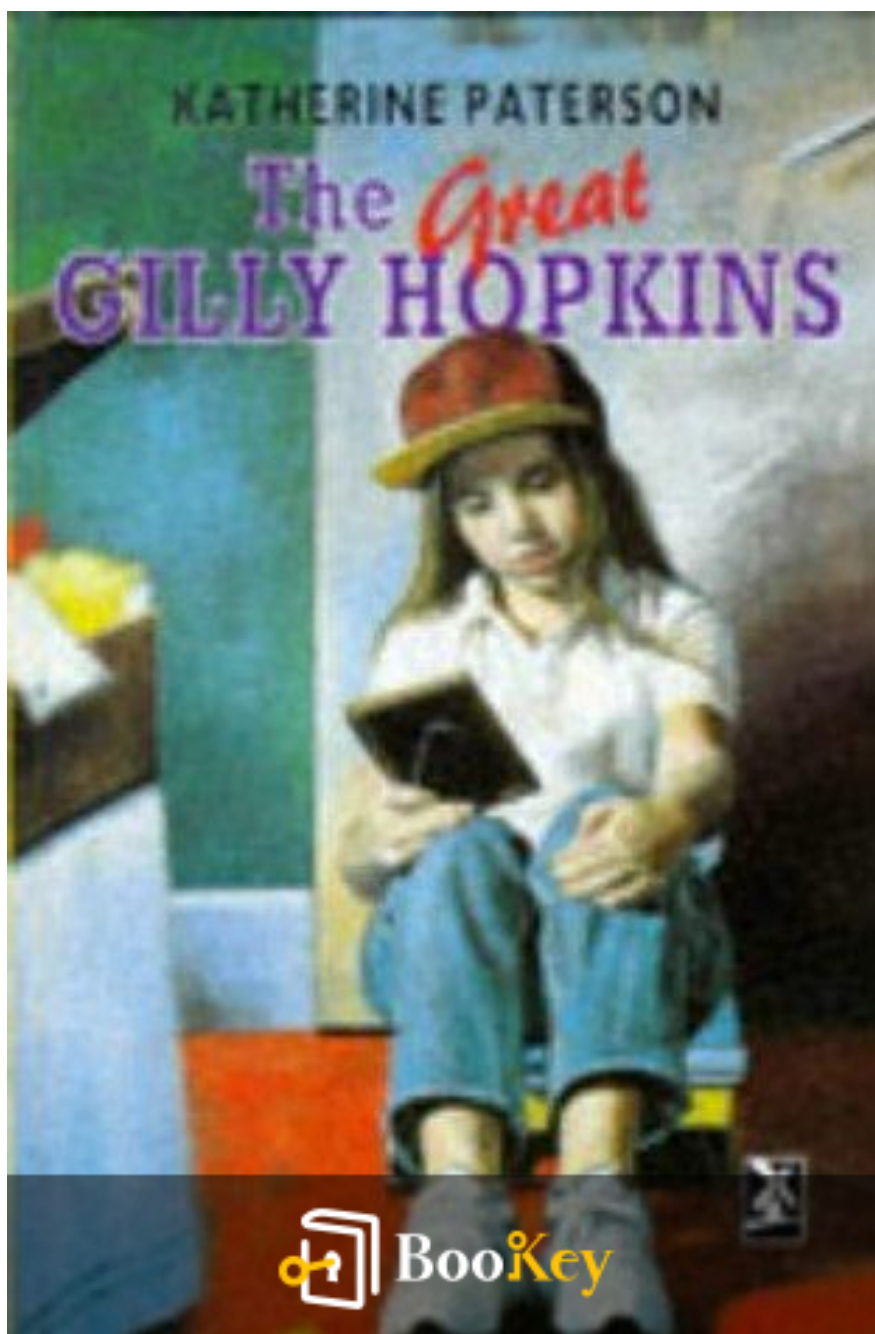


The Great Gilly Hopkins PDF (Limited Copy)

Katherine Paterson



More Free Book



Scan to Download

The Great Gilly Hopkins Summary

Finding family in unexpected places and embracing love.

Written by Books1

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the book

In Katherine Paterson's poignant tale, "The Great Gilly Hopkins," readers are introduced to Gilly, a fiercely independent and unapologetically brash twelve-year-old girl with a tumultuous past and a heart guarded by walls of defiance. As she navigates the complexities of foster care, Gilly's sharp wit and rebellious spirit clash with the loving yet unconventional family she finds herself with, forcing her to confront the emotional scars that have led her to push others away. This compelling story delves into themes of identity, belonging, and the transformative power of love and acceptance, inviting readers to journey alongside Gilly as she struggles to discover what it truly means to find a place to call home.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

About the author

Katherine Paterson is a renowned American author celebrated for her profound contributions to children's literature, with her works often exploring themes of identity, belonging, and resilience. Born on October 31, 1932, in Shanghai, China, to Presbyterian missionaries, Paterson's early experiences traveling across cultures have significantly influenced her storytelling. She is best known for her poignant novels, including "Bridge to Terabithia," which won the Newbery Medal, as well as "The Great Gilly Hopkins," which has garnered acclaim for its rich character development and emotional depth. Paterson's ability to tackle complex issues through the eyes of young protagonists has earned her a beloved place in the hearts of readers and educators alike, solidifying her status as a vital voice in contemporary literature for children.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics
New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

Summary Content List

Chapter 1: Welcome to Thompson Park

Chapter 2: The Man Who Comes to Supper

Chapter 3: More Unpleasant Surprises

Chapter 4: “Sarsaparilla to Sorcery”

Chapter 5: William Ernest and Other Mean Flowers

Chapter 6: Harassing Miss Harris

Chapter 7: Dust and Desperation

Chapter 8: The One-Way Ticket

Chapter 9: Pow

Chapter 10: The Visitor

Chapter 11: Never and Other Canceled Promises

Chapter 12: The Going

Chapter 13: Jackson, Virginia

Chapter 14: She’ll Be Riding Six White Horses (When She Comes)

Chapter 15: Homecoming

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 1 Summary: Welcome to Thompson Park

Summary of "Welcome to Thompson Park"

The chapter introduces us to Galadriel "Gilly" Hopkins, an eleven-year-old girl who is about to be placed into her third foster home in three years. We meet Miss Ellis, her social worker, who is driving her to Thompson Park. Despite Miss Ellis's professional optimism, Gilly is uncooperative and rebellious, expressing disdain for the constant upheaval in her life and the adults who have failed her. Gilly enjoys asserting her independence, even going so far as to hide her chewing gum in the car to annoy her social worker.

As they arrive at her new foster home, Gilly notices the dilapidated state of the house, which is owned by a woman named Maime Trotter. Maime is described as a large, cheerful woman, embodying a sunny demeanor that contrasts sharply with Gilly's cynical outlook. She also introduces William Ernest Teague, her shy and timid son, who is initially hesitant to interact with Gilly.

Inside the cluttered and dimly lit house, Gilly's rebellious nature continues to surface as she evaluates her surroundings with disdain, focusing on the dust and disarray. Despite the unsettling atmosphere, she attempts to

More Free Book



Scan to Download

manipulate and frighten William Ernest for her own amusement, showcasing her cleverness and determination to carve out her space in this new environment.

Throughout the chapter, the dynamic between Gilly, Miss Ellis, Maime, and William Ernest unfolds, with Gilly remaining guarded yet resolute to take charge of her circumstances, convinced she can handle whatever challenges lie ahead as long as she maintains control. The stage is set for her journey of adaptation and self-discovery in this new foster home anchored by complex relationships and emotional struggles.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of resilience and adaptability in the face of change

Critical Interpretation: Imagine walking into a new place filled with uncertainty, yet feeling a strong urge to assert control over your life despite everything around you being chaotic. Gilly's journey teaches you that adaptability isn't just about being more accommodating; it's about recognizing your own strength and learning to thrive even when the circumstances aren't ideal. Embrace each new situation as an opportunity to grow, much like Gilly learns to navigate her new foster home, transforming her challenges into stepping stones towards building deeper connections and discovering your own resilience.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 2 Summary: The Man Who Comes to Supper

Summary of "The Man Who Comes to Supper"

In this chapter, we are introduced to Gilly Hopkins, a tough, defiant twelve-year-old who has just been relocated to live with the Trotter family, a situation she resents. Gilly is immediately struck by the smallness and clutter of her new room, which contrasts sharply with her previous residence with the Nevinses – a house she describes as white, square, and pristine. As Gilly begins to unpack, she reflects on her tumultuous life of constant moves and her longing for her mother, Courtney Rutherford Hopkins, whose photograph she cherishes despite the pain it brings her.

Mrs. Trotter, the house's matriarch, attempts to bond with Gilly, encouraging her to settle in and participate in family activities. However, Gilly, unimpressed and frustrated by Mrs. Trotter's inadequate attempt at warmth, dismisses her, wanting only to be left alone. This moment highlights Gilly's deep-seated anger and her struggle with feeling abandoned and disconnected.

When told to fetch Mr. Randolph, a neighbor who is blind, Gilly's initial reaction is to resist and belittle the task. Her disdain for the situation continues as she grapples with the perception that she has been placed in an



undesirable household—a dynamic filled with challenges, including living with a mentally challenged boy, William Ernest, who is described as shy and timid. Gilly's view of William is condescending, seeing him as a pawn in her quest for control within her new environment.

Reluctantly, Gilly goes to retrieve Mr. Randolph, where she encounters his blindness for the first time. Initially scared and prejudiced against him, she is forced to confront her reactions when she catches him as he nearly falls. This moment serves as a pivotal point in the narrative, as Gilly's understanding of connection begins to evolve, albeit slowly and begrudgingly.

Dinner at the Trotter house is a blend of superficial banter between Mr. Randolph and Mrs. Trotter, highlighting the warmth and camaraderie that Gilly feels excluded from. Gilly, despite her hunger, chooses to be standoffish, reflecting her inner turmoil and her desire for more profound connections that she seems to believe elude her in this new life.

As the evening progresses, Gilly's thoughts drift back to her mother, solidifying her fixation on Courtney. She fantasizes about writing to Courtney, plotting a way to escape to the comfort she imagines her mother would provide. This yearning reinforces Gilly's fragile emotional state, trapped between her desire for familial connection and her vehement rejection of the life that has been forced upon her.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates Gilly's struggle against the backdrop of her new life with the Trotters, setting the stage for her journey of acceptance, understanding, and ultimately, growth. Gilly's complex character, marked by resilience and vulnerability, invites readers to empathize with her troubled past and uncertain future.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 3 Summary: More Unpleasant Surprises

Summary of "More Unpleasant Surprises"

In the opening of this chapter, Gilly Hopkins, a spirited and rebellious foster child, takes pride in her disheveled hair that is a mess due to bubble gum from the previous day. Eager for a reaction, she heads down to the kitchen, where her foster mother, Trotter, discusses arrangements to take Gilly to her new school. Trotter also tends to her son, William Ernest (W.E.), who has recently been promoted in his reading group. Despite Trotter's seemingly nurturing behavior, Gilly feels overshadowed by W.E.'s accomplishments and resentfully perceives Trotter as unfairly favoring him.

As the morning progresses, Gilly's irritation grows, especially when Trotter asks her to make the beds instead of preparing for school. The chapter reflects Gilly's inner turmoil as she grapples with the idea of attending a new school where she feels out of place. She vents her frustration by attempting to tame her hair with a comb and scissors, vowing to show everyone who she truly is.

Upon arriving at the school, Gilly meets Mr. Evans, the principal, who expresses kindness toward her, but she finds it condescending. Trotter continues to speak for Gilly, unaware of her growing resentment. Mr. Evans



discusses Gilly's placement in a challenging class with Miss Harris, a teacher Gilly unknowingly prejudices based on her appearance. Gilly reacts defensively, feeling trapped by her surroundings and the judgment of her classmates, especially given the diversity in the classroom.

As the day continues, Gilly's frustration bubbles over during recess. She finds enjoyment in a basketball game, but when other children challenge her, a chaotic scuffle ensues, resulting in her being summoned to the principal's office. There, Gilly insists she doesn't need guidance or sympathy from adults. Mr. Evans tries to communicate that violence and disruptive behavior won't be tolerated. He offers Gilly a chance for a fresh start, but she remains defiant, determined to disrupt the status quo.

The chapter concludes with a sense of impending confrontation. Gilly, emboldened by her defiance, anticipates shaking up the new school and plans her next move, asserting her identity and power amidst feelings of insecurity and isolation she experiences in this new environment.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 4: “Sarsaparilla to Sorcery”

In the chapter titled "Sarsaparilla to Sorcery," Gilly meets Agnes Stokes, a peculiar sixth grader known for her long, unkempt red hair and dirty fingernails. Agnes approaches Gilly, intrigued by her recent notoriety for fighting boys at school, and proposes a friendship, hinting at ulterior motives behind her friendliness. Gilly, distrustful of Agnes's intentions and eager to maintain her independence, rebuffs her offer and hastily leaves the playground.

At home, Gilly discovers a postcard from her mother, Courtney, which stirs a deep longing within her. The postcard expresses Courtney's desire for Gilly to be with her, presenting an address that ignites Gilly's dreams of escaping to California. The thought overwhelms Gilly with emotion as she mourns not having seen her mother since she was three. Thoughts of hitchhiking across the country arise, but also fears of potential dangers. Despite the harshness of her living situation with Trotter, the woman who takes care of her and William Ernest (W.E.), Gilly becomes frustrated by her inability to reach out for help.

During supper with Trotter and Mr. Randolph, a blind man, Gilly is annoyed by their conversations about gratitude and kindness. Trotter pushes her to read to Mr. Randolph, which Gilly resists until she is encouraged to select a book from his collection.



When Gilly explores Mr. Randolph's dark and musty house, she discovers numerous dusty old books and unexpectedly finds ten dollars hidden in one. But her fleeting excitement is interrupted when Trotter arrives, and Gilly reluctantly takes an anthology of poetry back to read at dinner.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 5 Summary: William Ernest and Other Mean Flowers

In the chapters of "William Ernest and Other Mean Flowers," we are introduced to Gilly, a clever but troubled girl living in a foster home. The narrative begins with her reluctant interactions with Agnes Stokes, a fellow student who clings to Gilly like a shadow. Gilly views Agnes with disdain, finding her annoying and overly eager. Agnes is characterized by her stunted social skills and dirty appearance, making her an easy target for Gilly's sharp tongue.

As Gilly navigates school, she juggles her resentment towards her classmates and her determination to outsmart them academically. She is frustrated by the perceived inferiority of her school and feels out of place in her environment. This brings about her motivation to not just catch up but surpass her peers academically, as she resolves to establish her intelligence above the rest.

The lunchtime encounter with Agnes escalates their tenuous relationship. Gilly crudely chastises Agnes for her chatter and expresses her aversion, yet she chooses to sit with her, recognizing that she might be useful in the future. Around her classmates, Gilly puts on a façade of confidence, masking her vulnerabilities. Behind closed doors in her foster home, Gilly is confronted by her younger foster brother, William Ernest (W.E.), who brings

More Free Book



Scan to Download

her cookies from the kitchen. Their interactions hint at a budding bond, as Gilly creatively ponders using W.E. for her future schemes rather than Agnes.

As the chapters progress, Gilly begins to employ charm to manipulate those around her, particularly focusing her attentions on William Ernest, who exhibits innocence and a strong desire for approval. She participates in activities that include flying paper airplanes, showcasing W.E.'s surprising talent and earning Trotter's (her foster mother) approval. Gilly, while initially detached, finds satisfaction in W.E.'s delight and begins to see him in a different light, realizing he might be more valuable to her plans than she initially thought.

Throughout these interactions, we see Gilly wrestling with her emotions and identity, oscillating between cunning and vulnerability. She desires to be independent and control her own fate, especially as a young girl who has faced abandonment. The chapter concludes with Gilly's internal conflict—while she savors the admiration from Trotter, she recognizes that her longing for connection contradicts her plans to distance herself emotionally from those around her.

In this complex web of relationships, Gilly navigates the challenges of school life, family dynamics, and her own insecurities, setting the stage for further development in her character and her relationship with W.E. and

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Agnes. As we journey with her, the exploration of friendship, loyalty, and self-identity becomes increasingly poignant.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Importance of Connection and Understanding Others

Critical Interpretation: In life, just as Gilly learns the value of connection despite her defenses, we too can find inspiration in the idea that opening ourselves up to others can lead to unexpected joys and growth. Gilly's journey illustrates how viewing others through a lens of understanding rather than judgment can transform relationships, showing that true strength lies not in detachment, but in the courage to be vulnerable and foster meaningful connections.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 6 Summary: Harassing Miss Harris

In the third week of October, Gilly has excelled academically, surpassing her classmates and earning high praise from Miss Harris, her teacher. Gilly's disdain for Miss Harris's strict demeanor fuels her obsession with undermining the teacher while also being intrigued by her stoicism. Unlike previous teachers, Miss Harris does not respond to Gilly's antics, refusing to make her feel special or different, which frustrates Gilly.

Gilly reflects on her history of provoking teachers into treating her as an individual—earning her the reputation of a troublemaker—but now, Miss Harris seems impervious to her tactics. This leads Gilly to ponder whether Miss Harris is more robotic than human, emotionally detached and impervious to influence.

Inspired by an anecdote she half-listens to on television about a government official's inappropriate joke, Gilly hatches a plan to create a provocative, anonymous greeting card meant to unsettle Miss Harris. She uses art supplies she borrows from Trotter and crafts a satirical card featuring a picture of an attractive black woman with a punchline that critiques the notion of beauty being subjective. Gilly revels in the card's humor, eagerly anticipating Miss Harris's reaction upon discovering it at school.

The next day, she sneaks into the classroom early to slip the card into Miss



Harris's math book, hoping for a dramatic response. However, throughout the day, Gilly grows increasingly anxious and frustrated as Miss Harris does not react, leaving the card undisturbed.

Finally, after the classroom empties, Miss Harris summons Gilly for a private conversation. To Gilly's surprise, Miss Harris reveals that they share a commonality: both harbor deep-seated anger, although they channel it differently. Miss Harris, who has learned to suppress her feelings, expresses admiration for Gilly's unabashed embrace of her emotions. She then thanks Gilly for the card, explaining that she found it amusing and liberating.

Instead of feeling victorious, Gilly is unnerved by Miss Harris's unexpected reaction. Confounded by the encounter, she backs away and rushes home, grappling with the realization that her attempts to rattle Miss Harris have not gone as planned, leaving her both agitated and introspective.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Emotions Can Lead to Connection

Critical Interpretation: Imagine confronting someone who seems unshakeable, only to discover that beneath their exterior lies a shared sense of struggle and emotion. Gilly's encounter with Miss Harris reminds you that embracing your true feelings can forge unexpected connections even in the most unlikely relationships. Instead of pushing people away with sarcasm or defiance, consider how open vulnerability might pave the way for understanding and empathy. Just as Gilly learns that her teacher's stoicism masks a deeper emotional reality, you too can find strength in authenticity, fostering bonds that enrich your life.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 7 Summary: Dust and Desperation

Dust and Desperation - Summary

In the chapter "Dust and Desperation," Galadriel (Gilly) Hopkins feels an urgent need to escape her current environment. The chaos at home, with her irresponsible caretakers and peers, leads her to believe that she could become weak like William Ernest (W.E.), a child with special needs who requires her support. Gilly knows she must maintain her toughness to avoid being overwhelmed by her situation, but her desperation to acquire money for a new life in California prompts reckless decisions involving others.

Gilly's opportunity strikes when Trotter, her caregiver, unexpectedly asks her to babysit W.E. While she initially plans to get the money from Mr. Randolph, a blind man who lives nearby, she impulsively involves both W.E. and Agnes Stokes—the latter being an eager but unreliable ally—in a scheme to sneak into Mr. Randolph's home to retrieve cash. Gilly's anxiety makes her act hastily, and she explains to W.E. that they need to help Mr. Randolph retrieve something from a high shelf, using a precarious setup of chairs and her shoulders. After some convincing, W.E. climbs up and retrieves a roll of cash from the shelf, which Gilly stashes in her pocket.

However, the excitement quickly turns to disappointment when Gilly counts

More Free Book



Scan to Download

the money later, realizing she has only \$39—not nearly enough for her plans. Despite her agitation, she reflects on how her hurry led her to involve W.E. and Agnes, and she decides that she will not rely on others for her escape again.

Turning to a new strategy, Gilly embarks on a cleaning mission, hoping to earn Mr. Randolph's trust and eventually secure more money for herself. She impresses Trotter and Mr. Randolph with her efforts, which ultimately grants her access to a rickety stepladder in Mr. Randolph's home. With the ladder, she believes she could find more money. However, despite her meticulous cleaning, she fails to find any additional cash in Mr. Randolph's home besides the initial \$39.

Frustrated, Gilly contemplates writing to her real mother, Courtney Rutherford Hopkins, seeking help for her escape. She finally crafts a letter explaining her dire situation, expressing her determination to care for herself despite the challenges she faces. With a mix of hope and resignation, Gilly stealthily mails the letter, feeling a fleeting sense of control as she takes a step toward securing her independence while preparing for the next phase of her escape plan.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 8: The One-Way Ticket

Chapter Summary: The One-Way Ticket

In this chapter, Gilly grapples with her turbulent feelings towards her caretaker, Maime Trotter, who embodies a strict religious fervor. Trotter regularly attends church, which also serves as a source of torment for Gilly, who feels out of place attending the old, ill-fitted church set on a hill. The Sunday School class, overseen by the antiquated Miss Minnie Applegate, reinforces Gilly's disdain. While the children struggle to understand the concepts taught, such as adultery, Gilly capitalizes on this ignorance, making money by sharing neighborhood gossip and insights—adding to her general disillusionment with the establishment.

As Gilly begins to form connections with Mr. Randolph, an elderly man who frequently spends time with Trotter and engages in lighthearted banter, she observes the awkward dynamics of their burgeoning friendship. Despite the humor in their interactions, Gilly is consumed by her plan to escape to California, a dream fueled by her longings for her mother, Courtney. She seizes the opportunity when she discovers Trotter's purse filled with cash, enough to fund her journey. The monetary windfall brings with it a mix of guilt and excitement as she prepares to leave.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

The scene shifts dramatically when Gilly stealthily packs her belongings and escapes with the stolen funds, driven by the fear of being discovered before she makes her getaway. Meanwhile, upon realizing Gilly's absence, Trotter and her brother W.E. frantically seek her out, leading to Gilly's capture by the police at the bus station. Their intervention—prompted by the suspicious

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

...tes after each book summary
...erstanding but also make the
...and engaging. Bookey has
...ling for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

...ding habit
...o's design
...ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the important parts of a book. It also gives me enough idea whether or not I should purchase the whole book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for summaries are concise, ins curated. It's like having acc right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with busy schedules. The summaries are spot on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 9 Summary: Pow

In the chapter titled “POW,” we witness escalating tensions between Trotter, Gilly's foster mother, and Miss Ellis, Gilly's caseworker. Gilly returns home from school to overhear a heated argument in the living room. Trotter fiercely defends her bond with Gilly amidst Miss Ellis' concerns about Gilly's well-being, suggesting that fostering Gilly may not be in Trotter's own best interest. Trotter emotionally insists that she needs Gilly, showcasing a genuine maternal attachment, while Miss Ellis's cold professionalism highlights a conflict between their roles as protector and caretaker.

The argument shifts focus to Gilly herself when she enters the room. Miss Ellis, no stranger to difficult conversations, proposes that Gilly might be better off elsewhere due to the complications her presence has caused for Trotter's other foster child, William Ernest (W.E.). Gilly's immediate concern turns to her real mother, whom she believes has recently expressed a desire for Gilly to come home. Miss Ellis challenges Gilly's optimism, pointing out that her mother has been absent for years, and raises doubts about her mother's intentions. Still, Trotter supports Gilly's belief that her mother will eventually come for her.

As the discussion progresses, Gilly reveals a troubling secret: she has taken money from Mr. Randolph, a neighbor. Miss Ellis confronts this act of



stealing, while Gilly justifies it as finding the money. Trotter takes a maternal approach, expressing her disappointment but also her intention to support Gilly in making things right. Gilly's remorse leads to her returning the stolen money, and Mr. Randolph's unflappable response demonstrates a surprising level of understanding.

To pay back her debt, Trotter imposes a series of odd jobs with a pay scale for Gilly, reinforcing the lessons about accountability. In her spare time, Gilly develops a mentoring relationship with W.E., discovering that he is not as helpless as he seems. Their mentor-mentee dynamic leads to discussions about self-defense, prompting Gilly to encourage W.E. to be more assertive. Trotter, concerned for W.E.'s well-being, is torn between wanting to protect him and recognizing the necessity of Gilly's tough-love approach.

The chapter concludes on a lighter note as Gilly and Trotter share a playful moment. Trotter's affectionate but inappropriate kiss on Gilly's forehead highlights her naivete and genuine affection, prompting Gilly to tease Trotter about "demon possession." This moment underscores the complexity of their relationship, filled with love, misunderstanding, and the struggle for growth as each character attempts to navigate the challenges of their respective circumstances in the foster care system.

Overall, this chapter illustrates the deep emotional connections and conflicts existing within foster care, emphasizing themes of belonging, self-identity,

More Free Book



Scan to Download

and the delicate balance between protection and independence.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 10 Summary: The Visitor

Summary of "The Visitor"

In the week leading up to Thanksgiving, Mr. Randolph, an elderly gentleman, falls ill with the flu. While not severe, his age makes recovery trickier, prompting his neighbor, Gilly, and her caretaker, Trotter, to set up a makeshift sickroom in the dining room. Mr. Randolph fears his overprotective son, a big lawyer from Virginia, will whisk him away if he learns of the illness, leading to a humorous debate about whether or not to inform him. Ultimately, they decide to keep Mr. Randolph's condition a secret while Gilly and Trotter care for him.

As the days progress, Gilly, who is juggling her responsibilities and struggling to keep the household running smoothly, also finds herself unwell—as do both Trotter and William Ernest, her younger brother. Despite her exhaustion and various challenges, including the chaos of caring for sick family members and the messiness of their home, Gilly finds moments of resilience.

On Thanksgiving morning, while Gilly tries to maintain a semblance of normalcy, a surprise visitor arrives at their doorstep. The woman, dressed modestly in black, reveals herself to be Gilly's grandmother, claiming to be



the mother of Gilly's mother, Courtney. This unexpected revelation leaves Gilly in shock, as she has never known her mother's family. The grandmother, evidently overwhelmed, struggles to articulate her story, mentioning her attempts over the years to reach out to Courtney and expressing sorrow for her late husband, Gilly's grandfather.

During their awkward conversation, chaos ensues as Trotter, in her pajama-clad state, stumbles into the room, and confusion escalates. Gilly rushes to tend to her brother, who is also struggling with his illness, while attempting to navigate the discomfort of meeting her grandmother for the first time. The situation reaches absurdity when Trotter inadvertently pins Gilly to the ground after losing her balance, making a mockery of the serious conversation taking place.

As the visit comes to an abrupt end, the grandmother, shocked by the family's disarray, prepares to leave, promising Gilly she will help her escape "this place" soon. Gilly, fatigued and confused, nods in response, but deep down, she knows that her place is with her family, even amidst the chaos. The chapter closes with Gilly reaffirming her commitment to staying with Trotter and William Ernest, emphasizing their bond and the importance of caring for one another during their time of need.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of family bonds and caring for one another despite chaos

Critical Interpretation: In the midst of life's overwhelming challenges and the chaos that often surrounds us, you are reminded that true strength lies in the connections you cultivate with your loved ones. Just like Gilly learns the value of sticking by Trotter and William Ernest during their sickness, you discover that nurturing these relationships brings comfort and resilience. Embracing the messiness of life together fosters an unbreakable bond that empowers you to face any adversity, highlighting that home isn't just a place, but the people who stand by you through thick and thin.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 11 Summary: Never and Other Canceled Promises

In the chapter titled "Never and Other Canceled Promises," Gilly Hopkins finds herself grappling with a potent mix of dread and regret, feeling as though her past actions have unleashed unforeseen consequences. The catalyst for her turmoil stems from a letter she wrote that has prompted Courtney, her estranged mother, to re-establish contact with Gilly after thirteen years. Gilly, who harbors fantasies of a triumphant reunion with her mother, is instead confronted with the reality of her grandmother traveling from Virginia to see her—a prospect that disturbs her deeply.

As Gilly navigates these complex emotions, the narrative captures a poignant moment against the backdrop of a holiday dinner. Despite physical ailments among her makeshift family, including Mr. Randolph, Trotter, and W.E., the atmosphere lightens as they share laughter and engage in light-hearted banter over the state of the feast. This evokes a sense of warmth, contrasting sharply with the inner turmoil Gilly experiences regarding her family's new dynamics.

However, the bubble of joy bursts when Gilly returns home from school to find Miss Ellis, the social worker, waiting. With an unsettling calmness, Miss Ellis reveals that Gilly's grandmother wishes to take her in permanently. This news is met with Gilly's vehement denial; she insists she



wants to live with her mother, rejecting the idea of moving to a household with her grandmother, whom she barely knows. This dialogue exposes Gilly's fierce desire for autonomy and her fear of losing the stability she has found with Trotter and W.E.

As Gilly's emotions boil over, she lashes out, pleading for Trotter's support and recalling a promise made to her never to let her go. The tension peaks when Gilly realizes the power dynamics at play—Miss Ellis's authority and Trotter's tacit silence render her feelings of isolation palpable. Despite her protests, Gilly is met with the harsh reality that her wishes may not hold weight in this situation.

The chapter culminates in a moment of vulnerability as William Ernest, Gilly's affectionate companion, comforts her amid her anger and frustration, hinting at the deep bonds that have formed in their unusual family. Yet, despite the strength of their bond, Gilly is left alone with her overwhelming feelings as Trotter and William Ernest leave the room with Miss Ellis, solidifying the sense of abandonment she fears.

The chapter encapsulates Gilly's internal conflict and her complex relationships with her "family," setting the stage for struggles ahead as she faces the possibility of leaving behind the only home she has known for the unknown with her grandmother. Each character's interaction underscores themes of belonging, familial ties, and the often harsh realities of a child's



world.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 12: The Going

Summary of "The Going"

In this poignant chapter of the story, the atmosphere at dinner is heavy with unspoken emotions. Trotter, the nurturing caretaker, prepares a delicious meal, attempting to create a celebratory atmosphere despite the sadness that hangs over the table. The food is lovingly crafted—a crispy fried chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, and Mr. Randolph’s favorite green beans—yet the four occupants of the table—Trotter, Mr. Randolph, Gilly, and William Ernest (W.E.)—lack the appetite to enjoy it. Their silence reflects the weight of the impending change, particularly for Gilly, who is grappling with her feelings as she faces the reality of being moved to live with her father, whom she has not yet met.

Gilly’s internal struggle unfolds as she reflects on her identity as a foster child and her yearning for belonging. She desires a sense of permanence, to be accepted and loved without the stigma that comes with her status. Images of fairy tale transformations swirl in her mind—she imagines herself shedding her old identity and finally becoming whole. However, the more she clings to these dreams, the more aware she becomes of the inevitability of her departure.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

After some forced laughter prompted by Trotter's humorous threat to jump on the table, Gilly attempts to reassure W.E. that she'll write to him, even as a part of her worries about the future and her relationships. This conversation reveals her deepening bond with W.E., who, despite his disabilities, has formed a unique friendship with Gilly. She longs for her life to remain intertwined with Trotter and Mr. Randolph, fearing the loss of the connections that have supported her.

Later that night, Gilly struggles with her homework, feeling disconnected from the world outside her home. Though she considers reaching out to her friend Agnes, she ultimately decides against it, feeling their friendship has only just begun. W.E. returns with a farewell gift from Mr. Randolph—an treasured book of poetry—serving as a tangible reminder of the bonds formed.

As Gilly reflects on a poem about life and memory, she becomes overwhelmed by her emotions in the night. A poignant dream stirs feelings of abandonment and loss, causing her to cry softly. Trotter, sensing Gilly's distress, comes into her room, and the two share a tender moment, emphasizing the depth of their connection. Trotter expresses her sorrow at Gilly's departure, acknowledging the pain of loving someone who must leave. In turn, Gilly attempts to fight against the reality of her situation, vowing to maintain her links with Trotter.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

While Trotter attempts to comfort Gilly as she prepares to face the inevitable, Gilly's fierce spirit shines through as she insists that she won't leave them behind. Trotter's affectionate gestures and soothing words become an emotional balm for Gilly, allowing her to find fleeting peace amidst her turmoil. As the chapter closes, Gilly succumbs to sleep, wrapped in the warmth of Trotter's love, temporarily forgetting her anxieties about the future.

This chapter beautifully encapsulates the themes of belonging, love, and the challenges of change, setting the stage for Gilly's journey toward self-discovery and acceptance.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey

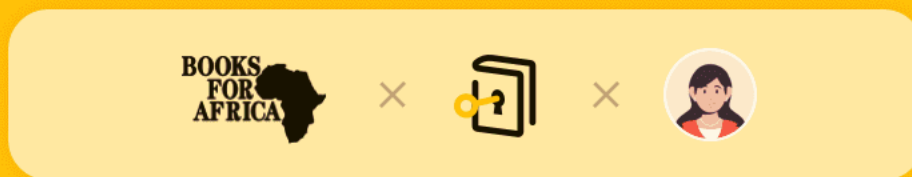




Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

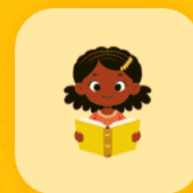
The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 13 Summary: Jackson, Virginia

In this chapter, we follow Gilly's tumultuous journey as she relocates to Jackson, Virginia, with Mrs. Hopkins, an unfamiliar figure who represents her new living situation. Unlike previous moves, Gilly perceives this one as a termination point rather than a temporary stop, marking a painful separation from her beloved friends Trotter, William Ernest, and Mr. Randolph, who genuinely care for her. Gilly's excitement from past transitions has been replaced by deep emotional turmoil, amplified by the realization that Courtney, her previous guardian, has sent Mrs. Hopkins instead of coming for her herself, leading Gilly to ponder her worthiness of love and attachment.

Throughout the dreary car ride, Gilly struggles against her feelings of abandonment and rejection, feeling that she has been placed in yet another foster situation devoid of affection. Mrs. Hopkins attempts to engage Gilly in conversation, suggesting music and speaking of Miss Ellis, a social worker, who believed Gilly had a good time in her last foster home. Gilly's response is cynical, revealing her distrust and frustration with adults who misunderstand her experiences.

Upon arriving at Mrs. Hopkins's home, Gilly is confronted with Courtney's room, which symbolizes a life that feels alien and unwelcome to her. The decor—pink and filled with dolls—contrasts sharply with her tough exterior



and past hardships. Instead, Gilly finds solace in a more masculine room belonging to Courtney's deceased brother, Chadwell—a pilot who lost his life in Vietnam—whose space feels less oppressive, despite the heaviness of its history.

As Mrs. Hopkins tries to establish a connection with Gilly through mundane questions and offers of companionship, Gilly's irritation mounts. She yearns for independence and to define her identity away from what feels like constant intrusion. The tension climaxes during a seemingly simple timeline of settling in; Gilly's silence serves as a shield against Mrs. Hopkins's well-meaning, yet relentless chatter.

The chapter culminates with Gilly retreating to Chadwell's room. Bathed in reflective thoughts, she wrestles with an overwhelming sense of loss—questioning why Courtney abandoned her and what it means to truly care for someone. Despite placing Courtney's image prominently and later hiding it away, Gilly grapples with her longing for connection and acceptance against her instinct to protect her heart. The narrative reveals the complexity of Gilly's emotional landscape, skillfully showcasing her struggle between yearning for love and the fear of further abandonment.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 14 Summary: She'll Be Riding Six White Horses (When She Comes)

In the chapter "SHE'LL BE RIDING SIX WHITE HORSES (WHEN SHE COMES)," Gilly Hopkins shares her experiences via letters with her friends from Maryland, particularly William Ernest and her former teacher, Miss Harris, as well as her grandmother, whom she now affectionately calls "Nonnie."

Gilly begins by humorously detailing her busy life in Virginia, where she is helping train horses for an upcoming race at Charles Town. She's particularly hopeful about a horse named Clouds of Glory, with the chance to win a substantial prize that could enhance their already wealthy lifestyle. She also inquires about William Ernest's schooling, encouraging him to keep reading aloud to his caretaker, Mr. Randolph.

Miss Harris replies with a heartfelt note, expressing her surprise at how much she misses Gilly in class and indicating that she will send her some paperback books as keepsakes. Gilly appreciates this gesture but reveals her dissatisfaction with her new school in Virginia, lamenting the lack of knowledge among the teachers and the feeling of being held back. She sarcastically suggests that her new circumstance might require a name change to "Galadriel" after the character from J.R.R. Tolkien's works, which she has been reading and enjoying.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

As the days progress, Gilly writes to her friends excitedly about her horse training and the impending visit of her mother, Courtney, scheduled for December 23. This announcement significantly influences her emotions, eliciting a mixture of nervousness and excitement. Nonnie, while chatty and somewhat overwhelming, is enthusiastic about preparing for Courtney's return, intensifying Gilly's anticipation.

In the lead-up to her mother's arrival, Gilly reflects on the day of Nonnie's hair transformation and the Christmas preparations involving a massive tree adorned with family ornaments and handmade decorations. Despite the chaotic appearance of the tree, Gilly recognizes the joy it brings to Nonnie, underscoring a budding warmth and connection between them.

Meanwhile, Gilly's friends back in Maryland continue to send their well-wishes. Trotter humorously mentions an incident involving William Ernest and a school fight, which highlights the playful bond they share, providing Gilly with a sense of continuity and connection to her past life as she navigates her new environment.

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates Gilly's internal struggles with change and her evolving relationships while building anticipation for her mother's visit, foreshadowing potential emotional confrontations and reunions rooted in their shared past.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 15 Summary: Homecoming

In the chapter "Homecoming," Gilly anxiously awaits the arrival of her mother, Courtney, at the airport. The delay seems to heighten her restlessness and insecurity, as she grapples with the hope of reuniting with the woman who abandoned her. As passengers pour in from the plane, Gilly's excitement turns to despair when she doesn't see Courtney among the crowd. But just as doubt creeps in, Courtney appears—although she is far from the glamorous figure Gilly imagined. Instead, Courtney looks worn and disheveled, marked by the years of separation.

Gilly's grandmother, Nonnie, introduces them, attempting to bridge the gap with familiar affection, but Courtney's demeanor is cold and dismissive. The encounter is strained; while Courtney initially acknowledges Gilly, her focus is clearly on herself, dismissing any concern Nonnie tries to express.

Courtney's brusque attitude reveals that her motivations for returning are more tied to money than genuine desire to reconnect. She has not come to reclaim Gilly but rather to fulfill a monetary obligation. This realization shatters Gilly, who feels betrayed by the illusion of a happy reunion.

In turmoil, Gilly seeks refuge in the airport restroom, desperate to escape the public spectacle of her disappointment. She calls her friend Trotter, seeking comfort and validation. Trotter offers wisdom about life's harsh realities, explaining that expectations of happy endings are often misleading. Gilly



endures her emotional turmoil but finds solace in Trotter's reassurance and love, declaring her affection in a moment of vulnerability.

Returning to Nonnie and Courtney, Gilly presents herself with newfound composure, albeit without the enthusiasm she had initially imagined. She resolves to face whatever comes next, understanding that true happiness requires resilience in the face of tough circumstances. This moment marks a critical turning point for Gilly, who perhaps is beginning to grasp the complexities of love, disappointment, and the harsh truths of life.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience in the face of disappointment

Critical Interpretation: Life often presents us with expectations that clash violently with reality, instilling profound disappointment. Gilly's experience serves as a poignant reminder that while we cannot control the actions of others, we can cultivate resilience within ourselves.

When faced with heart-wrenching moments, like the unmet expectations of a reunion, it is essential to gather our strength to confront the situation, rather than succumb to despair. This teaches us that true happiness and fulfillment stem from within, not from the validation of others, and that embracing our vulnerabilities can lead to profound personal growth.

More Free Book



Scan to Download