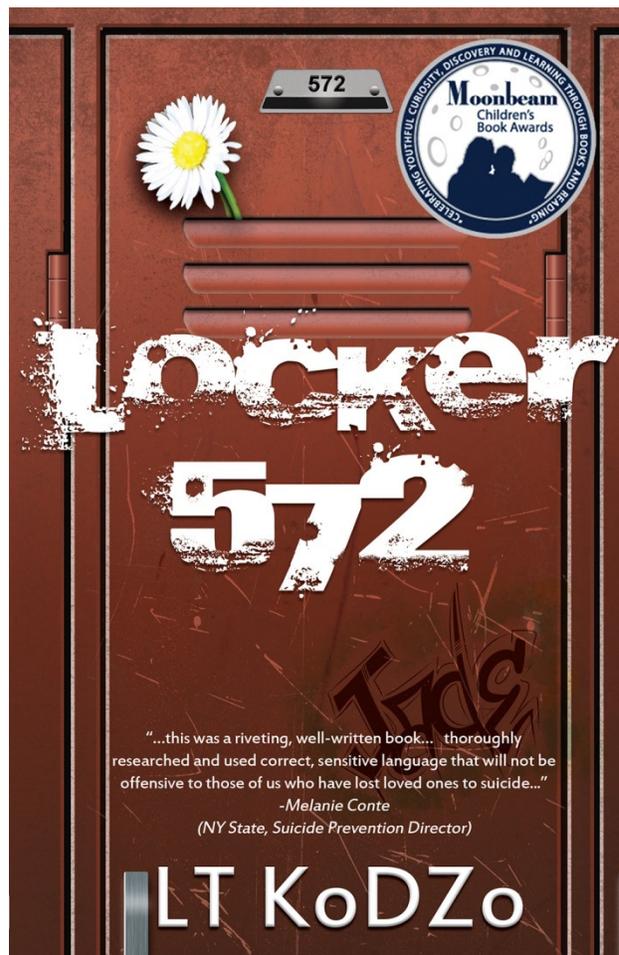


Chapter by Chapter Summary and Questions



This booklet is a companion-recourse to the novel, *Locker 572*.
It is intended to be used in conjunction with an individual or a group
reading of the novel.

You can see a trailer of the novel at:

www.locker572.com



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Chapter 1:

Review:

Sheridan Alexander attends her first day at North Harbor High School. She's a senior, a long-term, foster-care child. Her goal is to finish high school so that she can leave foster care and finally be free. She's given a locker assignment only to find the locker severely vandalized. She's ready to abandon this locker as well until she finds a daisy inside. This small flower makes the locker interesting enough to keep.

Topics:

- First day of school
- New School
- Foster Care
- Bullies

Questions:

- How hard would it be to change schools your senior year?
- How hard would it be to change families?
- Why do you think kids bully like the group of girls in the beginning of the story?
- Have you ever experienced or witnessed something like this at your school? If so, what did you do about it? Can you relate to Sheridan's response?
- Discuss what you like or don't like about Sheridan's personality.
- Would a flower be enough to make you keep Locker 572?



Chapter 2:

Review:

Ashley Nobel a junior at North Harbor High has locked herself in the school's darkroom to develop film of the most hated girl in school, Ribbon Barber. Ribbon happens to be a former friend, but Ashley doesn't want her new friends, Courtney and the gang introduced in Chapter 1. Ashley's sick of their mean-girl behavior but not ready to be on their bad side. During lunch one of the gang decides to pour some pudding into locker 572 only to discover its previous owner, Ribbon, is gone. Courtney and the gang point out the new girl and tell Ashley they plan to jump her at the end of the day, but Ashley claims she can't because she's grounded when the truth is she doesn't want to be part of that life anymore.

Topics:

- Friendship
- Gangs

Questions:

- How would you describe a gang? Do you think Courtney is leading one?
- Do people in gangs get to make their own decisions?
- How hard would it be to feel forced by your friends to hurt others?
- Why do you think Ashley doesn't tell Courtney the truth about Ribbon? Would you?
- Discuss what you like or don't like about Ashley's personality.
- Discuss what you like or don't like about Courtney's personality.
- How would you define the word friend?



Chapter 3:

Review:

Sheridan can't get the idea of her new locker out of her mind. It triggers memories of what happened in her former foster home, where the foster dad molested a young foster sister named Elsie. Sheridan doesn't believe adult ever help when there's real trouble. She gets a call from her former foster brother Tex. He's a computer whiz who was the only one, she felt, did anything to fight the molester. Back at her newly-cleaned locker, Sheridan discovers an abandoned journal. Before she can investigate, Courtney and the gang shove her into the locker and close the door. Stuck inside without her phone, Sheridan decides to read the locker until help arrives.

Topics:

- Foster care
- Adults
- Molestation
- Restraint

Questions:

- Discuss the various motives adults might have in bringing in foster kids to their home.
- How hard would it be if you were forced to live with someone bad or fake?
- Discuss what you like or don't like about Tex's personality.
- How far would you go to expose a crime? What about in your own home?
- Do you think it was worth it for Sheridan to resist using her strength to fight Courtney and the gang? What could have happened if she'd fought back?



Chapter 4:

Review:

Fifth-grade journal entry by Ribbon Barber. She describes the best way to eat soup. It must be done with a fork and a ton of crackers.

Topics:

- School transitions
- Childhood

Questions:

- Discuss what you like or don't like about Ribbon's personality.
- What do you think happens to the confident feelings you have in sixth grade?



Chapter 5:

Review:

Sheridan's delighted by Ribbon's journal entry. She's rescued by the janitor, José Talmadge. With her freedom restored, Sheridan decides to find Ribbon and befriend her.

Topics:

- Friendships

Questions:

- What attracted Sheridan to Ribbon?
- Discuss what you like or don't like about José's personality.
- How much easier is school when you know there's someone there who has similar thoughts or experiences?
- How would you define the word friend?



Chapter 6:

Review:

Elementary school journal entry by Ribbon Barber. She discovers toothpaste. Her parents both teach science at the University and live extremely environmentally conscious. We also discover that Ashley was Ribbon's best friend at the time.

Topics:

- Parents
- Being difficult

Questions:

- Think of some of the things your family does that are outside of the perceived "norm". Should these weird things cause others to shun you?
- How hard is it to be different?
- At what age do you think people stop trusting everything their parents say and rely more on your peers? Why do you think that happens?
- Ribbon felt Ashley's mother looked at her like she was an alien. Have you ever felt criticized or judged by someone with them saying anything?



Chapter 7:

Review:

Ashley goes searching for Ribbon instead of joining Courtney and the gang. She's taking copies of the pictures as a peace offering to her old friend. At the house, she's confronted by Ribbon's angry father. When he goes inside, Ribbon's mother explains that Ribbon has died by means of suicide.

Topics:

- Friends
- Suicide
- Parents

Questions:

- How would you judge Ashley's and Ribbon's friendship based on the memories of both girls? What do you think changed and why?
- Have you ever had to choose between two different friends? Should you have to?
- Discuss what you like or don't like about Dr. Barber's personality.
- Discuss what you like or don't like about Mrs. Barber's personality.
- Do you know someone who has died by suicide? Why do you think people do that?
- Do you think it was right for the Barbers to keep Ribbon's suicide a secret? Why or why not?



Chapter 8:



Review:

Junior high school journal entry by Ribbon. She's humiliated at lunch when Ashley chooses Courtney over her. She's feeling the effects of being different.



Topics:

- Friendship
- Bullies



Questions:

- Have you ever been judged by external things like clothes or hair style?
- What do you think the real reason for Courtney to reject Ribbon?
- Do confident people worry about what others look like, believe or say? Would it surprise you that most bullies are insecure at their base?
- How different can a person be from you before you felt you needed to humiliate them?



Chapter 9:



Review:

Sheridan returns to her new foster home, but lies about the events of the day. Her new foster mom, Nina, is strict about monitoring how much Sheridan spends.



Topics:

- Parents
- Bullies



Questions:

- Discuss what you like or don't like about Nina's personality.
- Why didn't Sheridan tell Nina about what happened at school?
- Do most kids tell their parents or guardians about the kind of things they face at school every day? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Sheridan tried to use baking soda to brush her teeth?



Chapter 10:

Review:

Ashley walks home. She's frustrated at Ribbon's decision to kill herself. On her walk home, she gets a call from Courtney. The gang leader wants to know what Ashley's doing and why she hasn't given Courtney a copy of her chemistry homework. Ashley avoids the answers, still too shocked by Ribbon's death to provide a normal reaction.

Topics:

- Suicide
- Gangs
- Friends

Questions:

- How would you react if someone you used to know died by suicide?
- Why did Ashley continue to talk to Courtney? Why not just leave the gang?



Chapter 11:

Review:

Ribbon journal entry. She's graduated from eighth grade and remembering herself as a little girl dancing and skipping and singing "stick and stones."

Topics:

- Emotions

Questions:

- Discuss the difference between Ribbon's earlier entries and this one. What has changed?
- Do you believe words can't hurt as bad as sticks and stones?
- What kind of metaphor might the author intend with the rain on Ribbon's window?



Chapter 12:

Review:

Sheridan reacts to the changing mood in Ribbon's journal. She wishes adults could understand how painful the world of high school really is.

Topics:

- High School

Questions:

- What in Ribbon's journal has Sheridan so angry?
- Do you ever feel frustrated by the way people are treated at your school? Do you feel you have the power to change your situation?



Chapter 13:

Review:

Ashley's at home thinking about what happened to Ribbon. She'd like to quit the gang, but her father works for Courtney's father. She decides to take a ride over the church where Ribbon was last seen alive, the place where Ashley took the photo of her old friend. In her search for answers, Courtney and the gang jump her at the church. When the fight ends, Courtney finally threatens to get Ashley's father fired if she doesn't step back in line.

Topics:

- Gangs
- Parents
- Bullies

Questions:

- What took Ashley to the old church that night?
- Why would a gang jump one of its own? Why didn't Ashley fight back?
- Do you feel like Ashley is responsible for protecting her father's job?
- Does Ashley's memory of Courtney change your opinion of the gang leader?
- Do you connect rules like curfews as a sign of caring from a parent or not?



Chapter 14:

Review:

Sheridan gets an early morning call from Tex. Her former foster brother is worried because of some violent messaging he's found on the internet. The kids at North Harbor High are excessively cruel telling Ribbon to "go hang yourself." Sheridan's more motivated than ever to find Ribbon and protect her.

Topics:

- Friendship
- Cyber bullies
- Parents

Questions:

- What upset Nina about Tex's call? Would this be a sign of caring?
- Why do you think texts and post are more violent than what someone might say to a person face to face?
- Have you ever seen or heard of the cyber bullies? How do you get around something so ubiquitous?



Chapter 15:

Review:

Ribbon's journal. She forgot to flush the toilet in the girl's bathroom and Courtney witnessed it. Ribbon knows her parents are very different than other kids. She can't talk to them because they don't understand.

Topics:

- Parents
- Counselors
- Bullies

Questions:

- Why does it bother so many people when someone lives a different life style? Shouldn't people be criticized by their behavior rather than their life style?
- Do you think Ribbon's parents would want to know what she's experiencing?
- Do you think the high school counselor could have done something different?



Chapter 16:

Review:

Ashley back in the darkroom, only this time she's developing a plan to embarrass Sheridan. Ashley figures since she can't bring Ribbon back to life, she might as well stick to Courtney's rules. So, at the end of class, Ashley stick a maxi pad stained with red fingernail polish to Sheridan's back.

Topics:

- Friends
- Bullies

Questions:

- Do you think Ashley's making the right decision to stick with Courtney?
- Why do you think the gang decided to attack Sheridan? Was it for the same reason as Ribbon?
- What do you think is the real motivation behind Courtney's behavior? Can it be tied to her family at all?



Chapter 17:

Review:

Sheridan discovers the joke played on her by another student. She gets more angry than embarrassed and texts Tex to get some online passwords. In the end Sheridan believes the teacher didn't do much to address the disgusting prank.

Topics:

- Bullies
- Adults
- Emotions

Questions:

- Why do you think Sheridan reacted differently to bullies than Ribbon?
- Do you think the teacher could have done more?
- Does it help that Sheridan knows that Tex is on her side? How much easier is it to fight bullies when you know you have a friend who cares?



Chapter 18:

Review:

Ribbon's journal. She's admits to checking the internet even though she knows it's hurting her. Her feelings of futility are overwhelming her.

Topics:

- Emotions

Questions:

- Why do you think Ribbon keeps checking the internet, even though she knows it will hurt her?
- Do you trust every thought in your head? Could your own brain lie to you? (e.g. "No one cares." "No one loves me.")
- What would you say to Ribbon if you knew what she was thinking?
- Do you think there's someone like Ribbon at your school? Could you ever let them know you don't support the bullies?



Chapter 19:

Review:

Sheridan discuss Ribbon's disappearance with Tex. When he alludes to the possibility of Ribbon being hurt by the mean girls at school, Sheridan becomes convinced she needs to hurry to help the girl.

Topics:

- Friends

Questions:

- What does Sheridan think has happened to Ribbon?
- Have you ever felt helpless when it comes to helping others?
- Would you fight as hard as Sheridan has for Ribbon? What might it cost you?



Chapter 20:

Review:

Ribbon journal entry. She's bullied in the shower, squirted by the gang with soap and toothpaste while being laughed at. She's alone because her father believes in water conservation and wouldn't want to know what it took for Ribbon to survive high school.

Topics:

- Adults
- Bullies

Questions:

- What option did Ribbon have in this situation? Do you believe there were any adults who could help her?
- Do you think there are kids in your school who might feel this trapped?
- How would you define the word friend?



Chapter 21:

Review:

Ashley is followed into the gym showers by the gang. She remembers what she did to Ribbon and wonders what it will take to appease Courtney. When the gang tells her they are just reinforcing her allegiance and then leave her alone, Ashley has a chance to really realize how horrible she'd been to Ribbon.

Topics:

- Friends
- Bullies

Questions:

- Have you ever looked back at something you regret and wish you could find a way to fix it?
- Do you think Ashley will ever be treated fair by Courtney and the gang? How far would you go to prevent another beat down?
- Do you believe Ashley deserves the treatment she's receiving?



Chapter 22:

Review:

Sheridan logs onto the chat room and makes a call out to Ribbon. She is immediately attacked by the others logged onto the site. In the online dialogue, Sheridan accuses the group of killing Ribbon. She doesn't know if it's true, but something deep inside tells her that it is and she threatens to turn in the gang.

Topics:

- Cyber Bullies

Questions:

- How hard is it to insult someone via the internet? Is it harder than doing it to someone's face?
- What do you think happens when a person like Courtney loses control of her world? Should Sheridan be afraid?
- Even though Tex is miles away, why is his presence comforting in this scene?



Chapter 23:

Review:

Ashley realizes that Sheridan is sitting in the same library as her at the time of the internet chat. She's shocked that Sheridan knows anything about Ribbon's death. She decides to follow her from the library to see if she can find out more.

Topics:

- Guilt

Questions:

- What drives Ashley to follow Sheridan? Do you think the gang would like it?
- What danger does Ashley put herself in by following Sheridan?



Chapter 24:

Review:

Sheridan leaves the library upset. She tells Tex that she's worried that Ribbon really is dead. She finds more words in the journal that indicate her worst fears could be true.

Topics:

- Friendship

Questions:

- Does it make sense that Sheridan doesn't trust any grownups?
- Why is Sheridan so upset about someone she's never met? Can you get to know someone by their words alone?



Chapter 25:

Review:

Ribbon journal entry. She's bombarded by a darkness that she can't escape. Death starts to look attractive to her.

Topics:

- Suicide

Questions:

- Experts say suicidal people don't want to die as much as they just don't want to live anymore. Can you imagine a pain that strong?
- What would you say to Ribbon if you could?
- Based on the words in her journal, do you think she could hear you?
- If you know of anyone who is thinking about suicide, they need to be helped out of the darkness, they can't do it alone and unless you are trained, you can't pull them out either. Call the national suicide hotline, it's not just for people who are suicidal, it's also there for friends and family members?



Chapter 26:

Review:

Sheridan realizes that if Ribbon is dead, she killed herself. She's ready to get revenge on the twits that abused Ribbon so severely. She's ready to find and thanks to the bark of the dog on the corner, she knows she's being followed.

Topics:

- Suicide

Questions:

- What is Sheridan's reaction to Ribbon's words? Who does she blame?
- What does Sheridan want to do to the girls at her new school? Do you ever feel the same?



Chapter 27:

Review:

Ashley confronts Sheridan. She's equally ready for a fight. When Sheridan comes back unafraid, Ashley accepts the full brunt of Sheridan's accusation. Ribbon is dead because of Ashley. She's more to blame than Ribbon herself.

Topics:

- Guilt

Questions:

- Do you agree with Sheridan? Is Ashley guilty of killing Ribbon?
- What do you think Ashley should do?
- How far can a person go with words before they can be found guilty of assault? Do you know the laws in your area?



Chapter 28:



Review:

Sheridan reacts to the news of Ribbon's suicide with words of her own. She and Tex decided that the adults probably won't do anything, but they can. They decided to create flyers announcing the names of the guilty and their crimes around the school.



Topics:

- Friendship
- Action



Questions:

- Why doesn't Sheridan tell her foster parents or the school administration?
- Do you like the solution? Why or why not?
- Do you think the school janitor will help her?



Chapter 29:

Review:

Ashley response to the accusation from Sheridan. She decides to accept the full blame. She prints the evidence of the gang's crime and goes to the Barber's to turn herself in, but Ribbon's father refuses to accept her confession.

Topics:

- Guilt

Questions:

- What does Ashley do in response to Sheridan's accusations?
- Why does she go the Barbers?
- Why doesn't Ribbon's father accept her confession?
- What did Ashley mean when she said she was afraid she'd give up like Ribbon? When do suicidal thoughts start? How long should they go undiscussed?



Chapter 30:

Review:

Ribbon's journal entry. She's come to a sense of resolve in her hopelessness.

Topics:

- Suicidal thoughts

Questions:

- Which is worse: A suicidal person who's depressed or one who's resolved to their fate?
- Can you identify the wrong thinking in Ribbon's words?
- Can you identify the wrong thinking you might have sometimes?



Chapter 31:

Review:

Sheridan gets the flyers printed. Then she calls José and convinces him to come help her cover the school with the flyers.

Topics:

- Reaction

Questions:

- Why does José agree to help Sheridan?
- Do you think words can fight words?
- Do you think the flyers will have any effect on the gang?
- Where does Sheridan come up with the money to buy the flyers?



Chapter 32:

Review:

Ashley goes to the police station to turn herself in. The officer inside listens to her story, but tells her that she hasn't committed a crime.

Topics:

- Guilt
- Suicide
- Bullies

Questions:

- Why did Ashley go to the police?
- Do you think the officer should have arrested her? Do you know the laws in your town? The epidemic of bullying and suicide are causing laws to be changed.
- How much do you think Ashley is to blame for Ribbon's suicide? Where would you draw the line?



Chapter 33:

Review:

Sheridan goes to the school with flyers that accuse the gang of murder. A motorcycle gang arrives while Sheridan is alone and in the dark. It takes a moment for her to realize José is with them. He brought them to help.

Topics:

- Gangs
- Friendship

Questions:

- What stereotypes exist about motorcycle gangs?
- Why do you think the rich, girl gang is crueller than a janitor and his motorcycle buddies?
- Was it right to break into the school? Can one crime justify another? Where is the line drawn?



Chapter 34:

Review:

Ashley gets to school early. She can't wait until 9:00am when the D.A.'s office opens. She's confronted with hundreds of posters accusing her and the gang of killing Ribbon. Courtney and the group confront her and find out that Sheridan did it. Courtney calls her father to fix the Sheridan situation. Ashley also tells the group that Ribbon is dead. They shrug it off and force her to tear down Courtney's posters first.

Topics:

- Gang
- Power

Questions:

- How does the gang respond to Sheridan's posters?
- What do you think Courtney's father can do about Sheridan?
- How do they respond to finding out Ribbon's dead?
- Would you remove the poster for Courtney? Why or why not?



Chapter 35:

Review:

Ribbon's journal. She spends a moment in happy reflection only to have it remind her how horrible her present life has become.

Topics:

- Depression

Questions:

- What are the symptoms of depression?
- Why do you think a happy thought doesn't stick in Ribbon's brain?
- How hard is it for a person to escape negative thinking alone?



Chapter 36:

Review:

Sheridan is called into the counselor's office. Miss Jones tells her that they know she was the one who put up the flyers. Sheridan confronts Miss Jones' lack of effort to stop the harassment that happens daily at the school. Miss Jones defends herself and explains that she wants to help, but no one at the school is willing to talk. Sheridan offers her 10 pages of evidence.

Topics:

- Power
- Support

Questions:

- Do you think Miss Jones could have done more? If yes, what?
- Do you think Sheridan with the help of Miss Jones can bring Courtney down?
- Why do you think Ribbon stop reporting problems? How much could you take before you finally gave up?



Chapter 37:

Review:

Ashley heads to the dark room to call the D.A. When she calls, she's directed to a voicemail. Ashley can't get anyone to listen. Discouraged, she heads to the lunch room with Courtney and the gang. Ashley hears that Courtney's dad is going to cover for her again and have Sheridan removed from the school. Fed up, Ashley takes her school lunch and dumps it on Courtney's head.

Topics:

- Power
- Action

Questions:

- Why can't Ashley get arrested?
- How powerless would you feel if you know the meanest person in school could control the adults?
- How do you feel about what Ashley does at the end of the chapter?



Chapter 38:

Review:

Ribbon presents a new view of Ashley. Her old friend appears to hate the situation as much as Ribbon.

Topics:

- Friendship

Questions:

- Can a person slowly become absorbed into a horrible situation? Do you think Ashley thought she was joining a gang when she made friends with Courtney in junior high?
- Do you understand Ribbon's empathy for Ashley? Why or why not?
- How would you define the word friend?



Chapter 39:

Review:

Social Services is sending her back to Marysville. She takes out her frustration on Nina's dresser. The foster mom comes in and let Sheridan know their home will always be a place where Sheridan is welcome.

Topics:

- School transitions

Questions:

- What do you think of Nina's comment about "bullying the bullies"?
- Do you think Sheridan crossed a line by going around the law? Was she using passive resistance?
- Why does Sheridan's view of adult change in this scene?



Chapter 40:

Review:

Ashley's father blows up over food incident. Ashley climbs into the closet as a form of punishment. When she comes out she discovers an old letter of Ribbon's.

Topics:

- Friendship
- Parents

Questions:

- Why do you think Ashley's father didn't get fired by Courtney's father?
- Have you ever stopped listening to an adult? What made you stop?
- Why did Ashley climb into the closet?
- What was significant in Ashley's time box? Have you ever create one? (Maybe you could create one now.)



Chapter 41:

Review:

Ribbon's journal from when she was eight years old. She writes about her dreams and what she'd expect life to be like when she's twenty-five.

Topics:

- Childhood
- Friends
- Parents

Questions:

- How much do ideas change from eight years old to middle school or high school? (Especially about parents, school, and friends)
- What do you think motivates those changes?



Chapter 42:

Review:

Ashley reacts to Ribbon's letter. She decides to sneak out of the house and go give the note to the Barbers.

Topics:

- Guilt

Questions:

- What motivate Ashley to go to the Barbers' house?
- Have you ever lost touch with a friend from elementary? What happened?
- How would reconnect to someone if you could?



Chapter 43:

Review:

Sheridan leaves Nina's with a hug and support. The social worker who picks her up appears much less supportive and insists Sheridan return the cell phone Nina gave her. Nina steps in and lets the worker know she will report the problem to her supervisor if the woman doesn't back off. This is the first time someone in a parental role ever stood up for Sheridan.

Topics:

- Foster care
- Adults

Questions:

- What does Nina do to cause Sheridan to change her mind about "mother" figures?
- Have you ever struggled to feel loved or supported by adults? If so, when?
- How hard would it be to constantly change families and schools?



Chapter 44:

Review:

Ribbon journal entry. Ribbon writes about the Edmund Burke quote, “The only thing needed for evil to prosper is for a good man to do nothing.” It becomes easy in her mind to relate German inaction during Nazi reign to the lack of support she feels by the other kids at school. She has accepted as truth the propaganda spoken about her.

Topics:

- Truth
- Perceptions

Questions:

- Why is it sometimes easier to believe the awful things people say about us rather than compliments?
- Who does Ribbon relate to in her journal entry this time? Do you find that odd?
- Do you believe the word propaganda is appropriate for Ribbon’s situation?



Chapter 45:

Review:

Sheridan overhears the social worker complain about having to drive up to Yuba County. In the walk back to the car, Sheridan spots a pink, breast-cancer-awareness ribbon and she decides Ribbon needs an awareness ribbon. She calls Tex to talk about it and during their conversation, he reveals that he has thought about suicide before.

Topics:

- Suicide
- Solutions
- Adults

Questions:

- Have you ever felt blamed for a situation you don't feel you made?
- Is Sheridan to blame for having to move so many times? If not, who is?
- How did Ribbon get the idea to create a ribbon campaign for Ribbon?
- What does Tex reveal to Sheridan about himself in this chapter?
- How many people do you think have thought about suicide at least once in their lives?
- What makes that idea so common?



Chapter 46:

Review:

Ashley sneaks out of the house to take Ribbon's letter to the Barber's. On her way, she stops by a flower vendor to buy a bouquet of daisies (Ribbon's favorite flower). She doesn't have any money with her and decides to sacrifice her pearl ring.

Topics:

- Guilt

Questions:

- What does Ashley buy for Ribbon's family? Why? How does she pay for it?
- Do you think Ashley's sacrifice for the gift was over the top? Why or why not?



Chapter 47:

Review:

Sheridan arrives in Marysville and meets her new foster mom, Miss Shirley. The woman talks incessantly and has had a lot of foster children throughout the years. Sheridan decides the woman is okay as long as she can go to her new school and start a Remember Ribbon Campaign.

Topics:

- Parents

Questions:

- What is Sheridan's new foster mother's name? What is she like?
- Describe what you like or don't like about Miss Shirley.
- How are would it be to live rural if you're from the city or visa versa?



Chapter 48:

Review:

Ashley arrives at the Barber's and bumps into Mrs. Barber who receives the flowers. Ashley is invited into the Barber's backyard garden. Mrs. Barber asks her to stay and help and is willing to call Ashley's father for permission. While Mrs. Barber is in the house, Ashley gets a call from Courtney. The gang leader threatens Ashley father's job.

Topics:

- Parents

Questions:

- How does Mrs. Barber respond to Ashley's arrival?
- What does Mrs. Barber ask Ashley to do?
- How would it feel to be at the Barber's given the contribution Ashley made to Ribbon's death?
- How would it feel if your father's job was at risk due to something you did?



Chapter 49:

Review:

Sheridan assesses her new home, only to find out that Miss Shirley doesn't believe in public schools. Sheridan will spend her last year of school at Miss Shirley's home, frustrating Sheridan's plan to conduct a Remember Ribbon campaign.

Topics:

- School Transitions

Questions:

- How hard would it be to have to home school after 12 years of traditional school?
- What would you do if you were stuck in Sheridan's position?
- How would you still get the Remember Ribbon Campaign going if you couldn't go to school?



Chapter 50:

Review:

Ribbon journal on her 15th birthday. She voices the negative thinking that comes with depression. Loss of appetite, weariness, self-hatred and an overwhelming feeling of worthlessness.

Topics:

- Depression

Questions:

- What event takes place for Ribbon in this chapter?
- Do you know how to recognize the signs of depression?
- If you were Ribbon's friend, at what point would you feel it important to have her speak to an expert?



Chapter 51:

Review:

Ashley spends her days of suspension in the backyard of Mrs. Barber. She feels it the closest thing to justice since Mr. Barber constantly makes her feel ashamed. She finds out why the Barbers didn't make public Ribbon's suicide. Also, while she is there Mrs. Barber receives a gift of flowers for her garden from Courtney's family.

Topics:

- Families

Questions:

- Why did Ribbon's parents keep Ribbon's death private?
- Do you feel that people are more likely to perform copy-cat suicides due to public sympathy after a suicide?
- What do you think made Courtney's family send flowers to the Barbers?
- How do you feel about the gift from the Manchesters?



Chapter 52:

Review:

Sheridan opens up to Miss Shirley about the horrible things she's seen people ignore during her life (e.g. molestation, bullying.) And while Miss Shirley believes Sheridan's desire to do a Remember Ribbon Project is small, she's willing to let her go to the local public school and speak.

Topics:

- Adults

Questions:

- What does Sheridan share with Miss Shirley?
- How are Sheridan's overall experiences changing from when the story started?



Chapter 53:

Review:

When Ashley returns to school, she finds her locker vandalized with raw eggs and milk. She finds herself less worried about it or the opinion of her former friends. She feels almost a relief that she doesn't have to satisfy the gangs. Sure they'd bombard her, but at least she doesn't have to try to satisfy them. She's called into the counselor's office and finds out that Sheridan had contacted the LA Times about Ribbon's death. Because of her promise to Ribbon's parents, she tells Miss Jones that she can't help.

Topics:

- School

Questions:

- What keep Ashley from telling Miss Jones all about Courtney?
- What kind of character arch has Ashley experienced?
- Due to the changes she makes in the story would you consider her the protagonist instead of Sheridan?



Chapter 54:

Review:

Ribbon journal entry. Ribbon expresses a wish to be more important in her parent's life than the environment.

Topics:

- Parents

Questions:

- Do you think Ribbon's parents were bad people? Why or why not?
- Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you had different parents than the ones you have?
- Do you think if Ribbon told her parent about her thoughts that they might have made a difference?



Chapter 55:

Review:

Miss Shirley takes Sheridan to see her former foster sister, Elsie (who was molested at the previous foster home.) The girl is quiet and distant. Sheridan asks her if she's okay and gets one word answers. Finally the little girl asks Sheridan to not fight the farmer who hurt her by posting pictures of him on light posts. Sheridan's surprised and tells her that she did it to help Elsie, but the girl says she'd rather keep it a secret. Sheridan asks if she should keep Ribbon's secret and Elsie says no because, "no one can tease her anymore."

Topics:

- Foster care

Questions:

- Who does Sheridan get to see in this chapter?
- Do you think it's better or worse to talk about things like suicide and molestation? Why?
- Why did Elsie say it was okay for Sheridan to talk about Ribbon's secret but not her own?
- Who does Elsie tell Sheridan to leave the fixing of the problems to? How do you think Sheridan should react to this?



Chapter 56:

Review:

Ashley hangs out with her father wishing she was brave enough to tell him what a horrible person she is. After a moment of quiet, her dad tells her “it will be okay.”

Topics:

- Guilty

Questions:

- What does Ashley’s father say that give her some peace? Would it mean a lot to you to hear that?
- Do you believe everything will be okay? Why or why not?



Chapter 57:

Review:

Sheridan speaks at a Marysville school to a luke-warm response. She's starting to believe that nothing will ever change. Miss Shirley picks her up and takes her to get ice cream to celebrate her achievement, but Sheridan doesn't feel very accomplished. And then Miss Shirley tells her that one of her former foster children is a famous TV Psychologist and he has agreed to put Sheridan on his show.

Topics:

- Parents

Questions:

- Who does Miss Shirley tell Sheridan about in this chapter?
- How does Miss Shirley's news change Sheridan's outlook and the Remember Ribbon Campaign?
- What does Miss Shirley tell Sheridan about not wanting her kids to be happy? Do you agree with that?



Chapter 58:

Review:

Ashley goes back to the place where Ribbon was last seen by her. She wants to take a picture of the empty bench and hopefully put a memorial in the yearbook for her former friend. She gets a call from her father telling her to go the Barbers. When she gets there, Dr. Barber is upset by a phone call he got from the Dr. Woods show and he's letting them tell Ribbon's story.

Topics:

- Parents

Questions:

- How does Mrs. Barber respond to Sheridan's meeting with Dr. Woods?
- Do you think he might have changed his mind to punish Ashley?
- How does Ashley feel by the end of the chapter?



Chapter 59:



Review:

Sheridan goes on the Dr. Wood's show. She announces the Remember Ribbon Campaign. She discusses her opinions about bullying the bullies with support from other guests on the show.



Topics:

- Solutions



Questions:

- Do you believe bullying and suicide have become epidemic in this country?
- What is the Remember Ribbon Campaign? What is Sheridan asking people to do?
- What accidental event does Sheridan compare wearing the ribbon's to?
- What does she say about attacking bullies?



Chapter 60:

Review:

Ashley is at the school and will be on the show via a satellite feed. She gets to admit to the world what she did wrong. Locker 572 has been flooded by kids at school with Ribbon's and daisies thanks to Ashley. Also, thanks to stacks of paperwork made by Miss Jones, Courtney's father is in a lot of trouble.

Topics:

- Solutions
- School counseling

Questions:

- What impact do you think it has when a person has the opportunity to confess? Good? Bad?
- What changes were made to Locker 572 from chapter 1 to this chapter? Could this be a metaphor? If yes, what is the metaphor?
- What actions have been taken against Courtney and her father? Is it enough or do you more?
- How do you feel about what Ashley has to say about Courtney at the end?



Chapter 61:

Review:

Ribbon's journal. A quote by John Donne, "no man is an island" stirs in Ribbon's thoughts. She'd like to believe that her life could account for something, but in the end, she doesn't believe it's worth it.

Topics:

- Life

Questions:

- What quote does Ribbon's journal contain?
- What does this quote mean to you?



Chapter 62:

Review:

After the show is over, Sheridan tells Dr. Woods that she didn't think Ribbon wanted to die, she just didn't want to live anymore. Dr. Woods tells Sheridan more about the John Donne quote and encourages her to consider its larger impact. She ends the book by tapping her heels together like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz and says "let's go home."

Topics:

- Families

Questions:

- Sheridan tells Dr. Woods that Ribbon didn't want to die? Why does she say that?
- What advice does Dr. Woods give Sheridan at the end of the novel?
- What does it mean for Sheridan to utter "let's go home"? How much of an impact is that.
- In the end, if Ashley is the protagonist, Sheridan is the hero (in literary terms). Does that surprise you?