

Bog Child - chapters 42-
47 (Ending)



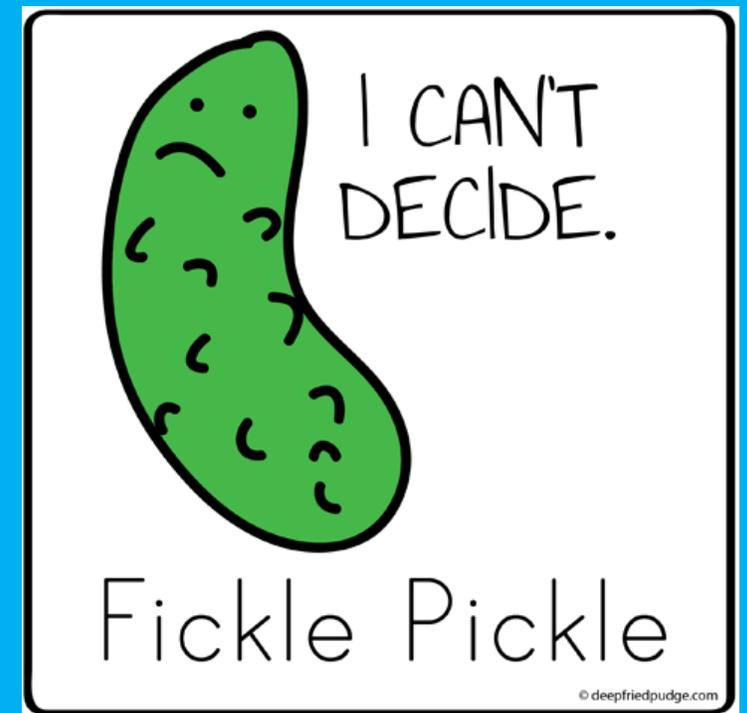
Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the plot
2. To be able to discuss what happens
3. To understand the use of symbols and foreshadowing and be able to discuss them
4. To understand important quotes and be able to discuss/write about them
5. To understand and be able to write about how the characters are feeling and why they feel that way
6. To understand the significance of the ending and be able to write about it (new)

Chapter 42 recap - what happened?

- In chapter 42 Fergus's mam has left to go to the prison and ask that Joey be put on a drip to end his hunger strike and save his life
- While the house is quiet, Fergus tries to process all of the thoughts swirling around in his head. He has lucid visions of Mel and of Cora and thinks about the mountain and the huts where Mel might have lived. He also remembers Cora's kiss in the hotel garden.
- Mel is trying to reach out to Fergus in his thoughts to explain to him exactly what happened to her.

- Felicity comes to the house to give Fergus some important news about Cora.
- She reveals that she know how Fergus feels about Cora but has come to tell him that Cora is leaving, to go to Michigan in America to be with her father.
- She describes Cora as 'faddish' - someone who gets interested in new fashions or crazes but this interest is short-lived. This suggests that Cora is a **fickle** individual who changes her mind easily.
- She is really warning Fergus that Cora's feelings for him as not as strong as his feelings for her, " you're not the only lad who's fallen for her. And her boyfriends never last long. Like I said, she has fads...she thrives on change" (p.290)



Valuable advice (p. 291)

- Felicity offers Fergus some valuable advice in this section, advice which foreshadows the ending to the novel.
- She says, "Life is like that. Meetings and Partings". This suggests that Fergus must become used to meeting people throughout his life and then letting them go and moving forward on to the next chapter.
- She also advises that "we suffer more for the sins of our omission than the sins of commission" and explains that "often more harm is done by what we fail to do than by what we do."
- Here she is suggesting that we should have no regrets in life, that we will only regret that things that we wanted to do but didn't.



Chapter 43 recap - How is dad acting?

- In chapter 43, dad is trying to act **apathetic** about the situation with Joey. His eyes are red indicating that he has been crying but he doesn't let on to Fergus that this is the case.
- Fergus has come to him to repeat Felicity's words "we do more harm by the sins of omission than by the sins of commission".
- Dad continues to act apathetic while hugging Fergus but takes the phone and dials the number to the prison.
- Fergus pleads "if we do nothing, there'll be no forgiveness. Never. The future will go wrong everything will go wrong. I know it, Da. Believe me." (p.294)



Chapter 43 recap

- We get the sense that Fergus is trying to put things right, to bring his family back together again, if they are to have any hope of surviving this awful situation and moving forward with life.



Chapter 44 recap - What happened to Mel on the day she died?

- In chapter 44, we learn of Mel's true fate and the circumstances that lead to her death.
- It is revealed that Rur didn't kill his father and that Mel has taken the blame and is sacrificing herself to save him "This place, Rur. It needs you. It doesn't need me". (p.295)
- We learn that Brennor, Mel's brother, was the real murderer.
- Mel officially dies by hanging, but she asks Rur to stab her just as she is to be hanged so she will die a relatively quick, painless death.
- She also asks Rur for a part of him to go to the grave with which explains the lock of hair found clutched in her hand - the 'love knot'. (p.297)

Chapter 44 recap - How are Mel and Joey connected?

- Perhaps the connection that Fergus feels with Mel is explained in this chapter. Mel and Joey both want to be martyrs, sacrificing themselves for a cause. Mel's cause is to protect her love, Rur, her brother and her family while Joey's cause is political. However, it is too late for Mel, Fergus knows he can't save her but he can and has saved Joey and his family.

- We also learn that Joe has been put on a drip and is recovering .
- The threat of violence is omnipresent in this chapter. Apart from Mel's tragic death, Fergus and Cora hear the UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment, British army) band playing and Fergus points out that they are "sitting ducks", an "IRA target". (p. 302)
- This is Fergus's last time with Cora and he is missing her already, she suggests that they can write to each other: "All Fergus could see were a thousand airmail letters, flying west and east, leaving trails of silver nitrate across the sky". (p.304)
- In the final page of this chapter, Felicity reveals that they have won the argument about what happened to Mel and when it happened, she is "coming down to Dublin".
- Cora give Fergus her drawing of Mel as a symbol of the connection he has with both Mel and Cora.



Chapter 45 recap - Uncle Tally and Owain

- Uncle Tally is acting strange, he appears distracted and doesn't really react when Fergus tells him about Joey and the drip. He responds "tonelessly" and says "I didn't expect this". (p.307) He reminds Fergus about his driving test, changing the subject and his final words to Fergus are "mind how you go" and "Goodbye". This creates an ominous atmosphere and we sense that something bad is going to happen.
- There has been a bomb up the mountain, near a sentry hut and Fergus immediately knows that something has happened to Owain, "The thousand and one beads that made up Fergus swirled red and black." (p. 309)



Chapter 46 recap - The revelation

- Tally's words echo in Fergus's mind as he goes running towards the mountain, "a reminder of death", suggesting that the mountain and the sea, Roscillin, is enveloped in death.
- He realises that Uncle Tally is "the local bomb maker", he had hidden it all along, and it was he who persuaded Joey to go on hunger strike.
- Fergus is distraught, he is filled with anger and feelings of betrayal (p. 316) but when he reaches the pub that Tally lives over, he discovers that "the bomb-disposal experts had found a finger print on the device that had killed the soldiers" and that Uncle Tally "had been shot dead while resisting arrest". (p. 317)

Chapter 47 recap - A new beginning for Fergus

- 3 weeks after Uncle Tally's funeral, Fergus leaves to go to university in England to study to be a doctor.
- Joey is recovering but has a long road ahead.
- We get the sense that he is irrevocably changed by the summer of the Bog Child and that the life he is leaving behind will never be the same and neither will he.
- He gives his mother back Joey's watch, claiming that he is afraid that he will lose it but we get the sense that this symbolises him letting go of the violence, the hurt, the anger and the pain. He wishes to leave that behind as he embarks on a new chapter in his life, "the old Fergus of that time would never return". (p.231-232)



Check your understanding and develop your response - Success Criteria

1. Use this PowerPoint and the book to help you.
2. Use FULL SENTENCE ANSWERS (not 'yes I think this because...')
3. Use PIE (POINT, ILLUSTRATE WITH A QUOTE, EXPLAIN) when the question is a PIE question.
4. Check your use of capital letters, full stops and spelling
5. Don't forget to look up the words highlighted in purple
6. When you have finished, don't forget to count how many stars you got e.g.

_____ bronze 

_____ silver 

_____ gold 

Chapter 42: Check your understanding and develop your response

1. What does Felicity say about the type of person Cora is? Does this change your opinion of her? Explain your answer. (PIE) 
2. How does Fergus feel about this information, do you think? 
3. What advice does Felicity give Fergus? 
4. Do you think this is good advice? Explain your answer 



Chapter 43: Check your understanding and develop your response

1. How is dad feeling in this chapter? Explain your answer. (PIE)
2. What is Fergus worried about?



Chapters 44 - 45: Check your understanding and develop your response

1. Why does Mel take the blame for Boss Shaun's death?
2. How are Mel and Joey connected?
3. What happens to Owain?



Chapters 46 - 47: Check your understanding and develop your response

1. What do we learn about Uncle Tally in chapter 46? 
2. Describe Fergus's reaction? 
3. How does Uncle Tally die? 
4. Did you enjoy the ending of the novel? Give at least two reasons for your answer using PIE. Use the sentence starters and hints on the next slide to help you.



Sentence Starters and Hints:

- I enjoyed the ending of the novel because...
- Fergus did all he could to protect his family...
- Fergus finally gets closure as he learns the truth about Mel...
- I also enjoyed how Fergus has grown up throughout the novel, in the end we learn that he is forever changed...
- I was happy that Fergus chose to be a student rather than a soldier and left behind the violence in order to learn how to save people...
- I was glad Fergus had a fresh start...