

## *Shattered* Comprehension Questions:

### Chapter 3:

1. Who takes care of the Soup Kitchen?
2. Who is Berta?
3. What does Mac like about Ian?
4. Why is Mac's job so important?
5. How is the Soup Kitchen funded?
6. How many people sleep on the streets at night according to Mac?

### Chapter 4:

1. Who was Lester B. Pearson?
2. What does Ian admit to his teacher about his first experience at the Soup Kitchen?

### Chapter 5:

1. What do we learn about Ian's mother and his father?
2. How many days will they be able to feed the homeless after the truck came?
3. How and why does Mac know what kind of car Ian's mom drives?
4. Why is Ian thankful for Berta?
5. What disease can the people on the streets get?
6. How did Mac help the man who was paranoid about aliens and poison?
7. Which important character does Ian meet? What do we know about him so far?

### Chapter 6 and 7:

1. What does Ian learn when he goes out with Mac to do rounds?
2. What is the name of the park that is unsafe?
3. According to Mac, what kind of people end up on the streets and why?
4. According to Mac, why do kids end up on the streets?
5. Why does Mac hand out cigarettes to the homeless people while out on his rounds?
6. What is a shanty?
7. Where does Sarge live?
8. What does Ian learn about Berta and what happens in Guatemala?

### Chapter 8:

1. What do peacekeepers do? (Les casques bleus) p.78
2. Why is Canada known world-wide for being a "peace-loving country" (79)?
3. What must Ian do "to make grade 10 civics a one-year project" (81)?
4. Ian presented his volunteer work to the class, how has he changed since the beginning?
5. Reflect on the following quote: "Calling people crazy or loony, or saying they're a few bricks short of a load, or are a nut, is all part of a dangerous process...If somebody is a nut, then they are no longer a person, and if they are not a person, then you can treat them as less. That dehumanizing process allows people to feel it is acceptable to treat them badly" (84).
6. How did you react when Heather said that she would describe the homeless as "worthless" (84)?

### Chapter 9:

1. At the end of the chapter, what do we know about Sarge? What mood was set when he left?

## Chapter 10:

1. What is the population in Rwanda?
2. What is the life expectancy in Rwanda? Why?
3. In 1994, the Presidents of Rwanda were killed in a plane crash while coming home after peace talks in Tanzania. In the past, the Hutus were treated as slaves by the Belgians who were colonising Rwanda. The Belgians gave the better jobs to the Tutsis for esthetic reasons only: they were taller and paler. The Hutus held a grudge for a long time against the Tutsis. The Belgians had separated the groups and had distributed identification to label the Hutus and the Tutsis. The Hutus had prepared for an occasion where they could rise against the Tutsis once the Belgians were gone.
  - a. How many people were murdered within 100 days?
  - b. How many people have fled? How many people were displaced?
  - c. What is a genocide?
  - d. Why is Ian so surprised? Explain.

## Chapter 11:

1. What weapon did Ian bring with him to the park? Where did he hide it?
2. Why did Sarge leave the Soup Kitchen when Ian was interviewing him?
3. How do the homeless get by according to Sarge? P.113
4. What is Sarge's name?
5. Where did Sarge get breakfast for himself, the boys and Ian? Explain the situation.
6. Why is Sarge so certain that there is a heaven?

## Chapter 12:

1. Mrs. Watkins talks about genocide. There was a genocide in Rwanda and the class discussed other historical events, what were they?
2. Why is it so hard for the students or even anyone to believe that the genocide in Rwanda happened?
3. Mrs. Watkins explains that Hitler didn't start by eliminating the Jews. Who were his first targets?
4. Who said the following quote? "One death is a tragedy; a million is a statistic."

*Mourning the loss of millions is overwhelming and we are incapable of picturing the people as individuals. Massed together, we see them as a whole; people who looked, lived and died the same. When a person is lost in a sea of thousands and millions, that person becomes a water molecule in a catastrophic and unstoppable wave. Onlookers feel helpless in confronting such a force. When the death toll rises and all we can do is count, we categorize and present statistics.*

*The death of one person allows us to associate them to a member of society, a family, a personality. Therefore, we can mourn the person and demand justice. When the issue is close to home, it is close to the heart. It seems that if the number of people coming together to comfort those who are affected by a death is more numerous than the dead, people feel like they can counter evil in doing something good.*

*The man who said those words knew very well that he was creating an unstoppable wave that no one could or would jump in to confront; for his control with fear would terrify them of having to join the waves of death.*