

tangerine study guide answers bing

tangerine study guide answers bing is a common search query for students seeking to understand the complexities of Edward Bloor's novel. This comprehensive guide aims to provide thorough answers and insights, acting as a valuable resource for anyone studying *Tangerine*. We will delve into key plot points, character analysis, thematic explorations, and literary devices employed in the book. Whether you're struggling with specific questions about Paul Fisher's journey, the significance of Erik Fisher's football career, or the underlying messages of social justice and conformity, this guide offers detailed explanations and well-researched information. Prepare to gain a deeper appreciation for this powerful coming-of-age story by exploring its intricacies with clarity and purpose.

Understanding Tangerine: A Deep Dive

This section provides a foundational understanding of Edward Bloor's novel, *Tangerine*, exploring its core narrative and initial character introductions. We will lay the groundwork for a more in-depth analysis by covering the essential elements that drive the plot and introduce the central conflicts faced by the protagonists.

The World of Tangerine: Setting and Atmosphere

The novel *Tangerine* is set in Tangerine, Florida, a town dramatically impacted by the constant presence of citrus groves and the looming threat of sinkholes. This unique setting is not merely a backdrop but an active participant in the narrative. The humid, tropical climate, coupled with the fertile land, creates an environment that is both beautiful and dangerous. The pervasive scent of tangerines, while initially pleasant, becomes associated with underlying decay and hidden problems. The constant awareness of sinkholes, which can appear without warning and swallow homes and lives, imbues the setting with a palpable sense of vulnerability and unpredictability. This atmosphere shapes the

characters' perceptions and their daily struggles, forcing them to confront the fragility of their surroundings and, by extension, their own lives. The stark contrast between the affluent neighborhoods and the struggling ones further highlights the social stratification within this seemingly idyllic community.

Introducing Paul Fisher: The Protagonist's Perspective

Paul Fisher is the central figure through whom the story of *Tangerine* unfolds. He is a young boy, initially visually impaired, who moves with his family to Tangerine, Florida. Paul's narrative voice is crucial to understanding the events of the novel. He is an observant and thoughtful protagonist, often internalizing the turmoil around him. His struggles with his eyesight, which he believes are a result of a childhood incident involving his older brother, Erik, are a significant aspect of his character development. Paul's journey is one of self-discovery and the relentless pursuit of truth, even when it is uncomfortable or dangerous. He is thrust into a world of high school football, organized crime, and family secrets, forcing him to confront harsh realities that challenge his innocence and his understanding of his family and his community. His development from a sheltered and uncertain boy to a determined young man who seeks justice is a central arc of the novel.

Key Characters and Their Roles

This section will dissect the major characters in *Tangerine*, exploring their motivations, relationships, and contributions to the overarching narrative and its thematic explorations. Understanding these characters is vital to grasping the novel's complexities.

Erik Fisher: The Star Athlete and Troubled Brother

Erik Fisher, Paul's older brother, is the star quarterback of the Tangerine High School football team.

He is charismatic and popular, living a life that appears to be a perfect facade of athletic success. However, beneath this surface, Erik is deeply involved in his father's corrupt business dealings and is a cruel bully, particularly towards Paul. His ambition and desire for fame often overshadow any sense of morality or empathy. Erik's actions have profound and often devastating consequences for those around him, especially Paul and his friends. His character represents the darker side of ambition and the corrupting influence of privilege and unchecked power. The narrative slowly peels back Erik's layers, revealing the extent of his complicity in the injustices that plague Tangerine.

The Mom and Dad: Parents Navigating Chaos

Paul and Erik's parents play significant, albeit different, roles in the family's dynamic. Their father, Arthur Bauer, is a successful businessman who is heavily involved in his son Erik's football career and, unbeknownst to many, in darker activities. He prioritizes Erik's success and often enables his bad behavior, creating a toxic environment for Paul. The mother, while seemingly more concerned with maintaining appearances and the family's comfortable lifestyle, is often oblivious to the true extent of the problems plaguing her sons and their community. Her focus on the superficial aspects of their lives contrasts sharply with the grim realities Paul is facing. Their parental figures represent different forms of neglect and misplaced priorities, contributing to the central conflicts of the story.

Tangerine Middle School Students: The Fight for Justice

The students of Tangerine Middle School, particularly those who form Paul's close circle of friends, are instrumental in driving the plot and embodying the novel's themes of resilience and fighting against injustice. These characters, including:

- Tino Cruz
- Victor Guzman

- Theresa Cruz

They represent the heart of the community and possess a fierce loyalty to each other and their families. They are often the victims of Erik's bullying and the broader injustices perpetuated by the affluent community and figures like Arthur Bauer. Their collective efforts to expose the truth and seek retribution for the wrongdoings they have suffered highlight the power of unity and courage in the face of adversity. Their experiences provide a stark contrast to the privileged lives of characters like Erik and his friends.

Thematic Explorations in Tangerine

This section will delve into the significant themes woven throughout *Tangerine*, examining how the narrative explores complex societal issues and human experiences. Understanding these themes provides a deeper meaning to the plot and character interactions.

Justice and Injustice: The Moral Compass

The theme of justice and injustice is central to *Tangerine*. The novel starkly contrasts the privileges enjoyed by some with the systemic disadvantages faced by others, particularly the residents of the poorer neighborhoods and those working in the tangerine groves. Paul's journey is largely driven by his quest for justice, both for himself and for his friends who have suffered greatly. The corrupt practices involving Arthur Bauer and his associates, as well as the constant threat of natural disasters disproportionately affecting certain communities, highlight the pervasive nature of injustice. The story questions who truly benefits from the system and who is exploited. The eventual exposure of truths, though painful, represents a form of seeking justice, even if the outcomes are not always perfectly resolved. The narrative forces readers to consider what constitutes fairness and accountability in a flawed society.

Family Secrets and Their Impact

The Fisher family is riddled with secrets that significantly impact Paul's life and his understanding of his family. The most prominent secret involves the childhood incident that led to Paul's visual impairment. The gradual revelation of this truth, and the extent to which his parents and Erik were involved, forms a crucial part of Paul's awakening. These family secrets not only shape Paul's internal struggles but also create a fractured family dynamic. The narrative demonstrates how unspoken truths and buried deceptions can have devastating long-term consequences, affecting relationships, mental well-being, and personal identity. The unraveling of these secrets is a journey of painful discovery for Paul, forcing him to confront the complexities of love, loyalty, and betrayal within his own home.

Conformity vs. Individuality: Finding One's Voice

Edward Bloor uses *Tangerine* to explore the tension between conformity and individuality. Paul, often forced to conform to expectations due to his vision or his brother's influence, gradually finds his own voice and stands up for what he believes in. The world of *Tangerine*, with its emphasis on high school football rankings and social hierarchies, pressures characters to fit into pre-defined roles. Erik, in particular, embodies the drive to conform to societal expectations of success and masculinity, even at the expense of his own moral compass. Paul's struggle to resist these pressures and forge his own identity is a significant theme. His journey highlights the courage it takes to break away from the norm and pursue an authentic path, even when it means facing opposition and isolation.

Literary Devices and Narrative Techniques

This section will analyze the literary techniques Edward Bloor employs to enhance the storytelling and thematic depth of *Tangerine*. Understanding these devices allows for a more sophisticated interpretation of the novel.

Symbolism: The Deeper Meanings

The novel *Tangerine* is rich with symbolism that adds layers of meaning to the narrative. The tangerines themselves, initially representing prosperity and the idyllic Florida setting, eventually become symbolic of hidden decay, corruption, and the vulnerability of the community due to the constant threat of sinkholes. The tangerines symbolize the sweet facade that masks bitter realities. The concept of blindness, both literal and metaphorical, is also a powerful symbol. Paul's visual impairment is not just a physical condition but also represents a form of societal blindness and the inability of many characters to see the truth or acknowledge the injustices around them. The fog, which often blankets the town, can symbolize confusion and the obscuring of truth. The constant presence of the sinkholes serves as a potent symbol of impending doom and the inherent instability of the characters' lives and the community itself.

Point of View and Narrative Voice

Edward Bloor masterfully utilizes a first-person point of view, with Paul Fisher as the narrator. This choice is critical to the novel's impact. By experiencing events through Paul's eyes, readers gain an intimate and often unfiltered perspective on the unfolding drama. Paul's youthful voice, marked by his initial naivety and his growing awareness, allows the reader to witness his transformation and his gradual understanding of the complex world around him. This subjective perspective also means that the reader is privy to Paul's thoughts, fears, and observations, creating a strong emotional connection. However, it also means that certain information might be withheld or perceived differently due to Paul's limited understanding or his emotional state at the time, adding to the suspense and the gradual reveal of truths.

Foreshadowing and Suspense

Bloor effectively employs foreshadowing to build suspense and create a sense of unease throughout

Tangerine. Hints about the tragic childhood incident involving Paul and Erik, the recurring mention of sinkholes, and the unspoken tensions within the Fisher family all serve as precursors to later revelations and significant events. The ominous atmosphere established by the setting, particularly the ever-present threat of natural disasters and the underlying corruption, creates a sense of impending doom. This strategic use of foreshadowing keeps the reader engaged and invested in uncovering the truth, prompting them to piece together the clues as Paul himself does. The gradual unveiling of secrets, driven by these foreshadowing elements, is a key component of the novel's gripping narrative.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes explored in 'Tangerine'?

Key themes in 'Tangerine' include the struggles of identity, the impact of family dynamics (especially sibling rivalry and parental neglect), the pursuit of justice and truth, the importance of community and support systems, and the challenges of navigating prejudice and social injustice.

Who are the main characters in 'Tangerine' and what are their roles?

The central characters are Paul Fisher, the protagonist who is partially blind and has a complex relationship with his family and his new school, Tangerine Middle School. His brother, Erik, is the star athlete. Arthur Bauer is Erik's friend and enforcer. Joey is Paul's friend and teammate. Tino and Victor Cruz are brothers and talented soccer players who face discrimination. Luis Cruz is their older brother and the innovator behind the tangerine groves.

What is the significance of the sinkholes in the novel?

The sinkholes in 'Tangerine' are a powerful symbol of the hidden dangers and instability beneath the surface, both literally in the Florida landscape and figuratively in the characters' lives. They represent unexpected destruction, the disruption of the natural order, and the surfacing of buried secrets and truths.

How does Paul's vision impairment affect his perspective and the story?

Paul's partial blindness is central to his character development. It forces him to rely on other senses and to perceive the world differently. It also makes him an underdog, allowing him to see the injustices and hypocrisy that others, including his family, might overlook. His impaired vision becomes a metaphor for his eventual 'seeing' of the truth.

What is the central conflict Paul faces at Tangerine Middle School?

Paul's main conflict at Tangerine Middle School revolves around his integration into a new environment, his struggle to find his place on the soccer team, and his growing awareness of the corruption and unfairness within the school and his own family, particularly concerning his brother Erik.

What does the title 'Tangerine' symbolize in the novel?

The title 'Tangerine' is multifaceted. It represents the vibrant, yet potentially dangerous, natural world of the tangerine groves. It also symbolizes growth, aspiration, and perhaps a bittersweet or pungent reality, hinting at the complex and sometimes harsh truths the characters encounter.

How does the author, Edward Bloor, use the concept of 'war' in the novel?

Bloor uses the concept of 'war' metaphorically to describe the intense rivalries and conflicts, both on and off the soccer field. It highlights the aggressive competition, the fight for dominance, and the internal battles the characters face in their quest for success and survival.

What role does prejudice play in 'Tangerine'?

Prejudice is a significant theme, particularly as it affects the Cruz family and their work in the tangerine groves. The novel illustrates how bias based on race and socioeconomic status can lead to exploitation and a denial of opportunities, forcing characters to fight for their dignity and rights.

What is the significance of the flashbacks and the journal entries in the novel?

The flashbacks and journal entries, particularly those written by Paul, serve to gradually reveal the truth about past events, especially those related to Paul's blindness and the dark secrets of his family and neighborhood. They build suspense and allow the reader to piece together the narrative alongside Paul.

What message does 'Tangerine' convey about family?

'Tangerine' offers a complex message about family, highlighting both the potential for damage caused by neglect, abuse, and denial, and the possibility of finding strength and support in unconventional familial bonds and friendships. It emphasizes the importance of confronting difficult truths within families.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to a Tangerine study guide, along with short descriptions:

1. The Unofficial Tangerine Study Guide and Companion

This comprehensive guide offers detailed chapter summaries, character analyses, and thematic explorations for Edward Bloor's novel *Tangerine*. It delves into key plot points, discusses the symbolism of tangerines and other elements, and provides insightful answers to common study questions. Students seeking a deeper understanding of Paul Fisher's journey and the social dynamics of Tangerine Middle School will find this an invaluable resource.

2. Exploring Themes in Edward Bloor's *Tangerine*: A Literary Analysis

This book focuses on dissecting the complex themes present in *Tangerine*, such as blindness, privilege, social justice, and the nature of truth. It presents essay prompts and potential answer frameworks, guiding readers to form their own interpretations. The analysis goes beyond surface-level plot points to examine the author's intent and the novel's enduring relevance.

3. Character Development in Tangerine: From Paul to Erik

This study focuses on the intricate character arcs within *Tangerine*, particularly the transformation of Paul Fisher and the contrasting development of his brother, Erik. It examines the motivations, flaws, and growth of the major characters, offering insights into their relationships and individual journeys. Readers will gain a clearer understanding of why characters behave as they do and how their actions drive the narrative.

4. Understanding Symbolism and Motifs in Tangerine: A Reader's Guide

This book illuminates the rich tapestry of symbols and recurring motifs that enrich Edward Bloor's *Tangerine*. It offers explanations for the significance of the tangerine itself, as well as elements like darkness, light, soccer, and the natural environment. Understanding these symbolic layers is crucial for a complete appreciation of the novel's deeper meanings and messages.

5. Tangerine Study Questions Answered: A Glossary of Literary Terms and Concepts

Designed as a direct companion to studying *Tangerine*, this book provides clear, concise answers to frequently asked study questions. It also includes a helpful glossary of literary terms and concepts, defining elements like irony, foreshadowing, and point of view as they apply to the novel. This resource ensures readers are equipped to tackle any analytical assignment related to the book.

6. The Setting of Tangerine: Environment and Social Impact

This study explores the crucial role of the setting in *Tangerine*, examining how the physical environment of Tangerine, Florida, and its social landscape influence the characters and events. It discusses the contrast between the wealthy development and the surrounding natural and agricultural areas, as well as the impact of the hurricane. Understanding the setting is key to comprehending the challenges and opportunities faced by the characters.

7. Literary Devices in Tangerine: Crafting a Compelling Narrative

This insightful book breaks down the literary devices Edward Bloor masterfully employs in *Tangerine* to create a powerful and engaging story. It analyzes techniques such as vivid imagery, compelling dialogue, and effective use of first-person narration. Readers will learn to identify these devices and appreciate how they contribute to the novel's emotional impact and thematic depth.

8. A Comparative Look at Tangerine and Other Young Adult Novels of Social Justice

This book places Tangerine within the broader context of young adult literature that addresses social justice issues. It draws parallels and contrasts between Bloor's novel and other works that explore themes of inequality, prejudice, and activism. This comparative approach helps readers understand the specific contributions of Tangerine to the genre and its unique perspective on societal problems.

9. Deconstructing Erik Fisher's Role in Tangerine: An Antagonist's Journey

This focused study delves into the character of Erik Fisher, analyzing his motivations, actions, and evolution throughout Tangerine. It examines his role as an antagonist, exploring the complexities of his relationship with Paul and his involvement in the darker aspects of the Tangerine community.

Understanding Erik's character is essential for grasping the full scope of the novel's conflicts and its commentary on family and ambition.

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