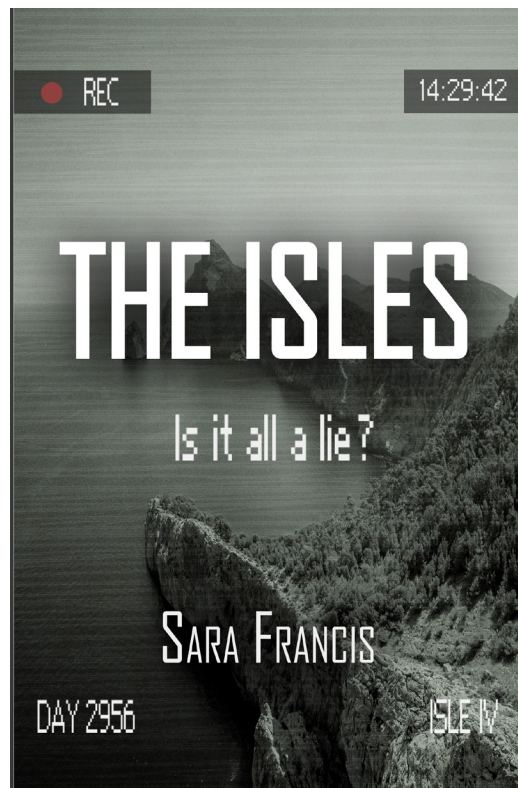




TEACHER'S STUDY GUIDE TO

THE ISLES

BY SARA FRANCIS



A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each chapter in this guide has several components: Summary, Questions, and Discussions.

Summary: These are brief summaries of each chapter. They contain the most important take away points and give the main idea of what was going on.

Questions: These questions are taken directly from the chapters themselves. The students can usually find the answers word for word in the book. They are in order of appearance and are usually short answer questions.

Discussions: Many of these discussion questions do NOT have answers. These can also be used as essay questions. They are meant to be thought provoking and for the student to think outside the box. These questions point out the elements in the book that relate to the world today. Note: some of these questions do have answers to explain what the author was thinking, but that doesn't mean that is the only correct answer. It is up to you to decide whether they answered correctly or not.

Worksheets: This guide starts with the worksheets and ends with the teacher's answer key. There are spaces for them to write answers to the questions but NOT the discussion topics. Those will be answered either orally or in essay form on a separate sheet of paper.

Thank you for choosing THE ISLES! If you have any questions, want to leave feedback, or want to hire Sara Francis for her other services, contact her through her website:

www.sara-francis.com. Also, if the teachers and students could leave THE ISLES a review on Amazon and/or Goodreads that would be much appreciated! (Links are on her website.)

Happy reading!



Sara Francis
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Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 1 – ALISON I

QUESTIONS

1. How did Alison end up at the Isles?

2. What happened to Alison's body? How does she react?

3. When Alison is taken to the Lobby, what is the first thing she thinks of doing?

4. Who are the first three people that Alison meets?

5. By the end of the chapter, what is Alison's overall impression of the Isles?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think Mr. Allaway encourages formalities?
7. Should Alison have tried to escape? Why or why not?
8. How would you behave if you were in Alison's place?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 2 – SAMI I

QUESTIONS

1. What species is Sami Spliced with? What are at least three of her abilities because of it?

2. What is Sami's Isle's (Isle VI) main function?

3. How does Sami feel about the experiment before Mr. Mallory's speech?

4. After Mr. Mallory's speech, how does all of Rank 3 react? How do Sami, Becca, and Lucas react?

5. What "privilege" is Sami being honored with when she enters the GEHTA?

DISCUSSIONS

6. After reading Mr. Mallory's speech, do you agree that humans will evolve into greater beings over time? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 3 – AARON I

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Commencement Test?

2. What is the name of the program that Aaron is currently in? Would he remain in that program if he passed the Commencement Test?

3. Why are there less desks than students in Aaron's classroom? Do you think this is a good idea for children at such a young age?

4. Why does Mrs. Pieper disapprove of the Commencement Tests?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Does the Keeper, Brian Bamber, appear to have good intentions for the test? If so, what are they?
6. If you were in the students' shoes, how would you react? How would you feel if you passed? If you failed?

BONUS QUESTION!

7. What pop culture reference is the painting of Mr. Nik by classroom 20?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 4 – ALISON II

QUESTIONS

1. How many Keepers are there? (Not including the headmaster) Write their names and what Isle they are in charge of.

2. What countries are the Keepers and Headmaster from? (Hint: There are 5) Why did they mention their homelands?

3. What is Mr. Mallory's belief for creating Mutants?

4. Was Alison getting used to her new implants by the end of the chapter?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Discuss Mr. Mallory's belief about humanity. What are your thoughts on it? Does he have a point

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 5 – SAMI II

QUESTIONS

1. What did Sami notice was different about her when she woke up?

2. Why does the author describe the other students' changes?

3. How was Lucas' experiment different than Sami's and Becca's?

4. What was Mr. Mallory trying to accomplish with these experiments? Did he succeed?
(Answer can also be found in previous chapters)

DISCUSSIONS

5. How do you think the Splicing works?
6. If you had the option, would you choose to be Spliced? If yes, what animal would you choose and why? If not, why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 6 – AARON II

QUESTIONS

1. When Mr. Bamber announced that only 75 students passed the first portion of the test, how did Aaron react?

2. How did Aaron figure out what to do in the first, dark room?

3. Who is Mark and what did he do?

4. How did Aaron figure out which path to follow in the sewer?

5. What was the final challenge? Who passed 100%

DISCUSSIONS

6. Do you think the 2nd half of the Commencement Test was a good way of picking the smartest kids? Why or why not?
7. Would you have solved the puzzles and riddles if you were in their shoes?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What pop culture reference is mentioned while Aaron is in the sewer?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 7 – ALISON III

QUESTIONS

1. What parts of Axel are Bionic?

2. What is Mr. Allaway's excuse for the Bionic's amnesia?

3. How do Alison and Axel get Branded and what does it mean?

4. How old were Alison and Axel when they received their armor? Did anyone else receive their armor on that day?

5. Who won the race?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Compare the Brands to Student Identification numbers and serial numbers that slaves/prisoners receive. What is similar among them? What is different?
7. What do you think the white circle around the Bionic's hearts mean?
8. During the race, Alison sees a ruined city and wonders if the Invaders attacked their first. Why do you think she comes to that conclusion? What are your thoughts.

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 8 – SAMI III

QUESTIONS

1. What is Sami's first big complaint in the beginning in the chapter? Does she have a right to be upset?

2. Why did all the students have to demonstrate?

3. Briefly describe Becca's, Lucas', and Sami's challenges.

4. What Class and Species was Zeke Spliced with? What about Lucas?

5. Why were Lucas' and Zeke's experiments so important?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Does Santuzza have a right to be mad at Mr. Mallory?
7. Do you think the Keeper means it when he says he is proud of his students?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What classic rock song is referenced? (The one that puts Zeke to sleep.)

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 9 – AARON III

QUESTIONS

1. Was Aaron expecting to pass? How did he react?

2. What is Mr. Bamber's view on asking questions?

3. Explain why you think the author has the Overlords tell Aaron and Mark where they're from?

4. What is an Overlord supposed to do?

5. How does Aaron feel about his new position?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Aaron just passed an impossible test filled with puzzles and scary situations with a 100% score. If you were in your shoes, how do you think you would react to the situation?
7. Mr. Bamber briefly mentions something about his curriculum. Do you think he doubts what he does?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 10 – ALISON IV

QUESTIONS

1. Name each Isle and give a brief description of what they do based on the Representatives explanations.

2. Who is on Alison's team and where are they from?

3. What do most of them think about the Isles? Who thinks differently?

4. What was their first Challenge?

DISCUSSIONS

5. What are your first opinions of Mr. Nik? Do you agree with Jeremy or the others? What is your reasoning?
6. Is Mark right when he speaks about relationships? (pg 109) Why or why not?
7. Is Mark right when he says the bit about "People are people..." (pg 110) Why or why not?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 11 – SAMI IV

QUESTIONS

1. Why doesn't Sami think she can be friends with a Bionic?

2. What did the team end up building with the stuff they found? What happened after they tested it?

3. What was the final challenge of the day? Who completed it and how did he/she do it?

4. Is Sami enjoying the company of her teammates?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Describe what you think the Keepers were thinking when they designed these challenges.
6. What do you Mark's theory may be for the islanders to not remember their last names?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 12 – AARON IV

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the self-proclaimed leader of Aaron's team? What was he like that surprised Aaron?

2. What were the Keepers' commands when Team Yared met Team Winfred? Did the students obey?

3. What was Donnie's mentality towards the Keepers' instructions?

4. What were Yared's thoughts about the whole situation?

5. Briefly describe how the final match went and who won:

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think everyone but Aaron obeyed the terrifying orders?
7. Why didn't the adults do anything to help Team Yared when they picked up the members of Team Winfred?
8. How would you feel if you were put in a situation like that?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 13 – ALISON V

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Yared yell at Alison? What was her response?

2. Briefly describe Alison's team's plan (as Mark explained it). What did they base their strategy on? Were the Keepers impressed?

3. What was the purpose of these challenges?

4. What happened to the Mainland (according to the current maps they have)?

5. How does Alison respond to the thought of being the Commander of the Bionics?

DISCUSSIONS

6. How do you think the Isle Challenges were used to determine the first-in-commands? Was this an efficient method of choosing? Why or why not?
7. Do you think Mr. Nik's words about the Invaders not caring about religion or belief applies to people today?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What young adult, futuristic book does Mr. Nik reference? (When he mentions why they chose to put the kids in battle situations.)

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 14 – SAMI V

QUESTIONS

1. Who does Sami choose for her second- and third-in-commands?

2. What can Sami do with her clipboard?

3. What does she hope to do after she sees the living conditions of one of the Isle VI residents? What does this say about Sami's character?

4. What were Sami's reasons for choosing Becca and Lucas? Did she make a good choice? Why or why not?

5. Where does Sami and team have to go?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why does the author mention Lucas' vocab? Is there a second meeting?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 15 – AARON V

QUESTIONS

1. Where did Aaron and team have to go? What did they have to do?

2. How do Aaron and Cecil react when Mark tells them what they have to do?

3. Based on what you've read, what is the life of the survivors like who reside on Isle II?

4. What does the team face throughout their mission?

5. What were the titles of the objects they took?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Aaron noticed that there are more Seers members at Isle II than any other Isle. Do you think Aaron has a right to be suspicious? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 16 – ALISON VI

QUESTIONS

1. Why were all the Keepers upset? Who scared Alison the most? Why was this Keeper so mad?

2. Where do the 17 Isle members have to go soon?

3. Who was acting very strange in the cafeteria? What as his friends' excuse for his behavior?

4. What part of the Mainland were they at? What did they do first?

5. Did they find survivors? If so, what happened? How did Alison respond?

6. Where did the team stay for the night?

DISCUSSIONS

7. What do you think the is the meaning of the OX letters that were inked into the back of the Invaders' necks?
8. Did Alison act too rashly when she shot the two invaders? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 17 – SAMI VI

QUESTIONS

1. Did they find survivors? If so, where?

2. Where did Fr. Sandro say the Invaders' base was?

3. What did they need to get into the base? Where did they find them?

4. What is Mark's reasoning for the survivor's password?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Is the password of the survivors a clever one? Why or why not?
6. The invaders use chips in the backs of their necks. A Mexican survivor remarks that we do the same to our pets. Why are chipping pets different than humans? Compare and contrast the two situations.

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 18 – AARON VI

QUESTIONS

1. Was everyone anxious for the mission? If not all, who wasn't and why?

2. How did Mark, Aaron, Yared, and Cecil get the ground team into the base?

3. What was the field turned into? What part of the field did the team need to get to?

4. What did Mark do when he reached the center? Were his friends happy he did it? Why or why not? What was Mark's reasoning?

5. What was Mark's explanation to Aaron for him acting weird at the Isles?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think the Invaders went crazy after Mark activated the self destruct?
7. Taking both sides into consideration, was Mark right with what he did? Was there another solution? Does he have innocent blood on his hands?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 19 – ALISON VII

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Isle members and the survivors need?

2. Where was the Invaders' bunker located?

3. What was the first thing they found in the bunker? How did they stop it?

4. What does Jeremy say Mark is? How does he respond?

5. What were the books Mark stole from Saviors? What does Mark claim are in them?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think Mark asks Miguel what his purpose in life is to see if he is cured?
7. Is Jeremy wrong for accusing Mark of being a spy? What would you do if you were in Jeremy's shoes?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 20 – SAMI VII

QUESTIONS

1. What happened when Mark first got on the plane? Why was that a foolish move on the pilots' part?

2. What did Mark claim the white ring around the Bionics' hearts were?

3. What did Mark want to do that he needed to ask the Bionics' permission? Did they agree?

4. What happened to Mark when they landed? What was the pilots excuse?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Based on what you've read so far, do you think Mark is a spy or not? Use references from chapters to support your position.

CHAPTER 21 – AARON VII

QUESTIONS

1. After they got breakfast, whose classroom did they hide in?

2. What did the classroom teacher claim to have done for Mark? What other info did he/she give Aaron?

3. Where was the Nerve Center located? How did they get the entrance to open?

4. What did they do while they were in the Nerve Center?

5. Briefly recall the accusations Wally and Nik made against Mark:

DISCUSSIONS

6. Ava makes a point that Mr. Nik doesn't know "he's evil". Do you think she's right?
7. What do you make of the comment Wally makes about "killing patients in the emergency room"?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What pop culture reference did Aaron make when he was in the kitchen?

CHAPTER 22 – ALISON VIII

QUESTIONS

1. Is Alison having second thoughts about some of the Keepers?

2. Are all the Keepers distrusting of Mark? Which ones are and which ones aren't?

3. What did Mark show them to convince them the Isles were a “nightmare”?

4. Why does Mr. Nik think children are the only people who can make his plan succeed?

QUESTIONS

5. Why do you think Mark was alluding to when he mentioned Mr. Mallory already made a shrew?
6. Do you think the person Mr. Nik quotes (“He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future.”) is a true statement? Why or why not?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 23 – SAMI VIII

QUESTIONS

1. After Mark mentions he sent a message on a secret frequency, are his friends' suspicious? Do they trust him?

2. Does Mr. Bamber know what's going on within the Isles?

3. What was Mark's explanation for Mrs. Pieper sneaking him into the Isles?

4. What is Mr. Nik's deal for Mark before he is declared innocent?

DISCUSSIONS

5. After all the stories and rumors, if you were in Sami's shoes, would you still trust Mark? Why or why not?
6. Do you think going against Mr. Nik is a good idea? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 24 – AARON VIII

QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the Isle they're headed to? Who/what do they find there?

2. What organization do Mark and friend belong to?

3. Briefly explain why Mark came to the Isles and what the mission was.

4. What happened to Mr. Pieper?

5. What is the real name of the Isles? Why did they leave the Forbidden Isle alone?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Did you suspect that the Isles took place on the Hawaiian islands?

BONUS QUESTION

7. On the next page, try and map out the Isles based off of information found in the book!

Name: _____

Date: _____

**MATCH THE ISLES WITH THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BASED
OFF OF INFORMATION FOUND IN THE BOOK!**

A. Hawaii - _____

B. Maui - _____

C. Molokai - _____

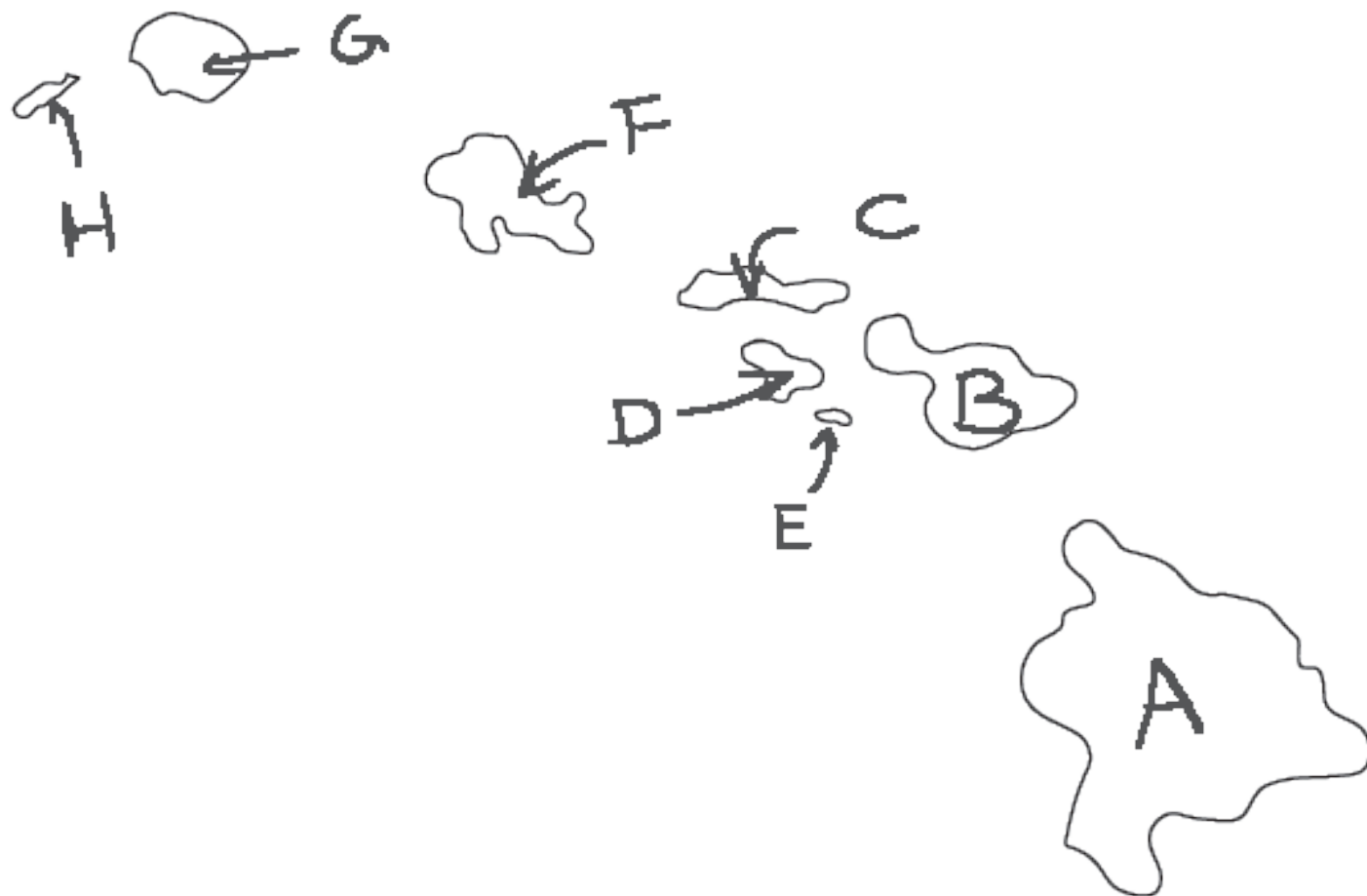
D. Lanai - _____

E. Kahoolawe - _____

F. Oahu - _____

G. Kauai - _____

H. Niihau - _____



Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 25 – ALISON IX

QUESTIONS

1. What did Mark do to make the Isle members remember bits of their past?

2. What was revealed about Alison's family?

3. What day were the Hawaiians celebrating?

4. Do the Hawaiians like the Isle members? What do they believe?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Do you think the playful food fight was actually a foreshadowing of what was to come?

BONUS QUESTION!

6. What pop culture was referenced when Mark says "there's power in a name?"

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 26 – SAMI IX

QUESTIONS

1. What did Shannon have to do before they can carry out their plan?

2. What was the first part of Mr. Bamber's plan? What was the second?

3. When Mr. Bamber accuses the Keepers of being worse than the invaders, how do they react?

4. What happened at the end of the chapter?

DISCUSSIONS

5. Do you think Sami mercilessly attacking the Seers was necessary? Why or why not?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 27 – AARON IX

QUESTIONS

1. Where was Aaron when he woke up?

2. When Aaron sees newspapers about Nik and the Isles, what does he conclude about RRPR?

3. What newspaper clipping surprised Aaron and his siblings? What did it say?

4. What is the Invaders' proper name?

5. Who are Mark's family?

DISCUSSIONS

6. The Isle members recorded PSAs to broadcast to their Isle with hopes of gaining allies. Was there a video or PSA you watched that changed your opinion on something? Why or why not? Do you think the Isle members' PSAs would be effective?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 28 – ALISON X

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Isle members need to fight the RRPR officers?

2. Which member kept getting distracted during the fight and by whom?

3. What did Mark say to them in the computer room after the training session?

4. How did they spend that night together?

5. The member who kept getting distracted during the fight told Alison a secret. What was it and does it worry her?

DISCUSSIONS

6. Alison and Axel argue about whether Shane, Nicolas, and Sonny are human or not. Axel says they're not human, Alison says they are. Who do you say is right and why?
7. What do you think Sonny revealing the scars he has that match Shannon's are meant to hint to?
8. It is meant to hint that he experienced Wally and Nikita's gruesome torture techniques long ago. Meaning that he had contact with them before the Isles.

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 29 – SAMI X

QUESTIONS

1. Who went with Sami to Isle VI?

2. What did Sami overhear Blake say to Aymie that made her nervous?

3. When they got to Isle VI, who were they greeted by? What happened to them and why did they decide to help?

4. What happened with Sami's friend Kella? How did Sami feel?

5. Who comforted Sami after what happened in Question #4?

6. What was Johanna's explanation of Blake's statement from Question #2?

7. What did Sami overhear Shane and Marlene talking about?

DISCUSSIONS

8. Jeremy vows that he will protect everyone, even Mark. He also says he isn't sure why he loved the Keepers so much. Do you think Alison's words that "they were the only family you ever had" make sense? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHAPTER 30 – AARON X

QUESTIONS

1. Why does Director Wyght want to head inland and meet with the Headmaster and Keepers?

2. Who does Mr. Nik recognize when they arrive? What does he realize?

3. Who is touched the most by Mr. Bamber's speech? What happens to this Keeper?

4. Who does Mr. Nik say Sonny is?

5. What does Cecil tell Aaron when he doubts RRPR and says their lives would've been better at Isle III?

6. What did Shane tell Marlene the night before? What did Mr. Calvin really mean to her?

7. Why did Mark thank Aaron?

DISCUSSIONS

8. Cecil says that they had no purpose and they were "slaves to the devil." Is he right? Why or why not?
9. Take a look at Mark's quote: "Isn't the world amazing? It's ruined and its people are falling apart. Yet, despite its brokenness, we're still fighting to make it better. If there are still a few people willing to find the truth, the rest will follow." Do you think this is true about our world today? Why or why not?

Name:_____

Date:_____

CHAPTER 31 – ALISON XI

QUESTIONS

1. What was the plan of attack?

2. Is Alison worried she won't make it? If not, what is she worried about?

3. What was the age range of the first group of people the Seventeen faced? What happened to the ages as they got further inland?

4. Who was lost before the Seventeen reached Mr. Nik and Wally? Briefly describe how they died.

5. Who did Nik mean to fire at after Sonny shot him? Who did he end up killing?

Name:_____

Date:_____

6. Who does Mr. Nik blame for the ruined world? What does he say to Alison?

7. What does Alison vow that day?

DISCUSSION

8. After doubting and hating Mark, Jeremy ends up sacrificing himself for him. What can we learn from this boy's brave act.

ANSWER KEY



CHAPTER 1 – ALISON I

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Alison begins the story by recalling how she lost her family and her right limbs due to an explosion during the Accident: a worldwide catastrophe caused by terrorists known as the Invaders. When she came to, she found herself in a strange facility and her limbs replaced by bio-mechatronic implantations. She then meets her Keeper (Cameron Allaway), the Headmaster (Nikita Patya), and the Keeper of the military division (Walter “Wally” Jarvis). They claim to have rescued Alison and explain a little bit about where she is. When they send her back to her room, she reflects on the day and wonders if they can actually be trusted.

QUESTIONS

1. **How did Alison end up at the Isles?**
 - A. After she lost her family and limbs due to an explosion during the Accident, she was rescued by Nikita Patya and company and brought to the Isles to be saved.
2. **What happened to Alison’s body? How does she react?**
 - A. The entire right side of her body was replaced with bio-mechatronic implantations, her eyes changed color and are strange in detail, and her hair is short and white. She is so shocked and horrified she is unsure how to feel about it.
3. **When Alison is taken to the Lobby, what is the first thing she thinks of doing?**
 - A. Alison tries to develop an escape plan.
4. **Who are the first three people that Alison meets?**
 - A. She first meets her Keeper, Cameron Allaway, the Headmaster, Nikita Patya, and the Keeper of the military Isle, Walter “Wally” Jarvis.
5. **By the end of the chapter, what is Alison’s overall impression of the Isles?**
 - A. She is very skeptical and is convinced that no one can be trusted.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think Mr. Allaway encourages formalities?
7. Should Alison have tried to escape? Why or why not?
8. How would you behave if you were in Alison’s place?

CHAPTER 2 – SAMI I (ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Sami opens up her first chapter describing that she is a Mutant housecat. She explains that Ilse VI is where they try and Splice an animal's genes with humans to give them impressive abilities. She recalls the day it was her turn for experimentation. Their Keeper, Mr. Carl Mallory, gives a speech saying that their work is bettering Humankind. Sami and her friends, Becca and Lucas, are the only ones unsure of the whole thing but can't do anything about it. So, they go with the flow and prepare for their experiment. When it's Sami's turn, she goes into the GEHTA (Genetically Enhanced Human Testing Area) where Mr. Mallory explains that she will be Spliced with the genetics of a Domestic Housecat. The chapter ends with Sami being strapped to a table in the GEHTA and her being knocked out before her experiment.

QUESTIONS

1. What species is Sami Spliced with? What are at least three of her abilities because of it?
A. She is part Mutant housecat. Her abilities include keen eyesight, ability to jump six times her height, excellent hearing, being fast on her feet, and a great sense of smell.
2. What is Sami's Isle's (Isle VI) main function?
A. Isle VI is the Isle of Genetic Testing where they try to perfect and enhance the human race through genetic experiments, one particularly known as Splicing..
3. How does Sami feel about the experiment before Mr. Mallory's speech?
A. She is excited and nervous. She knows her life is about to change and she isn't sure what to expect.
4. After Mr. Mallory's speech, how does all of Rank 3 react? How do Sami, Becca, and Lucas react?
A. a. Rank 3 is ecstatic and cannot wait to start their experiments, thinking that they will become something greater. Sami, Becca, and Lucas don't think that what Mr. Mallory said was a good thing. They believe that humans are already at the top of the food chain and there is no need to tamper with genetics.
5. What "privilege" is Sami being honored with when she enters the GEHTA?
A. She has the privilege of being Spliced with a Domestic Housecat.

DISCUSSIONS

6. After reading Mr. Mallory's speech, do you agree that humans will evolve into greater beings over time? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 3 – AARON I (ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Aaron begins by talking about himself and how he is an Overlord of Isle III, Research and Development. He recalls the day of his first Commencement Test. While he was eating breakfast that morning, his Keeper, Brian Bamber, gives a speech and explains the tests and how the children shouldn't get discouraged if they fail. After having an accident, Aaron goes to his homeroom to prepare for the test. His teacher, Mrs. Pieper, unintentionally burdens Aaron by discussing her concern for the children because of the difficulty of the tests. She then quickly brushes it aside and takes Aaron to the auditorium in the top floor where he begins to take the test.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Commencement Test?
 - A. The Commencement Test is several different tests that cover multiple subjects in a very short amount of time.
2. What is the name of the program that Aaron is currently in? Would he remain in that program if he passed the Commencement Test?
 - A. The program is called Apprenticeship. If passed, the student (no matter the Stratum) will graduate and be part of a higher program.
3. Why are there less desks than students in Aaron's classroom? Do you think this is a good idea for children at such a young age?
 - A. A teacher claims it teaches good discipline. (Answer to second question may vary)
4. Why does Mrs. Pieper disapprove of the Commencement Tests?
 - A. Mrs. Pieper believes the tests put too much pressure on the students and that it destroys their self esteem because no one passes. She is aware that students either take their studies too seriously or not at all and it seems to be wearing them down.

DISCUSSIONS

5. Does the Keeper, Brian Bamber, appear to have good intentions for the test? If so, what are they?
6. If you were in the students' shoes, how would you react? How would you feel if you passed? If you failed?

BONUS QUESTION!

7. What pop culture reference is the painting of Mr. Nik by classroom 20?
 - A. Big Brother, 1984 by George Orwell

CHAPTER 4 – ALISON II

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Alison describes her second day at the Isles when she meets with all the Keepers and the Headmaster for breakfast. There are six Keepers. Mr. Cameron Allaway (Isle I), Dr. Damian Agro (Isle II), Mr. Brian Bamber (Isle III), Mr. Calvin Agro (Isle IV), Walter “Wally” Jarvis (Isle V), and Mr. Carl Mallory (Isle VI). They each introduce themselves and tell Alison where they are from, to show her that the Invaders spread rapidly. They also, describe their island, and give more information as to what they do. Mr. Nik explains to Alison what the Invaders have been doing in the world. After breakfast, Mr. Allaway, Keeper of Isle I, takes Alison outside to train her to use her new bio mechatronic limbs. After a series of tests, Alison feels she is finally getting used to her implants but it will take time. Mr. Allaway tells her not to worry and that she won’t be alone. There will be more like her. In fact, they had just rescued a boy from Argentina, who they are hoping will survive the surgeries.

QUESTIONS

1. **How many Keepers are there? (Not including the headmaster) Write their names and what Isle they are in charge of.**
 - A. There are six Keepers. Mr. Cameron Allaway (Isle I), Dr. Damian Agro (Isle II), Mr. Brian Bamber (Isle III), Mr. Calvin Agro (Isle IV), Walter “Wally” Jarvis (Isle V), and Mr. Carl Mallory (Isle VI).
2. **What countries are the Keepers and Headmaster from? (Hint: There are 5) Why did they mention their homelands?**
 - A. America, Russia, Nigeria, Germany, and Scotland. They wanted to show Alison that it wasn’t just her homeland that was destroyed by the Invaders.
3. **What is Mr. Mallory’s belief for creating Mutants?**
 - A. He believes that if he combines man with animals (the creatures that never fell from God) that he can bring humanity back to its divine nature.
4. **Was Alison getting used to her new implants by the end of the chapter?**
 - A. Yes. She said it would take some getting used to.

DISCUSSIONS

5. **Discuss Mr. Mallory’s belief about humanity. What are your thoughts on it? Does he have a point**

CHAPTER 5 – SAMI II

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Sami wakes up from her experiment tied to a chair in a confinement room. She discovers that when she was Spliced with a domestic black cat, it had changed her appearance and abilities. She looks around at her friends and comments how they all changed, describing the horrors of the Keeper's experiment. When she is released, she finds her friends, Becca and Lucas, at dinner. Becca had been Spliced with a Cheetah. Lucas first comments how he hates himself and then secretly reveals that he had been Spliced with a Dragonfly.

QUESTIONS

1. **What did Sami notice was different about her when she woke up?**
 - A. Her sense of hearing and smell improved; she had black fur on her body, a tail, whiskers, and sharp teeth?
2. **Why does the author describe the other students' changes?**
 - A. The author wants to show the horrors and pain of the experiment and to prove that human nature is not something to be tinkered with. She also wanted to show the differences of each individual's experiment. (*Answers may vary.*)
3. **How was Lucas' experiment different than Sami's and Becca's?**
 - A. Lucas was Spliced with a Dragonfly from Class Insecta whereas Sami and Becca were spliced with mammals from Class Mammalia.
4. **What was Mr. Mallory trying to accomplish with these experiments? Did he succeed? (Answer can also be found in previous chapters)**
 - A. Mr. Mallory was trying to enhance the Human race and bring it back to its divine nature with the creatures closest to God: animals. (Second question answers may vary.)

DISCUSSIONS

5. **How do you think the Splicing works?**
6. **If you had the option, would you choose to be Spliced? If yes, what animal would you choose and why? If not, why not?**

CHAPTER 6 – AARON II

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Aaron continues the story of his Commencement Test. He recalls how after he completes the test, Mr. Bamber tells the students that only 75 individuals out of all the Stratum had passed that first part of the test. Once the students who failed were dismissed, Aaron finds he was to stay and move onto the next part, which was to follow Mr. Bamber. After finding his way through a dark, domed room, Aaron and the other students find themselves in an underground sewer, where Aaron meets an older boy named Mark, who takes charge of the situation. Together, they navigate through the sewers and find the final challenge; a white room with a series of questions on each wall. Aaron answers as best as he could. When they finished, Aaron and Mark exited through a crawl space that opened only for them. They found themselves in Mr. Bamber's office. Then, their Keeper enters and tells them they both passed the test 100%...and Aaron pees his pants for the third time.

QUESTIONS

1. When Mr. Bamber announced that only 75 students passed the first portion of the test, how did Aaron react?
A. He thought he failed and blamed his medical problem and tardiness.
2. How did Aaron figure out what to do in the first, dark room?
A. He recalled the instructions were to follow Mr. Bamber and realized that he was no longer in the room with them. He ventured off the path and hit the wall, which was bellowed out, revealing they were walking in circles.
3. Who is Mark and what did he do?
A. Mark is an older student from Stratum 15. He took charge while they were in the sewers and led the way to their escape.
4. How did Aaron figure out which path to follow in the sewer?
A. Aaron figured out the path when he realized the air was more tolerable going one way than the other.
5. What was the final challenge? Who passed 100%
A. The final challenge was the students had to solve four riddles. Aaron and Mark passed 100%.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Do you think the 2nd half of the Commencement Test was a good way of picking the smartest kids? Why or why not?
7. Would you have solved the puzzles and riddles if you were in their shoes?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What pop culture reference is mentioned while Aaron is in the sewer?
A. a. The scene from the novel The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien.

CHAPTER 7 – ALISON III

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Alison continues her backstory and describes her third day on the Isles. While Alison and Mr. Allaway are at breakfast that third morning, he explains that the boy from Argentina woke up from his surgery and will be joining them. Alison goes to the field immediately after and meets the boy, Axel, who had two Bionic legs. Axel first runs through some solo tests and then practices kicking barrels with Alison. After their training, they have dinner and ask Mr. Allaway why they can't remember anything. Mr. Allaway simply tells them that it's for the best and memories are painful. After eating, they receive brands on the backs of their necks to identify who they belonged to. -- Alison then jumps two years in the future when she and Axel were 12 and received their armor to enhance their abilities to the max. Mr. Allaway has Alison and Axel race around the entire island and back again, following directions that appear before their eyes. Alison concludes the chapter after describing race by talking about the annual Isle Meeting she will be going to the following day.

QUESTIONS

1. What parts of Axel are Bionic?
A. Both of Axel's legs are Bionic.
2. What is Mr. Allaway's excuse for the Bionic's amnesia?
A. Mr. Allaway says that he wants them to start over. He also says that memories of the past and nostalgia are only heartbreaking.
3. How do Alison and Axel get Branded and what does it mean?
A. A brand is a series of numbers that is burned and inked into the backs of students' necks. It identifies who they are and what Isle they belong to.
4. How old were Alison and Axel when they received their armor? Did anyone else receive their armor on that day?
A. They were twelve. No, only Alison and Axel received their armor.
5. Who won the race?
A. No one. They ended in a tie.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Compare the Brands to Student Identification numbers and serial numbers that slaves/prisoners receive. What is similar among them? What is different?
7. What do you think the white circle around the Bionic's hearts mean?
8. During the race, Alison sees a ruined city and wonders if the Invaders attacked their first. Why do you think she comes to that conclusion? What are your thoughts.

CHAPTER 8 – SAMI III

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Sami completes her backstory by sharing the experience of her first day as a Mutant. After breakfast, Mr. Mallory had all of Rank 3 head to the training fields to individually practice their new abilities. After a student asks why they had all been changed, Mr. Mallory explains that it was for the better of Humankind and that they will be assets in combat. The day continues and each student goes up and shows off their skills. Sami only describes Becca's, Lucas', and her challenge. Once they had finished the training and dinner, Mr. Mallory takes Sami, Becca, and Lucas to see the other student who was honored with being Spliced with a Class other than Mammalia. On a secret floor, they meet an old friend, Zeke, who had been Spliced with a shark. The four students talk for a few hours and then head to bed. Sami wraps up the chapter by describing how they've all grown and matured within those five years. She also mentions how she is curious to see what the next Isle Meeting has in store.

QUESTIONS

1. What is Sami's first big complaint in the beginning in the chapter? Does she have a right to be upset?
 - A. Sami looks around at the older Ranks and notices that their appearances hadn't fully changed like Rank 3's after the Splicing. (Second answer may vary.)
2. Why did all the students have to demonstrate?
 - A. Mr. Mallory wanted to show what each student could do and prove that the Splicing was worth it.
3. Briefly describe Becca's, Lucas', and Sami's challenges.
 - A. - Becca had to run around the track on all fours within less than a minute.
 - Lucas had to practice using his wings. He flew up to the rooftops and scared some of the older Rank members that were training up top.
 - Sami had to use her keen senses to detect and deflect tennis balls that were being fired at her from all directions while being distracted by her Rank mates.
4. What Class and Species was Zeke Spliced with? What about Lucas?
 - A. Zeke was Spliced with Class Chondrichthyes; Shark. Lucas was spliced with Class Insecta; Dragonfly.
5. Why were Lucas' and Zeke's experiments so important?
 - A. Mr. Mallory had never Spliced Humans with Classes other than Mammalia. This was a big stepping stone in his scientific experiments.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Does Santuzza have a right to be mad at Mr. Mallory?
7. Do you think the Keeper means it when he says he is proud of his students?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What classic rock song is referenced? (The one that puts Zeke to sleep.)
 - A. Back in Black by AC/DC.

CHAPTER 9 – AARON III

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Aaron finishes the story of how he passed the Commencement Tests. When he returns from the bathroom, Mr. Bamber explains how they passed and asks the boys a series of questions in regards to their thought process during the test. He then reveals the answers to the questions in the last room, which he explains were riddles. Finishing up the discussion, Mr. Bamber leads the boys to the classroom of their new Stratum: Stratum 0. Inside, they meet the other Overlords that they would be working with. Aaron meets a young boy named Cecil, who later becomes his best friend. After each student introduces themselves, Mr. Bamber describes what Aaron's and Mark's new responsibilities would be like. At the end of the day, Aaron tells Mrs. Pieper the good news. To end the chapter, Aaron talks about how Stratum 0 grew and evolved over the years and that Mark became the new Overlord 1.

QUESTIONS

1. Was Aaron expecting to pass? How did he react?
A. Aaron wasn't expecting it. He was so nervous, he peed his pants.
2. What is Mr. Bamber's view on asking questions?
A. He mentions that questions aren't encouraged but that his students should keep on asking.
3. Explain why you think the author has the Overlords tell Aaron and Mark where they're from?
A. To once again show the diversity of the Isles and how many places were devastated by the Invaders as well as give hints at each student's past.
4. What is an Overlord supposed to do?
A. Keep all the Stata in check, oversee the major projects that get shipped to other Isles, and other important leader-like duties.
5. How does Aaron feel about his new position?
A. He seems to accept his new responsibilities and shows his dedication and hardwork as the years pass.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Aaron just passed an impossible test filled with puzzles and scary situations with a 100% score. If you were in your shoes, how do you think you would react to the situation?
7. Mr. Bamber briefly mentions something about his curriculum. Do you think he doubts what he does?

CHAPTER 10 – ALISON IV

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Alison's record log returns to real time and she recalls the events of day 1 of the Isle Meeting, that took place on Isle III. After arriving at the Research and Development Isle early in the morning, they waited for the Isle representatives to go up and introduce themselves. Alison and Axel went up first and talked about Isle I: Biomechatronics Testing. After the other five Isles went up, all the Islanders were separated into groups. Alison was with five others: Ethan, Mark, Marlene, Jeremy, and Sami. The first thing they did as a group was have lunch where they talked and learned more about one another. They all seemed to be skeptical about the way the Keepers ran things... except for Jeremy (a Seer) who continued to defend Mr. Nik. Mark, however, repeatedly put him in his place with the many theories he had about the Isles that caused everyone to think. After that, the rest of the day was spent scavenging about Isle III in search for ridiculous items they needed to collect. At the end, they all head back to their cabin to get ready for bed. Before lights out, Alison shares the tragic story of how she lost her family and limbs during the Accident. After recording everything in her log, Alison then goes to sleep.

QUESTIONS

1. **Name each Isle and give a brief description of what they do based on the Representatives explanations.**
 - A. Isle I – Biomechatronics Testing. They experiment on bionic implants with the help of the disabled survivors of the Invaders. Their job is to make sure the equipment is safe to use on the common folk in dire times of need.
 - B. Isle II – Savors. They attend to the sick, wounded, and dying. They care for mothers and their babies and make sure that their children are sent to their destined Isle so they may grow up for a purpose. They mix medicines, have graduated members posted at each island, and house patients.
 - C. Isle III – Mark. They keep the Isles functioning and develop new equipment. They also host the Isle Meetings and are home to Mr. Nik, Mr. Bamber, and the Keepers' office: The Nerve Center.
 - D. Isle IV – Assets. They farm the crops, raise the animals, sew the clothing, package the supplies, and provide the things needed for survival.
 - E. Isle V – Seers. They are the Isles' protection program. They make sure mischief never happens and no one gets in or out.
 - F. Isle VI – Genetic Testing. They believe that humans aren't perfect yet and can still evolve. With a push from science, they plan to create the perfect beings.
2. **Who is on Alison's team and where are they from?**
 - A. Ethan; Isle II: Savors
 - B. Mark; Isle III: R&D
 - C. Marlene; Isle IV: Assets
 - D. Jeremy; Isle V: Seers
 - E. Sami; Isle VI: Genetic Testing
3. **What do most of them think about the Isles? Who thinks differently?**
 - A. Most of them are a little skeptical as to how Mr. Nik runs the Isles and about everything that goes on. Jeremy defends Mr. Nik and the Keepers.

4. What was their first Challenge?

- A. They had to go on a scavenger hunt and collect different things around Isle III.

DISCUSSIONS

5. What are your first opinions of Mr. Nik? Do you agree with Jeremy or the others? What is your reasoning?
6. Is Mark right when he speaks about relationships? (pg 109) Why or why not?
7. Is Mark right when he says the bit about "People are people..." (pg 110) Why or why not?

CHAPTER 11 – SAMI IV

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Picking up where Alison left off, Sami describes the second day of the Isle Meeting. After they woke up, Alison and Sami raced to the cafeteria for breakfast and brought it back to the team. After eating, they gather the supplies they found yesterday and begin to build a catapult. Once it was functioning, they decided to test it by launching Sami across the Island. When Alison brought her back to the ground, a nearby team began attacking. After destroying the other team's artillery, Sami and friends hid their catapult and continued with the challenges. The final challenge occurred at the beach where Ethan dove into the water to rescue a drowning child. They relaxed at the beach for a bit and then headed back to the cabin, where Jeremy asked Alison what her siblings' names were. She couldn't remember. Mark was confused because he previously mentioned that he remembered his family clearly. She also mentions that she thinks it's odd that no one knows their last names, which Mark has a theory for but refuses to tell them.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why doesn't Sami think she can be friends with a Bionic?**
 - A. Sami's island, Isle VI, is rivals with Alison's, Isle I, because their island's objective is to enhance human beings. However, one is by "natural" elements the other by technology.
2. **What did the team end up building with the stuff they found? What happened after they tested it?**
 - A. They built a catapult. After testing it, they were fired on by a nearby team.
3. **What was the final challenge of the day? Who completed it and how did he/she do it?**
 - A. The final challenge of the day was to rescue a drowning child. Ethan of Saviors was the one to do it by racing into the water, dragging the child to shore, and giving her CPR.
4. **Is Sami enjoying the company of her teammates?**
 - A. a. Yes, Sami is enjoying her teammates' company and hopes that Mr. Nik will let them see each other more often.

DISCUSSIONS

5. **Describe what you think the Keepers were thinking when they designed these challenges.**
6. **What do you Mark's theory may be for the islanders to not remember their last names?**

CHAPTER 12 – AARON IV

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Aaron continues the story and talks about his experience on the final day of the Isle Meetings. He describes that the challenges for the day were to help them train for a “life-or-death” scenario. Aaron is on team Yared, the representative of Savors. After arriving at their first stop, they meet a rival team who was Winfred, an Overlord. Once they receive instructions to fight for the turf, everyone around Aaron begins to attack. Confused, Aaron stands there for a moment before joining in. During the fight, Aaron meets an Asset, Donnie, whose reasoning for attacking was because the instructions said so. At the end of the fight, Yared and Aaron get into an argument about the battle. Yared confesses he didn’t want to fight but they have no choice. The day goes on and they continue to fight other groups. The final battle was at night back behind Isle III’s facility. The opposing team was nowhere in sight and used trickery as their strategy. After his team was picked off one by one, Aaron was left by himself to fight head-to-head with a Mutant cat girl. In the end, he was forced to surrender when he saw one of his best friends, Mark, on the other team. Aaron’s teammates were unharmed and the losers of that final match.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the self-proclaimed leader of Aaron’s team? What was he like that surprised Aaron?
 - A. Yared, the representative of Seers. He wasn’t strict or bossy. He asked for the opinions of the other members and he made sure everyone stayed together and cooperated.
2. What were the Keepers’ commands when Team Yared met Team Winfred? Did the students obey?
 - A. The Keepers wanted the two teams to fight until there was a victor, but no killing was allowed. Everyone but Aaron almost immediately obeyed the instructions.
3. What was Donnie’s mentality towards the Keepers’ instructions?
 - A. Donnie said that since the instructions told them to, they should do it.
4. What were Yared’s thoughts about the whole situation?
 - A. Yared is suspicious of what the Keepers are doing but thinks there is no other option than to obey. He thinks that if they do not listen, they won’t be around to figure out the truth.
5. Briefly describe how the final match went and who won:
 - A. Team Yared were on the ground in the field when the stadium lights began to flicker on and off. Then, an eerie voice spoke to them from what seemed like all directions. While she was speaking, Aaron’s teammates vanished one by one until only Aaron remained. After fighting with a Mutant, the lights flashed back on and Mark asked Aaron to surrender. Not wanting to fight his friend, Aaron obeyed and surrendered, making the opposing team the victors.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think everyone but Aaron obeyed the terrifying orders?
7. Why didn’t the adults do anything to help Team Yared when they picked up the members of Team Winfred?
8. How would you feel if you were put in a situation like that?

CHAPTER 13 – ALISON V

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

It's the day after the final challenge. Alison and her team went back to the R&D Facility and met with the other team. After a brief quarrel, the two teams went inside and met with the Headmaster and Keepers, who were proud of both teams. Before lunch, they had Mark go up and explain how they won the final challenge which left the Keepers impressed. After mingling in the Library, the six victors and Aaron were called to Stratum 0's classroom. There, Mr. Nik explained his reasons for the challenges and showed them a map of their ruined world. He said he needed to find students who were fit to leading their entire regiment when it was time to take back the Mainland from the Invaders. The six victors had proven themselves and were chosen to be the Commanders of their respective Isle (but Aaron and Jeremy were given second-in-command). After receiving items from the Keepers, the Commanders were told to think about choosing a second- and third-in-command if not already chosen. After that, they were dismissed and Alison closes her log.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why did Yared yell at Alison? What was her response?**
 - A. Yared was furious that his team hadn't won and took it out on Alison because she was the Bionic and the ghostly voice from the previous night. He claimed that she and her team were cowards and that they didn't actually fight. Unfazed, Alison stopped a punch Yared threw and replied that their top priority was to make sure no one was injured or killed.
2. **Briefly describe Alison's team's plan (as Mark explained it). What did they base their strategy on? Were the Keepers impressed?**
 - A. Step one was to kill the lights to confuse the team. Step two was to stealthily capture their opponents. Step three was to maintain them. Finally, step four was to force the remaining opponents into surrender. They based their strategy on making sure no one got hurt. The Keepers were very impressed.
3. **What was the purpose of these challenges?**
 - A. The Keepers needed to evaluate students and see which ones were fit to be the leaders of their regiments in order to take back the Mainland.
4. **What happened to the Mainland (according to the current maps they have)?**
 - A. The Invaders have taken over practically every part of the world.
5. **How does Alison respond to the thought of being the Commander of the Bionics?**
 - A. She is shocked and is determined that Mr. Nik is crazy to ask so much of them.

DISCUSSIONS

6. **How do you think the Isle Challenges were used to determine the first-in-commands? Was this an efficient method of choosing? Why or why not?**
7. **Do you think Mr. Nik's words about the Invaders not caring about religion or belief applies to people today?**

BONUS QUESTION!

8. **What young adult, futuristic book does Mr. Nik reference? (When he mentions why they chose to put the kids in battle situations.)**
 - A. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (pg 146)

CHAPTER 14 – SAMI V (ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

At breakfast, Sami talks with Becca and Lucas about being her second- and third-in-command. Once they accept, Sami and the other Commanders are called back to Stratum 0's classroom to learn more about their new devices. Sami sits with Mr. Mallory, who shows her how to use her clipboard. On it, she has all the information about every individual that lives and has lived on her Isle. Curious, she clicks into a resident who is living in one of the worst parts of Isle VI. Mr. Mallory claims that not all of Isle VI looks that shabby, but she is still sad for the poor woman. Once she is familiar, she and the others go back to grab their second- and third-seats to introduce them to the Keepers. Once their introductions have concluded, Mr. Nik announces that they would be leaving for the Mainland in a few days but will have about two days to train. He claims that it will be a "test run" but the members are still nervous. After that meeting concluded, Sami and team were given instructions for their first training session which told them to go to Isle IV and await further orders. They took an old speedboat and camped out in one of the warehouses where Sami wrote the events in her log.

QUESTIONS

1. **Who does Sami choose for her second- and third-in-commands?**
A. Sami chooses her best friends, Becca and Lucas.
2. **What can Sami do with her clipboard?**
A. She can view most of the information they have on the residents of Isle VI. She also has access to the Isle's security cameras and can keep an eye on whoever she wants to.
3. **What does she hope to do after she sees the living conditions of one of the Isle VI residents? What does this say about Sami's character?**
A. Sami hopes to take the old woman, Amanda, to a nicer location on Isle VI so she wouldn't have to live in shambles. This act of kindness shows Sami has a good and caring heart and hates to see people in suffering.
4. **What were Sami's reasons for choosing Becca and Lucas? Did she make a good choice? Why or why not?**
A. Sami chose them for their skills as well as their loyalty. She says that Becca is a great asset because of her unmatched speed. Lucas has an incredible sense of sight, can fly, and has the instincts to take out any target with speed and accuracy. (Answers may vary for the last two questions.)
5. **Where does Sami and team have to go?**
A. They were instructed to go to Isle IV, Assets.

DISCUSSIONS

6. **Why does the author mention Lucas' vocab? Is there a second meeting?**
A. **AUTHOR EXPLANATION:** She mentions Lucas' interest in learning Australian phrases because it shows that children want to learn. It shows that they have an insatiable curiosity that should not be limited to their education, like how Lucas did not have access to a library on Isle VI.

CHAPTER 15 – AARON V (ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Aaron, Mark, and Cecil arrive on the shores of Isle II early in the morning. Mark is the only one to know what they have to do but doesn't tell them just yet. First, they scour an abandoned village on the outskirts of the Isle. Then, they venture inward and take an ambulance to the heart of the Island, where the main facility was located. While they were driving, Mark finally reveals that their mission is to break into the Savors' control room which Aaron is not too thrilled about. Finally, they arrive at the facility but have to take a detour. Parking in a side street, they are about to make their way to the facility when they stop in a bake shop for breakfast. They make a trade with the lonely shop owner and receive breakfast. Finally, they made their way to the facility. Once inside, they made their way to the control room but were blocked several times. After knocking out guards and taking their clothes as disguises, they continued their descent until they were in the control room. While Mark worked on the computers, Cecil and Aaron were instructed to take several books. Aaron took three large books: Blueprints, Doctor's Manual, and the Saved. Cecil took two small ones: Welcome to Savors and Directory. Once Mark was done on the computer, an alarm went off in the facility and they had to make a run for it. Barely escaping, they made their way back to the ambulance where Aaron was knocked out from hitting his head on the back of the van. When he woke up, they were underground and still being hunted. Once the hunt cease, they remained underground for the rest of the night.

QUESTIONS

1. **Where did Aaron and team have to go? What did they have to do?**
A. They had to go to Isle II, Savors. They had to break into the Savors' control room.
2. **How do Aaron and Cecil react when Mark tells them what they have to do?**
A. Aaron does not approve and thinks they could get in serious trouble. Cecil thinks it's awesome and cannot wait.
3. **Based on what you've read, what is the life of the survivors like who reside on Isle II?**
A. All the Survivors seem to be on the same diet plan and live happy, simple, lives. However, some things seem off with their lifestyle: the shop owner for example. For some reason, his shop was rundown and he acted as if he never received visitors.
4. **What does the team face throughout their mission?**
A. They were constantly facing teams of Seers members who attempted to stop them.
5. **What were the titles of the objects they took?**
A. *Welcome to Savors, Directory, Blueprints, Doctor's Manual, and The Saved.*

DISCUSSIONS

6. **Aaron noticed that there are more Seers members at Isle II than any other Isle. Do you think Aaron has a right to be suspicious? Why or why not?**

CHAPTER 16 – ALISON VI

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The Isle Challenges are finally completed. Alison and Axel fly back to Mr. Allaway and the other Keepers to report. Upon returning, they find their superiors aren't very happy with the damage done to their islands by the students, especially Dr. Damian who is convinced Mark and companions stole more than they should have. After that dispute was put on hold, Mr. Nik informs the Seventeen that they will be heading to the Mainland that evening. With no way to change it, they go to have their final meal before leaving at which Mark is acting rather strange. Finally, they all boarded the jet and were in Guadalajara. There, they first split up. Alison and her team find survivors first: two invaders and four civilians. The Invaders murdered the civilians while Alison kills the invaders. Once they finished, they went to meet the others at the Guadalajara Cathedral. There they find a secret entrance to underground catacombs beneath the altar where they camped for the night.

QUESTIONS

1. Why were all the Keepers upset? Who scared Alison the most? Why was this Keeper so mad?
 - A. The Keepers weren't pleased with what the students did to each island. Dr. Damian Agro scared Alison the most. He was mad because he was convinced that Mark and his team stole extra files.
2. Where do the 17 Isle members have to go soon?
 - A. The Mainland.
3. Who was acting very strange in the cafeteria? What as his friends' excuse for his behavior?
 - A. Mark was acting very strange. He was flipping through the files Mr. Bamber told them to get and his attitude changed.
4. What part of the Mainland were they at? What did they do first?
 - A. They went to Guadalajara, Mexico. They split up to search for signs of life.
5. Did they find survivors? If so, what happened? How did Alison respond?
 - A. They found survivors in an old apartment. Men in black uniforms (The Invaders) shot and killed them. Alison immediately shot the men in black.
6. Where did the team stay for the night?
 - A. They stayed in catacombs hidden beneath the altar of the Guadalajara Cathedral.

DISCUSSIONS

7. What do you think the is the meaning of the OX letters that were inked into the back of the Invaders' necks?
8. Did Alison act too rashly when she shot the two invaders? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 17 – SAMI VI

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The Seventeen head deeper into the catacombs where they find survivors happily living in a secret church chapel. Sami is amazed at how they are so joyful. There, they meet Fr. Sandro who explains the situation and gives them information on the Invaders' base located at the Estadio Jalisco. In order to get in they will need the chips that are lodged in the Invaders' necks. Sami and a small team go out to where Alison shot the men the previous day to take theirs. Retrieving them, they made a hasty retreat where they planned for their mission.

QUESTIONS

1. Did they find survivors? If so, where?
 - A. They found survivors hidden in a chapel deep within the catacombs.
2. Where did Fr. Sandro say the Invaders' base was?
 - A. Fr. Sandro said that the base was in the Estadio Jalisco.
3. What did they need to get into the base? Where did they find them?
 - A. They needed the chips that the Invaders have in the backs of their necks. They found them in the bodies of the Invaders Alison killed the day before.
4. What is Mark's reasoning for the survivor's password?
 - A. Mark explains that the Invaders have no respect for any religion which gives them no desire to learn it. The people in Guadalajara are devout or know someone who is. This makes it easier to determine the good from the bad (to some degree of course).

DISCUSSIONS

5. Is the password of the survivors a clever one? Why or why not?
6. The Invaders use chips in the backs of their necks. A Mexican survivor remarks that we do the same to our pets. Why are chipping pets different than humans? Compare and contrast the two situations.

CHAPTER 18 – AARON VI

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

A cheery Mark wakes the Seventeen to prepare for the first important mission of their lives. Going out, they reach the base and start executing their plan. Aaron goes with a team past the artillery and takes out the man in the control room, allowing the rest of the ground forces to safely pass through. The team only has five minutes before the distraction team begins to make a mess outside. Inside, they find a few Invaders but not as many as Mark was expecting... not until they reach the field section of the stadium were the center controls and computers were. Having to fight and kill for the first time, the Isle members do their best to hold off the aggressive yet inhuman Invaders while Mark messes with the controls. After setting the device to self-destruct, the team races out of there and make it (thanks to Alison). Once they are back in the cathedral and all the members are awake, everyone asks Mark questions about the Invaders and why he had to destroy their computer, killing all of them. Mark explained that the Invaders' minds had been changed to only know the way of their superiors. He also told them that he had no other choice but to destroy the stadium which was the Invaders' base for all of Mexico. After they let the information sink in, Aaron goes to Alison and asks her why she was crying as she pulled Sami and him out of the burning stadium. She confessed that they reminded her of her siblings when she was running away from the Invaders during the Accident. Aaron consoles Alison and then goes to Mark for answers as to why he was so moody on the Isles before they left. Mark explained that he learned that the Saviors kill people rather than save them and one of them was his foster father. Appalled, Aaron tries to get to sleep but keeps thinking about Mark's untold secrets and the new horrors he learned.

QUESTIONS

1. **Was everyone anxious for the mission? If not all, who wasn't and why?**
 - A. Mark was the only one who wasn't nervous. He said he knows that they are doing what's right and that their deaths won't be in vain. He also mentioned that he hadn't spoken with people who believed and stood for the same things he did and that he got to go to Mass.
2. **How did Mark, Aaron, Yared, and Cecil get the ground team into the base?**
 - A. They used the chips to sneak past the artillery and into the weapon control room. There they knocked out the guard and Mark hacked into the controls, disarming the machines.
3. **What was the field turned into? What part of the field did the team need to get to?**
 - A. The largest control room Aaron's ever seen. The team needed to get to the main controls located in the center.
4. **What did Mark do when he reached the center? Were his friends happy he did it? Why or why not? What was Mark's reasoning?**
 - A. Mark blew up the entire stadium. His friends were upset with him because they felt most of those people were innocent. Mark said there was no other way because the base was for all of Mexico, not just Guadalajara.
5. **What was Mark's explanation to Aaron for him acting weird at the Isles?**
 - A. Mark explained that he learned that the Saviors kill people rather than save them and one of them was his foster father.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think the Invaders went crazy after Mark activated the self destruct?
7. Taking both sides into consideration, was Mark right with what he did (blowing up the OX base)? Was there another solution? Does he have innocent blood on his hands?

CHAPTER 19 – ALISON VII

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

It's the day after the battle and Alison wakes up to find all the survivors happily rebuilding the walls of the Church. After helping a bit, she and the others realize that they need more food otherwise the citizens won't survive. Getting a team together, Alison and friends go out to find supplies. They first check the ruins of the base which was fruitless. Mark goes through the Invaders' files and finds a hidden bunker under the University of Guadalajara. They take the lead and investigate. They find the entrance to the bunker in the sewers beneath the school. Mark gets them in no problem and they are all shocked at what they find. Behind the doors are hundreds of Mexican citizens being brainwashed. Mark immediately knows what is happening and leads the team into a nearby computer room where Alison records a message to hopefully counter the brainwashing process. Once the message is in play, the team continues to search for supplies but are caught by Invaders whom they defeat. In the midst of the fight, Mark goes to one of the citizens and asks what his purpose is to see if he is back to normal. Finding he's all right, Mark explains what to do when the others come to. Once all the Invaders were down and the citizens had a handle on the situation, Alison and the others grab crates of supplies and return to the cathedral. Upon their return, the subject of the Keepers arises and how they haven't been in contact. When Mark comments that they aren't trustworthy, Jeremy gets infuriated and accuses Mark of being a spy. Mark doesn't give a clear answer. Instead, he asks Jeremy questions that the boy can't answer. They came to the conclusion that somehow the Keepers made them forget. To explain, Mark confesses that he knows more than he lets on. He admits in stealing the books from Saviors back during the test run: Blueprints, Doctor's Manual, and The Saved. In the books it talks about all the secrets Saviors holds...especially the one where the survivors are brainwashed and the Saviors end up murdering people rather than saving them. In the end, Alison questions everything and wonders if it's all a lie?

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Isle members and the survivors need?
A. They needed more food.
2. Where was the Invaders' bunker located?
A. The University of Guadalajara.
3. What was the first thing they found in the bunker? How did they stop it?
A. They find Mexican citizens being brainwashed. The team goes into the computer room where Alison records a heartfelt message to counter the brainwashing process.
4. What does Jeremy say Mark is? How does he respond?
A. Jeremy claims that Mark is a spy for the Invaders. He isn't clear on his answer and only responds with questions, leading the Seventeen to doubt their Keepers.
5. What were the books Mark stole from Saviors? What does Mark claim are in them?
A. The books were *Blueprints*, *Doctor's Manual*, and *The Saved*. Mark claims that they say how the survivors must go through a mind wiping process before they can be set free. It also mentions how Saviors kill the people that are deemed defective or useless.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Why do you think Mark asks Miguel what his purpose in life is to see if he is cured?
A. AUTHOR ANSWERS: The Invaders purpose in life is to destroy and conquer, creating the world in their image. If the man said anything other than that, it would mean his

mindset and will was not altered.

7. Is Jeremy wrong for accusing Mark of being a spy? What would you do if you were in Jeremy's shoes?

CHAPTER 20 – SAMI VII

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The next morning, everyone was still thinking about what Mark said the day before about the Keepers and the Savors duties. Nevertheless, they continued to help the citizens rebuild the cathedral walls before the jet came to retrieve them. Before they knew it, the aircraft arrived and took off with the Seventeen, leaving the Mainland behind. On the plane, the pilot and co-pilot foolishly and violently tied up Mark. During the return journey, Mark miraculously managed to escape and effortlessly knocked out the pilot and copilot, hijacking of the plane. He then asks his confused Bionic friends if he can adjust their Optic Transmitters (the cameras and sensors in their prosthetic eyes). Everyone bickers until Mark explains that the Bionics have kill switches built into their armor if they ever go rogue. He wanted to save them. After some arguing, Alison and Axel finally allow Mark to proceed, but Alison has one condition. She wants to remember her past. Mark granted her request but it took its toll on her, so Sami comforts Alison as best she can. Once the Bionics were disconnected, they realize they need to get back to the Isles ASAP. So Mark puts the pilots back in their places and asks the Seers to tie him up again. After that is done, they arrive back to the Isle of Research and Development where a team of Seers rush into the bay and take Mark away, saying that they received an anonymous tip that he may be working for the Invaders. Distressed, the rest of the Seventeen go meet with the Keepers who threw them a party as if nothing was wrong. Finally, they were sent to bed where they can only wonder what was happening to Mark.

QUESTIONS

1. What happened when Mark first got on the plane? Why was that a foolish move on the pilots' part?
 - A. The pilot and co-pilot cuffed and tied up Mark. This was foolish because 1) he was already in a position that he couldn't escape and 2) it gave him cause to hijack the plane and make a move.
2. What did Mark claim the white ring around the Bionics' hearts were?
 - A. Mark claims that the white ring around their hearts was a "kill switch". An indicator that, if the Bionics went rogue, the Keepers could kill them in an instant.
3. What did Mark want to do that he needed to ask the Bionics' permission? Did they agree?
 - A. Mark asked to tweak their Optic Transmitters, cutting off their connection with the Keepers. They agreed.
4. What happened to Mark when they landed? What was the pilots excuse?
 - A. When they landed, Seers rushed in and took Mark away. The pilots claimed that they received an anonymous tip the Mark is working for the Invaders and has been lying the entire time.

DISCUSSIONS

5. Based on what you've read so far, do you think Mark is a spy or not? Use references from chapters to support your position.

CHAPTER 21 – AARON VII

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Everyone woke up early to see if they can find Mark. Before doing so, they went to get breakfast. Grabbing food, they hid in Aaron's Stratum 8 homeroom where he ran into Mrs. Pieper once again. Rather than ratting them out, she shows her distress that Mark was taken into custody (even though no one was supposed to know that). She then explains that she helped Mark sneak into the Isles five years ago, shocking the Seventeen. Wanting to help, she gives Aaron the location of the Nerve Center, the Keepers meeting center and Mr. Nik's residence. They trust her and go looking. In the Library, they find two books that hid the switches that lead to their destination: 1984 by George Orwell and The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx. Activating the switches, they are led down a secret staircase beneath the floor. At the bottom they find four rooms. In the room labelled "Inquiry", Axel detects Mark and the other Keepers... but he sees one of them approaching. Not wanting to get caught, the Isle members duck into the Nerve Center where they find the master computer and all the Keepers files. Aaron nonchalantly takes some blueprints and puts them into Mark's backpack while Cecil ducks behind the computer to download information. As Cecil is working, Mr. Bamber, Keeper of Isle III, walks in on them and wonders what they are up to. Aaron immediately runs to his superior and says they are looking for Mark. Mr. Bamber is proud that they figured out where their secret control center was but advises them to return to Classroom Zero. Cecil finished the download in time and the Isle members left. Once they were back in the Overlord's classroom, Cecil starts going through the files and finds the security footage of Mark's interrogation. They see how cruel Wally is to him and how he almost beats him to death. The Isle members are in terror and hope to do whatever they can to set Mark free.

QUESTIONS

1. **After they got breakfast, whose classroom did they hide in?**
 - A. The Isle members hid in Aaron's old homeroom, Classroom 20, that belongs to Mrs. Pieper.
2. **What did the classroom teacher claim to have done for Mark? What other info did he/she give Aaron?**
 - A. Mrs. Pieper said she helped Mark sneak into the Isles five years ago. She also disclosed the location of where Mark was being kept: the Nerve Center.
3. **Where was the Nerve Center located? How did they get the entrance to open?**
 - A. The Nerve Center was located underneath the Library. The team needed to find switches behind two of Mr. Nik's favorite books: 1984 by George Orwell and The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx.
4. **What did they do while they were in the Nerve Center?**
 - A. While the team was in the Nerve Center, they snooped around and Cecil downloaded information off of the Keepers' master computer.
5. **Briefly recall the accusations Wally and Nik made against Mark:**
 - A. Wally and Mr. Nik claim that Mark isn't who he says he is, that he stole the Saviors' books, interfered with their communications, and that he thinks ill of the Keepers.

DISCUSSIONS

6. Ava makes a point that Mr. Nik doesn't know "he's evil". Do you think she's right?
7. What do you make of the comment Wally makes about "killing patients in the

emergency room”?

BONUS QUESTION!

8. What pop culture reference did Aaron make when he was in the kitchen?
 - A. He referenced the first *Jurassic Park* when the kids were trapped with the raptors in the kitchen.

CHAPTER 22 – ALISON VIII

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Mr. Bamber takes the Isle members to the outskirts of Isle III where they find ruined houses along the shoreline. There was only one still intact. Going inside, they find Mr. Nik who had prepared lunch for them, his mood bright and chipper. They are all afraid to eat because they think it's poisoned. When Mr. Nik questions their caution, little Ava says she's scared because "men with guns" took Mark away. Not wanting her to get upset, Mr. Nik promises that they can finally see him. After lunch, he takes them to the basement where Mark lay motionless and shirtless on a cold table. Alison freezes at the sight...not at Mark, but the room itself. It was the room she was first operated in... it was where the Isles officially began. Going over to Mark, Nik scolds Wally for knocking him out again. Ethan and the other Savors offer to take a look at him and conclude that the synthetic poisons Wally injected him with were going to kill him. Dr. Agro comes in to help his students. After mixing an antidote, the Savors' Keeper removes Mark's shirt revealing an unknown brand. Too busy to comment, Dr. Agro injects the poison and Mark violently arouses, thrashing back and forth. Bitter, Mr. Bamber takes Mr. Nik outside to discuss the matter. The Isle members brought Mark upstairs and left Dr. Agro and Wally behind to argue. An hour passed before the truck returned to take the Seventeen back to the R&D Facility to rest. Getting into the truck, Alison notices that Sami looked distressed. She overheard something the Keepers were saying about Mark. Alison didn't get an opportunity to ask, so she left it alone for now. Once they were back and in the dorms, Aaron returns Mark's backpack. Inside, Mark finds the blueprints his friend stole and is amazed. Then, Cecil shows him the drive and Mark becomes ecstatic, saying that they can finally go home and escape the nightmare. To explain, Mark shows them the grotesque recording of Alison's surgery that took place eight years ago. He shows that they manipulated her brain. Mark also pulls up a document written in Mr. Nik's handwriting explaining how everyone must become like little children in order for their plan to be easy. Mr. Nik quotes, "He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future." Mark orders everyone to keep what they know quiet and they all go to bed.

QUESTIONS

1. **Is Alison having second thoughts about some of the Keepers?**
 - A. Alison is having second thoughts about some of the Keepers. She looks out onto the beach and sees the Keepers throwing rocks into the ocean and talking. Alison wonders if they were actually remorseless killers. To her, they seemed more like sentimental, misunderstood men.
2. **Are all the Keepers distrusting of Mark? Which ones are and which ones aren't?**
 - A. Not all of them distrust Mark. The ones who distrust Mark are Wally and Mr. Nik. The ones who seem indifferent are Mr. Calvin, Dr. Agro, and Mr. Bamber.
3. **What did Mark show them to convince them the Isles were a "nightmare"?**
 - A. Mark shows them Alison's surgery eight years ago when she became a Bionic. He shows that they manipulated Alison's brain to make her forget who she was and how they can control her from the inside if necessary.
4. **Why does Mr. Nik think children are the only people who can make his plan succeed?**
 - A. Mr. Nik says, "...the less they know, the more we can teach them and the easier it is for them to be disciplined."

QUESTIONS

-
5. **Why do you think Mark was alluding to when he mentioned Mr. Mallory already made a**

shrew?

6. Do you think the person Mr. Nik quotes ("He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future.") is a true statement? Why or why not?
 - A. NOTE: Do not tell the students that this is Hitler's quote before asking the question. Let them think.

CHAPTER 23 – SAMI VIII

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Sami wakes up with Mr. Nik and Wally's conversation swirling in her mind. She needed an opportunity to talk to Alison, but she couldn't because Mark announced that the Keepers might take him into custody again. He said that he sent a message back to the Mainland and they might pick up on it. Once again, they ask if he is a spy for the Invaders. This time, Mark gives them an answer: no. Just like that, they trusted him again. After Mark alters their BoMFs (Bracelet of Many Functions) so they cannot be tracked, the Seventeen go down and meet Mr. Bamber in the Library. Distressed, the Keeper tells Mark that they took Mrs. Pieper for questioning and if he didn't confess they would do something terrible to her. Mr. Bamber truly didn't know anything that was going on. So, Mark gave a little explanation saying that Mrs. Pieper snuck him into the Isles because he was too old to live with the students. He didn't want to live alone. He confessed that he was actually 25 years old rather than 20 like the other members of his Stratum. Mr. Bamber bought the story and led the Seventeen back down to the Inquiry to see the Keepers and Mrs. Pieper. There Mr. Bamber relayed Mark's story but Wally didn't buy it and they started asking Mark questions again. They were about to get a confession out of him when Mr. Allaway, Keeper of Isle I, barged in and said they had an emergency. Someone had infiltrated the Isles and was finally detected. Dr. Agro confesses that this individual could've been the guilty one, not Mark. Not getting off the hook just yet, Mr. Nik orders Mark and team to find the intruder and prove his innocence. Mark makes the deal and the Seventeen return to their dorms to prepare for their search the next day. Mr. Bamber pulls Mark out of the room to talk while Mrs. Pieper remains with Sami and the others. When Mr. Bamber returns, he promises that he will do whatever it takes to help. He orders the Isle members to pack their bags and weapons, telling them to be prepared for trouble. Before going to sleep, Sami finally tells Alison what she heard Mr. Nik talking about. She says that Mr. Nik says that they knew Mark before the Isles, that his name wasn't Mark, and he was involved in "bad stuff". Unsure what to believe, Alison tells Sami that the only thing that they could do was trust Mark. They didn't have a choice.

QUESTIONS

1. After Mark mentions he sent a message on a secret frequency, are his friends' suspicious? Do they trust him?
 - A. When Mark mentions the frequency, Donnie asks if he was a spy for the Invaders, causing everyone to doubt again. When Mark insists that he isn't, everyone seems to trust him again.
2. Does Mr. Bamber know what's going on within the Isles?
 - A. No, it appears that Mr. Bamber is completely clueless when it comes to the Isles' secrets.
3. What was Mark's explanation for Mrs. Pieper sneaking him into the Isles?
 - A. Mark gave a little explanation saying that Mrs. Pieper snuck him into the Isles because he was too old to live with the students. He didn't want to live alone. He confessed that he was actually 25 years old rather than 20 like the other members of his Stratum.
4. What is Mr. Nik's deal for Mark before he is declared innocent?
 - A. Mr. Nik says if Mark captures the intruder he is cleared.

DISCUSSIONS

5. After all the stories and rumors, if you were in Sami's shoes, would you still trust Mark?

Why or why not?

- 6. Do you think going against Mr. Nik is a good idea? Why or why not?**

CHAPTER 24 – AARON VIII

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The Seventeen are taken to Isle II, Saviors, where the intruder was last seen. Once Dr. Agro leaves them to their search, Mark takes everyone to the shore where Aaron sees another island in the distance. Mark calls it the Forbidden Isle and explains that where the intruders are hiding. When they arrive, they are amazed to find that it is inhabited by natives. They are approached by a large man named Chief Kapono Iokua who takes them to his hut. Inside they find a short woman named Shannon Hollinger in a black combat uniform that instantly embraces Mark (only as a friend). Finally, Mark tells his friends the whole truth. He explains that he and Shannon are from an organization on the Mainland called RRPR (Resist Rescue Protect Retake). Apparently, Mr. Nik had been kidnapping the people they saved and dragging them to the Isles. Thinking it might be a misunderstanding, RRPR decides to send a man to the Isles to see if there could be a possible alliance or if Mr. Nik was just another force to be stopped. Mark wasn't chosen to volunteer but he went anyway, leaving everyone and everything he knew behind. Getting to the Isles, Mark met Mrs. Pieper in the Saviors' facility. Mrs. Pieper was visiting her newlywed husband and Mark went with her to see him. To their horror, the nurse had killed him before they arrived. That day forward, Mark was determined to find the truth about the Isles and do whatever it took to stop the evil of the Isles. After that story, everyone sat in silence. Chief Kapono was disgusted that people and the beloved Hawaiian Islands were treated in such a way. He explained that the Invaders bombed all the islands, killing millions. He said the only reason the Forbidden Island was left alone because Mr. Nik didn't deem it useful and thought it was inhabitable. Once the chief left, Mark wondered why Shannon was the only RRPR member to show up. Shannon explained that she wasn't supposed to come alone but snuck off anyway and that the others would be there soon. In the meantime, the Isle members were to rest and wait.

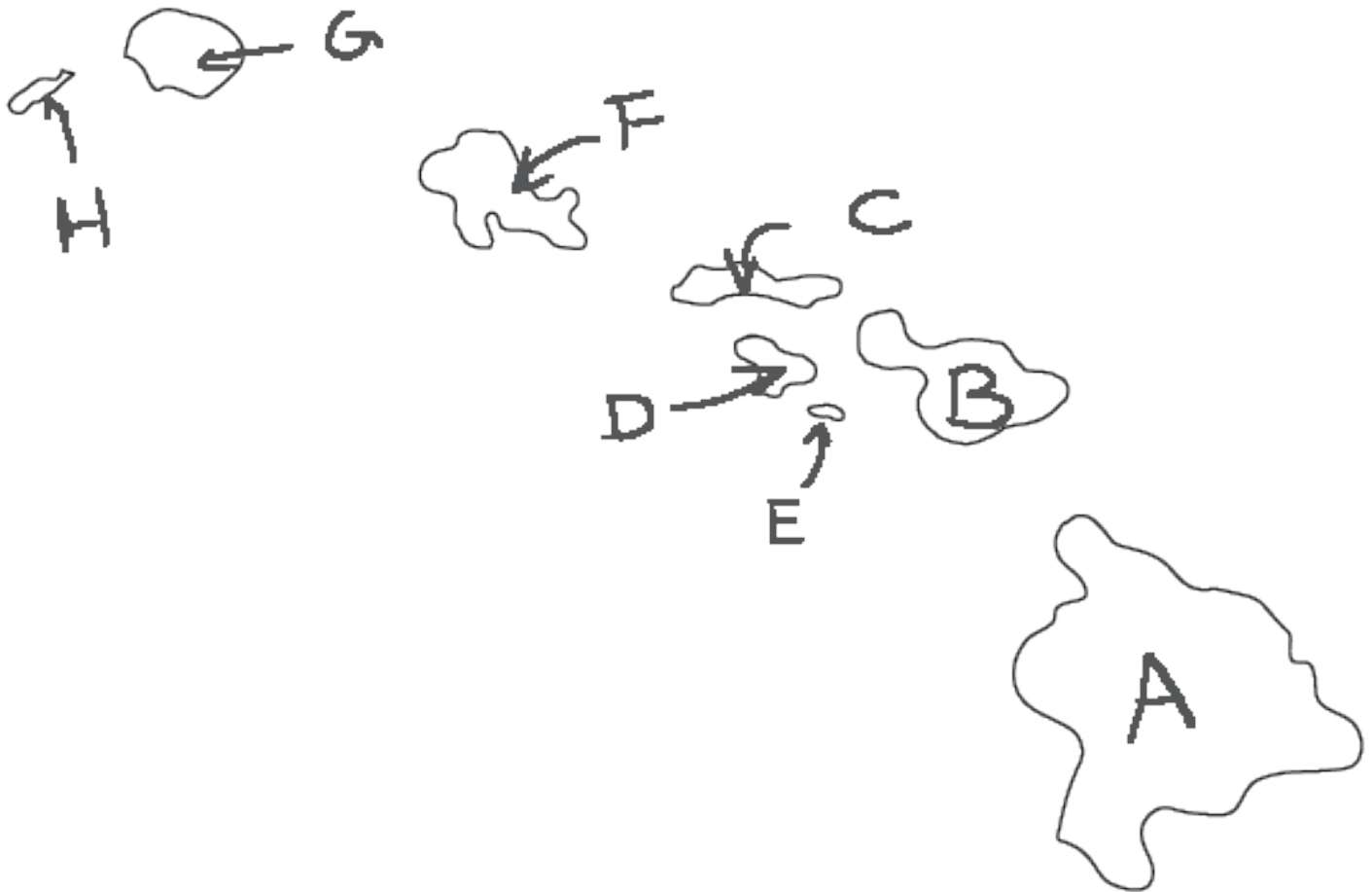
QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the name of the Isle they're headed to? Who/what do they find there?**
 - A. The island is called the Forbidden Isle. They find the intruder, Mark's friend Shannon Hollinger.
- 2. What organization do Mark and friend belong to?**
 - A. They belong to Project RRPR, Resist Rescue Protect Retake.
- 3. Briefly explain why Mark came to the Isles and what the mission was.**
 - A. He explains that he and Shannon are from an organization on the Mainland called RRPR (Resist Rescue Protect Retake). Apparently, Mr. Nik had been kidnapping the people they saved and dragging them to the Isles. Thinking it might be a misunderstanding, RRPR decides to send a man to the Isles to see if there could be a possible alliance or if Mr. Nik was just another force to be stopped. Mark wasn't chosen to volunteer but he went anyway, leaving everyone and everything he knew behind. Getting to the Isles, Mark met Mrs. Pieper in the Saviors' facility. Mrs. Pieper was visiting her newlywed husband and Mark went with her to see him. To their horror, the nurse had killed him before they arrived. That day forward, Mark was determined to find the truth about the Isles and do whatever it took to stop the evil of the Isles.
- 4. What happened to Mr. Pieper?**
 - A. A nurse euthanized (killed) Mr. Pieper.
- 5. What is the real name of the Isles? Why did they leave the Forbidden Isle alone?**
 - A. The Isles are actually the Hawaiian Islands. Chief Kapono Iokua explained that the Invaders bombed all the islands, killing millions. He said the only reason the

Forbidden Island was left alone because Mr. Nik didn't deem it useful and thought it was inhabitable

DISCUSSIONS

6. Did you suspect that the Isles took place on the Hawaiian islands? Try and map them out based off of information found in the book!
- A. Hawaii - Isle III (Research and Development)
 - B. Maui - Isle IV (Assets)
 - C. Molokai - Isle VI (Genetic Testing)
 - D. Lanai - Isle I (Biomechatronics Testing)
 - E. Kahoolawe - SUNK (Target Isle)
 - F. Oahu - Isle V (Seers)
 - G. Kauai - Isle II (Saviors)
 - H. Niihau - Forbidden Isle



CHAPTER 25 – ALISON IX

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Alison woke up and found Mark, Shannon, and the chief singing in the kitchen. After breakfast, Mark finally reads from the book, *The Saved*. He reads all the Isle Members their last names and birthplaces, triggering their memories to be unlocked. They all remembered bits and pieces of who they were and were amazed. The final name that Mark read was one that belonged to four members... the one Alison already knew. Alison, Sami, Aaron, and Jeremy Alexis. Alison's siblings were alive and with her the entire time. After a weepy reunion, Mark reveals that his name is Mark Timothy Hodgins and his siblings were still alive on the Mainland. Once everyone was finished looking through *The Saved*, Chief Kaponu Iokua invited them to join the Hawaiians in their yearly festival in celebration of Kamehameha Day. They had their best time of their lives and were living proof that there was hope for the world. After the festival, they all went to sleep and prepared for the dreaded days ahead.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Mark do to make the Isle members remember bits of their past?
 - A. Mark read all the Isle Members their last names and birthplaces, triggering their memories to be unlocked.
2. What was revealed about Alison's family?
 - A. It was revealed that Alison's siblings were alive and with her. Alison's siblings were Sami, Aaron, and Jeremy. Together they were the Alexis family.
3. What day were the Hawaiians celebrating?
 - A. Kamehameha Day.
4. Do the Hawaiians like the Isle members? What do they believe?
 - A. The Hawaiians made friends with the Seventeen and believe that because of them there is hope for their islands.

DISCUSSIONS

5. Do you think the playful food fight was actually a foreshadowing of what was to come?
 - A. The author says yes, but what do you say?

BONUS QUESTION!

6. What pop culture was referenced when Mark says "there's power in a name?"
 - A. This is a quote from the BBC television show *Dr. Who* to which Ava proceeds to ask, "Doctor? Doctor who?"

CHAPTER 26 – SAMI IX

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The Seventeen and Shannon wake up, bid the Chief farewell, and depart for the Isles. Their plan is for Shannon to be taken into custody so the Keepers are distracted in order for the Seventeen to take over the Nerve Center. When Shannon is taken away, they immediately put their plan into effect. The return to Isle III and carry out the first part of their plan: overthrow the electronic portion of the Isles. With Mr. Bamber's help and some difficulty, they manage to do so. The next part of the plan was to rescue Shannon. While Sami and some members waited outside, Mark and a team ran inside to rescue her. They returned with an unconscious Shannon and an army of Seers on their tails. Running for their lives, they made their way to Mr. Bamber's private jet on the other side of Isle III's training fields, which returned to their natural state. Unfortunately, Mr. Nik was there first. Mr. Bamber argues that the work Mr. Nik and the Keepers were doing was no better than that of the Invaders. The other Keepers tried to ignore him, but they knew he was right...except for Mr. Nik and Wally. Before Wally could shoot Mr. Bamber, a bomb went off in the hangar behind them, knocking everyone off their feet. Sami could only see dark figures rushing about before going unconscious. When she came to, she was on a ship being attended by people in black wearing scarves over their mouths. They told her to go to sleep, so she did.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Shannon have to do before they can carry out their plan?
A. Shannon had to be taken into custody.
2. What was the first part of Mr. Bamber's plan? What was the second?
A. The first part was to overthrow the electronic portion of the Isles. The second was to rescue Shannon and escape on Mr. Bamber's private jet.
3. When Mr. Bamber accuses the Keepers of being worse than the invaders, how do they react?
A. The other Keepers tried to ignore Mr. Bamber's accusations, but they knew he was right...except for Mr. Nik and Wally.
4. What happened at the end of the chapter?
A. Before Wally could shoot Mr. Bamber, a bomb went off in the hangar behind them, knocking everyone off their feet. Sami could only see dark figures rushing about before going unconscious. When she came to, she was on a ship being attended by people in black wearing scarves over their mouths. They told her to go to sleep, so she did.

DISCUSSIONS

5. Do you think Sami mercilessly attacking the Seers was necessary? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 27 – AARON IX

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

Aaron wakes up on one of RRPR's main battleships. He and the other boys (excluding Mark) are in their own cabin on the ship. Once they're all ready, they wander around looking for the dining hall. Finding a young woman named Aymie, they follow her to the hall where the girls were waiting for them. After breakfast, they go to the surface and find Mark, Shannon, Mr. Bamber, and Mrs. Pieper. They were all badly hurt and Shannon was in a wheelchair. Following Mark, Aaron and the others were brought to the Director's conference room. Inside Aaron finds newspapers about Nik and the Isles. He comes to believe that they knew about the Isles more than they led on. He also spots a newspaper clipping titled "Mysterious Terrorists Strike Again" featuring an old image of his family in front of his family's coffee shop in Leavenworth, Washington. After showing it to his siblings, the Director of RRPR, Stanley Wyght, entered and explained to them that they've been after Nikita for years. He says that Nikita and Walter only want to defeat the Invaders (really called the Order of Xenophon) so they can take over the world in their place and they were going to do it with children. Finishing his explanation, the director calls in his Royal Veteran officers to introduce themselves to the Isle members. At the end of the line were two individuals Mark knew all too well: his triplet siblings, Shane and Aymie Hodgins. The reunion was cut short because there was much to do. Director Wyght instructed the Isle members to follow two of the Royal Veterans to their computer room where they would follow with the next part of the plan. There they recorded video messages to send to their Isles, begging them not to join the Keepers and to fight with them.

QUESTIONS

1. **Where was Aaron when he woke up?**
A. Aaron and the other Isle members were on one of RRPR's main battleships.
2. **When Aaron sees newspapers about Nik and the Isles, what does he conclude about RRPR?**
A. Aaron comes to believe that Mark and RRPR knew about the Mr. Nik and the Isles more than they he on.
3. **What newspaper clipping surprised Aaron and his siblings? What did it say?**
A. He also spots a newspaper clipping titled "Mysterious Terrorists Strike Again" featuring an old image of his family in front of his family's coffee shop in Leavenworth, Washington. The image caption read, "Mayor Charleston with his military friend Mr. Aaron Alexis and his wife (Mrs. Bridget Hertz Alexis) and children in front of Hertz German Chocolate Shoppe."
4. **What is the Invaders' proper name?**
A. The Invaders' real name is the Order of Xenophon.
5. **Who are Mark's family?**
A. Mark is a triplet to Shane and Aymie Hodgins.

DISCUSSIONS

6. **The Isle members recorded PSAs to broadcast to their Isle with hopes of gaining allies. Was there a video or PSA you watched that changed your opinion on something? Why or why not? Do you think the Isle members' PSAs will be affective?**

CHAPTER 28 – ALISON X

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

While Mr. Bamber and Mark were working on the chip-deactivating device, Alison and the other Isle members went to the surface to train with three Royal Veterans (RVs): Shane Hodgins, Nicolas Eerkens, and Sonny Wilcox. The plan was for each member to fight at least one of the RVs so they could get a feel for their fighting techniques and teach their soldiers. Each Isle member went up and fought an officer. Alison was absolutely amazed at the RVs stamina, technique, and durability. During Sami's fight with Sonny, she noticed her sister was more nervous than usually and staring at the officer with suspicion. However, she had to put it aside because her turn was upon her sooner than she realized. Alison and Axel fought the three officers together with all they had. Before they could distribute their final blow, their armor was immediately shut down. Mr. Bamber's device was up and operational. After taking a rest and watching Shannon fight, the Isle members went back to the control room with Mark where he told them to enjoy the night because it may be the last good one for a while. Together they all went to the Royal Veterans' lounge room where they spent the night joking and singing with the other officers. To end, the RRPR members sang Shannon's Gaelic lullaby and bid everyone goodnight. Before Alison went to bed, she asked Sami what was wrong with the officer, Sonny, she fought that day. Sami hinted that Sonny had a marking on his neck that meant he was part of the Order of Xenophon.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why did the Isle members need to fight the RRPR officers?**
 - A. The reason the Isle members fought the RRPR officers was because the soldiers aren't sure what they were up against. The plan was for each member to fight at least one of the RVs so they could get a feel for their fighting techniques and teach their soldiers.
2. **Which member kept getting distracted during the fight and by whom?**
 - A. Sami kept getting distracted by Sonny while she was fighting him.
3. **What did Mark say to them in the computer room after the training session?**
 - A. He told them to never lose hope. But if their fate meant that they die fighting then so be it. Mark also thanked the members for everything they've done.
4. **How did they spend that night together?**
 - A. Together they all went to the Royal Veterans' lounge room where they spent the night joking and singing with the other officers. To end, the RRPR members sang Shannon's Gaelic lullaby and bid everyone goodnight.
5. **The member who kept getting distracted during the fight told Alison a secret. What was it and does it worry her?**
 - A. Sami told Alison that Sonny might be part of the Order of Xenophon, the Invaders. Alison is worried.

DISCUSSIONS

6. **Alison and Axel argue about whether Shane, Nicolas, and Sonny are human or not. Axel says they're not human, Alison says they are. Who do you say is right and why?**
7. **What do you think Sonny revealing the scars he has that match Shannon's are meant to hint to?**
 - A. **AUTHOR ANSWER:** It's a hint that he experienced Wally and Nikita's gruesome torture techniques long ago. Meaning that he had contact with them before the Isles.

CHAPTER 29 – SAMI X

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

That morning, Sami woke up worrying more about Sonny betraying them than the dreadful mission to come. Before departing, they received assignments. Sami was to go with Jeremy, Zita, Sonny Wilcox, and Shane Hodgins to Isle VI. While she was walking to her boat she overheard one of Mark's friends (Blake Bain) talking to Aymie. He mentioned he had a dream that not all the Isle members would make it. Sami was horrified at the conversation but had to push it aside for now. Getting to Isle VI, Sami led everyone inland where they found Alex the Aye-Aye and other Mutants who had heeded Sami's video PSA and came to help. Quickly, Sami led everyone back to the boat while a stampede of Keeper supporting Mutants chased them. Reaching the ship, they were attacked. They had no choice but to fight back. Unfortunately, Sami had to make her first kill: an old friend Kella. Distraught, Sami sobbed but Sonny Wilcox brought her back to her senses. She got to her feet and held her little brother, Jeremy. Finally, they made their way back to Isle III where the other members had set up camp. She embraced her siblings and Jeremy asks if they're going to die. Alison responds that she doesn't know. Jeremy vows that he will protect everyone, even Mark. After that, Sami spots another Royal Veteran member (Johanna Watterson) to ask about the dream Blake had about the Isle members dying. Johanna explains that Blake has a gift of precognition but sometimes he is wrong. Despite whether he is correct or not, Johanna informs Sami to enjoy the time she has now and not worry about the future. The evening past and night finally fell. Time for bed. Before Sami fell asleep, she overheard Shane talking to Marlene outside the tent. He mentioned that he knew her sister and gave her a gift. Sami couldn't see what it was and decided not to spy anymore so she went to sleep.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Who went with Sami to Isle VI?**
A. Sami was to go with Jeremy, Zita, Sonny Wilcox, and Shane Hodgins to Isle VI.
- 2. What did Sami overhear Blake say to Aymie that made her nervous?**
A. Sami overheard Blake talking to Aymie. He mentioned he had a dream that not all the Isle members would make it.
- 3. When they got to Isle VI, who were they greeted by? What happened to them and why did they decide to help?**
A. Sami and the others were greeted by Alex the Aye-Aye and dozens of other Mutants. First, the Mutants and other Isle members started to hear strange voices in their heads if they thought about betraying the Keepers. Then, Wally publicly tortured anyone to go against them. But when the voices stopped, Alex and the others were able to process Sami's PSA clearly and decided to help.
- 4. What happened with Sami's friend Kella? How did Sami feel?**
A. Sami had to kill her friend Kella. Sami was utterly depressed.
- 5. Who comforted Sami after what happened in Question #4?**
A. Sonny Wilcox, the one Sami was suspicious of, comforted Sami and told her it wasn't her fault.
- 6. What was Johanna's explanation of Blake's statement from Question #2?**
A. Johanna explained that Blake has precognitive dreams.
- 7. What did Sami overhear Shane and Marlene talking about?**
A. Sami overheard Shane say that he knew Marlene's sister and he was instructed to give something to her.

DISCUSSIONS

8. Jeremy vows that he will protect everyone, even Mark. He also says he isn't sure why he loved the Keepers so much. Do you think Alison's words that "they were the only family you ever had" make sense? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 30 – AARON X (ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The next morning Director Wyght wants to head inland to try and put off the fight until the next day and attain allies. He also believes they can reason with Nikita and Walter to reduce the casualties of the fight. The ones to go with the Director to meet the Headmaster and Keepers are the six Isle Commanders (Aaron included), Shane, Sonny, and Mr. Bamber. When they arrive, Mr. Nik immediately recognizes Mark and Shane and asks them where their sister is. He realizes now that he was wrong. He and Wally thought Shane was the one on the Isles, they didn't recognize Mark. Cutting the conversation short, Director Wyght demands they surrender. Mr. Nik refuses so the Director tries to reason with the other Keepers, telling them they're only manipulating children for their own gain. No better than the Invaders (Order of Xenophon). Mr. Bamber delivers a truth bearing speech that strikes a nerve. The first to crack is Mr. Calvin who speaks out against Mr. Nik. Wally in turn shoots him. The Assets' Keeper's final words were an apology to Marlene who says she finally remembers everything the Keeper did for her. Wally was about to shoot her too when Shane grabbed Wally and Sonny stepped in the way of Mr. Nik. No one expected what happened next. Mr. Nik called Sonny, Erik Patya...recognizing him as his son. Sonny cursed the Russian swearing Nikita was not his father. Mr. Nik still stands in awe as well as Wally. The Seers' Keeper notices the brand on the back of the RV's neck and affirms that it is indeed Erik Patya even though Sonny claims it isn't his real name. Ending the conversation, Mr. Nik says they will never give in and that it will all end the following day. The Isle Commanders, RV officers, and Mr. Bamber depart and make their way back to the camp. The moment they returned they prepared for battle. While Aaron was packing he overheard a conversation between Shane, Shannon, and another RV officer. Suspicious, he brings it up to Cecil and doubts what they're doing is worth it. Cecil reminds Aaron that they were never free and that trusting RRPR is their best choice. Finally, the sun had set and they had to rest for the upcoming battle. Before going to sleep, Marlene told everyone what Shane said to her the night before. She explained he had known her older sister who was a farmer like Marlene. Shane made a promise to her to find Marlene and give her the Best Family heirloom: a beautiful pocket watch. Marlene also told everyone that she remembered Mr. Calvin rescuing her and treating her as his own. She said he begged Mr. Nik not to take away her memories but it was no use. She was wiped and Mr. Calvin had to treat her like a regular Assets member. Not to end the night on a depressing note, Marlene starts a chain of three words that the Isle members never heard before: I love you. One by one, each Isle member said they loved each other and went to sleep...except for Aaron. He went outside for some fresh air, and his siblings followed. The other members of the Alexis family came out for a long hug goodnight. Once his siblings went to bed, Aaron went to the beach where he spoke with Mark for a little while. There, Mark thanked Aaron. If it wasn't for Aaron trusting him or looking up to him, Mark would've lost himself a long time ago. Aaron saved Mark's life. Finishing their conversation, they gave each other a manly hug and went to bed, knowing that the events of the next day would change things forever.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why does Director Wyght want to head inland and meet with the Headmaster and Keepers?**
 - A. Director Wyght wants to head inland to try and put off the fight until the next day and attain allies. He also believes they can reason with Nikita and Walter to reduce the casualties of the fight.
2. **Who does Mr. Nik recognize when they arrive? What does he realize?**
 - A. When they arrive, Mr. Nik immediately recognizes Mark and Shane and asks them

where their sister is. He realizes now that he was wrong. He and Wally thought Shane was the one on the Isles, they didn't recognize Mark.

3. **Who is touched the most by Mr. Bamber's speech? What happens to this Keeper?**
 - A. The one who is touched most by Mr. Bamber's speech is Mr. Calvin who speaks out against Mr. Nik. Wally in turn shoots him.
4. **Who does Mr. Nik say Sonny is?**
 - A. Mr. Nik claims that Sonny is his son, Erik Patya.
5. **What does Cecil tell Aaron when he doubts RRPR and says their lives would've been better at Isle III?**
 - A. Cecil reminds Aaron that they were never free and that they were blind to the truth. They had no purpose and were only abused. "Face it: we were slaves to the devil," Cecil told Aaron. He believes trusting RRPR is their best choice.
6. **What did Shane tell Marlene the night before? What did Mr. Calvin really mean to her?**
 - A. Marlene explained Shane had known her older sister who was also a farmer. Shane made a promise to her to find Marlene and give her the Best Family heirloom: a beautiful pocket watch. Marlene also told everyone that she remembered Mr. Calvin rescuing her and treating her as his own. She said he begged Mr. Nik not to take away her memories but it was no use. She was wiped and Mr. Calvin had to treat her like a regular Assets member.
7. **Why did Mark thank Aaron?**
 - A. Mark said that if it wasn't for Aaron trusting him or looking up to him, he would've lost himself a long time ago.

DISCUSSIONS

8. Cecil says that they had no purpose and they were "slaves to the devil." Is he right? Why or why not?
9. Take a look at Mark's quote: "Isn't the world amazing? It's ruined and its people are falling apart. Yet, despite its brokenness, we're still fighting to make it better. If there are still a few people willing to find the truth, the rest will follow." Do you think this is true about our world today? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 31 – ALISON XI

(ANSWER KEY)

SUMMARY

The next morning the Seventeen were dragged into the Director's tent to go over the plan. The regular soldiers first then the Seventeen follow. They intend to crush the head (Mr. Nik and Wally) with hopes that the body will crumble. Alison is terrified and Axel does all he can to comfort her, saying they'll be all right. Alison knows her and Axel will be fine, but she worries for the others. Finally, the battle begins and the army marches inland only to be greeted by walls of the Keepers' pawns. They had the oldest members on the outer defenses and the ages decreased as they got further in. The battle was long and gruesome. The members to fall before reaching Mr. Nik and Wally are as follows: Ursula died by electric spear; Harold was beaten to death; Zita by grenade; Cecil by a Seer's pistol; Marlene jumped on a grenade to save Ava and Donnie; Ava was shot; and Becca died from her wounds. So many lives were lost before the battle was over, and it wasn't looking good. Thankfully, the secret plan Shane, Shannon, and Myles were talking about the day before entailed contacting Chief Kapono Iokua and the Hawaiians and Mr. Allaway and the other Bionics. The three groups joined forces and turned the battle around. The rest of the Seventeen and the RRPR members finally made their way to the back where Mr. Nik, Wally, and the other Keepers were hiding. They were about to engage when a blast from behind knocked them all off their feet, killing Mr. Nik's allies and tearing off one of Wally's arms. Sonny struggled to his feet first and stormed to Nik, shooting him three times. Before dying, Mr. Nik screams and fires his gun at Mark. Jeremy jumps in the way and takes the bullet for him. Shocked, Mr. Nik curses and blames the Hodgins for the ruined world. He then turns to Alison and isn't sure whether to thank her or hate her. Her father had spared Mr. Nik's life and he thought he'd return the favor (he references the scar on his neck). He curses the Hodginses and the Alexuses. Infuriated, Alison ends his life. Nicolas Eerkens in turn ends Wally's. Once the other Keepers surrender, the battle is over. Returning to the camp, the remaining Isle members (Alison, Sami, Aaron, Axel, Ethan, Lucas, Yared, and Donnie) and RV officers sit in silence together. Alison writes the events in her record log and Aaron asks why Mr. Nik hated the Hodginses so much. Mark is too distraught to talk about it. He took Jeremy's death harder than anyone. Trying to make him feel better, Shannon finally kisses Mark's cheek. This turns the conversation around and causes everyone to remember the joyous lives their friends lived. Alison vows that day to never take her life or the life of anyone she cares about for granted.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What was the plan of attack?**
 - A. The plan was to send in the regular soldiers first then the Seventeen follow. The idea was the crush the head (Mr. Nik and Wally) with hopes that the body will crumble.
- 2. Is Alison worried she won't make it? If not, what is she worried about?**
 - A. Alison knows that she will survive because she is Bionic. She worries for everyone else.
- 3. What was the age range of the first group of people the Seventeen faced? What happened to the ages as they got further inland?**
 - A. The age range of the first group the Seventeen faced were older military veteran men and women who were living as survivors. The further they went inland, the younger the members were.
- 4. Who was lost before the Seventeen reached Mr. Nik and Wally? Briefly describe how they died.**
 - A. The members to fall before reaching Mr. Nik and Wally are as follows: Ursula died by electric spear; Harold was beaten to death; Zita by grenade; Cecil by a Seer's pistol; Marlene jumped on a grenade to save Ava and Donnie; Ava was shot; and Becca died

from her wounds.

5. **Who did Nik mean to fire at after Sonny shot him? Who did he end up killing?**
 - A. Mr. Nik meant to shoot Mark but Jeremy jumped in the way. Jeremy died in Mark's place.
6. **Who does Mr. Nik blame for the ruined world? What does he say to Alison?**
 - A. Mr. Nik curses and blames the Hodgins for the ruined world. He then turns to Alison and isn't sure whether to thank her or hate her. Her father had spared Mr. Nik's life and he thought he'd return the favor (he references the scar on his neck). He curses the Hodginses and the Alexuses.
7. **What does Alison vow that day?**
 - A. Alison vows that day to never take her life or the life of anyone she cares about for granted.

DISCUSSION

8. **After doubting and hating Mark, Jeremy ends up sacrificing himself for him. What can we learn from this boy's brave act.**