

*They Cage  
the  
Animals  
at Night*



## Pre-reading

**Reading Selection:** *They Cage the Animals at Night*

**Background Knowledge:** Foster Care System (use information from the informative essay on Foster Care)

**Questions to Pose:** How does Jennings survive through each of the obstacles he comes across in his childhood?

**Text Elements:** How does the author use sensory details to enhance his writing?

Essential Questions: How do our lives connect to those of other people?

What universal qualities do all people share?

### **Chapter One**

**What is the mood of the first chapter? What words does the author use to convey this?**

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### **Chapter Two**

**On page 29, Mark tells Jennings, “Why not find someone else to play with?” Using information from the text, draw a conclusion (make an inference) as to why you think Mark doesn’t want to play with Jennings.**

**Reason 1:**

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**Reason 2:**

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**Mark tells Jennings to “...find someone else to play with,” because**

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### **Chapter Three**

**Why do you think Jennings included this chapter in the book? What lessons does Jennings learn from the Carpenters?**

**Lesson 1:**

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**Lesson 2:**

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**Jennings included this chapter because**

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### **Chapter Four**

**Do you think it was a good or bad idea for Mark and Jennings to break the “kid rule” of not making friends? Why or why not?**

**Pros of making friends**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Cons of making friends**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**I think that Mark and Jennings**

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**What makes someone family?**

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**Mark (does/does not) display these qualities because Mark (does /does not) display**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **he (is/is not) family to Jennings.**

**Chapter Five**

**“Jennings,” she whispered, “please don’t be too angry with me. I’ll always love you and pray for you...” (pg. 75)**

**-Sister Ann Charles**

**Why do you think all of the “good” people keep leaving Jennings?**

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**How do you think Jennings is feeling at this point in the book?**

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**Chapter Six**

**Why does Doggie mean so much to Jennings? (pg.88) What does Doggie represent to Jennings?**

**The relationship between Doggie and Jennings is**

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**I know this because of this example from the text:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Seven

**Jerome says, being a brother “...means more than having the same last name” (pg.105) What do you think it means to be a brother? Who might be considered Jennings’ brother?**

**I think being a big brother means** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Because I think this, Jennings and \_\_\_\_\_ are brothers.**

**The reasons I think these two can be considered brothers are**

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## Chapter Eight

**Circle your group's character: (Miss Kellar, Sister Gerard, Sal)**

**Do you think they are heroic?**

**Cite examples from the book with page numbers to prove your point.**

**What lessons does Jennings learn from your character?**

**Cite examples from the book with page numbers to prove your point.**

## Chapter Nine

**On page \_\_\_\_\_, the word "caged is used and I think it means \_\_\_\_\_**

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**On page \_\_\_\_\_, the word "caged is used and I think it means \_\_\_\_\_**

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**On page \_\_\_\_\_, the word “caged is used and I think it means \_\_\_\_\_**

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**I think “I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings” means**

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## **Chapter Ten**

**What do you think the significance of the zoo is in this chapter?**

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