggrieve
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| 1. orthodoxy
 | 1. tribunal
 | 1. overt
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**Questions:**

1. What are the circumstances of Petra’s second distress signal? What is the dangerous result of Petra’s continued distress?

Petra has wandered off into the woods with her pony, where she has been attacked by a fierce deviational creature. Her pony has been killed and Petra is stuck high up in a tree.

Her distress signal is so strong that is disables everybody in the group and prevents them from communicating with one another, so they all go in search of her and meet as a group for the first time.

1. Who is Jerome Skinner, and why is he a significant character? What strategy does the group have in case this should happen again?

Jerome Skinner is a new man in town who sees Sally and Katherine rushing to join the group. He follows them and finds the group gathered around Petra in the woods. He is suspicious and demands to see their IDs. He eventually lets them go but is still “dissatisfied and a little puzzled” (110). This is the first time that the group has physically gathered together, and it immediately arouses suspicion.

Rosalind suggests that if Petra sends out another distress signal, they should ignore it and trust that David and Rosalind will deal with it. However, if Petra’s signal is “compulsive” like the first time, and they have no choice but to answer it, the person who arrives first will try to make Petra unconscious so that the others can get away.

1. What is important about the “others” that Petra can telepathically communicate with, both in terms of Petra’s ability and the telepaths’ social status?

The others are much further away to the south-west, so far that David and the others cannot detect them at all.
2. Why does Uncle Axel tell his story about Grouth? How did Uncle Axel find out about Petra?

Grouth was the owner of a dive (a low-end bar) in Rigo who had been able to control his staff because he had information about them. Alan looked at David, Rosalind, Rachel, and Petra with the same expression in church, as if he had information about them that he could use to control them. (118)

1. How did Uncle Axel figure out that Alan knew about the telepaths?

Because Alan was looking only at the four members of the group, and he was married to Anne, Axel figured that Anne must have told Alan about the group’s abilities.

1. Who killed Alan and why?

Axel killed Alan because he was trying to protect David and the others. He felt that Alan was either going to blackmail them or expose them. Since no one had any reason to suspect Axel, he felt that there was “very little risk” (119) for him.
2. What grave strategies do the group decide upon when Uncle Axel warns them of the inquiries being made about them?

Their first approach is to pretend that they know nothing. However, they are concerned about Petra because she is still too young to understand. David is given the responsibility of killing either an attacker or Petra herself in order to prevent Petra from being taken. If she is taken, she will eventually reveal herself and the others, be sterilized, and sent to the Fringes. They also decided to be ready to run for it at any moment if necessary. (120)

1. By this time, what is the relationship between David and Rosalind? How do their families’ feelings for each other affect this relationship?

Chapter 12

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. prudent
 | 1. hullabaloo
 | 1. impetuous
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| 1. interlude
 | 1. obstinately
 | 1. pacify
 |
| 1. imminent
 | 1. retrospective
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**Questions:**

1. What event caused the panic at the beginning of chapter twelve?

Sally and Katherine are taken away. David, Petra, and Rosalind run away in order to avoid being taken as well.
2. Who was the most prepared to meet this crisis? Give reasons for your answer.

Rosalind was the most prepared of the three of them. She had “spent two solid hours packing up these panniers and getting the saddles slung up ready for an emergency” (126). Meanwhile, David made some plans to pack the next day, but was not nearly as prepared as Rosalind. Petra is still too young to fully understand the situation. This shows us that Rosalind is more mature than David.

1. How did Rosalind’s mother react to Rosalind’s departure? What does David wonder about his own mother?

“When I told her this evening that I thought it very likely I’d have to go, she cried – but she wasn’t really surprised; she didn’t try to argue, or dissuade me. I had a sort of feeling that she’d already resolved at the back of her mind that she’d have to help me one day, when the time came, and she did.” (126). Rosalind’s mother has already guessed that Rosalind is somehow deviant and will one day have to leave. She is upset but ready to help her daughter when the time comes.

On the other hand, David cannot imagine Emily “doing such a thing for Petra’s sake” (126). Emily has shown such strong commitment to purity in the past, as evidenced by the scenario with Harriet, that David is unsure of whether Emily would have acted to protect her own children. He does remember that Emily cried after Harriet’s visit, and wonders if Emily will be glad that David has “taken Petra away” (126).

1. What strategy are the thought-shape young adults using to let Rosalind, David, and Petra get away?

The group is heading south-west, sleeping during the day and travelling at night. (127) Meanwhile, Michael is going to volunteer to join the groups of men that will be out hunting for the group in order to mislead them. He is going to “plant a report of [their] having been seen making south-east. When that peters out, we’ll have Mark start up another to take them north-west.” (127).

1. Why is Waknuk society so badly upset about the Chrysalid group?

People are extra scared because of the “Fringes scare” (127) – “everybody’s more suspicious than usual because of these rumours of large-scale trouble from the Fringes” (chapter 11 – page 120).

1. Why are the people of Waknuk so eager to catch the telepaths, more eager than they would be for other fleeing mutants?

“But what’s got them so agitated about us is that nothing shows. We’ve been living among them for nearly twenty years and they didn’t suspect it. We could pass for normal anywhere…They’re afraid of us…What they’ve seen is that we could be a real danger to them. Imagine if there were a lot more of us than there are, able to think together and plan and co-ordinate without all their machinery of words and messages: we could outwit them all the time. They find that a very unpleasant thought; so we are to be stamped out before there can be any more of us. They see it as a matter of survival – and they may be right, you know.” (131-132).

People are scared because the group has been living in the community undetected for nearly twenty years. The authorities are also concerned that people with an ability for telepathy could work together to take power. The people in charge are afraid the unknown and of losing power.

Petra makes contact with a lady from far away. What are the clues that tell us where she is from? Give at least three examples. What do David and the others learn about this place and how is this relevant to David’s dreams?

“She’s a long way, a very long, long way away, I think.” (134)

* + She is somewhere to the south-west, in a place with an unfamiliar name that has “two parts of it and a lot of water” (135)
	+ She doesn’t know where Labrador is (135)
	+ She is in a place called Zealand that the others have never heard of (136)
	+ The sun is shining even though it is the middle of the night in Waknuk (136)
	+ “’It’s a place with lots and lots of houses, different from Waknuk houses, and much, much bigger. And there are funny carts without horses running along the roads. And things in the air, with whizzing things on top of them’ – I was jolted to recognize the picture from the childhood dreams that I had almost forgotten” (136). Petra describes the city that David saw in his dreams as a child.
1. What “mutation” is there in the Waknuk alphabet?

They appear to have lost the letter “Z” (136).

1. What makes Rosalind, David, and Petra press on hurriedly?

“They’ve picked up your trail, David. That man Rosalind shot: his dog found him, and they came across the great-horse tracks. Our lot is turning back to the south-west to join in the hunt. You’d better push on.” (138)

1. There is a major turning point in this chapter. Refer to Uncle Axel’s advice on page 57 to explain this.

Back in chapter 6, Axel tells David to wait to run away until he is old enough to take care of himself. Now, David is being forced to not only take care of himself in the Fringes, but to protect Rosalind and Petra as well.