

The Messengers: Discovered by Lisa M Clark

Book Club Meeting Plan for Adolescents

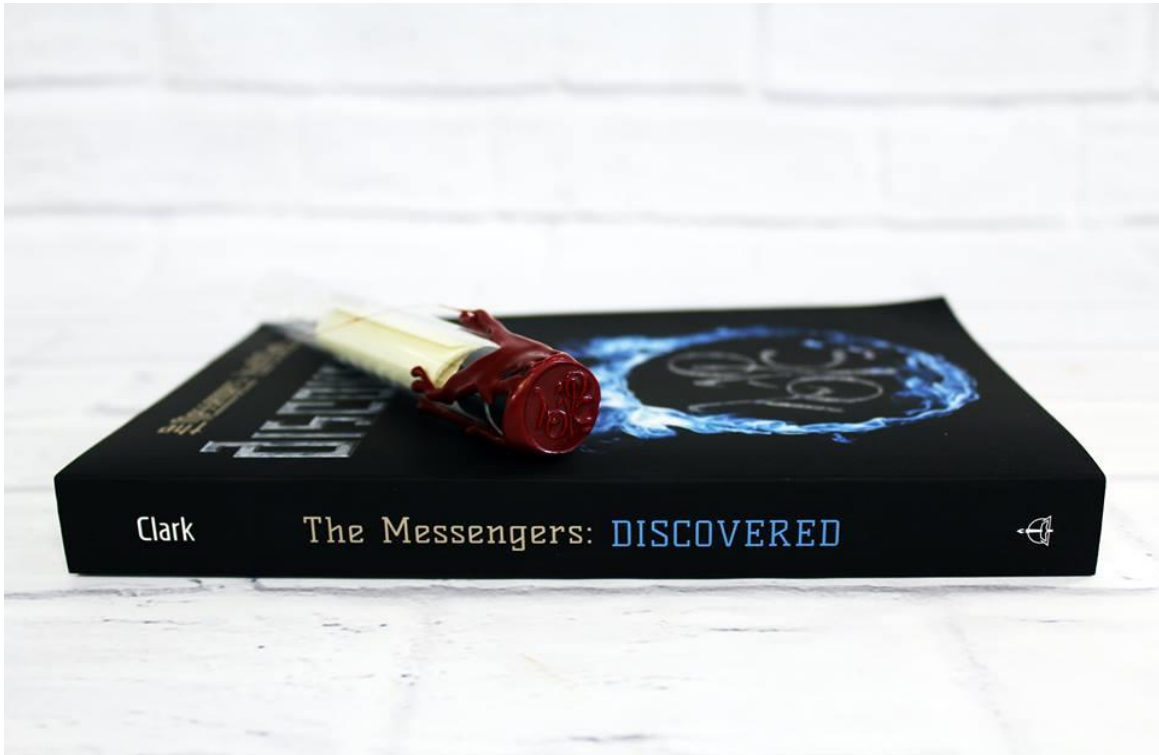


Photo Source - @CPH on Facebook

This resource was written by Heather McCoy

Dear Educator,

Thank you for downloading this packet to use while you read *The Messengers: Discovered*. As a pastor's wife, youth Bible study teacher, and homeschooling mom I was thrilled to learn of the publication of a young adult Christian novel from the Lutheran perspective. So I am all too happy to share this resource with you.

After teaching special education for six years in public high schools and middle schools, my husband, Sean, received his first call to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Skiatook OK in May of 2011. Since then, I have enjoyed being a stay at home mom to our four children. We made the decision to homeschool, which has been a wonderful experience for our family. I have also had the opportunity to flex my teacher muscles at church, when I was asked to teach the high school class. This led to exploring the Bible study options available for our youth, and eventually the decision to develop my own. This then led to my decision to earn a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction through an online accelerated program through Concordia University Portland, which I am scheduled to complete in Spring 2018.

I hope this packet is helpful to you in sharing this wonderful book with your students. If you have any questions, or suggestions for improvement, please contact me at heather.mccoy05@gmail.com.



Photo Credit: Carlotta Cisternas Tiews.

Visit <http://www.carlottacisternas.com/blog/> to see her photos and narrative from her experience as a photographer for an LCMS missionary team to Kenya

I am happy to support my fellow educators by freely sharing this resource. Please respect my time and efforts by keeping the footer when you print and share with others. Thank you.

This resource is written by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com

Heather serves as a volunteer teacher for the middle and high school aged youth at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook, OK

The Messengers: Discovered is a fantastic book to use in a book club. Not only has the author, Lisa M Clark provided questions for each chapter, but she has also written blog posts to assist us in sharing this book with our youth and young adults. Discussing the themes of this book brought about some great worldly, societal and individual conversations with my group, and I hope you will have the same experience.

This packet contains four agendas - three for discussing chapters, and the final meeting to discuss the entire book and to focus on the overall themes. I added a blank template just in case you would like to add meetings or create your own ideas. Some background information is provided to help you facilitate discussion, but be sure to make some notes of your own under the chapter questions. When you as the leader are prepared with some leading questions, you will have a richer discussion with your group. If you enjoy the book as much as I did, it will be difficult, but necessary to keep your own opinions to a minimum, and encourage your group to come to their own conclusions. A trick I frequently use to encourage student thought is using the following phrases at the beginning of my questions: "what did you think about ..." or "Did you notice <detail> what was that all about?" This discussion style has potential to go down some rabbit trails - and I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing in this setting. It gives you an opportunity to gain some insight to a participant's interests and perspective if you allow them some freedom in discussion. You will need to decide where the boundaries are as it makes sense for your group and situation. If a student starts talking about something you don't want to be part of the group discussion, it may be wise to set a time for you and the student to have that discussion one on one. This shows the student that you value his/her opinion and gives you an opportunity to provide some needed guidance or intervention the student may be seeking.

Some of the ideas in these plans are my own, others are from Mrs. Clark's blog posts, or are my own versions of her suggestions and ideas. I encourage you to explore all the posts, as I found ideas that worked for my group and setting in more than one category.

We especially enjoyed writing Bible verses on the sidewalk! This activity is suggested in the blog post titled "Reading Discovered with Your Youth Group".





Another fun ongoing activity that will keep them excited about Simon until you're ready to read the next book in the series is to leave the scripture cards in various locations. Ours made an appearance at a Tulsa Drillers game! You will find this file at the end of the blog post titled, "Reading Discovered with Your Youth Group"



Find Lisa M Clark's resources for The Messengers here:

Follow her on Facebook: @LisaMClark.cph

Twitter: lisamclark1 and messengersbooks

Instagram: lisamclark.lc

The CPH blog: <http://blog.cph.org/author/lclark/>

There are some posts authored by CPH Team: [Teaching Discovered in Literature Classrooms](#) & [Dystopi-wha? Explaining the World of "Discovered"](#). Make sure to check for future blog resources by searching "The Messengers Discovered" on <http://blog.cph.org/>

You will find invitations in the blog post titled "Leading Discovered in Your Book Club" that you can put in your church bulletin, or mail. For those more computer savvy, you can create a digital invitation to email and text to your students. Be sure to have a count about a week or two prior to your start date to order the books. If you have 10 people, CPH has a bulk discount. Otherwise, instruct your participants to order the books through Amazon or CPH individually.

If your group is reading several chapters in between meetings, a way for them to keep notes is helpful in facilitating discussion. Here is a link to download a booklet template that your students can use to draw pictures, make notes, write questions etc. to use during the discussion. You can edit the information at the beginning to reflect your own schedule and instructions. [The Messengers: Discovered Booklet Template](#)

Snack ideas at a glance:

Mrs. Meyer inspired: Any sweet bread or roll will do!

Make sure to keep it simple.

Cinnamon rolls, crescent rolls - with or without something inside, cupcakes, Danish etc.



Rations inspired: Include something for meat, bread & vegetable/fruit. You can put them in a paper sack, a bento type box, or just buffet style on the table. Mini corn muffins, crackers, zucchini bread, roll etc. Baby carrots, any cut veggie, dried fruit, fruit leather, fruit or veggie chips, kale chips etc. Beef jerky, rolled or cubed meat, meatballs etc. Or make little skewers and put meat and fruit/veggies on each. Additional ideas can be found in the resources listed above

This resource is written by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com

Heather serves as a volunteer teacher for the middle and high school aged youth at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook, OK

Book: The Messengers: Discovered by Lisa M Clark

Meeting 1 of 4

Chapters to discuss: _____

Special snack: Mrs. Meyer's rolls

Materials needed:

- ☐ One strip of paper per participant
- ☐ One vial for each verse (plastic lab vials can be purchased online, or check out a craft store)
- ☐ Or, a ribbon/string to tie it if you run out of time or money for the vials

Opening prayer

Introduction:

Ask, "Have you heard the term dystopia?"

Define Dystopian Literature:

Comes from the Greek words *Dis* (bad) and *topia* (place to live)

Setting is an unfavorable place to live.

Genre of fiction in which the setting is an alternate reality to our society, and must provide a backstory to explain how things changed.

Society is the antagonist - and the conflict between the protagonist and society (antagonist) is the clash between how the society operates and the desires of the protagonist.

Activity: "Messenger"

How to play:

- Each student writes a bible verse on a piece of paper, then shares with the group what the verse is, and why he/she chose it.
- Verses are rolled up and placed in a vial, or tied with a ribbon and collected by the leader.
- Verses are randomly passed out to students, then students are directed to go to various hiding places in the building.
- One student is selected to start, and he must read the verse he has been given. He must move to the place of the person who wrote the verse is located without being detected by the flashlight, held by the group leader. When he finds the person who wrote the verse, that person opens his and together, they will find the owner of that written verse, undetected by the flashlight. This continues until all members return to the meeting place, undetected.
- Students must stay out of the sanctuary, and are encouraged to use classrooms, hide under chairs and tables in the foyer etc.

Variations:

- Pre-Select and print/write bible verses and place them in the vials. Hide them around the church and the students will need to find them.
- Turn this into a scavenger hunt and select a bible passage. Separate the verses in as many chunks that make sense for your group, facility and time. Give them an initial clue, then include clues with the other verses where they can find the next ones.
- Create a “jail” space for the Messengers who are captured. Allow them to rescue each other so everyone returns to The City!

Discussion Questions from book:

From Chapter ____

From Chapter ____

From Chapter ____

From Chapter ____

Ask, “Is there anything else that stood out to you in this section of the book?”

Remind everyone of the next meeting on _____ at _____, make sure to read to the end of Ch ____, and keep up with your booklet to help with discussion.

Closing Prayer (student volunteer) `

Book: The Messengers: Discovered by Lisa M Clark

Meeting 2 of 4

Chapters to discuss: _____

Special snack: Rations

Materials needed:

- ☐ Scripture cards, printed from [this blog post](#)
- ☐ Sidewalk chalk
- ☐ Index cards, or printed and cut scripture passages provided

Opening prayer

Introduction:

Pass out scripture cards.

Discuss how we hide God's word today.

Ask, "Are we encouraged to share our faith, or encouraged to hide our faith?"

Ask, "How do you anticipate sharing God's word with these cards?"

Activity: The Word Displayed.

"One way we can share the hope we have in Christ is through displaying the Word."

Select the verses that Simon used in Chapter 26. Write them on index cards, or print them from the sheet below, and have the students randomly select the ones they will write on the pavement with sidewalk chalk. As suggested in the same blog post where you find the scripture cards, this doesn't have to be a spoiler! Consider the possibility of meeting at a public park, or in another public location that will permit you to draw with chalk on their walkways. Please be sure to ask permission, or check city ordinances before doing this.

Discussion Questions from book:

From Chapter ____

From Chapter ____

From Chapter ____

From Chapter ____

Is there anything else that stood out to you in this section of the book?

Remind everyone of the next meeting on _____ at _____. Make sure to read to the end of Ch ____, and keep up with your booklet to help with discussion.

Closing Prayer (student volunteer)

<p>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it</p> <p>John 1:5</p>	<p>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it</p> <p>John 1:5</p>
<p>For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life ... The light has come into the world</p> <p>John 3:16</p>	<p>For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life ... The light has come into the world</p> <p>John 3:16</p>
<p>And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last ... The centurion, who stood facing him said, “truly this man was the Son of God!</p> <p>Mark 15:39</p>	<p>And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last ... The centurion, who stood facing him said, “truly this man was the Son of God!</p> <p>Mark 15:39</p>

Book: The Messengers: Discovered by Lisa M Clark

Meeting 3 of 4

Chapters to discuss: _____

Special snack: Mrs. Meyer

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Go to <http://prayercards.lcms.org/> and print prayer cards for your group. Maybe have 2 or 3 more than you have participants
- ☐ Highlighters - one for each participant

Opening prayer

Introduction:

Discuss how missionaries spread The Message today.

Overview of LCMS Missionaries (<http://www.lcms.org/missionaries>)

- LCMS 1st Mission board established 1851
- First overseas missionary - 1894, to India
- Current missionaries serve anywhere from one week to a lifetime
- Missionaries share the Gospel in the indigenous language. Then train a pastor from the community and help plant churches.
- Assist in holistic health, agriculture, and community development, as well as schools
- Missionaries are ordained and lay people.

Activity:

“Select missionary to pray for. Quickly read the bio of your missionary, and highlight or underline their prayer requests, and any details that you find interesting. Share with the group.”

If you have time, and if it's appropriate for the socioeconomic status of your group, consider creating a bank - something as simple as the mite boxes - for your students to place their donations for the missionaries they chose. Or, if you have computers or the students can send emails from their phones, email addresses for some missionaries can be found here: <http://www.lcms.org/missionarysupport#>

Variation: If you have someone in your area who is, or has been a missionary consider inviting him to discuss his experiences. If you have access to media - either a TV or projector - you can visit <http://www.carlottacisternas.com/blog/> for some amazing pictures and a narrative of her experience in Kenya.

Discussion Questions from book:

From Chapter _____

From Chapter _____

From Chapter _____

From Chapter _____

Is there anything else that stood out to you in the section of the book?

Remind everyone of the next meeting on _____ at _____. **“Choose a bible verse or 2 that you think shares the light of the Gospel”**

Consider requesting the students bring snack items for the last meeting. If you choose to do this, make sure you ask them now, and write down what they want to bring so you can remind them. Send them home with a written reminder in their booklets, too. Be sure the parent is copied on the reminder text or email, and give at least 2 days notice.

Closing Prayer (student volunteer)

Book: The Messengers: Discovered by Lisa M Clark

Meeting 4 of 4

Sections/Themes to discuss:

The effects of attempting utopia, and how destructive it is to deny sin and suffering.

The parent/child relationship - finding autonomy while honoring your father and mother

Is it worth it? What did you learn? Sharing the Gospel today, and the consequences of sharing it.

Special snack: small buffet with rations and Mrs. Meyer's items.

Opening prayer

Introduction:

Ask, **"When Simon and Charity wrote scripture passages in front of the schools, what was the reaction of the authorities (including the school staff)? What was the reaction of the students?"**

Activity: *Spreading the Word* Students will select their own verses from the Bible that, like the ones Simon chose, declare the light of the Gospel

Discussion:

Students will choose which themes to discuss. There will probably only be time for two, but prepare three just in case.

The effects of attempting utopia

Ask, **"In New Morgan, they attempted to create a Utopian society by making everything uniform and avoiding conflict by making everyone agree. What are some things they needed to do to achieve this? What were the costs to the citizens of New Morgan. Did they achieve utopia, or did they create dystopia instead?"**

- ☐ Utopia - an imagined ideal society absent of suffering; an ideal state. Comes from the Greek words for "no" and "place" and was first coined for Sir Thomas Moore's book titled Utopia in 1516 about a fictitious island society in the Atlantic Ocean
- ☐ Dystopia - an imagined society in which everything is unpleasant and the citizens are fearful
- ☐ Physical changes: facades on buildings to disguise vacancy, uniform in color, controlled style of clothes, haircuts, home furnishings, food intake of citizens
- ☐ Lifestyle changes: jobs reassigned to meet societal needs, curfews enforced, beliefs controlled (prep year meant to brainwash kids), social activities controlled (bot wars on Saturdays)

The parent-child relationship

Ask: “Who influenced Simon, and the decisions he made? The relationship he had with his father changed drastically through the book. Who, or what do you think was responsible for that? Do you think Simon found autonomy, while honoring his father?”

- ☐ Societal influence - brainwashing of life prep year & curriculum in school, curfew enforcement, rations
- ☐ Family influence - Jonathan repeatedly taught Simon the parable of the sower
- ☐ Simon asserts independence - picking up pamphlets, ignoring story, sneaking down to the workshop, going with the Messengers

Was it worth it? What did you learn?

Ask, “Jonathan asked Simon this question each time he got into trouble with the school. Now that we know the extent of the Messengers illegal underground society, what do you think is the point Jonathan is trying to make? Specifically talking about sharing the Gospel, how do you decide if ‘it’s worth it’?”

- ☐ Simon already had a spotlight on him because of his parents - though he does not appear to know their history.
- ☐ Simon is given severe consequences for picking up pieces of paper - even ones he finds in the school.
- ☐ Jonathan wants to keep a low profile because of his history with the government - he knows he could lead the authorities to The City.
- ☐ Possible motivations for Jonathan
 - ☐ keeping son out of trouble because of the possibility of harsher consequences
 - ☐ Maintaining low profile to protect Messengers
 - ☐ Teaching Simon when to take risks - maybe to prepare him to be a Messenger, maybe to just keep him safe?
 - ☐ Ask students the consequences they are willing to suffer because they shared the Gospel. What possible ramifications are there - this is where they can answer what they learned.

Closing Prayer (student volunteer)

Collect books (if they belong to the church library) and ask for feedback

Book: <title> by <author>

Meeting <#>

Sections/Themes to discuss:

Special snack:

Opening prayer

Introduction:

Activity:

Discussion Questions from book:

From Chapter

From Chapter

From Chapter

From Chapter

From Chapter

From Chapter

From Chapter

Is there anything else that stood out to you in the section of the book?

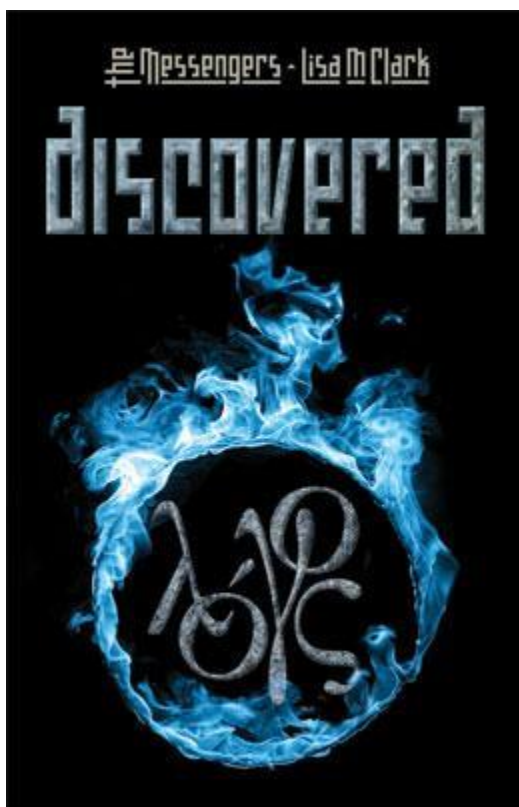
Remind everyone of the next meeting on <date>, make sure to read to the end of Ch <#> , and keep up with your booklet to help with discussion.

Closing Prayer (student volunteer)

,

<Your Church Name,
youth group name, or
logo here>

Book Club



Welcome to our book club!

This is a great book full of suspense - I'm glad you chose to join us.

Look at the reading schedule, to make sure you're ready for our meetings. Use this booklet to record your thoughts on each chapter, to help you stay organized for discussion as well as help you notice and remember details that tie together through the story. This can be through drawing, quick notes, essay style reflection - whatever works for you. At the bottom of each page, jot down an adjective you would use to describe the characters listed. During our meetings, we will talk about how your impression of them either changed, or grew stronger as you learn more about each one.

Here is our schedule:

<Meeting #1 date, time, location> <Chapters to have read>
<Meeting #2 date, time, location> <Chapters to have read>
<Meeting #3 date, time, location> <Chapters to have read>
<Meeting #4 date, time, location> <Chapters to have read>

Discussions will include selected questions found in the back of the book, and your notes from each chapter. We will also look at character development - specifically, Simon and his dad.

Read Like A Lutheran Summer Reading Program

Go to cph.org and sign up for Read Like a Lutheran. Look at the book lists under your age group, and see what you have at home. Choose some books that you are willing to loan to other readers in our group, and bring them to our next meeting. Make sure you put your name on the book somewhere!

Created by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com
Heather serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook OK as the teacher for the High School aged youth

Chapter 1

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Ben _____

Chapter 2

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Chapter 3

Write one adjective to describe the following characters
after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Created by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com
Heather serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook
OK as the teacher for the High School aged youth

Ben _____

Chapter 4

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Created by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com
Heather serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook
OK as the teacher for the High School aged youth

Jonathan _____

Chapter 5

Write one adjective to describe the following characters
after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Micah _____

Chapter 6

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Micah _____

Created by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com
Heather serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook
OK as the teacher for the High School aged youth

Chapter 7

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Created by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com
Heather serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook
OK as the teacher for the High School aged youth

Chapter 8

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Chapter 9

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Jack _____

Chapter 10

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jack _____

Charity _____

Chapter 11

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Zeke _____

Created by Heather McCoy | heather.mccoy05@gmail.com
Heather serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Skiatook
OK as the teacher for the High School aged youth

Chapter 12

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Zeke _____

Jonathan _____

Chapter 13

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Micah _____

Jack _____

Chapter 14

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Zeke _____

Micah _____

Jack _____

Chapter 15

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Micah _____

Jack _____

Chapter 16

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Ben _____

Charity _____

Chapter 17

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Zeke _____

Chapter 18

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Mr Druck _____

Ben _____

Chapter 19

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Ben _____

Chapter 20

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Ben _____

Chapter 21

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Charity _____

Micah _____

Jack _____

Chapter 22

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Charity _____

Micah _____

Chapter 23

Write one adjective to describe the following characters
after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Mr. Druck _____

Chapter 24

Write one adjective to describe the following characters
after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Charity _____

Chapter 25

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____

Charity _____

Chapter 26

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Ben _____

Charity _____

Jack _____

Chapter 27

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Zeke _____

Ben _____

Charity _____

Chapter 28

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Mr. Druck _____

Zeke _____

Jack _____

Chapter 29

Write one adjective to describe the following characters after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Mr. Druck _____

Malachi _____

Zeke _____

Chapter 30

Write one adjective to describe the following characters
after reading this chapter:

Simon _____

Jonathan _____