In from the cold

Book Cover and Title

(a) Read the title. Describe what you see on the front cover.
(b) The picture on the cover is from the opening scene of the book. Try to predict what the story is about.
(c) Now, try to predict what kind of story this will be (e.g., adventure, mystery, true crime) and explain your prediction.

Vocabulary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>plopped</td>
<td>counselling (counseling)</td>
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<td>brim</td>
<td>prompted</td>
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<td>especially</td>
<td>latrine</td>
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<td>battered</td>
<td>snorted</td>
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<td>hesitated</td>
<td>piece</td>
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<td>clutched</td>
<td>experiments</td>
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<td>hola</td>
<td>waste</td>
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<td>balcony</td>
<td>encourage</td>
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The two main characters in this book are homeless people.
Do homeless people live in your community?
How do you feel and act when you see a homeless person?
When a person loses their home, what else do they lose?
What are some myths about homeless people?
How can you help the homeless?

Reading Characters:
Readers can learn about the characters in a novel in three ways:
(1) what the writer tells us,
(2) what the characters say, do, and think, and
(3) what others think and say about the characters.
While reading this book, note examples of how the writer develops the character of Rose.
Questions for discussion:

(1) In what ways did Rose have success in making a home for Hazel in the ravine?
(2) In the end, Rose realizes that she cannot give Hazel what she needs. What does Hazel need that Rose cannot give her?
(3) Compare Rose’s life living in the ravine and her life living with her husband. In what ways were the two lives similar? Different? How did Rose try to live with dignity in both “lives”?
(4) Rose was trying to escape her old life. To what extent did she have success? Explain your answer.
(5) Why is this part of the city ravine called a waste land?
(6) Think about the time Rose and Hazel spend in the ravine. Why else is this part of the ravine called a waste land?
(7) Rose and Hazel had to walk in the dark because the city lights did not reach the waste land. In what other way(s) were Rose and Hazel walking in the dark?
(8) Rose makes two major decisions in the novel. What are they?
(9) Summarize and compare the events that lead to Rose making each of these decisions. Which decision, do you think, is more difficult to make? Explain your answer.
(10) Compare the outcomes of each decision. What other options does Rose have, if any?
(11) Describe a time when you made a major decision. What events led up to making the decision? Was it a hard decision to make? Why? Did the decision turn out to be the right one? Why, or why not?
(12) Society, at times, is prepared to accept the killing of a person (e.g., assisted suicide, war). Do you think killing a person is ever acceptable? When? Give reasons for your answer.
(13) How possible is it for Rose and Hazel to go back to their old life? What do you think will happen to Rose and Hazel? Would the end result have been different if Rose had gone to the police right after she killed her husband?
(14) Rose had two turning points in her life. Write a paragraph about a turning point in your life. What was the turning point? How did it come about? How did it change your life? If you could go back to that point, would you change it in any way? How and why?
Make a list of things human beings need and hope for to live a full life. Think of 25 – 30 needs and then group the items from most important to least important.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is often portrayed in the shape of a pyramid, with the largest and most fundamental levels of needs at the bottom, and the need for self-actualization at the top. While the pyramid has become the way to represent the hierarchy, Maslow himself never used a pyramid to describe these levels in any of his writings on the subject.

Study a model of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs below, and compare with your list.

![Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](image)

**Physiological**
- breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

**Safety**
- security of: body, employment, resources, morality, the family, health, property

**Love/belonging**
- friendship, family, sexual intimacy

**Esteem**
- self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others

**Self-actualization**
- morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts

FURTHER READING
(Available from Grass Roots Press)
If students liked this book, they might also enjoy:
A Dream Come True, Maureen Lee, Quick Reads (GRP)
Not Just for Christmas, Roddy Doyle, Open Door Series (GRP)
Frozen Tears, Don Sawyer, Novels for Adult Learners (GRP)