**Acceleration Chapter Questions**

**Chapter One**
1. How does Duncan feel about work? Use two examples from the chapter in your answer to support your ideas.
2. Find one reference that Duncan makes in this chapter about his parents. What might this tell you about his relationship with his parents?
3. What does Duncan find in the Lost and Found? Why is it upsetting?
4. What signs of mental illness does the author of the book demonstrate?

**Chapter Two**
1. What skill is Duncan proud of in this chapter?
2. Summarize the dream that Duncan has. Make sure you note the details given in the last four paragraphs of the chapter to complete your notes.

**Chapter Three**
1. Who is the narrator in this chapter?
2. Why might the author have used italics in this chapter?

**Chapters Four and Five**
1. These two chapters are, in part, meant to introduce you to Duncan’s two closest friends. For each friend, describe 2 personality traits, giving an example to illustrate each trait. You may reproduce the following chart to help you organize your ideas.

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Trait</th>
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2. Why do you think Vinny lied about his arm?
3. For what crime were Wayne and Duncan arrested? Summarize the main details of the event.
4. Do you agree with Wayne’s statement: “Having a future’s way overrated” (28)?

**Chapter Six**
1. (a) What information does Duncan learn about Jacob at the beginning of the chapter?
   (b) How does Duncan feel about this information?
2. (a) Duncan feels uncomfortable around the Transit Cop. Why?
   (b) Does Duncan have a negative or positive opinion of himself for being a felon? Explain how you know?
3. What does Duncan read in the journal in this chapter?

**Chapter Seven**
1. Why won’t Vinny go swimming with Duncan and Wayne?
2. (a) Describe the hallucination Duncan has while swimming with Wayne.
   (b) What mental and physical effect does the hallucination have on Duncan? What atmosphere does the author create here?

**Chapter Eight**
1. (a) What description does Duncan give of the golfer who comes into the Lost and Found department?
   (b) How does Duncan feel about the golfer? How do you know?
2. Duncan reads something disturbing in the journal. What does he read? Give at least 2 specific details from the journal in your explanation.

**Chapter Nine**
1. Re-read the conversation Duncan has with his mom on pages 50 – 51.
   (a) What kind of relationship does Duncan have with his mom? Give details from this chapter to support your answer.
   (b) What 2 pieces of information does Duncan give about his physical and mental health since the drowning of Maya at Kayuga Beach?
2. Why did Duncan and Kim break up?
3. Read page 53 again; how is Kim like a phantom limb for Duncan? What does that mean?

**Chapter Ten**
1. Who are Cherry, Bones, and Clown? Include a description of each person in your response.
2. What name does Duncan give the author of the journal? Why?
3. Read page 59 again and explain why Duncan believes he is supposed to find the writer of the journal.

**Chapter Eleven**
1. Read pages 63 – 66. Write or draw a description of the subway. Include 5 quotations in your response.
2. What does Duncan say is the first rule to police surveillance?
3. What action does Duncan decide in this chapter to catch the killer?
4. What do you think his plan should be?

**Chapter Twelve**
1. Give two examples to show that Duncan and his mom have a good relationship.

**Chapter Thirteen**
1. (a) Why does Duncan’s dad tell him about the agent who was protecting John F. Kennedy?
   (b) Do you agree or disagree with Duncan’s dad’s opinion about being a hero?
2. What finally makes Duncan try to overcome the tragedy on Labour Day at Kayuga Beach? What does this tell you about his relationship with his mother?

**Chapter Fourteen**
1. Why is the book called *Acceleration*?
2. Duncan, Vinny, and Wayne take a trip to the library. What does Duncan accomplish here in his quest to catch Roach?
– Chapter Fifteen
  1. Duncan tries to turn the journal in to the police, but ends up keeping it. Why?

– Chapter Sixteen
  1. What does Duncan find out about Roach’s background in this chapter?

– Chapter Seventeen
  1. Do you think Vinny is a good friend to Duncan? Use an example from this chapter to support your answer.

– Chapter Eighteen
  1. Describe (or draw) the dream Duncan has in this chapter. Include 5 quotations in your response.

– Chapter Nineteen
  1. How does Duncan feel about himself in this short chapter? What is a clue that led you to this conclusion?

– Chapter Twenty
  1. Describe Duncan’s idea of how Roach goes about his crimes.
  2. Define the “comfort zone” that Vinny tells Duncan about in this chapter.
  3. Explain how the comfort zone might help them catch Roach.

– Chapter Twenty-One
  1. What does Duncan learn about Roach’s background in this chapter?

– Chapter Twenty-Two
  1. About what major development does Duncan learn in this chapter?
  2. Wilson Heights is bordered on the north by Sheppard Avenue West, on the west by the Downsview Airport whose border includes Wilson Heights Boulevard (north part) and Dufferin Street (south part), on the east by Bathurst Street, and on the south by Highway 401. Find this location on the map.
  3. What is Duncan’s opinion of those who live in the “jungle”?

– Chapter Twenty-Three
  1. (a) What does Duncan find in Roach’s journal?
  2. (b) How might this discovery help them find Roach?

– Chapter Twenty-Four
  1. What job does Vinny think Roach might have? Why would he think so?
  2. What is Vinny and Duncan’s next step in their plan to catch Roach?

– Chapter Twenty-Five
  1. Why was Wayne fired from his job?
  2. How does Wayne feel about being fired? Give a quotation for support.
  3. What is Duncan’s relationship like with his dad? Give evidence from this chapter to support your answer.

– Chapter Twenty-Six
  1. Summarize what happens when Duncan follows Jumbo.
  2. Why does Vinny rule out Red as a suspect?

– Chapter Twenty-Seven
  1. The chapter begins with a description of “storm clouds” that “are still darkening the sky today, tinted with that faint yellow color they get around here when a thunderstorm’s brewing” (157). How might this storm might be a symbol of Duncan’s experiences? (This term is called Pathetic Fallacy.)
  2. What does Duncan hear on the radio? What is his reaction?
  3. Duncan compares himself to Jacob in this chapter. How are these two characters similar?
  4. Duncan and Vinny argue in this chapter. What is their argument about? How does it end?

– Chapter Twenty-Eight
  1. (a) With whom does Duncan come face-to-face in this chapter? Describe this person’s physical appearance.
     (b) How does this description add to the chapter’s dangerous and eerie feeling?
  2. Describe the outside of Roach’s house as Duncan sees it in this chapter.
  3. Predict: what is Duncan’s “seriously stupid idea” at the end of the chapter?

– Chapter Twenty-Nine
  1. Do you think Duncan and Wayne are good for each other? Support your answer with at least two examples. One example must be from this chapter.

– Chapter Thirty
  1. Describe Roach’s basement – put it into your own words.
  2. What evidence does Duncan find in Roach’s basement that indicates he was planning to kill a woman?
  3. Summarize what happens after Duncan is discovered in Roach’s basement.
  4. Do you think Duncan going to Roach’s house is a realistic action for a character to take? Explain why / why not.

– Chapter Thirty-One
  1. Why does the author decide to give information about the fight in a news article format? Use a least one detail from the chapter in your answer.

– Chapter Thirty-Two
  1. What injuries did Duncan suffer in the fight with Roach?
  2. What happened to Roach?
  3. What additional information about Roach do we learn in this chapter?
  4. Describe, from Wayne’s perspective, what happened during the chase / fight.
  5. Do you think Wayne is a good friend to Duncan? Use an example from the chapter to support your opinion.
  6. Who else comes to visit Duncan in the hospital? What does this visit foreshadow about Duncan’s future?

– Chapter Thirty-Three
  1. How is Duncan’s trip to the pool with Vinny different from his trip with Wayne earlier in the novel? Why is this important?