Chapters 149–173

This marks the beginning of the turning point in the novel. Explain what

happens and why it is so significant. When Christopher describes his

‘detecting’ he uses long rambling sentences. What then, is the effect of

the sentence, “And that was when I saw the envelope?” After

Christopher finds the envelope his father comes home. What is

interesting about the conversation Christopher has with his father over

dinner? What does it tell you about Christopher considering his apparent

inability to tell lies? What does the letter tell you about Christopher’s

mother? Back up your points with evidence, read between the lines.

How does Christopher see mysteries?

This chapter marks the turning point in the novel, explain why. What does

Christopher find when his Dad goes out on an emergency call out? What

do we learn from the letters? How does Christopher react to the

information? What is father’s first response? What is his second

response? Here are a number of things the letters reveal about the

Boone household before Christopher’s mother left. What were some of

the events and challenges? How did each member of the family deal with

them? Why has the author chosen to use letters to reveal Christopher’s

mother’s story?

Christopher says ‘people always think there is something special about

what they can’t see,’ does he see things this way? Explain how

Christopher thinks the human brain is just like a computer. Do you agree

that human feelings are just like a picture on a computer screen? Explain

your answer.

What does Christopher do to calm himself down? Why couldn’t he do it as

high as he usually does? What does Christopher’s Dad confess? Why did

he kill Wellington? What is Christopher’s first reaction to his father’s

revelations? What is unusual or unexpected about this?