

Getting What I Deserve A Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. Why does Charlie initially hesitate to confront Mark about his bullying?
2. What is Mark's initial reaction when Charlie attempts to confront him?
3. How does Mark's behavior escalate after Charlie tries to stand up to him in the library?
4. What event leads Charlie to completely avoid the school restrooms?
5. Why does Charlie decide not to tell his mother about Mark's behavior?
6. What surprising offer does Mark make to Charlie during his visit to Charlie's apartment?
7. How does Mark exert control over Charlie even during seemingly friendly outings?
8. Why does Charlie pretend to be sick the morning after Mark's sleepover?
9. What specific incident at Village Inn highlights the power imbalance in Charlie and Mark's "friendship"?
10. What is the significance of Charlie repeating the phrase "I'm in charge" during the confrontation with Mark at Miner's Kitchen?

Answer Key

1. Charlie hesitates to confront Mark because he fears further humiliation and embarrassment in front of their classmates. Mark is popular and has a group of friends, while Charlie is isolated and seen as an easy target.
2. Mark reacts with a mocking and dismissive attitude, shouting "WHAT?!" loudly to draw attention to the situation and further embarrass Charlie. This public display of aggression reinforces Mark's dominance and Charlie's vulnerability.
3. After the library confrontation, Mark's bullying becomes more physical and frequent. He and his friends physically harass Charlie in the hallways, escalating from slaps and kicks to more serious incidents that leave Charlie feeling increasingly powerless.
4. Charlie avoids the restrooms after Mark and his friends pull him out from under a stall while he is using the toilet. This humiliating and violating experience traumatizes Charlie and underscores the extent of Mark's cruelty.
5. Charlie doesn't tell his mother about Mark's behavior because he fears she won't understand and will only make things worse by trying to intervene. He anticipates her suggesting he "stand up to Mark," which has proven ineffective and only led to more bullying.

6. During his visit, Mark surprisingly offers to be Charlie's friend and apologize for his past behavior. This unexpected gesture manipulates Charlie into believing Mark is genuine and seeking redemption, leading him to accept the offer despite his reservations.
7. Mark maintains control by constantly criticizing and belittling Charlie, using threats and anger to keep him submissive. He dictates their activities, food choices, and even Charlie's clothing, manipulating him into conforming to his demands under the guise of friendship.
8. Charlie pretends to be sick to avoid going hiking with Mark and his family. He feels anxious about spending an extended period with Mark after the sleepover incident and fears further manipulation and control.
9. At Village Inn, Mark forces Charlie to repeat humiliating phrases in front of other patrons, showcasing his control and enjoyment of Charlie's discomfort. This public humiliation reinforces Charlie's sense of powerlessness and highlights Mark's cruelty.
10. Charlie repeating "I'm in charge" is significant because it triggers a violent reaction from Mark, revealing the phrase's connection to a past bullying incident. This repetition exposes Mark's underlying anger and guilt, challenging his facade of control and prompting a shift in their dynamic.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the ways in which Charlie copes with Mark's bullying throughout the story. How do his coping mechanisms evolve as the narrative progresses?
2. Discuss the theme of toxic friendship in "Getting What I Deserve." How does the author portray the complexities and damaging effects of this type of relationship?
3. Explore the role of power dynamics in the story. How do these dynamics shape the interactions between Charlie and Mark, as well as their individual experiences?
4. Analyze the significance of the setting in "Getting What I Deserve." How do the different environments, such as the school, Charlie's apartment, and the cabin, contribute to the development of the plot and characters?
5. Evaluate the ending of the story. Does Charlie achieve a sense of closure or justice? What is the author's message about the lasting effects of bullying and the possibility of healing?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Bullying:** Repeated, aggressive behavior intended to harm or intimidate another person, often involving a power imbalance.
- **Toxic Friendship:** A relationship that is emotionally damaging, manipulative, and characterized by a lack of respect and support.
- **Control:** The act of exerting power or influence over someone or something, often through manipulation or coercion.
- **Anxiety:** A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, often accompanied by physical symptoms like a rapid heartbeat or sweating.

- **Resilience:** The ability to adapt and bounce back from adversity, trauma, or challenging experiences.
- **Confrontation:** A direct encounter or clash between opposing individuals or ideas.
- **Manipulation:** A tactic used to influence or exploit others for personal gain, often involving deception or emotional pressure.
- **Humiliation:** The act of causing someone to feel ashamed or embarrassed, often publicly.
- **Power Imbalance:** A situation where one person or group has significantly more power, control, or influence than another.
- **Revenge:** The act of inflicting punishment or harm on someone for a perceived wrong.
- **Forgiveness:** The act of pardoning someone for a transgression or offense, releasing feelings of resentment or anger.
- **Closure:** A sense of resolution or completion, often following a difficult or traumatic experience.
- **Justice:** The concept of fairness, righteousness, and upholding ethical principles.