

Summer Reading Study Guide:

***Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald**

The Summer Reading program, sponsored by the English Department at Padua Franciscan High School, is designed to entice students to read and recognize notable contemporary literature. We wish to engage student interest, encourage critical thinking, and challenge our students as readers. As such, some titles on the list may contain sensitive material and deal with more mature themes than some students may have encountered previously. The target audience of all the selected literature is young adults. Students are encouraged to find more information about all of the novels through the local library or through amazon.com. Additionally, the English Department strongly encourages students and parents/guardians to discuss the content, themes, and overall inherent literary value of the selected novels. Happy Reading!

General Note: These reading questions are meant only as a guide to the novel. *These will not be collected or graded.* Your grade on the novel will be based on an objective test and a follow-up essay that will be given within the first week of school. For your own benefit, it is highly suggested that you also keep a list of major plot happenings, characters, settings, etc. per chapter. We look forward to seeing you in August!!!

Prologue: Explain the events of July 4th for the Ward family.

Explain the events of July 4th for the MacKenzie family.

1. Explain why Michael did not get his driver's license on July 5th.
2. Explain Jenna's reaction when she went to her dad's workshop.
3. Explain Jenna's reaction to Chief Zelinski's comment "I know it's hard, but."
4. Explain how the information from the Picatinny Arsenal could help the police.
5. Explain Michael's summer job.

6. Explain why Darcy Kelly is mad at Michael.
7. Explain the story of the little girl who drowned in the lake.
8. How does this explain the title.
9. Explain how Michael helps Joe at Steven Chang's party.
10. Explain how Amy Ruggiero showed Michael friendship.

11. Explain why Jenna worked on math problems.
12. Explain how Andrea showed friendship to Jenna.
13. Explain Jenna's reaction to the movie that Jason took her to see.
14. Explain how Amy showed friendship to Jenna.

15. Explain why Darcy was so mad at Michael that she bit him.
16. Explain Michael's reaction to the missing gun to the police.
17. Explain why Amy did not want to see Michael.
18. Explain Amy's letter to Jenna.
19. Explain some of the chores that an unknown person was doing for the Wards.

20. Explain Michael and Joe's conversation at the Ghost Tree.
21. Explain the legend of the Ghost Tree.
22. Explain what Jenna's mom was able to do before Labor Day.
23. Explain the details that Anne Rico knew about the suspect.
24. Explain why Mrs. MacKenzie defended Joe.

25. Explain the charges against the suspect.
26. Explain what details Jason helped Jenna remember about July 4th.
27. Explain why Jenna's mom felt guilty about July 4th.
28. Explain what Michael got from his backyard.
29. Explain where Jason is going this night.

30. Explain Michael's plan.

31. Explain how Michael holds vigil over Jenna until morning.