Among the Hidden Study Guide Questions

Chapters 1-5

1. On the very first page, what can you infer about Luke’s values? What’s important to him and why?
2. On page 2, Luke’s dad says, “You can’t tell the Government no.” Why can’t they tell the government “no”? What does this tell you about their society? Why do you think “Government” is capitalized when it’s a common noun?
3. Why does Luke picture the Government as “a very big, mean, fat person, two or three times as tall as an ordinary man, who went around yelling at peopling, ‘Not allowed!’ and “Stop that!’’? (2)
4. Why is Luke so upset about the family selling the woods on their land? How does selling the woods change his life?
5. Why can’t Luke go outside? Is this fair? Why or why not?
6. How does Luke come to realize he’s different form his brothers?
7. Why did Luke’s parents decide to have him if it was against the law?
8. Describe Luke’s relationship with his family members: his mom, his dad, Matthew, and Mark .
9. What evidence is there that Luke’s family is financially? Why are they having trouble making ends meet?
10. When a letter comes from the government, Matthew holds the letter the same way “Luke had seen him hold dead baby pigs.” (24) What does this tell you about the Government and Matthew’s feeling about the Government?
11. Why won’t the Government let the family raise pigs anymore? What does this tell you about the Government’s values and beliefs? Who or what is important to the Government? Who or what isn’t?

Chapters 6-11

1. Why does the Government raise the family’s taxes? What does this tell you about the Government?
2. How does Luke feel about his mother working? Why doesn’t he say anything about his feeling to her or the rest of the family?
3. Describe who the Barons are and how Luke’s father feels about them. (Hint: try to use the word “class” when you describe them.)
4. Why does Luke value reading and books?
5. Luke tells his mom not to tuck him in because he’s too old. However, what is the real reason that he tells her not to tuck him in? How do you know?
6. What motivates Luke to spend a day cleaning and baking?
7. How does Luke’s father react when he discovers that Luke has been cleaning and baking? Do you think his reaction is fair?
8. Explain how Luke and his mom fail to see each other’s perspectives on page 44.
9. Describe why Luke is becoming increasingly angry and irritated.
10. What beliefs does this society have about women? How do you know?
11. Why is it such a big deal to Luke when he sees that the Sports Family has heavy blinds pulled?

Chapters 12-16

1. Is sneaking into the Sports Family’s house to meet the third child brave or stupid?
2. Why does meeting the Sports Family’s third child matter to Luke so much? Why is Luke willing to risk his safety to meet this child?
3. Describe how the Sports Family’s house is different from Luke’s house.
4. Describe how Jen’s, the third child’s, life is different from Luke’s life. Why are their lives so different when they’re both third children? Why is Jen able to have a life that is so much better than Luke’s?
5. What do the differences in Jen’s and Luke’s lives tell you about the society they live in?
6. When Luke tells Jen about how he’s not allowed to touch the computer because his parents believe the Population Police could find him, she says, “Don’t tell me your family believes that Government propaganda stuff” (65). Propaganda is information, especially false information, that a government or organization spreads in order to influence people’s opinions and beliefs. What propaganda is Jen referring to? Why would Luke’s family, but not Jen’s, believe the propaganda?
7. Why does Jen cut herself on page 73? What does this tell you about Jen?

Chapters 17-20

1. What is the rally? Do you think it’s a good idea? Why or why not?
2. What risks does Jen take? Are those risks brave or stupid?
3. What other differences do you see between Jen’s and Luke’s lives in this section? What do these differences reveal about their society?
4. Luke says that his family used to feed their pigs with the grain they couldn’t sell, but now that they’ve had to get rid of the pigs, they just let the grain lot in the field. When Jen learns about this information, why does she want to post it on her online bulletin board?
5. What does Jen believe about the government? Is she wrong or right? How do you know?
6. Looking back at Chapter 17, why was the Population Law passed?
7. Remember that in Chapter 19, Jen gives Luke a bunch of articles and books to read. What are these books and articles about? Why did Jen want Luke to read them?
8. Luke notices that books and articles contradict (say the opposite) each other. Why does Jen believe it’s the articles and not the books that are true? How might the books be biased? (Bias is when you favor one side over another.) Do you agree with Jen?
9. Is Jen a hypocrite when she goes shopping? (A hypocrite is a person who says one thing and then does another or who claims to have certain values and beliefs but then doesn’t follow through with them.)
10. What does Jen value most? What beliefs are most important to her? How do you know?
11. Based on what you’ve read in these chapters, is the Population Law fair and moral? Why or why not?

Chapters 21-26

1. Why does the government ask Luke’s father to stop experimenting growing food indoors? What does this say about the government?
2. According to Jen, what motivates many of the Barons to have a third child?
3. Why is Jen so optimistic that her rally will be successful? Do you agree with her?
4. Why is Jen so eager to go to the rally? Why is Luke so reluctant?
5. Why does Jen think that Luke should go to the rally? Do you agree with her?
6. Is Luke a coward, as Jen implies, for not wanting to go to the rally?
7. At the end of Chapter 22, Jen tells Luke to leave. Is she being fair to him?
8. At the beginning of Chapter 23, look complain about Jen. How much of his complain it true? How much of it is being influence by their fight?
9. On page 115, Luke almost tells his mother about the rally. What stops him?
10. In Chapter 24, why does Jen show up at Luke’s house in the middle of the night? What does this make you think of her?

Chapters 27 to end

1. Jen’s father asks Luke why he didn’t stop Jen from going to the rally. Explain Luke’s answer.
2. Jen’s father says that at the rally the government “shot all of them. All forty kids at the rally, gunned down right in front of the president’s house. The blood flowed into his rosebushes. But they had the sidewalks scrubbed clean before the tourists came, so nobody would know.” (128) Analyze this quote. What does it tell you about the government? Why does Jen’s father mention the rosebushes and the tourists?
3. Why did only forty kids show up when Jen expected thousands? Would it have made a difference if more had shown up?
4. Jen’s father calls Jen’s work her “Children’s Crusade.” What is the significance of the word “crusade”? Look it up if you don’t know it.
5. Why is Luke in danger now?
6. When Luke discovers that Jen’s dad works for the Population Police, why doesn’t Luke shoot him?
7. Luke’s father says that sometimes “you have to work from inside enemy lines.” (133) What does he mean? Why didn’t Jen agree with him? Do you agree with him?
8. Why does Jen’s father claim that Luke doesn’t know the truth, just propaganda from both sides?
9. How and why did the country change, according to Jen’s father?
10. Why did the government deliberately create a class with special privileges?
11. Why does the government keep some people so close to poverty?
12. Why does the Government keep up the Population Law even if it’s no longer necessary for everyone’s survival?
13. Luke says, “[I]t wasn’t truly wrong for him to exist, just illegal.” (137) What is the difference?
14. What motivates Jen’s father to help Luke?
15. Why is Luke reluctant to take the fake ID? What motivates him to finally accept it?
16. What motivates Luke to decide to help 3rd children? How does he plan on helping them?
17. What motivates Luke to go only with the plan to leave his family and attend the school?