

A study guide prepared by IYC Tutor Byron Eden

## **SECRETS OF THE SHADOWS**

By Anne Schraff

Make a list of all of the words used in this book that you do not know the meaning of. Some words that you might not be familiar with, and the pages they are found on include the following: senile (25), demented (26), sarcasm (28), consoled (29), stammered (33), mortuary (33), nuisance (37), dank (42), reproached (43), mocking (56), cardigan (57) pathetic (82), and nausea (105). What words can you add to this list?

(p.1,2,32,39) Roylin Bailey and his family live in an apartment that needs a lot of repairs. Why are things in such bad shape?

(p. 2,3,15,21,50) Describe Roylin's relationship with his mother, his father, and his sister Amberlynn.

(p. 3) Have you ever had someone beat you regularly, like Roylin's father did do him, or do you know of someone else who faced that problem in life? How does that make you feel?

(p. 6,30) What class at Bluford High School did Roylin and Korie Archer have together ?

(p. 5,6,8) Why was Roylin attracted to Korie?

(p. 12) Roylin lies to Korie and brags that he has a nice car and a job and plenty of money. In truth, Roylin struggles just to make ends meet. Why would he lie to Korie about his financial situation?

(p.13, 17-18, 46-47) As soon as Roylin lies to Korie about having lots of money, Korie tells Roylin that her birthday is coming up. Why do you think that she mentions her upcoming birthday, since they had just met?

(p. 8,9,16,65,123,126) What are Roylin's feelings of self-worth. How does he see himself? How do you see yourself?

(p.24) Why didn't Roylin solve his need to get money fast by selling dope, like other kids in the neighborhood had done?

(p.25-26,49) What are your impressions of Mr. Tuttle, the apartment building manager?

(p. 26-27) What were your thoughts when you read that Roylin took money from the wallet of his elderly friend, Mr. Miller?

(p. 29,40) Where did Roylin hide the necklace he purchased for Korie?

(p. 32-34,48,55,78-79,83) Why would Mr. Tuttle tell Roylin that Mr. Miller had died, if it weren't true?

(p.42) Roylin wished he were dead instead of Mr. Miller. Have you ever had similar thoughts? If so, what did you do about them?

(p. 51) Where did Roylin work, at his job?

(p. 52-54) Why did Roylin show the necklace to the babysitter, Darcy, before he had given it to his girlfriend, Korie?

(p. 58) Why do you think that Mr. Miller had kept all of the cards that Roylin had given him over the years?

(p. 68-69) Why did the babysitter Darcy, not want to simply write the history paper for Korie?

(p. 75-76, 92-93) Cooper Hodden tells Roylin, "Well, whatever's goin' on, just know I got your back. We're friends, yo. You hear me?" "Anytime anything on your mind, you can tell me about it, okay? It won't go no further, you hear me? I'll help any way I can." Do you have someone that is always there for you, whom you can turn to no matter what happens? How does that make you feel? Give examples of when someone was there for you when you needed it most. What does it take to keep these special friends in your life?

(p. 95-102) Roylin tells Cooper Hodden the entire story. What did you think of the advice Cooper gives Roylin?

(p. 106) What were you thinking when you finished Chapter 9, before you read any further?

Do you think that Roylin should have told Mr. Miller that he had taken the money? If he had, what do you think would have happened?

(p. 122-123) Why do you think that Roylin's friends were willing to agree with Roylin to visit the patients at the nursing home?

(p. 123-125) Do you think Roylin should have started dating Korie again when she broke up with Steve Morris? Why, or why not?

What did you think of this book, and why?

Reality check: The story is a bit unrealistic in that Mr. Tuttle says that he took Mr. Miller to a nursing home facility. Without being a relative, or providing insurance, and making plans for such a move well in advance, a move like this would not have been possible. Who was going to pay for the expenses of the nursing home?

**ALTERNATIVE ENDING:**

Go back to page 106, at the end of Chapter 9, as Cooper and Roylin look into the grave they had just dug up, and gasped at what they saw. Write an alternative ending that is something different from how this author ended the story. Please remember that there is no right or wrong ending, you can write whatever you wish. Be creative. Have fun!