The House of the Scorpion
**Youth**: 0 to 6

*Ch. 1 In the Beginning*

Array pg.2
Sternly pg.3
Implanted pg.3
Blunt pg.4
Bustling pg.4

1. Why was Eduardo afraid of failing to grow the cells? Pg. 3

2. Where were the embryos placed to grow? Pg.3

3. How many cells survived? Pg.4

4. Why was Matt not given the shot to blunt his intelligence like most clones? Pg.4

*Ch. 2 The Little House in the Poppy Fields*

Sprawled pg.8
Desolation pg. 9
Indignant pg.10
Fatigue pg.13
Voluminous pg.13
Murmured pg.13

1. What crop was grown in the fields outside Matt’s house? Pg.6

2. Why did Matt get angry with Celia when she had to go to work? Pgs. 8-9

3. Where does Celia work? Pg.12
Chapter 3: Property of the Alacran Estate

1. What did Matt see in the fields that fascinated him? Pg.15
2. Why did Matt break his window? Pgs.17-18
3. Where did they take Matt after he cut his foot on the glass? Pg.23
4. From what point of view is this story told? Be specific!

Chapter 4: Maria

1. Why did the Alacrans treat Matt so badly? Pg.26
2. Why is the doctor so concerned with Matt’s health? Whose clone is he? Pgs.26-27
3. Who befriends Matt at the Alacrans? Pg.30
4. Who is the protagonist of this story?
1. Why was Rosa so furious with Matt? Why did she threaten to kill him? Pg. 39

2. What did Rosa do with the room Matt was living in at the Alacrans? Pgs.40-43

3. Why did Matt save his food? Pg. 44

4. What did Matt do to Tom while Tom was mocking him? Pg.45

5. How does Tom get revenge on Matt? Pg.46

6. Who does Maria bring to see Matt? Pg.48

7. What does Matt look at to make him feel better? Pg.49
1. Who does Rosa take Matt to see? Pg.54

2. Where is Aztlan? Pg. 57

3. Why were alacranes called scorpions? Pg.57

4. What happened to each of El Patron’s siblings? Pg.58

5. What do you think an eejit is? Pg.59

6. How old is El Patron? Pg.59

7. What did El Patron say was to happen to Matt? Pgs.62-63

8. Who did Matt choose as a bodyguard? Why? Pg.63
The House of the Scorpion
Middle Age: 7 to 11

Ch. 7  Teacher
Excursion  pg.64
Impassively  pg.66
Guileless  pg.66
Wheedled  pg.69

1. Why did Matt make Tom and Maria leave?  Pg.66

2. What did the teacher help Matt do that others couldn’t?  pg.73

The House of the Scorpion
Middle Age: 7 to 11

Ch.8  The eejit in the Dry Field
Steed  pg.75
Ravenously  pg.78

1. Where do Matt and Tam Lin go to celebrate?  Pgs.74-75

2. Why couldn’t Matt and Tam Lin help the man lying in the poppy field?  Pg.78

3. What is a “Safe horse”?  pg.78

4. What is an eejit?  Pg.81

5. What was on the other side of the boulder with the hole in the middle?  Pg.79

6. What was different about the teacher and the man lying in the poppy field?  Pg.83
The House of the Scorpion
Middle Age: 7 to 11

Ch. 9  The Secret Passage
Lavishly  pg.84
Skulked  pg.86

1. Who is Felicia?  Pg.86
2. Why did Matt hide in the closet from Felicia?  Pg.87
3. What did Matt find while hiding in the closet?  Pg.87
4. Use the context clues on pg.86 to define fervor.
5. Why did Matt try so hard to learn all he could?  Pg.91

The House of the Scorpion
Middle Age: 7 to 11

Ch. 10  A Cat with Nine Lives
Indifferently  pg.92
Wallow  pg.92
Frail  pg.93
Furtively  pg.94
Harangued  pg.98

1. Who is Furball and what happened to him?  Pg.97
2. What are the Alacrans celebrating?  Pg.97
3. Who are The Farmers?  Pg.98
4. What surprised El Patron’s guests about his appearance?  Pg.100
**The House of the Scorpion**  
*Middle Age: 7 to 11*

**Ch. 11  The Giving and Taking of Gifts**

1. What did Matt do that upset Maria at the party? Pg.104

2. How did El Patron’s health get so much better? Pg. 105

3. What did Matt demand of Maria at the party? Pg.110

**The House of the Scorpion**  
*Middle Age: 7 to 11*

**Ch.12  The Thing on the Bed**

Rousing  pg. 115  
Permeated  pg.115  
Anguish  pg.119  
Cravenly  pg.119

1. What did Maria give Matt as a gift for his party? Pg.111

2. Who comes to visit Matt after the party? Why? Pg.113-114

3. Why did Tom and Felicia have Matt and Maria meet at the hospital? Pgs. 120-121
Ch. 13  The Lotus Pond
Servile  pg. 122
Grovel  pg.123
Sinister  pg.125

1. Who is Tom’s real father?  Pg.123

2. Why is Felicia a disgrace to the Alacrans?  Pg.124

3. How is Matt different from other clones?  Pg.125


5. Why are Senator Mendoza, Maria, and Tam Lin upset with Matt?  Pgs.133-134

Ch. 14  Celia’s Story
Impulsively  pg.143
Scornful  pg. 143

1. How was the way Tam Lin treated Matt different from how others treated him?  Pg.138

2. What is a coyote as defined on page 142?

3. How did Celia and El Patron first meet?  Pg. 142-143

4. What happened to the others with Celia who tried to cross the border?  Pg. 143
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**Old Age: 12 to 14**

*Ch. 15  A Starved Bird*

1. Where was Maria sent to be turned into a “Proper young lady”? Pg. 146

2. Who brought Matt the safehorse? How was she different? Pg. 147

3. What did Matt find at the oasis? Who was it from? Pg. 149

4. How was Matt humiliated at El Viejo’s funeral? Who came to his rescue? Pg. 154

5. Use context clues to define *retorted* on pg. 154.

*Ch. 16  Brother Wolf*

1. Why does Maria say Matt can’t go to heaven? Pg. 159

2. Who killed Furball? Why? Pg. 163

3. What is Maria’s nickname for Matt? Pg. 158
**Ch. 17 The eejit Pens**
- Cicada pg.166
- Decamped pg. 166
- Malevolence pg.167
- Vile pg.171

1. What deal was made between the U.S. and Mexico regarding drugs? Pg.169

2. Why did the Farm Patrol attempt to arrest Matt? How did he avoid being arrested? Pg.173

3. How did El Patron get men to work for the Farm Patrol? Pg.175-176

4. What did Tam Lin do to wind up working for El Patron? Pg.177

**Ch. 18 The Dragon Hoard**
- Illuminate pg.181
- Daft pg. 182
- Valiantly pg. 183

1. What happened to El Patron? Pg.180

2. Why do think they came to get Matt after what happened to El Patron?

3. What did Matt suggest to El Patron to help him feel better? How did El Patron respond? Pg.184
Ch. 19 Coming of Age

1. What was the celebration for at the beginning of this chapter? Pg.187

2. What is the purpose of clones in for El Patron and MacGregor? Pg.191

Ch. 20 Esperanza
Malice pg.196
Tirade pg.197
Vulnerable pg. 200

1. According to Esperanza why did El Patron come up with eejits? Pg.197

2. Who wrote the book *The History of Opium*? Why did this surprise Matt? Pg.197

3. What is Matt’s plan at the end of this chapter? Pg.202

Ch. 21 Blood Wedding
Seethed pg.203
Decreed pg. 204
Loathed pg. 204
Shunned pg. 206
Tainted pg. 206

1. Who got married? Why? Pg. 204

2. What news does Maria reveal to Matt that upset him? Pg.209

3. What happened to El Patron that disrupted the wedding? Pg.214
1. Why are El Patron’s guards looking for Matt? Pg.217

2. How does Matt plan to escape his fate? Pg.218

3. What do Matt and Maria find in the secret passageway? What was it for? Pg.221

The House of the Scorpion
Age 14

Ch. 23  Death
Foxglove  pg. 235

1. Why can’t El Patron use Matt’s heart as a transplant?  Pg.235

2. Why do the Alacrans no longer have a use for Matt?  Pg.238

Ch. 24  A Final Goodbye

1. How does Tam Lin deceive Mr. Alacran? pg.242

2. Why doesn’t Daft Donald ever talk?  Pg.243

3. What is Tam Lin’s plan for Matt to escape?  Pg.246

Ch. 25  The Farm Patrol
Dawdling  pg. 250

1. Name three items in Matt’s survival pack from Tam Lin.

2. How did Matt lose his money and pack?  Pg.257
The House of the Scorpion
La Vida Nueva

Ch. 26 The Lost Boys

1. Where does Matt get sent after crossing the border? pg.262-263,268

Ch. 27 The Five Legged Horse

1. What are The Keepers? Pg.269

2. What determines who and how much food you get at the orphanage? Pg.270

3. How did Matt upset Raul? Pg.275

4. What is a crot? Pg.276

Ch. 28 The Plankton Factory

1. What do the boys eat at the factory? Pg. 283

2. What happened to the whales in the Gulf of California? Pg.283

3. Where do Matt, Fidelito, and Chacho get sent to work? Pg.284
Ch. 29  Washing a Dusty Mind

1. What is the purpose of self-criticism?  Pg.291-292

2. Who is Jorge?  Pg.289

3. What is the name of the boy with terrible acne?  Pg.293

Ch. 30  When Whales Lost Their Legs

1. Why does Jorge punish Ton-Ton? Why does he punish him?  Pgs.300-301

2. What does Matt do that earns him the respect of the other boys at the orphanage?  Pg.305

Ch. 31  Ton-Ton
Guffawed  pg. 310

1. Why was Matt interested to find out The Keepers took Laudanum?  Pg.309

2. What surprised Matt when he looked in the mirror?  What caused this?  Pg.310
Ch. 32  Found Out
Lackey    pg.318

1. Why does Jorge punish Fidelito instead of Matt?  Pg.318

2. Why does Matt attack Jorge?  Pg.319

3. What did Luna in the infirmary find out about Matt?  Pg.321

Ch. 33  The Boneyard

1. How are Matt and Chacho punished?  Pg.326

2. What creature made its home in the whale bones?  Pg.328

Ch. 34  The Shrimp Harvester
Exhorting   pg.335

1. How does Ton-Ton rescue Chacho from the pit?  Pg.337

2. Where does Ton-Ton decide to go after rescuing Matt and Chacho?
   How would they get there?  Pg.337
Ch. 35  *El Dia De Los Muertos*

1. What ailment does the polluted river cause in Matt? How is he rescued? Pg.348

2. What is El Dia De Los Muertos? Pg.349

3. What do Guapo and Consuela give Matt and Fidelito to hide from The Keepers? Pg.352

Ch. 36  *The Castle on the Hill*

Seething  pg.355  
Mutiny  pg. 358  
Squalid  pg. 362

1. Who tries to take Chacho at the convent? Who stops them? Pg.360

2. Who finds Matt at the end of Ch. 36? Pg.362
Ch. 37  Homecoming
Resilient pg.364
Clamoring pg.365

1. What is happening in Opium? Pg.365

2. What do the Esperanzas want Matt to do? Pgs.365-366

3. Who is the new master of Opium? Why? Pg.367

4. Who does Matt see while he is playing the piano at the Alacrans? Pg.371

Ch. 38  The House of Eternity

1. Describe in detail the events of El Patron’s wake. Pgs. 375-376

2. Why didn’t Tam Lin save himself from these events? Pg.377

3. What is Matt’s mission at the end of the book? Pg.380

4. What was your overall impression of the book? What did you like? Dislike? Would you recommend this book to others?