Chapter 3

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. ponderously
 | 1. gravely
 | 1. incredulous
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| 1. abated
 | 1. implore
 | 1. implacable
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**Questions:**

1. What casual remark does David make in his home that alarms his family? What is their reaction, and why is it so extreme?

“I could have managed it all right myself if I’d had another hand” (26).

David says that he could have bandaged his own cut if he had a third hand. To his family, it sounds like he is asking for another hand, and to be a mutant. David’s father reacts by beating him because purity is so important to their family.

1. What further impressions do we get of David’s father?

“turning from amazement to anger” (26) – David’s father is quick to get angry

“I knew well enough that my father in his present mood would not try to understand” (27) – David’s father is not a good listener

“the anguish which had followed my father’s visit” (27) – David’s father has come to David’s room and beat him as punishment – he thinks that violence is an appropriate answer to his problems

1. Again, we are given a pointed reference to the Old People, and their way of life. What information are we given about them?

We see an old steam engine that is producing energy but not being used for anything. David and Sophie talk about how the Old People were able to do many things that they are “learning to do again” (25), but Sophie doesn’t believe in some of them, like flying.
2. What is the terrible, but prophetic dream that David has the night after his remark? Explain the symbolism and meaning of the dream. Also, explain how this dream is foreboding (a warning in advance; usually of something evil).

David dreams that Sophie is being “purified” or killed because she is a mutant. She acts just like a calf that was killed at an earlier Purification. The dream warns that Sophie and perhaps other mutants will soon be in danger from David’s father and people like him.

Chapter 4

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. dissemble
 | 1. kinship
 | 1. solemnly
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| 1. dissent
 | 1. beckoned
 | 1. reputed
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| 1. bigot
 | 1. pulpit
 | 1. penance
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| 1. tactful
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**Questions:**

1. Describe Uncle Axel’s character. Why does Uncle Axel warn David about his gift?
Axel is a good listener who treats everyone with respect, including children. In this way, he is unlike many other adults. Axel warns David about his gift because he understands that the adults will think that David, Rosalind, and the others are Deviants. He is concerned for David’s safety. (31)
2. Why was David so shocked by the appearance of the captured Fringes leader?
David is shocked because the Fringes leader because if you “put him in decent clothes, tidy up his beard, and he’d be the image of [his] father” (33). The leader looks very similar to David’s father.
3. What was Mr. Strorm’s reaction to the Fringes leader? What can you speculate about the prisoner’s identity?
“For a moment he stood staring, just as I had done – then all his colour drained away, and his face went blotchy grey”. (34)

“Then my father, still looking as though he were ill, put out his good hand to steady himself against the door-post, and turned back into the house” (34).

Mr. Strorm is also shocked when he sees the Fringes leader. He chooses to say nothing ignore the man. We can guess that the leader and Mr. Strorm are related.

1. Who is Angus Morton and what is his opinion of Joseph Strorm? What is Joseph’s opinion of Angus? What was the most recent cause of their antagonism?
Angus Morton is Emily’s half-brother, so he is David’s half-uncle. He is also Rosalind’s father.

“Differences of temperament and outlook had kept them intermittently at war with one another for years.” (35)

Angus and Joseph have different characters and opinions, so they are always in conflict with one another. Joseph thinks that Angus has no principles, while Angus thinks that Joseph is a bigot.

1. Outline David’s conception of the world as given in this chapter.
David is aware of the sea and how far away it is, though he has never seen it. He doesn’t know about what is in the Badlands, which are to the south and southwest. He thinks the rest of the world is either Badlands or Fringes. (39-40)
2. What is “Tribulation”? What Christian story does it resemble?
Tribulation is a penance that was sent because of “irreligious arrogance” (40). It is similar to the stories of destruction in the Bible, such as the Flood. Tribulation was so bad that they think it was a “combination of all these disasters” (40).
3. What connection is made between Tribulation and the climate of Labrador? What do you think had happened?
Labrador used to be a cold place where “no one could live…for long”(39), but after Tribulation it became a warmer place that people could live in. Possibly, a nuclear event caused the atmosphere to thicken and trap more heat. While Labrador is now warm enough to live in, the central areas of the world are probably to hot for human habitation.
4. What is the goal of the Waknuk people? Who decided the course towards that goal?

Their goal is to climb “back into grace” (40) by “fight[ing] unceasingly against the evils that Tribulation loosed upon it. Above all, he must see that the human form is kept true to the divine pattern in order that one day it may be permitted to regain the high place in which, as the image of God, it was set” (40). By maintain the purity of creation, humankind may be able to regain the high place that it once was in.