

OPERATION UNIFORM ECHO



Chapter 1

1. How does the author engage the reader on the first page?
2. What hints are given implying that Mrs Carr's house is small, cosy and comfortable?
3. Give possible reasons for Shaye not living at home at the moment.

Chapter 2

1. What have you learned about Shaye's character so far?
2. How does Shaye make use of the library each day?

Chapter 3

1. What do you learn about Mrs Carr from this chapter?
2. Why could Doug Smith be a problem to Shaye?
3. What complication is there for Shaye in this chapter?

Chapter 4

1. What is so unusual about the way Mrs Carr acts on finding Shaye in the spare bedroom? Can you give a possible reasons for this reaction?
2. What has Mrs Carr been doing to help Shaye each night?
3. What other surprising news does Mrs Carr tell Shaye?

Chapter 5

1. How does Sergeant Scott Backer become involved with Mrs Carr and Shaye?
2. What do you think Sergeant Scott Backer will think having seen Shaye in the house? Could this be a problem for Shaye. Give reasons.
3. What is surprising about the treatment Shaye received after breaking into the house?

Chapter 6

1. Contrast the actions of the two boys who have broken into the house with Shaye's actions when he broke in.
2. Do you think it was a good idea for Mrs Carr to call Shaye her grandson? Why or why not?
3. What is going through Shaye's mind when he sees Mrs Carr leave for the hospital?
4. If Shaye had not been in the house at the time of the break in, what may have been the result?

Chapter 7

1. What complications are there for Shaye when Mrs Carr goes to hospital?
2. Should the police do some investigating, the flyscreen in the spare bedroom could be a problem for Shaye. Why?

Chapter 8

1. What further information do you learn about Mrs Carr in this chapter?
2. What is it that Shaye doesn't know about Kelly at this stage?
3. Why does Kelly feel awkward about being questioned about Shaye?

Chapter 9

1. What evidence is there that Mrs Carr trusts Shaye completely?
2. Why do you think Peter is so angry that Shaye is living at his mother's home?

Chapter 10

1. Mrs Carr's children feel that Shaye may take advantage of their mother. Are they justified in feeling this way? Why or why not?
2. Mrs Carr shows Shaye where Sergeant Scott Backer lives and explains that he is the Smith children's guardian. Why do you think she does this?
3. Shaye is able to get a homeless allowance from the government, but he does not want this. Do you think he has made a wise decision in not accepting such an allowance? Give reasons.

Chapter 11

1. What is meant by an invasion of privacy? How has Peter invaded his mother's privacy?
2. What is meant by *the ball is in your court*? How do you think Shaye is feeling at this point in time? Page 87

Chapter 12

1. Who do you think has put the watch into Shaye's backpack?
2. List the things Shaye does in this chapter to show that he is responsible and mature.
3. Do you think that Shaye is happy to accept things without paying for them? Give reasons for your answer.

Chapter 13

1. Why is Shaye so dreadfully upset when Mrs Carr joins them at Scott Backer's house?
2. How will caller ID make things easier for Mrs Carr?
3. In what ways is Mrs Carr enjoying having Shaye staying with her?

Chapter 14

1. Describe your feelings when Shaye is nearly run over by Peter Carr?
2. Shaye has produced a banner for Mrs Carr. What was its purpose?
3. How has the karate class helped Shaye?

Chapter 15

1. How is the author developing tension in the novel?
2. Why do you think Shaye does not tell Scott the identity of the person who had nearly run him over?

Chapter 16

1. Comment on Mr Brunel's reaction when Scott told him about his son's homelessness.
2. Who do you consider is trying to frame Shaye and give your reasons?

Chapter 17

1. Explain the following quote: *You are wiser than your years.* Page 143
2. Explain what it will mean now that Mrs Carr is Shaye's legal guardian.
3. What did Shaye mean when he asked Mrs Carr *Did you die too?* Explain fully.

Chapter 18

1. What is the purpose of a will?
2. Explain what Mrs Carr meant by a living will.
3. What do you think is wrong at the end of chapter 18?

Chapter 19

1. What do you think is meant by *See ... you can teach an old dog new tricks?* Page 137.
2. Shaye has been able to teach Mrs Carr many things especially relating to electronic equipment. List four of the things she has learned from Shaye.
3. What is meant by *Sometimes stress can mirror a heart attack?* Page 138
4. Write a character sketch on Scott.
5. Even toward the end of the novel, there is another complication involving a bell. Explain.

Chapter 20

1. How has life changed for Shaye in the last 2 years? What has happened in the past month?
2. Describe the relationship between Shaye and his dad.
3. What do you think is meant by the last sentences of the novel - *He was proud of Shaye. He had a good feeling about the kid's future?*

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ON OPERATION UNIFORM ECHO

1. How does the author use a series of complications to keep the reader interested and involved in the plot?
2. Explain the title of the novel.
3. Comment on the cover of the novel.
4. From Shaye's point of view, create a diary entry explaining what his day would have looked like when he was homeless.
5. What role does the cat V8 play in the novel? What is the cat's real name?
6. Imagine you are Cassie or Peter, write a letter to your mother, Mrs Carr, explaining your feelings.
7. Brunel is a famous name. What can you find out about another 'Brunel'?
8. Choose a country that Mrs Carr may have visited. Write a short profile of that country.
9. How much money do you think Mrs Carr had spent by the time her son accessed her bank records?
10. The stereotype of a granny is an old lady who sits on a chair, knitting with a cat on her lap. How does Mrs Carr fit into this stereotype?
11. Using some of the themes from this novel, write one or two paragraphs on:
 - ∞ The importance of belonging
 - ∞ The need for security
 - ∞ The need for good work ethics
 - ∞ Honesty
 - ∞ Old age
6. Write character sketches of Mrs Carr, Shaye and Peter.
7. What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
8. Write a book review.

Some Essay questions:

- ∞ Trust is an important element in any relationship. Discuss with reference to Scott and Shaye.
- ∞ Shaye is responsible for turning Mrs Carr's life around. Discuss.
- ∞ This novel is a mystery thriller. Explain how the mystery shifts from an unlawful entry to a family feud. Explain why one member of the family goes to such lengths to frame Shaye.
- ∞ Shaye is an honest, hard-working boy who has ambition and drive. Discuss with reference to the novel.
- ∞ Discuss the ways in which Shaye repays Mrs Carr for her many kindnesses to him.