

STAYING FAT FOR SARAH BYRNES
BY CHRIS CRUTCHER

Study guide created by: Maria Turner, English Department, Hilliard City Schools

Directions: Find the word. Write the sentences before, including, and after the word. Next, circle any words you think might be a clue to the definition. Finally, write what you think the definition of the word is based on the clues you circled.

Cadence: _____

Definition: _____

Tributaries: _____

Definition: _____

PREDICTIONS

Directions: For the follow passages, make a prediction about what you think will happen later on in the text.

"My English teacher Ms. Lemry, who is also my coach, sometimes calls me Eric the Well Read, because I am pretty smart. She also calls me Double-E, for Eric Enigma. 'I can't figure exactly how you're put together inside,' she says. 'You're a jock who doesn't compete in his best sport, a student who doesn't excel where his aptitude is highest, and you surround yourself with a supporting cast straight out of "The Far Side."' "

What do you think Lemry means by "...a supporting cast straight out of 'The Far Side'"?

"Now Sarah Byrnes is here. My best friend. I stayed fat a whole year for her."
Why would Eric do this?

LITERARY TERMS

Directions: Find examples of the following literary terms: Include the page number of the example as well.

Metaphor: _____

Simile: _____

Alliteration: _____

Motif: _____

Allusion (There are three allusions in this chapter. List all three): _____

REFERENCES TO KNOW

Raymond Burr: Born as Raymond 'William Stacy' Burr, 21 May 1917, in New Westminster, British Columbia, Burr spent most of his early life traveling. While still young, his father moved his family to China, while the elder Burr worked as a trade agent. When the family returned to Canada, Raymond's parents divorced; his mother then took him to Vallejo, California, where she



raised him with the aid of his grandparents. As he got older, Burr began to take jobs to support his mother, younger sister and younger brother. He took jobs as a ranch hand in Roswell, New Mexico; as a deputy sheriff; a photo salesman; and even as a singer in night clubs.

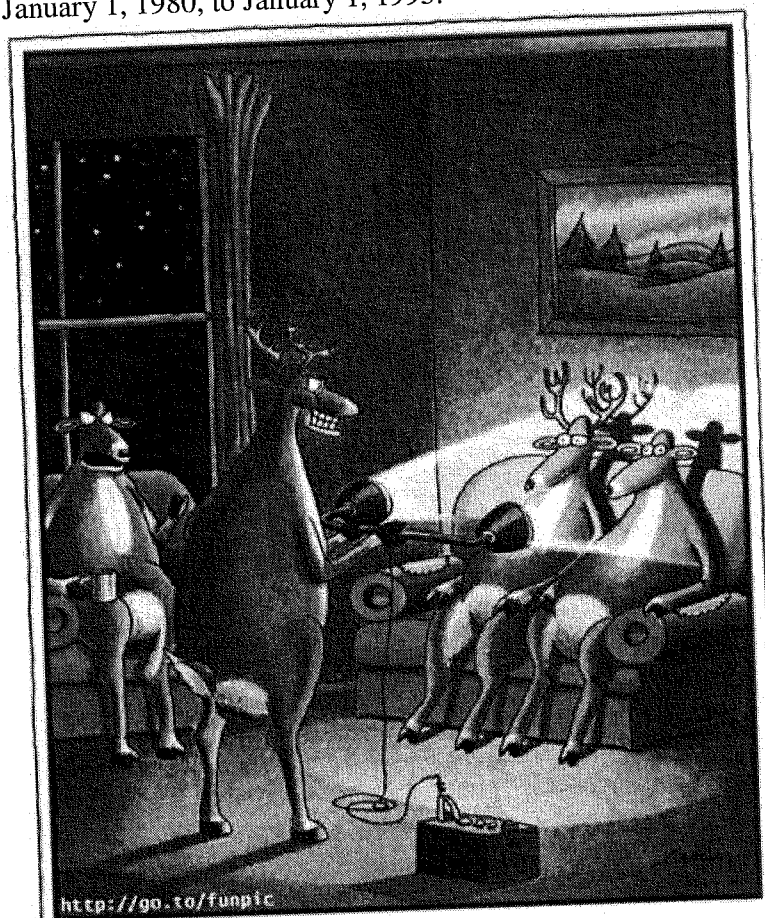
In World War Two, Burr served in the Navy. When in Okinawa, he was shot in the stomach and sent home. Soon after this, in 1946, Burr made his film debut in San Quentin (1946). From there, he went on to act in more than 90 films before landing the role of defense attorney "Perry Mason" (1957) in the series of the same name. Then, in 1993, after a battle with cancer that dated back to his days on "Perry Mason", Burr died on 12 September 1993 at his ranch home.

William Conrad: Actor/director/producer William Conrad started his professional career as a musician. After World War II service, he began building his reputation in films and on Hollywood-based radio programs. Due to his bulk and shifty-eyed appearance, he was cast in films as nasty heavies, notably in *The Killers* (1946) (his first film), *Sorry Wrong Number* (1948) and *The Long Wait* (1954). On radio, the versatile Conrad was a fixture on such moody anthologies as *Escape* and *Suspense*; he also worked frequently with Jack "Dragnet" Webb during this period, and as late as 1959 was ingesting the scenery in the Webb-directed film *30*. Conrads most celebrated radio role was as Marshal Matt Dillon on "Gunsmoke," which he played from 1952 through 1961 (the TV "Gunsmoke," of course, went to James Arness, who physically matched the character that the portly Conrad had shaped aurally). In the late 1950s, Conrad went into the production end of the business at Warner Bros., keeping his hand in as a performer by providing



the hilariously strident narration of the cartoon series "Rocky and His Friends" and its sequel "The Bullwinkle Show." During the early 1960s, Conrad also directed such films as *Two on a Guillotine* (1964) and *Brainstorm* (1965). Easing back into acting in the early 1970s, Conrad enjoyed a lengthy run as the title character in the detective series "Cannon" (1971-76), then all too briefly starred as a more famous corpulent crime solver on the weekly "Nero Wolfe." Conrad's final TV series was as one-half of "Jake and the Fatman" (Joe Penny was Jake), a crime show which ran from 1987 through 1991.

The Far Side by Gary Larson: *The Far Side* is a popular one-panel comic created by Gary Larson. Its surrealistic humor is often based on uncomfortable social situations, improbable events, an anthropomorphic (is the attribution of uniquely human characteristics to non-human creatures and beings, natural and supernatural phenomena, material states and objects or abstract concepts) view of the world, logical fallacies, impending bizarre disasters, or the search for meaning in life. Larson's frequent use of animals and nature in the comic is popularly attributed to his background in biology. The strip ran from January 1, 1980, to January 1, 1995.



"OK, Frank, that's enough. I'm sure the Jeffersons are quite amazed at your car headlight device."

Name:	Description and Page	Relation to Eric Calhoun
Steve Ellerby		

CHAPTER TWO

CHARACTER CHART

WORDS TO KNOW

Titter –

Extortion –

Jackhammer –

Pummeled –

Adjusto –

Cretin –

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

Directions: Answer the following questions in a complete paragraph (6-8 sentences). Explain your answer thoroughly.

Is the earth a good place or a bad one?

Is the known better than the unknown?

LITERARY TERMS

Directions: Find examples of the following literary terms: Include the page number of the example as well.

Simile (At least three examples): _____

Motif: _____

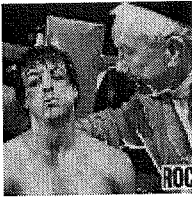
Allusions (2): _____

Idiom: _____

Universal Themes: There are two universal themes that are brought up in this chapter. The first is Human joy vs. Human pain and the second is accountability for one's actions. In no less than one paragraph, pick one of these themes and discuss how they apply to your personal life.

REFERENCES TO KNOW

Rocky Balboa: Rocky Balboa is a small-time boxer who lives in an apartment in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his career has so far not gotten off the canvas. Rocky earns a living by collecting debts for a loan shark named Gazzo, but Gazzo doesn't think



Rocky has the viciousness it takes to beat up deadbeats. Rocky still boxes every once in a while to keep his boxing skills sharp, and his ex-trainer, Mickey, believes he could've made it to the top if he was willing to work for it. Rocky, goes to a pet store that sells pet supplies, and this is where he meets a young woman named Adrian, who is extremely shy, with no ability to talk to men. Rocky befriends her. Adrian later surprised Rocky with a dog from the pet shop that Rocky had befriended. Adrian's brother Paulie, who works for a meat packing company, is thrilled that someone has become interested in Adrian, and Adrian spends Thanksgiving with Rocky. Later, they go to Rocky's apartment, where Adrian explains that she has never been in a man's apartment before. Rocky sets her mind at ease, and they become lovers. Current world heavyweight boxing champion Apollo Creed comes up with the idea of giving an unknown a shot at the title. Apollo checks out the Philadelphia boxing scene, and chooses Rocky. Fight promoter Jergens gets things in gear, and Rocky starts training with Mickey. After a lot of training, Rocky is ready for the match, and he wants to prove that he can go the distance with Apollo. *Written by Todd Baldrige*

Scarface: When Fidel Castro opens the harbor at Mariel, Cuba, he sends 125,000 Cuban refugees to reunite with their relatives in the United States. Among all the refugees, there is one who wants it all, his name is Tony Montana. Tony and his friend Manny when they arrive in the United States and start in small time jobs, soon they are hired by Omar Suarez to pay money to a group of Colombians. When the deal goes wrong, Tony and Manny leave with the money and succeed in their job. Soon Tony meets with drug kingpin Frank Lopez and falls for his boss's girl Elvira. Pretty soon Tony will know that those who want it all, do not last forever and that is the price of power. The world will know Montana by one name....SCARFACE.



Name:	Description and Page:	Relation to Eric Calhoun
Mark Brittain		

CHAPTER THREE

CHARACTER CHART

WORDS TO KNOW (TO BE COMPLETED WITH A PARTNER)

Monstrosity –

Atheist –

Fiendish –

Desanctifying –

Solidarity –

Chasm –

Sacrilegious –

Antics –

Adjacent –

Pompous –

Tempestuous –

Treacherous –

Incisive –

Cadaver –

Intrepid –

Dauntless –

Inconspicuous –

CONTEXT CLUE VOCABULARY

Directions: Find the word. Write the sentences before, including, and after the word. Next, circle any words you think might be a clue to the definition. Finally, write what you think the definition of the word is based on the clues you circled.

Beseached: _____

Definition: _____

Euphoria: _____

Definition: _____

MUSICAL CONNECTION (TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS):

Directions: Read the lyrics to the "Old Rugged Cross" and to "Turn! Turn! Turn!" then listen to the songs played. Read the lyrics one more time and then answer the following prompt in a complete paragraph:

Mark Brittain becomes an important character later on in the novel and this chapter focuses a great deal on religion and his religious beliefs. Based on what you have read in this chapter, describe how the lyrics of one of exemplify the relationship between Sarah Byrnes and Moby. How is the theme of shared pain shown in both the book and the song?

LITERARY TERMS

Directions: Find examples of the following literary terms: Include the page number of the example as well.

Allusion (At least three examples): _____

Imagery (2): _____

Metaphor: _____

Oxymoron: _____

REFERENCES TO KNOW

Stotan! (A novel by Chris Crutcher): Walker Dupree, the captain of Frost (Spokane, Wash.) High School's swim team, chronicles the senior year of the tight fraternity of young men who make up the team. Lionel, orphaned at 14, faces a sometimes hostile world alone; Nortie lives with an abusive father whom he loves but can never please; Jeff, a brash youth with everything to live for is terminally ill. Swim coach Max Il Song tests these four young men unmercifully during Stotan Week, but he gives them a reservoir of strength they more than need before their season is over. The boys are typical of many teenagers; they think a lot about sex; their language isn't always clean. They face difficult, adult situations, violence, racial prejudice, Jeff's impending death.

Punji Sticks (Also spelled Punji): The **Punji stick** or **Punji stake** is a type of booby trapped stake. It is a simple spike, made out of wood or bamboo, generally placed upright in the ground. Punji sticks are usually deployed in substantial numbers.



A United States Marine walks through a ravine filled with punji sticks during the Vietnam War.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHARACTER CHART

WORDS TO KNOW (TO BE COMPLETED WITH A PARTNER)

Sordid –

Exposé –

Oases –

Yupster –

Petrified –

Consolation –

CONTEXT CLUE VOCABULARY

Directions: Find the word. Write the sentences before, including, and after the word. Next, circle any words you think might be a clue to the definition. Finally, write what you think the definition of the word is based on the clues you circled.

Arboredum: _____

Definition: _____

LITERARY TERMS

Directions: Find examples of the following literary terms: Include the page number of the example as well.

Allusion: _____

Simile: _____

PREDICTIONS

Directions: For the follow passages, make a prediction about what you think will happen later on in the text.

"I've always been considered pretty smart (a genius, if you ask me) but I consistently play Watson to Sarah Byrnes's Sherlock Holmes, and where I stood at the time – petrified by fear – her thinking seemed sound."

Make a predication as to why Moby would be referencing the most famous detective partnership in the history of literature.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

Directions: Answer the following questions in a complete paragraph (6-8 sentences). Explain your answer thoroughly.

What price do we pay for our individual freedom (freedom to be you)?

When Sarah Byrnes says "When you can't take it anymore, your body stops feeling for you. That was just your body being your friend," is she talking about physical or emotional pain? Justify your answer.

CHAPTER FIVE

CHARACTER CHART

Jody Mueller		
--------------	--	--

WORDS TO KNOW

Clandestine –

Foray –

Meticulously –

Insignia –

Moonshine –

Singe –

Blaspheming –

Piousness –

CONTEXT CLUE VOCABULARY

Directions: Find the word. Write the sentences before, including, and after the word. Next, circle any words you think might be a clue to the definition. Finally, write what you think the definition of the word is based on the clues you circled.

Olfactory: _____

Definition: _____

Recuperative: _____

Definition: _____

LITERARY TERMS

Directions: Find examples of the following literary terms: Include the page number of the example as well.

Allusion (2): _____

MUSICAL CONNECTION (TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS):

Directions: Read the lyrics to the "We're Not Gonna Take it" and to "From a Distance" then listen to the songs played. Read the lyrics one more time and then answer the following prompt in a complete paragraph:

Although these two songs seem different, they have many connections which relate both of them to the novel so far. Find at least two connections between the songs and explain how they relate to *Stay Fat for Sarah Byrnes*.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Directions: Answer the following questions in a complete paragraph (6-8 sentences). Explain your answer thoroughly.

In this chapter, Chris Crutcher makes the statement that teenagers often think themselves immortal therefore cannot face emotional truths. Then, Ellerby tells the class that his subject will not be religion, but will be shame. Do you think teens see themselves as immortal? Why or why not? How do emotional truths and shame play a role in your life?

CHAPTERS SIX & SEVEN

WORDS TO KNOW

Word-Smith –

Analgesic –

Covetous –

JOURNAL QUESTIONS:

Directions: Choose one of the following two prompts in no less than three paragraphs citing examples from the text to prove your point.

A) Chapter 6: If you had a friendship built like Moby and Sarah Byrnes's, but were able to escape the emotional treachery somehow, how would you "stay fat" for your best friend?

B) Chapter 7: This chapter brings up the question whether or not it is better to know or not to know. Which do you prefer? Think about Sarah Byrnes's life and then your own, would you prefer to know the truth about everything, or to just let what information may hurt you stay unknown?

CHAPTER EIGHT

WORDS TO KNOW

Tenacity –

Ayatollah –

Inextricably –

THEME

On page 136 Lemry tells the class, "What I hope we can learn is to be aware of how our beliefs color what we can see." Look at the picture below. First identify what you see, then what you did not notice. Explain what kept you from seeing the entire picture.



LITERARY TERMS

Directions: Find examples of the following literary terms: Include the page number of the example as well.

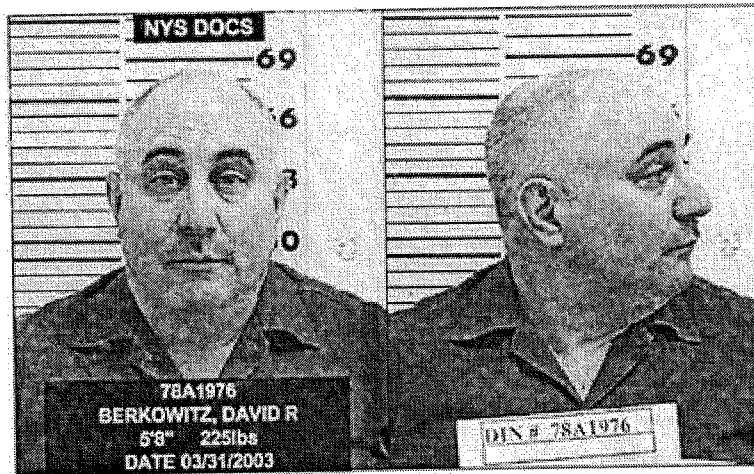
Allusion (2): _____

REFERENCES TO KNOW

Son of Sam: David Richard Berkowitz (born **Richard David Falco**, June 1, 1953), also known as **Son of Sam** and the **.44 Caliber Killer**, is an American serial killer and arsonist whose crimes terrorized New York City from July 1976 until his arrest in August 1977.

Shortly after his arrest in August 1977, Berkowitz confessed to killing six people and wounding seven others in the course of eight shootings in New York between 1976 and 1977; he has been imprisoned for these crimes since 1977. Berkowitz subsequently claimed that he was commanded to kill by a demon who possessed his neighbor's dog.

Berkowitz later amended his confession to claim he was the shooter in only two incidents, personally killing three people and wounding a fourth. The other victims were killed, Berkowitz claimed, by members of a violent satanic cult of which he was a member. Though he remains the only person charged with or convicted of the shootings, some law enforcement authorities argue that Berkowitz's claims are credible: according to John Hockenberry formerly of MSNBC, many officials involved in the original "Son of Sam" case suspected that more than one person was committing the murders. Hockenberry also reported that the Son of Sam case was reopened in 1996 and, as of 2004, it was still considered open. (Wikipedia)



CHAPTER NINE

THEME

Throughout this chapter, characters begin to reveal their deepest secrets. Sarah Byrnes is doing her best to control her secret though. Moby says, "I know what Sarah Byrnes is doing. She has to have control because of how big this is. You don't let something this big out unless you have it on a leash. It would eat you alive" (p.147). Think of a time in history when our government has tried to control the release of information; tried to keep a leash on something "big." Write the even down below and explain it in one or two sentences.

JOURNAL

How do the revelations in this chapter change or measure up to your predictions from the previous chapters. List your predictions and show how they have changed or come true.

REFERENCES TO KNOW

EDGAR BERGEN:

Born in Decatur, Michigan in 1903, Edgar Bergen developed a talent for ventriloquism at a young age. When Bergen asked a local carpenter to create a dummy, the wisecracking Charlie McCarthy was born. The duo began their career as talent show headliners, performing in Chicago while Bergen attended Northwestern University. Bergen eventually left Northwestern to concentrate on performing, but Charlie received an honorary degree from the school in 1938, a "Master of Innuendo and Snappy Comebacks."

Bergen and McCarthy made their radio debut on *Rudy Vallee's Royal Gelatin Hour* in 1936 and were an instant success. In 1937, they were given their own show for Chase & Sanborn. Almost immediately, *The Edgar Bergen/Charlie McCarthy Show* became one of radio's highest-rated programs, a distinction it enjoyed until it left the air in 1956.

During the show's two decades on the air, Bergen added new characters to the show, including the slow-witted Mortimer Snerd and the man-hungry spinster Effie Klinker. Today, Charlie McCarthy, Mortimer Snerd and Effie Klinker are on permanent display at the Radio Hall of Fame.

Edgar Bergen died on October 1, 1978.



CHAPTER TEN

WORDS TO KNOW

Incensed –

THEME

Truth: More truth seems to surface in this chapter. Moby and his mother are holding a conversation about Mark Brittain on page 160 saying:

“You’ve been scrapping back and forth with Mark Brittain for two years at least. I’ve never heard you say one good thing about him.”

“That comes from my unwavering commitment to the truth,’ I say. ‘What’s the coincidence?’”

What is the double meaning behind what Moby is saying to his mother?

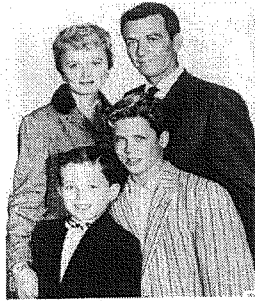
PREDICTION

Reread the revelation Carver Middleton makes on pages 161-164. Based on his comments, make a prediction about the relationship between Carver, Moby, and Eric’s mom (Sandy).

There are several references in this chapter to the perfect life (see the References to Know section). Explain why Chris Crutcher would make references to this, when so many characters in the book do not have a very good life.

REFERENCES TO KNOW

Ward and June Cleaver: **Ward Cleaver** is a fictional character in the American television sitcom *Leave It to Beaver*. Ward and his wife, June, are often invoked as archetypal suburban parents of the baby-boomer 1950s. The couple are the parents of Wally, a thirteen-year-old in the eighth grade, and seven-year-old ("almost eight") second-grader, "Beaver". A typical episode from *Leave It to Beaver* follows a misadventure committed by one or both of the boys, and ends with the miscreants receiving a moral lecture from their father and a hot meal from their mother.



Ann Landers: Name at birth: Esther Pauline Friedman

Ann Landers dispensed advice to readers in a daily column that ran for five decades in more than 1,200 U.S. newspapers. A wife and mother with no journalism experience, Esther "Eppie" Lederer first took the job in 1955 at the Chicago *Sun-Times*, replacing the previous writer on an advice column, "Ask Ann Landers." Writing as Ann Landers, her no-nonsense, practical advice was a hit with readers. Between the 1960s and the 1990s she increased her readership in the newspapers and churned out half a dozen best-selling books, giving people advice on everything from wedding etiquette and in-law troubles to cancer and cross-dressing. She was also the famous twin of rival advice columnist "Dear Abby" (Abigail Van Buren, the pen name of Pauline Esther Phillips), the wife of Budget Rent-a-Car founder Jules Lederer, and the mother of "Dear Prudence" (Margo Howard), the advice columnist for the online magazine *Slate*.



CHAPTERS ELEVEN & TWELVE

THEME

Define the following words:

Scarred –

Scared –

Sacred –

All three of these words have similar spellings and in some way relate to Sarah Byrnes. Describe how she fits each one of these definitions (excluding the scar on her face).

PREDICTION

In chapter 11 Sarah makes a second significant revelation. Explain first why Eric chose to tell Lemry about Sarah. Next, explain why Sarah reacted the way she did. Why does she want silence?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THEME

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an **establishment of religion**, or prohibiting the **free exercise** thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech**, or of the **press**; or the right of the people peaceably to **assemble**, and to **petition** the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a **Grand Jury**, except in cases arising in the land or **naval forces**, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; **nor** shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Provide 4 examples as to how each of these amendments is not only used in this chapter, but also throughout the novel.

LITERARY TERMS

Symbolism: Describe the symbolism behind not only Virgil Byrnes's name, but also his car. (p. 202)

CHAPTERS FOURTEEN & FIFTEEN

THEME

Read the following two definitions of *abortion* according to Merriam Webster's dictionary online:

1. induced expulsion of a human fetus
2. arrest of development (as of a part or process) resulting in imperfection

During this chapter, Mark Brittain attempts suicide. Explain below how Mark reflects hypocrisy, based on his beliefs about abortion and accountability.

After Mark's attempted suicide is announced, Lemry sits down with the class and tells them, "He'll need understanding from all of you. He'll need no to be abandoned" (215). How has Mark's life suddenly paralleled Sarah Byrnes's?

Throughout the novel, there has been the motif of knowledge. Characters are constantly questioning themselves whether or not it is better to know or not to know. Some characters have knowledge, but they refuse to share, while other characters are in search of the truth, but cannot seem to understand it. Pick one character that faces this dilemma and explain whether or not he/she needs the information being sought.

LITERARY TERMS

Simile (2):

CHAPTERS SIXTEEN & SEVENTEEN

WORDS TO KNOW

Voluminous –

THEME

The theme of accountability shows up throughout this novel. During chapter 14, Moby tells Virgil Byrnes to "...kill me" (p. 245). How does this prove that Moby is as much of a hypocrite as Mark?

Why does Moby tell Virgil Byrnes where Sarah and Lemry are?

During CAT (Contemporary American Thought) class, Lemry takes a great many risks with the topics she allows the students to discuss. Some may say that she does not protect the students from hurting one another. However, at the end of the novel, Lemry has a revelation. What does Lemry mean when she says, "I'll fight to the death to keep the things I'm worried about from happening" (p. 264)?

LITERARY TERMS

Simile :

SUSPENSE

This is a very suspenseful chapter. What elements of suspense can you identify that keeps the reader on his/her toes? List the elements and provide examples from the book with page numbers.

Element	Example

CHAPTERS EIGHTEEN & NINETEEN

THEME

Survival is a huge part of this novel. How does Sarah say she survives?

Hero: one that shows great courage

Vigilante: a member of a volunteer committee organized to suppress and punish crime summarily (as when the processes of law are viewed as inadequate)

Read the two definitions above. Some say Carver is the hero of the story and others say he was acting as a vigilante. What is your opinion? Use evidence from the text to support your answer in no less than one paragraph (6-8 sentences).
