

CAROLINE FIGNAT



# EGGHEAD

A NOVEL



**Educator's Guide**

## The First Day 9-10

What is Will literally writing about? What else could it represent?

**Journal reflection** - How did you feel on your first day at a new school?

## Katie 11-13

What weird things has Will done in the past?

What does Katie think of Will?

What do we learn about Katie's family?

We get to know characters by their words and actions and by how others react to them. What do we know about Shane and Martin when we first meet them in chapter one? How do we know that?

## Devan 14-16

Compare Devan's perception of Shane with Katie's perception of Shane.

How does Devan see Shane's interaction with Martin?

What does Shane do that upsets Will?

## Katie 17-18

*I took a step back. Just a little one. Hardly noticeable to anyone else. But somehow that couple of inches told Shane all he needed to know. His mouth slithered into a cold smile.*

What does Katie's little step back tell Shane?

Where is Katie in the circle of bullying at the start of the scene?

Where is she near the end?

## The Rope 19-20

What does this poem tell us about Will? What has rope climbing taught Will?

**Journal reflection** - Using prose or poetry describe a time when you felt frustrated by an activity you couldn't master.

## Devan 21-23

What does Devan notice about Shane?

*He's shaking, all twitchy and terrified like my sister's bunny, Lulu.... I don't know what Egghead's problem is. We aren't even touching him.*

What does this statement tell us about Egghead? What does it tell us about Devan?

What is Egghead wearing when he gets thrown out of the change room?

Where is Devan in the circle of bullying? Where is Shane? Where is Will?

## **Katie 24-26**

Based on what Katie tells us, this isn't Will's first time freaking out. How did Katie usually handle his "tantrums" and why is this time different?

Katie thinks he's locked himself out. Why is the door stuck?

What happens at the lockers?

## **One Red Sock 27-28**

What does one red sock have to do with Will's experience that day?

## **Devan 29-30**

What information does Paulo share? How does Devan react to this?

Devan talks about Katie at the end of this section. What does he think about her?

## **Katie 31-34**

Why doesn't Will tell Mr. Spence what happened?

Describe Professor Reid. Include both a physical description as well as a description of his attitude and how he relates with Will.

At the end of the section, what is the rumour around St. Pat's High?  
Why is Katie famous, too?

**Journal reflection**—Rumours and gossip often start with a tiny spark of truth but soon get blown out of proportion as they spread like wildfire. Describe a time you've seen that happen.

## **Educator's Manual 35**

*And there is  
no educator's manual  
on me.*

An educator's manual has all the answers and how-to's. If you were to write a manual on you what information would you include? What are the best ways to keep you inspired and interested? How do you best learn by seeing, hearing, talking, reading, doing, or exploring on your own? What are your interests?

## **Devan 36-38**

What "new tradition" did Shane start?

What is in Spence's pocket?

What is Katie's talent?

What are her illustrations of?

**Katie 39-41**

Why is Katie embarrassed to have Devan staring at her drawing?  
What critique does Devan give her?  
How does she react?

**Devan 42-46**

Katie thought Devan meant she was flat chested, what was he actually talking about?  
Describe the dynamic of how Devan's group works during the worm dissection.  
Why does Devan ask her to be his partner?  
What does she say and why?

**Katie 47-49**

Why does Katie believe Devan asked her to be his partner for the Science Fair?  
What does Shane do to intimidate Katie and how does she react?  
List the strategies Mr. Spence tells Will to use and explain why they weren't working for Will.  
Why does Katie feel like she's just a name and number on a list?  
Why does Will think they will win the Science Fair?

**Devan 50-51**

How does Shane react when Devan says that Katie was incubating larvae and extending on that project with the colony? What does this tell us about Shane?  
What does Shane call their animation project?  
How did they divide the work for the project?

**Katie 52-55**

Jenna accuses Katie of acting like Will's girlfriend. List the evidence she gives.  
If Jenna doesn't believe Katie is Will's girlfriend, why is she so concerned?

**Journal reflection**—*Once everyone believes it – well, it might as well be true.*  
Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

**Journal reflection**—*Maybe it is better not to know what you are missing.*

Katie and Will have both lost their mothers, but Will knew his mother. Is it better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all?

Katie starts to worry Jenna is right about spending too much time with Will. What happens to change her mind?

**Ant Farm 56-57**

Who does Will think might be watching and smiling?  
Who do the ants trying to connect with each other represent?

## **Devan 58-60**

Why does Devan sarcastically refer to it as “our” project?  
What new appreciation does he realize about Egghead?  
What do we learn about Shane’s home life in this section?

*He might have failed Grade 8 once, but Shane is the smartest guy I know.*  
Why does Devan think Shane is smart? In what way?

What upset Riley?  
List the possible victims Devan thinks could have ratted on Shane.  
How does Devan justify tossing the kid in the dumpster and starting the food fight?  
Who does Shane think ratted him out?  
Who does Shane sound like at the end of the scene on p. 60?

## **Katie 61-63**

Why does Katie think Jenna is Science Fair partners with Isabella Montana?  
Although they still are working on the project together Katie decides to avoid Will at school, just so no one would take it the wrong way. What does this tell us about Katie?

Katie tries to leave as Shane chokes Will. She tries to believe it has nothing to do with her. Why does she end up going back? How does she act?

## **The Samurai Ant 64-65**

What are the Samurai Ant’s abilities?  
What is it incapable of doing?  
Why is it too bad that the other ants don’t know?

In the bullying circle, who is the Samurai Ant? Who are “the other ants”?

## **Devan 66-68**

Why does Devan grab Katie?  
How does Katie react?  
What diffuses the tense situation?

*Egghead has no idea how much pain that little dickie prevented.  
And I don’t just mean for him.*

What other pain is Devan talking about?

## **Katie 69-70**

How has Katie’s opinion of Devan changed?  
What vandalism has been happening in the science lab?

## Devan 71-75

Who is singing *Oh Canada*?

How is the singing interrupted?

Why does Brad smile when he taps the ant farm?

For the first time, Will fights back. What inspires him to act and what does he do?

What does Shane do to Will?

*"Geez, do I sound that lame?"* What does this thought tell us about Devan?

After looking for Shane all morning, why does Devan not want to be seen now?

What do Shane and Brad do to the ant farm?

When was this foreshadowed?

*Why didn't you do something?* Both Brad and Will ask Devan this with their eyes.

What were each of them asking him to do?

Why doesn't Devan have an answer for either of them?

Where is Devan in the circle of bullying?

## No Difference 76

What is the message of this poem?

## Katie 77-80

After finding Will among the debris Katie asks who was responsible. What reasons does she think other kids had for targeting Will?

Katie starts to lay some blame on Will. Why?

What is the difference between ratting and reporting?

Why does Katie go against her better judgment and not tell?

## Devan 81-84

Why does Devan compare himself to a kaleidoscope?

What is Devan's nickname for his sister, Emily?

What does Devan tell us about his sister?

Why does Devan feel guilty?

*Funny how something little can make such a big difference.*

What makes a big difference? For whom?

**Journal reflection:** Describe a time when you saw a small act make a big difference.

## Salty Peas 85-86

*I eat my cold salty peas in silence,  
just the way he likes it.*

What is the significance of the salty peas?

## **Katie 87-90**

What makes Katie think her father is in worse shape than before?

Katie is wise for her age, but still overwhelmed by her thoughts. She is afraid of change. What possible changes upset her most?

**Journal reflection:** *Wanting something doesn't make it true.*

Katie feels powerless against all the obstacles in her life. To make her father proud of her. To protect Will. To save the ants. To wish her father well again.

Discuss what is in our circle of concern and what is in our circle of influence. (Covey)

## **Devan 91-93**

*"Yeah, I get it. But it's not funny anymore."*

What does this simple statement tell us about Devan?

Devan calls Egghead by his real name for the first time. Why is that important?

*We all have our problems, right?*

What comes to mind for Devan? What comes to mind for Katie?

## **Katie 94-97**

How does Isabella taunt Katie?

Who cuts Katie's hair?

What does she tell Katie about Shane?

How does Granny help Katie feel better about herself?

## **Devan 98-100**

Why does he have to wear a shirt with rolled up sleeves?

## **Katie 101-103**

What does Isabella tell Jenna?

Who does Mike actually ask to dance?

How does Katie react?

How does Katie feel when she first sees Devan and thinks he's going to ask her to dance?

When she sees him walk past to the washroom, how does she feel?

## **Devan 104-105**

What was Devan's real reason for heading over?

Why is he sort of relieved he didn't ask her to dance?

What does Devan assume as he watches Katie dance with Will?

**Katie 106-107**

**Journal reflection:** Is being pretty the same as being beautiful?

**Katie 108-109**

Why is Katie embarrassed to dance with Will?  
How does Will react to the chanting crowd?  
How does Katie react?  
What does Katie blurt into the microphone?  
What three reactions does she see in Will's eyes?  
What does Katie realize as she pushes through the crowd?

**Katie Part II—110-111**

Compare this poem with the first *Katie* poem. How is the tone different?  
Who does the queen ant represent?  
Who does the smallest egg represent?  
What is Will's distressing realization?

**Devan 112-114**

What caused Devan to have sympathy for Egghead?

*She seems more hurt by Shane's words than Riley's fist.*

What has Devan learned from observing Shane and his mother?  
Devan knows Shane loves his mother. Why does he think Shane talks to her that way?

**Katie 115-116**

What did the Christmas tree look like?  
Katie broke something more valuable than Will's ant farm. What was it?  
How is this Christmas different for Katie compared to last Christmas?

**Devan 117-118**

Why are Devan, Shane and Brad at the end of the line?  
Shane gives Devan a snowball and a challenge. How does Devan react?  
Why is Shane glad to see Devan give Brad a snow job?  
It is a two-man lift. Why doesn't Devan mind being the odd man out?

**Katie 119-120**

How did Katie's father meet her mother?  
Why is Devan relieved to find out that Katie didn't know what happened to the ant farm?

**Devan 121-122**

Devan mentions the tape burn on Will's face. What does that reveal to Katie?  
What happens at the top of the chairlift?



## **Katie 123-125**

What item does Shane use to taunt Egghead?

Why is it so important to Will?

Why does Shane stare at Devan in total shock?

When Devan tells Will Devil's Hill is not for beginners he is telling him out of concern for Will's safety. How does Will hear it?

Shane dares Will to get the hat. What two additional offers does he add?

What does Katie want to tell everyone?

Why doesn't Katie say something when everyone looks at her?

Where is Katie in the circle of bullying?

## **The Peak 126-127**

What is "fight or flight"?

Will talks of his fears. He is afraid of doing something, but more afraid of doing nothing. What does that mean?

## **Devan 128-130**

What happens to Egghead when he skis down Devil's Hill?

Describe what he looks like when Katie reaches him.

What does Katie do when she arrives on the scene of the accident?

What does Devan do when he arrives on the scene of the accident?

## **Katie 131**

In her anger, Katie tells Shane, Brad and Devan that they owe Will ten dollars. What does she really think they owe him?

## **Devan 132-133**

Initially, Devan wants to deny Katie's accusations. He knows he didn't do anything. It was all Shane. Why does Devan agree with Katie in the end and admit he owes Will?

How does Devan's feeling about ambulances change?

As the ambulance leaves, a strange look flickers across Shane's face. What do you think it was?

How does Shane deal with that emotion?

How does Devan react?

## **Katie 134-136**

What happened to Will as a result of the skiing accident?

Even though Katie doesn't speak to Will while she visits, what do her visits tell us about her concern for her friend?

What do we learn about Professor Reid in this scene?

What is the one thing Katie thinks Will has to come back for?

When she finally does speak to him, what does she tell him?

**Mom 137-138**

What does this poem tell us about Will's experience while in the coma?

**Journal reflection:** The last line his mother says is the same as what Katie is telling him. Do you think he is dreaming or has he seen his mother?

**Devan 139-140**

Devan knows things are different, he's different. In what ways?

**Katie 141-143**

Why is Jenna's attention a surprise to Katie?

Is Jenna asking about Will out of concern or from some other motivation?

What does Jenna tell us about the accident that killed Will's mother?

What line has Katie crossed with Jenna?

Why hasn't Katie been to see Will since he woke up?

**Devan 144-146**

Why isn't Mme. Latour on duty in the hall?

Why does Shane's premeditated actions concern Devan?

How does Shane test Devan's loyalty?

Why does Devan think he passed the test?

**Katie 147-148**

Why is Shane so angry at Katie?

**Devan 149-152**

Who got caught for the worm jar incident?

When Devan walks away, what does that action tell Shane?

What does Aunt Maureen ask Devan to do?

Who is in room 242?

Of all the things he sees, why do Will's eyes hit Devan the hardest?

What does Will imply to Devan while they are talking about butterflies?

**Trophallaxis 153**

What is the definition of trophallaxis?

How is this relevant to Will?

What nourishment does Devan provide?

**Katie 154-156**

Why is Katie cleaning the aquarium?

How is she sounding like Will?

When Shane backs Katie up against the tank what does she suddenly realize?

**Devan 157-159**

When the crowd gathers around Devan and Shane, what is different about how they react to Shane's actions?

*Only trash would hurt a girl?* Why do Riley's words affect Shane so strongly?

**Katie 160-161**

What gets smashed during the fight?

Devan tries to squeeze an apology out of Shane not just for Katie, but for Shane, too.

Why is it so important?

What does Brad do at the end of the fight?

**Devan 162-164**

What punishment does Brad get?

What is different about Shane when he leaves Spence's office?

Why does Devan get a two-day suspension?

**Katie 165-166**

Why isn't Katie too worried about seeing Shane again?

Why does Katie go to see Will now?

What happened to Will?

What is the difference between guilt and regret?

**Journal reflection**—Describe a time when you felt guilt or regret.

**Katie 169-171**

What does Devan apologize for to Katie?

When he sees her crying what does he assume?

What news shocks Katie?

What does Devan give Katie from Will?

**Metamorphosis 171-172**

What is Will's message to Katie and to all of us in this poem?

**Journal reflection:** How is each end really a new beginning? Describe something that was both an ending and a new beginning for you? What feelings did you have at the time?

**Devan 173**

As well as the dinner gift certificate, what gift has Will given Devan?