Chapter 5

**Vocabulary:**

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| 1. orthodox | 1. condemnation | 1. retribution |
| 1. desolation | 1. concealment | 1. rampage |

**Questions:**

1. What is the mark or measure of a good season among the Waknuk farmers?

“the average of Offences in the spring had been quite unusually low. The impending crops were so

orthodox that the inspector had posted only a single field, belonging to Angus Morton, for burning. Even among the vegetables there was little deviation…All in all, the season looked like setting up a Purity record” (42)

A good season is one with high Purity levels, or few deviations in the crops and livestock.

1. There is something ironic in the fact that Sophie is discovered in a "good" season. What might have happened if the crops and newborn animals had been deviant?

Since the crops and livestock are not deviant, people may be beginning to believe they are being rewarded and things are getting better. The appearance of Sophie as a Deviant may have seemed more serious because the season was going well. If the crops and animals had been deviant, people may have paid less attention to Sophie.

1. For what reason did Mr. and Mrs. Wender decline to take David with them?

The Wenders feel that if they just disappear, people might not try too hard to come after them. However, if it looks like they also stole David, Joseph Strorm and the whole community will be so angry that they’ll try much harder to find the Wenders. By leaving David behind, they have a higher chance of getting Sophie to safety.

1. Contrast the differences in which the inspector and David’s father react to David when he returns.   
     
   David’s father is angry and intends to beat David with a whip before the inspector stops him. This is very serious – Joseph could seriously hurt or even kill David with a whip.

On the other hand, the inspector speaks “calmly” in a “quiet, ordinary voice” (51). The inspector seems to be less motivated by anger and has a better understanding of how to speak to children.

1. What is the penalty for not reporting a human deviation?

“People go to prison for it.” (51)

1. “I couldn’t help it, Sophie. I couldn’t help it.” What do David’s words tell us?

This tells us that David betrayed Sophie by telling the inspector or his father about what happened with the Wenders.

Chapter 6

**Vocabulary:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. dubious | 1. meekly | 1. self-reproach |
| 1. profane | 1. formidable |  |

**Questions:**

1. What reaction did David get from Rosalind and the others when he explained his feelings about Sophie’s deviation? Why do they have this point of view?

“They wrestled with the novel idea that a Deviation might not be disgusting and evil – not very successfully.” (53)

The others have also been taught that Deviations are evil, so it is difficult for them to believe the Sophie could be a Deviant and a good person.

1. Why do you think David dreams again of the “great city by the sea” after all these years?

David is upset because Sophie had to leave and because of the trauma he has experienced. Perhaps he is looking for something that will comfort him.

“in some quite obscure way it soothed me” (53)

Also – come back to this moment later in the book when we learn more about the city in David’s dreams.

1. According to the inspector, why does the Devil send Deviations?

“The Devil sends Deviations among us to weaken us and tempt us away from Purity” (55). He believes that Deviations were sent by the Devil to mislead people.

1. How does the inspector relieve David’s guilty conscience? Is this consistent with the inspector’s position? Is it consistent with his character?  
     
   “It wasn’t that, old man. You had nothing to do with it. A patrol picked them up, quite by chance, twenty miles away.” (56). The inspector tries to comfort David by saying that it wasn’t his fault that the Wenders got caught. This is inconsistent with the inspector’s position and character because we expect him to be angry like David’s father. Instead, he sounds almost sorry that the Wenders were caught.
2. Why did Uncle Axel not want David to run away to the Fringes or anywhere else?  
     
   Life in the Fringes is difficult. We know that there isn’t enough food there because the Fringes people conduct raids to steal food and other supplies. In other districts, people will want to see his “Normalcy Certificate”, which is an ID card, and send him back to Waknuk. In general, David is too young to take care of himself.

“In a few years’ time when you’re a man and can look after yourself it may be different. I reckon it’d be better to stick it out till then, anyway; much better than have them just catch you and bring you back.” (57)

1. What truth did the explorer Marther discover? What was the result when he published his findings?

Marther says that the deviations in the south, “so far from being a curse, were performing, however slowly, a work of reclamation” (61). It appears that the Badlands in the south are also receding, and the animals and possibly humans that live in the area are taking the land back in the same way that the people of Newf are.

“it landed Marther in court, and started agitation for a ban on further exploration” (61)  
People are afraid that further exploration of other areas will contradict their beliefs, so they want to stop exploring.

1. How many people are able to communicate with David the way he and Rosalind can?  
     
   “Eight,’ I told him. ‘There were nine, but one of them stopped about a month ago.” (65)
2. What major piece of advice does Uncle Axel give to David?

“that no one could be certain of the true image” (65)

Axel asks David to consider that he, Rosalind, and the others might actually be closer to the true image of God, because there is no way to be sure of what the true image is.