Bleachers

by John Grisham

*Please answer on a separate sheet of paper. Use complete sentences.*

***Thursday***

*pages 147-162*

Vocabulary:

1. occult (147)
2. tactical (149)
3. gooks (150)- *Slang* a derogatory word for a person from a Far Eastern country
4. altercation (155)

Questions:

1. What is the mood like in the Sherriff’s car? Give a word or phrase from the text that proves this.
2. Paraphrase Mal’s story from Vietnam.
3. What were some of the things he could hear Coach Rake saying as he struggled to survive? Quote directly from the book.
4. Why does Neely finally tell the story of the 1987 Championship game now?
5. Paraphrase the events in the locker room during the game.
6. What are your thoughts now that the big secret of the 1987 game has now been revealed? Explain.
7. Who took control of the team? Why does he seem like such an unlikely candidate for this role?
8. Neely says, “For some reason I was crying and I couldn’t stop” (157). Why do you think that is?
9. Why did the team keep this such a secret? Are you surprised by their reasoning? Explain.
10. How does someone like Andy Tugdale reinforce the Spartan fraternity?

*pages 162-171*

Questions:

1. Why is Mal’s reason for not allowing Neely to drive ironic?
2. Who is Jesse Trapp? Where is he now?

*pages 165-171*

Vocabulary:

1. bleak (166)

Questions:

1. Describe the Buford Detention Facility.
2. How does Jesse react to the news of Coach Rake passing?
3. Why won’t Jesse come to the funeral?
4. Why do you think Rake was in court the day Jesse was sent away? What “still hurts” (170) Jesse today?
5. How is the Spartan fraternity again reinforced with Paul and Neely’s conversation with Jesse?

*pages 171-172*

Questions:

1. “The line stretched down the track and through the gate, and the cars were bumper to bumper on the road that lead to Rake Field”(172). What part of the novel is this an allusion to?

*pages 172-184*

Vocabulary:

1. affluent (173)

Questions:

1. Why is Cameron’s mother’s offer for Neely to come in a “half-hearted gesture” (173)?
2. What does Grisham mean by “The gravity of his mistake hit hard” (174)?
3. How do we know from the start of their conversation that Cameron does not want to speak to Neely? Give specifics.
4. What does Cameron say that first lets Neely (and us) know that she doesn’t completely hate him?
5. What does Neely say about being “famous at 18” (181)?
6. Summarize Neely and Cameron’s conflict.

*pages 184-191*

Questions:

1. Why does Cameron not like Eddie Rake? Why doesn’t she like football? Why doesn’t she like Spartan football?
2. What secret does Neely confess to Cameron? Why do you think he tells her?

*pages 191-192*

Questions:

1. Why has Neely been thinking about Cameron?
2. Why do you think Neely wants to say “I love you” to Cameron?