

Big Mouth & Ugly Girl Study Guide

Chapter One

1. Who comes to visit Matt Donaghy in study hall?
2. What does Matt find embarrassing about being taken from the room?
3. What response does Matt receive when he asks about why he's being taken out?

Chapter Two

1. What is Ugly Girl's name?
2. Based on the way Ursula describes herself, what are some of the ways one would describe her?
3. What are the differences between Inky Black and Fiery Red moods?
4. Describe what happened to Ugly Girl during the Tarrytown game.

Chapter Three

1. According to Ugly Girl, what are two different kinds of facts?
2. Why does Ugly Girl think her dad goes to see her sister's events, but not hers?
3. What rumor is circulating around the school grounds as Ugly Girl leaves school?
4. Why is Ursula disgusted by the people who are spreading rumors?

Chapter Four

1. What happens to Matt Donaghy during questioning?

Chapter Five

1. According to the detectives, what did the students overhear Matt saying?
2. What "unexpected" thing does Matt do during the questioning?
3. Why does Matt allow the detectives to look through his backpack but refuse to let them search his locker?
4. What advice does Matt's lawyer give him at the police station?
5. As Matt reflects on the day, what event does he recall that might be responsible for his predicament?

Chapter 6

1. What rumor does Ursula hear about as she watches the evening newscast?
2. What is the substance of the email that Ursula sends to Ms. Schultz?

3. What does Ursula's dad mean when he calls her an "idealist"?
4. What specific reason does Ursula have for not believing the rumor on the news?

Chapter 7

1. What decision by Mr. Parrish has Matt upset?
2. What events does Matt recount that suggest he has a history of doing things to make his friends laugh?
3. Describe the conversation that Ursula and Matt have over the phone.

Chapter 8

1. What point does Ursula make to Mr. Parrish about what Matt said?
2. What is Mr. Parrish's defense for calling in the police? Do you agree with him?
2. How does Ursula convince Eveann McDowd's mother to change her mind?

Chapter 9

1. What seems to be Matt's dad's greatest fear given the situation which surrounds Matt?
2. What common sentiment is included in emails that Matt's friends send to him?
3. What news does Mr. Leacock share with Matt?

Chapter 10

1. How has Matt changed since his return to school?
2. How has Ursula changed since Matt's return to school?

Chapter 11

1. Describe the email message that Matt doesn't send to Ursula.

Chapter 12

1. Why does Mr. Parrish want to meet with Ursula?
2. Based on her reaction when she sees Matt, what do you think is "happening to Ugly Girl" (94)?

Chapter 13

1. What is the nature of the conversation that Matt has with Mr. Bernhardt?

Chapter 14

1. What news does Mr. Steiner have for Matt about the newspaper?

2. What do we learn about the way Matt is responding to his return in school?

3. What do Matt's exchanges with the girls at the mall, Gordon Kim, and Russ Mercer suggest about the way Matt is feeling?

Chapter 15

1. What confessions does Matt make in the email message he doesn't send to Ursula?

Chapter 16

1. When she was younger, what prevented Ursula from continuing with swimming?

2. Describe the run-in that Ursula has with the "crazy Brewer twins" on the stairs.

3. How does Ursula respond to the "good citizenship" letter she receives?

4. What happens to Ursula after she excuses herself from the dance performance?

Chapter 17

1. Why does Matt find his mother crying in the bathroom?

Chapter 18

1. What differences does Ursula notice about Matt's behavior?

2. What theory does Ursula develop about the Brewer twins?

Chapter 19

1. What is the prevailing opinion about Matt's accusers?

2. What are some of the rumors circulating about Matt's situation?

Chapter 20

1. What is suggested by the headline that Ursula's dad sees in the newspaper?

2. What advice does Mr. Riggs' tell Ursula to pass on to Matt? Why does he think his advice is good?

Chapter 21

1. Describe the incident that takes place in the alley.

Chapter 22

1. What scares Ursula about her sister's experience with the ballet troupe?

2. According to Ursula's book, what is the "obstacle race"?

Chapter 23

1. How does Matt regard the "world" outside of the nature preserve?

Chapter 24

1. What does Ursula think Matt might have been doing on the icy rocks?
2. Describe the nature of the conversation that Ursula and Matt have while Matt is crouched down at the edge of the ravine.

Chapters 25 and 26

1. What appears to be the nature of the messages Matt send, and does not send, to Ursula?

Chapters 27 and 28

1. What is the nature of the conversation that Matt has with Pumpkin?
2. What does Matt recall about holding Ursula's hand?

Chapter 29

1. What are some of the things Matt and Ursula talk about in their emails?
2. In what ways are Matt's parents attempting to help him?
3. What is Mr. Donaghy's opinion of the lawsuit against the school?

Chapter 30

1. What are some of the things that Matt and Ursula discover they have in common?

Chapter 31

1. What is Mrs. Riggs' opinion of Ursula's mood recently?
2. Where does Ursula think Mrs. Riggs should direct her worrying?
3. How does Ursula want to spend all of her time these days?
4. Why does Mrs. Riggs go into Ursula's room after dinner?
5. Why hasn't Ursula responded to the emails that Matt has sent since school?

Chapter 32

1. According to Gordon Kim, why are Matt and Ursula "together"?

Chapter 33

1. What has Ursula finally told Matt?

2. How does Matt respond to Ursula's opinion?

Chapters 34 and 35

1. Do you believe Ursula when she says "I will not cry"?

2. What evidence is there to suggest that Matt is confused?

Chapter 36

1. Why does Matt think he's being taken to a psychiatrist?

2. Why does Mr. Donaghy want to continue with the lawsuit?

Chapter 37

1. How does Ursula attempt to break the silence with Matt?

Chapter 38

1. Why is Reverend Brewer complaining to the press?

2. How does Matt attempt to break the silence with Ursula?

3. By the end of the chapter, what do Matt and Ursula realize that they have in common?

Chapters 39 and 40

1. What event has caused Ursula to cry?

2. What additional information does Mrs. Donaghy give to the place?

3. Describe the phone calls that Matt receives.

Chapter 41

1. How is Matt's brother, Alex, dealing with the situation?

2. How do Mrs. Donaghy and Ursula get along when they meet?

Chapter 42

1. How does Trevor Cassidy's behavior and language change when he's being questioned?

2. How does Ursula influence Trevor Cassidy's behavior?