

THINGS NOT SEEN

Andrew Clements

SETTING: University of Chicago, Hyde Park Illinois, Regenstein Library, family lives in Hyde Park

CHARACTERS:

- * Bobby Phillips – 15, student at lab school (U High), plays a trumpet in the jazz band
- * Emily Colton Phillips – Mom, literature professor, the “Director”, voice of authority, face is badly bruised in a car accident
- * David Phillips – Dad, works at Fermilab, drives a Ford Taurus, left arm is broken in a car accident,
- * Dr. Weston – family doctor
- * Walt – works the security desk at the library
- * Mrs Trent – next door neighbor, sits in her bay window all day and most of the night, bakes a plate of chocolate-chip macademia nut cookies for Bobby,
- * Great -Aunt Ethel – lives in Miami, Florida. The story is that she is coming to stay with Bobby while his parents are in the hospital. Another story is that Bobby is staying with her to recuperate.
- * Kenny Temple – friend at school,
- * Professor Leo Van Dorn – Alicia’s father, teaches astronomy and math, big head of wild hair,
- * Alicia – blind friend of Bobby’s, blind for two years, happened two days before her birthday when she fell out of bed and hit her head, *Name of Bobby's blind friend.*
- * Mr. Creed – guidance counselor at University High School
- * Martha Pagett-a representative of the school & truancy division of the State Department of Children and Family Services
- * Nancy – best friend of Alicia’s, only person who remained friends with Alicia after her accident
- * Mrs. Van Dorn – Julia, Alicia’s mother, never seems to relax, very protective of Alicia, never lets down her guard, studied literature at Northwestern as did Mrs. Phillips
- * Dan Freeman/Amber Carson – Sears employees
- * Mr. Borden – daughter is Sheila, lives in Denver Colorado
- * Sheila - dropped out of college, moved back home, “one morning she comes in late, goes to bed, and the next morning...gone.”

QUESTIONS:

- * Name the character this describes...”when in doubt, she gives an order.”
- * Name the character this describes...”perplexed physicist at work.”
- * ...does the main character feel that the CIA and Joint Chiefs would be interested in his family’s situation.
- * ...is Dad’s solution, “We find the cause, we reverse it, and that eliminates the effect.”
- * ...does the main character stat that he feels like one of those mice in the movie they made from Flowers for Algernon.?
- * ...is there a newsbreaking story at 6:00 on the WGN News?

- *...is a boy's parents involved in a three car accident?
- *...are a lot of the students taking midterms?
- *...does a boy compare himself to a Greek warrior?
- *...does a blind girl listen to audiotapes?(The Scarlet Letter,
- *...does a girl take independent study and correspondence courses instead of going to school? (She takes special courses from a school on the North Shore.)
- *How long has Alicia been blind? Two years
- *...does sarcasm make dad get loud, and mom get quiet?
- *...is there a Save The Bobby Phillip/s Committee being formed?
- *...does a father often say the word "bingo"?
- *...does a girl have a text-to-speech translator on her PC?(whatever is being typed in by another person, is being read out loud by her machine).
- *...does everyone agree that they must keep absolute secrecy if Bobby is ever to have a normal life?
- *...does a boy's aunt say "He must fly down here at once so he can by my bridge partner," when she hears that her nephew is invisible.
- *...does a boy spend most of his waking hours being a detective? (Writing down everything he can remember about the two days before the suspect disappeared?)
- *...does a boy think of his room as a crime scene?
- *...did a boy's mother get pushed around by the Chicago cops when she was 18 during the 1968 Democratic Convention?
- *How long does it take Mrs. Pagett to get a search warrant? 45 minutes
- *...does the main character state that "he feels like one of those mice in the movie they made from Flowers For Algernon"?
- *...does a boy have to erase his tracks if he sends an email?
- *...is their a father who says "because there's life on Earth, there must be life other places in the universe, too."
- *...is good literature cited throughout the book?
- *...do kids go on the internet looking for clues to solve their problem?
- *...does a boy's father keep saying "bingo"?
- *...is it important that they find the schematic diagram to an electric blanket? (If the controller unit is not working right, it could be generating an unusual field. Electric blankets by their nature always create an electron field of some sort.)
- *The problem discovered is that the resistors is way outside its parameters. It's letting about six times too much power through.
- *...does one of the characters love the movie "The King and I"?
- * The blanket is ad Dyna-Rest supreme electronic blanket manufactured by Sears. It is unconditionally guaranteed for three years.
- *...do the kids go the the Sears Headquarters to try to obtain a list of people who had returned blankets. (The one way cab ride was ~~\$45.~~ ^{\$55})
- *...does a girl go to a company's corporate offices, and inquire about hiring practices for persons with disabilities?
- *9308 blankets were sold, 379 consumer complaints, 163 have accepted a new blanket
- *Which phone call gives Bobby the information he needs? Call number 59 to Denver
- *...does obtaining a girl's email address become one of the main reasons a problem is solved?

*On what date did Sheila disappear? January 12, 3 years ago

*...did a girl dress up to appear to be a Muslim woman when she went grocery shopping?

*On what date did Bobby disappear? February 23

* On the day Bobby disappeared, the earth's environment was being bombarded by high-energy particles. In conjunction with the electron charges being generated by the electric blanket, these circumstances caused him to disappear.

*To make himself reappear, Bobby decided to turn on the blanket and take a particle bath. This along with the high number of energy particles being generated by the earth's environment, caused him to reappear. Two negatives make a positive.