



Charmed

Carrie Mac

Reading level: 3.8

978-1-55143-321-9 PB

978-1-55143-578-7 LIB

AR Quiz # 83803

Book Summary

When Izzy's mother leaves her with Rob the Slob, her mother's latest live-in boyfriend, to go work in a logging camp, what was a terrible relationship deteriorates even further. Rob refuses to give Izzy any money, so she periodically takes money from his wallet. When Izzy's mother returns for a visit, she does not believe Izzy's accusations about Rob. Devastated by her mother's rejection, she leaves home and can not return until she repays Rob. The only place Izzy can find to live is with Cody Dillon, drug dealer and high school dropout. Sadly, her relationship with Cody leads her into teenage prostitution and almost costs her life.

Prereading Idea

Read the article found at the following website to students.

<http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/8/182003f.asp>

Ask students to write a reaction to the article, and then discuss the information in the article and the students' reactions.

Connecting to the World—Writing and Research Ideas

- Kitty makes a reference to “roofies,” a date-rape drug. Ask students to investigate date-rape drugs and to present their findings to the class. In their presentations, students should make reference to a date-rape incident that has been reported in the media.

The following websites will be helpful:

www.womenshealth.gov/faq/date-rape-drugs.cfm

www.womenshealth.about.com/cs/azhealthtopics/a/daterapedrgfaq.htm

- Izzy’s life with Dillon was anything but charmed, even though she was charmed into teen prostitution and drug dealing. Ask students to write a poem from one of the characters’ points of view. The poems should discuss the character’s life experiences. After students read their poems to the class, collect them and bind them in a book for students in similar and alternative educational settings to read.

Connecting to the Text—Elements of the Novel

Theme

All of the relationships in Izzy’s life are based on conflict and Izzy’s need for acceptance. In groups of three, ask students to analyze Izzy’s relationships and identify the choices she makes that cause her to become a victim. Have each group write a thematic statement that suggests overall individual empowerment rather than victimization. Beneath the thematic statement, have students list four or five steps to empowerment.

Characterization

Margaret and Cody are static characters; they stay the same from the beginning to the end of the story. Izzy, on the other hand, is a dynamic character, changing as a result of the conflict in her life. As a class brainstorm about Izzy’s character traits that change from the beginning to the end of the story. In groups of three or four, have each group of students focus on one trait and prepare a line graph quantifying the trait on the vertical axis and listing story events across the horizontal axis. Chart the change in each trait as a result of the story’s events. Post the charts in the classroom.

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. Even though Izzy hates Rob, she gets mad when Margaret talks bad about him (ch. 1). Why does this make Izzy mad if she agrees with what Margaret says?
2. In the beginning of their relationship, Izzy senses Cody's apparent interest in her masks his true intent, but she doesn't want to ask him how he feels about her. What makes her suspicious of Cody's motivation? Why does she ignore her instinct?
3. Margaret swears on her father's grave that she is not jealous of Izzy, but she does not tell Izzy why. What could be the reason Margaret is not jealous of Izzy?
4. Izzy seems to be determined to pursue a relationship with Cody—even after Margaret warns her to be careful and Mrs. Singh tells her she could do better for herself. Why does Izzy continue to pursue a relationship with Cody? What emotional needs does she expect Cody to fulfill?
5. After Izzy moves out of her house, her mother assumes Izzy is staying with Margaret, and Izzy allows her to believe that. Why does Izzy let her mother believe a lie? What does Izzy fear will happen if she tells her mother the truth?
6. Dillon controls and manipulates Izzy into prostitution. Why does Izzy believe his lies so easily? Why does Dillon target Izzy?
7. After being abused and intimidated into submission, Izzy was left in the basement for days. Sick and weak, how does Izzy summon the strength to escape? Why does Cherise help her?

Writer's Craft

The author uses CAPITAL LETTERS in parenthesis for emphasis in the first nine chapters of the book but does not use them after that. Why does the author quit using the capital letters? What other ways could the author have emphasized or conveyed the importance of what happens to Izzy and how she feels? Ask students to find a paragraph in the book where capital letters are used. Then have students rewrite the paragraph omitting the capital letters but keeping the emphasis.

Author Biography

Awarded a Canada Council for the Arts grant at age twenty-five for her first novel, **Carrie Mac** has had numerous short stories published in a variety of literary journals. Carrie lives and writes on British Columbia's beautiful Sunshine Coast.