

ATPE BOOK of the month CLUB

Reality Check by *Peter Abrahams*

***This book contains some graphic content and language that might be inappropriate for some students. ATPE advises teachers to read this book prior to assigning it to decide if it is appropriate for their students.**

1. Cody's favorite lines of poetry—"Screw your courage to the sticking place/And we'll not fail"—are actually lines from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The line makes Cody picture "courage fastened deep to something that would never break, like a boulder." Why do you think this line sticks with Cody? What does this line make you picture?
2. When Clea goes to Hong Kong, she seems to assimilate pretty easily into the culture. Would you find it as easy as she did to feel comfortable in such a new and different country?
3. Mr. Lorrie questions Cody about his passion, and Cody replies that his passion is football. What's your passion?
4. When Cody finds out Clea is missing, he barely hesitates before making plans to go and help in the search, even though he lives about 1,800 miles away. What would you do if you were in his position? Would you drop everything to search for someone you loved?
5. Think about the question Sergeant Orton asks Cody: "Say it was you out there, lost in the woods—what would you do?" Cody says he'd try to phone for help. What would you do?
6. Cody eventually tells Orton who he is and what he's doing in North Dover. Would you have told Orton the truth, or would you have kept up the secrecy? If you had told him the truth, would you have also become a mole for the Sergeant, like Cody?
7. Clea's poem, "Bending," is full of imagery that Cody doesn't at first comprehend. What did you make of it?
8. Who did you first suspect was involved with Clea's disappearance?
9. Would you have trusted Brand with your story like Cody did? Would you have chosen to leave, content that the authorities would find her, or would you have turned back, like Cody?
10. Were you surprised when Orton turned on Cody? Why or why not?



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