

LCE

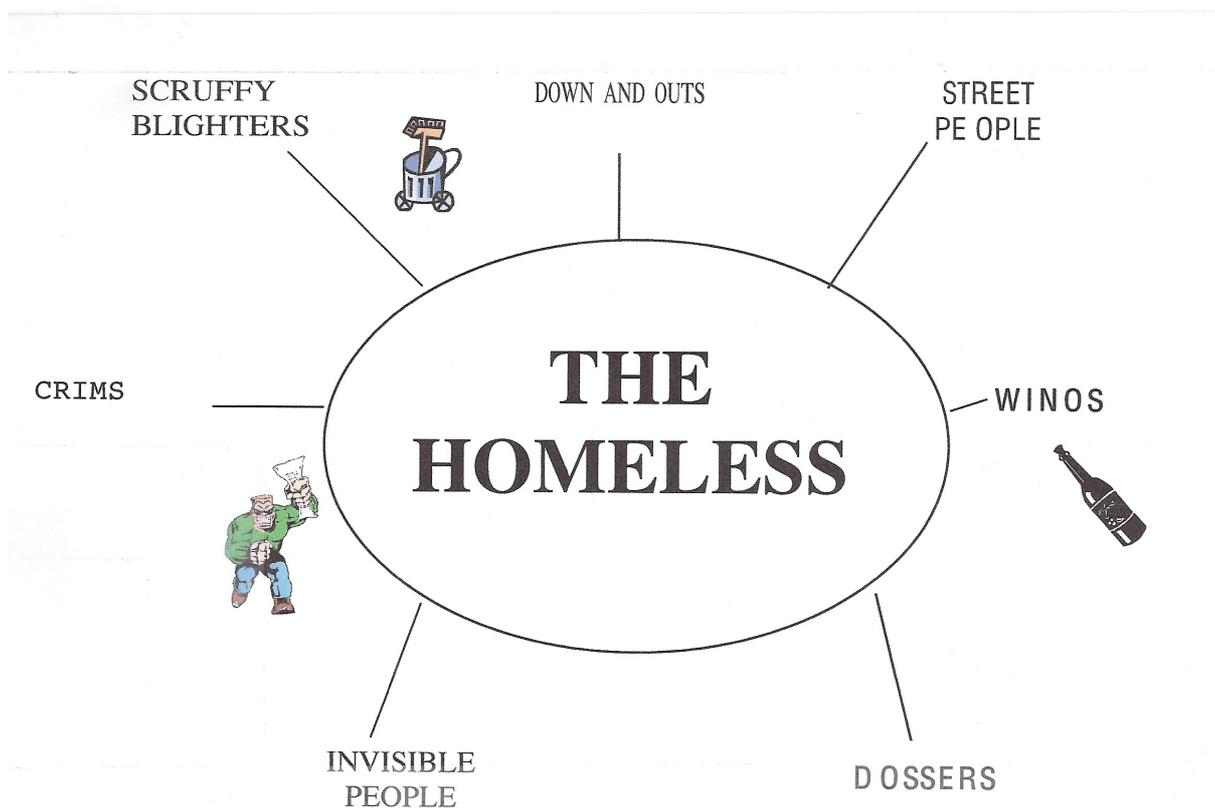
SCHEDULE

Lesson 1	Introduction Homework: Read pp. 13-25 and answer questions
Lesson 2	Discussion Homework: Read pp. 26-41 and answer questions
Lesson 3	Discussion Homework: Read pp. 42-61 and answer questions
Lesson 4	Discussion Homework: Read pp. 62-81 and answer questions
Lesson 5	Discussion Homework: Read pp. 82-98 and answer questions
Lesson 6	Discussion Homework: Read pp. 99-112 and answer questions

INTRODUCTION

1. What does the title of the novel mean?
2. Discuss reasons why children and young people might run away from home.

Attitudes towards homeless people



Above are some of the terms used to describe homeless people in *Stone Cold*. Read them carefully then answer the following questions:

1. What do these terms tell you about the way homeless people can be viewed – what impression is created of them?
2. Why do you think some people feel this way about the homeless?

MAP OF LONDON



As you read *Stone Cold*, follow the characters' whereabouts on the map.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

There are **two characters** telling the story!

Page 13

1. Who is speaking? Who is he speaking to?
2. Why does Link not get asked his name very often?
3. Why do you think he is not using his real name?
4. What do you think the book is going to be about?

Page 14: Daily Routine Orders 1

1. Who is speaking?
2. What does his name mean? Why does he call himself by this name?
3. What could his background be?
4. Discuss how you think the author "hooks" or interests the readers, making them want to read on. How are Link and Shelter immediately connected by these introductions?

Pages 15-17

1. Briefly describe Link's family background. How old was Link when his father left home? How did he cope with the loss of his father? Who does he blame for his current predicament (difficult situation)?
2. Who is Vince? Point out some words and phrases Link uses to describe his hatred of him!
3. How does Link think his mum has changed since meeting Vince?
4. Who is Carole, and why do you think she left home?
5. Why does Link become homeless? List some of the reasons why Link leaves home. Is it his fault?

Pages 19-20

1. Why does Link decide to leave Bradford to go to London? Give three reasons!
2. Why is Link unable to stay with his sister?
3. On page 20, Link says that leaving Bradford is "sad and scary". What are the reasons to be: a) sad and b) scared?
4. Apart from the obvious physical difficulties, Link mentions the other dangers that are very real to those who live on the streets. "You're going to be at risk every minute, day and night." (p. 20). – Make a list of the problems and dangers that homeless people face. At the top of the list put the problem that you think is the hardest to overcome. - Discuss what might happen when a homeless person finds him/herself faced with these situations.

Pages 21-22: Daily Routine Orders 3

1. What is Shelter's opinion of the homeless people in London?
2. What do we get to know about Shelter's:
 - a) age?
 - b) previous job?
 - c) reasons why he lost that job?
 - d) current mission?
3. Basing your answer on the last two paragraphs of page 22, explain what you think the real reasons for Shelter's early retirement must have been.

Pages 23-24

Describe how things go from bad to worse for Link, and why he eventually ends up in London!

Page 25: Daily Routine Orders 4

Explain Shelter's decision to get a cat.

Pages 26-28

1. What are the two mistakes that Link makes when he arrives in London?
2. What should he have done differently?

Pages 29-30: Daily Routine Orders 5

1. Describe Shelter's procedure in recruiting his victims.
2. When is the real danger that Shelter poses revealed?
3. What is Shelter's opinion about murdering homeless people? – Explain why he thinks so.

Pages 31-32

1. How many places does Link visit to try to gain employment?
2. Which places does Link visit?
3. Why do you think can he not find a job?
4. How much money does Link have left?
5. What is the problem that he faces?
6. What situation did Link think that he was in last week? How is this different from the situation that he finds himself in now?

Pages 33-34: Daily Routine Orders 6

1. How does Shelter dispose of his victims?
2. Write about 50 words about the character of Shelter and how you feel about him.

Pages 35-38

In this chapter, it looks as if Link had reached rock bottom. Which two most unpleasant encounters of the novel so far does Link have?

Pages 39-41: Daily Routine Orders 7

1. Shelter's indifference to his crime is difficult enough to comprehend, but even more disturbing is his calculative nature. Explain!
2. Why does he believe patterns to be a trap for a serial killer?
3. How does he choose his victims instead? Describe his tactics.
4. What words does he use to describe the female "client" he picks up, and how does he feel about himself?
5. What bizarre ritual does he describe in the second but last sentence (p. 41)?

Pages 42-49

1. How does Link meet Ginger?
2. What does he get to know about Ginger?
3. How does Link explain the choice for his nickname?
4. Why do the police chase Link and Ginger from the shop doorway?
5. How do they become friends and why does Link decide to stay with Ginger?
6. Describe the various reactions passers-by usually show the homeless beggars. Which type would you say you are?
7. Who is the "stiff, military-looking guy" (p. 47)? – How do you know?

Page 50: Daily Routine Orders 8

How does the author manage to heighten tension?

Pages 51-57

1. Analyse Link's first experiences with begging. Pay attention to how Link feels at the beginning and in how far this changes after a few hours.
2. Make a list of ten of the worst inconveniences about having to sleep rough.

Pages 58-61: Daily Routine Orders 9

1. Find words or phrases which suggest that Shelter thinks that he is infallible.
2. How does Shelter think about his deeds?
3. Why did "signing up recruit number three" give Shelter "particular pleasure" (p. 58)?
4. What is Shelter doing to the bodies of the dead vagabonds? Explain his reason for doing so. What does this tell us about his state of mind?

Pages 62-67

1. Why is no one bothered about whether or not Captain Hook conforms to health and safety regulations according to Ginger? – What does this point out about politics?
2. Where are Captain Hook's boats?
3. What is *The Big Issue*? How much money does Ginger's mate make each time he sells a copy of it?
4. Why is Link jealous of and apprehensive about Ginger's other friends?
5. Why is Ginger's friend called Doggy Bag?
6. Why does this name upset Link so much? What does Link's reaction tell you about him as a person?

Page 68: Daily Routine Orders 10

1. Why does Shelter want to "recruit" Ginger and Link?
2. How do you feel about Shelter's observation of potential victims and his meticulous planning to snare them?

Pages 69-72

1. What does the fact that Link briefly contemplates returning to Vince tell you about his situation?
2. According to Link, do people become more generous to the homeless when the weather is cold and wet?
3. Link says he may as well have written "**EVIL, SHIFTLESS BABY-KICKER, AFTER YOUR DOSH**" on his sign for all the good it did him. What sort of tone do you think this is? Choose from:
happy – romantic – creepy – sarcastic – rude
4. How does Link feel when Ginger tells him he's "meeting some mates down Holborn way" (p. 71)? Why doesn't he tell Ginger so?
5. Why does Link have no idea whether Ginger returned from visiting his friends or not?

Pages 73-75: Daily Routine Orders 11

1. Write between 80 and 100 words summarising Daily Routine Orders 11.
2. How does Shelter's sadistic nature become evident in this extract?
3. Comment on Shelter's final thoughts, "There's always tomorrow." (p. 75)

Pages 76-81

1. Why is Link worried about Ginger? (p. 76)
2. Link asks a *Big Issue* vendor about Ginger. What information does he give him?
3. Who does Link meet in an "all-night joint" (p. 78), and what does she suggest might have happened to Ginger?
4. On page 79 Link discovers "the secret" of survival on the streets. What does he say it is?
5. Describe the unusual appearance of the "dosser" that walks into the café.
6. What excuse does Link give for wanting to leave? What is the real reason why he wants to leave?
7. Give two reasons why Link decides to stay.

Page 82: Daily Routine Orders 12

1. Why is Shelter annoyed with himself? What mistake has he made?
2. Why does Shelter have to "devise fresh tactics" (p. 82) if he is to succeed this time?

Pages 83-87

1. In what ways does homelessness move individuals to the edge of society?
2. From now on, look for signs hinting at the fact that Gail may not be a real dosser!
3. How has meeting Gail brought about a positive change in Link's life?

Pages 88-89: Daily Routine Orders 13

1. What further efforts does Shelter make in order not to get caught too easily by the police?
2. In how far – using Shelter's point of view – can one compare Shelter's victims to army recruits?
3. How does Shelter attempt to convince us that he is carrying out this task for the benefit of the country?

Pages 90-92

1. Who's the "middle-aged guy" (p. 91) who addresses Link and Gail one Saturday afternoon? – What has he come for?
2. Who was the "man in a watchman's hut" (p. 91), and what had he witnessed about a week ago?
3. How does Link feel at the end of this chapter? – Why?

Page 93: Daily Routine Orders 14

Give examples of Shelter's resourcefulness with which he avoids suspicion.

Pages 94-96

1. How come Link, Gail and Nick decide to start looking for their friends who have vanished?
2. How do the police treat this case? What does it tell us about the attitude of the police towards homeless people?

Pages 97-98: Daily Routine Orders 15

1. What is there in Shelter's behaviour that makes us think he is a lunatic? – However, in what way(s) is he far from mad?
2. Shelter: the master of manipulation. Explain!
3. Satisfied that Shelter is telling the truth, the officers offer advice telling him to be careful about whom he invites into his home. In what way is Shelter's reply deeply ironic?

Pages 99-112

1. Why is Link convinced that Captain Hook will not tell them where he last saw Ginger and Toya?
2. Whilst Link is waiting for Gail to return, he reflects on how meeting her has changed his life for the better. Despite this, Link has a strange uneasiness that he cannot explain. What is he suspicious of?
3. What is it that strikes Link when he and Gail finally see the man who lives on the ground floor in front of his house?
4. On page 102, Link tells us, "It was the business with the cat that fooled me." – Explain!
5. What is there about the living room that makes Link absolutely unaware of any potential danger?
6. What does Link's rude awakening consist in (i.e. what jerks him out of his complacency)?
7. Who is Gail really?
8. Discuss why the author chose to let Gail go off with Gavin at the end and leave Link all alone. Would a happy ending have been more suitable?
9. What punishment will Shelter have to face? Has justice been done?
10. What does Link hope for the future?
11. Consider what the future might hold for Link. Will he get off the streets? Has he got a future of any kind?
12. Did you like *Stone Cold*? – Why (not)?