When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
DTDL Battle of the Books 2012

Who wrote When You Reach Me?
Rebecca Stead

What is the significance of most of the chapter titles?
They are like categories (or rounds) in The $20,000 Pyramid

A few of the chapter titles are not related to the $20,000 Pyramid. What are they related to?
The notes Miranda receives

How did Miranda’s mom find out she was going to be on The $20,000 Pyramid game show?
She got a postcard in the mail (p. 1)

How long did Miranda’s mom try to get on The $20,000 Pyramid before she made it?
3 years (p. 1)

What TV game show was Miranda’s mom a contestant on?
The $20,000 Pyramid (p. 1)

Who was the host of The $20,000 Pyramid?
Dick Clark (p. 1)

What two items does Miranda mention are on the list for her mom to bring to the taping of The $20,000 Pyramid?
Extra clothes and barrettes (p. 1)

What date is Miranda’s mom scheduled to tape her appearance on The $20,000 Pyramid?
April 27, 1979 (p. 1)

In what decade does the story take place?
1970’s (p. 1)

What was the address on the postcard Miranda’s mom received?
Studio TV 15, West 58th St. (p. 1)

List two reasons why April 27th was an important date for Miranda and her mom.
1. It’s the day Miranda’s mom was going to be a contestant on the $20,000 Pyramid (p. 1)
2. It was also Richard’s birthday (p. 3)

Where did Miranda keep the notes she was mysteriously receiving?
In a box under her bed (p. 1)

How long had Miranda’s Mother been trying to be a contestant on the $20,000 Pyramid?
Three years (p.1)

When is Richard’s birthday?
April 27th (pg. 3)
What is the term for a child who hangs out alone after school until a grown-up gets home to make dinner? 
Latchkey child (p.3)

What did Miranda’s mom buy for herself when she found out she was going to be on *The $20,000 Pyramid*? 
A fancy egg timer (p. 3)

What is Mom’s pet name for Richard? 
Mr. Perfect (p.4)

What does Miranda say are the rights of every latchkey child? 
Watching after-school TV (p. 3), eating junk food (p. 5)

What is a “latch-key child”? 
A kid who hangs out alone after school until a grown-up gets home to make dinner (p. 3)

What does Miranda’s mom say reminds her of dungeons, and must have been invented by someone strict and awful? 
The expression “latchkey child” (p. 3)

Who says, “Keys are power”? 
Richard (p. 4)

What is unusual about Richard’s legs? 
His right leg is shorter than his left (p. 4)

What is Miranda’s mom’s nickname for Richard, and what is Richard’s usual response to this? 
Mr. Perfect; he taps his right knee because his right leg is shorter than his left (p. 4)

Does Miranda’s mom like her job as a paralegal? How do Miranda and Richard know this? 
No. Miranda and Richard figured out that the more she swipes from the office, the more she hates her job, and she swipes a lot! (p. 6)

What is Miranda named after? 
“Miranda rights/warnings,” or people’s rights, or a criminal (p. 7)

Belle (from Belle’s market) says she never judges a book by the cover. What does she judge books by? 
Their first lines (p. 7)

Why did Miranda spend two and one-half hours at Belle’s Market? 
She left her house key at school. (p. 7)

How does Belle judge her books? 
She judges them by the 1st line, not the cover (p. 7)

What is the first line in *A Wrinkle in Time*?
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It was a dark and stormy night (p. 8)

Why doesn’t Miranda ever have grapes?
Because her mom doesn’t like the way the grape pickers are treated in California so she refuses to buy them (p. 8)

Who is the main character in Miranda’s book and how old is she?
Meg; the book doesn’t say (but Miranda always thinks of her as the same age as she is) (p. 8)

How old is Miranda?
12 (p. 8)

How old is Miranda and what is her favorite book?
12 (p. 8) and A Wrinkle in Time (p. 135)

Who does Miranda think she was named after?
Mr. Miranda, the criminal kidnapper that the Miranda rights were named after (p. 9)

What does SSO stand for?
Strawberry- shaped objects (p. 9)

What is Richards Job?
He’s a lawyer (p. 10)

What is Miranda’s mom’s job?
Paralegal, secretary & receptionist at a small law office (p. 10)

Where does Miranda’s mom hide their spare key?
In the nozzle of the fire hose (p. 11)

Where did Sal and his mother Louisa live?
They lived in the apartment right below Miranda’s (p. 11)

Where did Miranda and her mother decide to hide the spare key?
They hid the key inside the nozzle of an old fire hose in the stairwell (p. 11)

Name the 2 parts to the $20,000 Pyramid.
The Speed Round (p. 12) and the Winners Circle (p. 39)

How many points are possible in the Speed Round?
21 points (p. 12)

Who do the contestants partner with on The $20,000 Pyramid?
Celebrities (p. 12)

What are the two parts of the $20,000 pyramid?
The speed round & the Winner’s Circle (p. 12).
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What food did Miranda’s mom serve at the tenant meeting at her house?  
Lemonade and Oreos (p. 13)

What does Sal’s mom, Louisa, do?  
She works in a nursing home (p. 13)

What happens once a month at Miranda’s apartment?  
A tenant meeting (p.13)

What was Mom’s reaction the first time she saw their apartment?  
She cried. (p.14)

When did Miranda first meet Sal?  
When Louisa and her mother ran into each other for the first time while taking out the garbage (p. 15)

Where does the laughing man sleep?  
On the corner with his head under the mailbox (p. 16)

What nicknames does the crazy guy on Miranda’s corner have?  
Quack (short for Quackers), Kicker, the laughing man (p. 16-17)

What was the laughing man always mumbling under his breath?  
“Bookbag, pocketshoe, bookbag, pocketshoe” (p. 18)

What knot does Miranda tie backwards for a few months before getting it right?  
The Clove Hitch (p. 19)

What unusual skill did Richard teach Miranda how to do?  
Tie knots (p. 19)

According to Miranda what marked the day that the whole story began?  
It was the day Sal got punched (p.20)

What does tying & untying knots help Miranda and Richard to do?  
Solve problems (p. 20)

What is Miranda carrying when Sal is punched?  
Mysteries of Science poster with the title Why Do We Yawn? (p. 21)

What month does Sal get punched?  
October (p. 21)

Why were Sal and Miranda always nervous to pass a huge garage on their way home?  
Because a pack of guys hung out there, sometimes calling them names and laughing (p. 21)

What was Miranda’s Mysteries of Science project about?
Why do we yawn? (p. 21)

What are some theories about yawning? (p. 22)
1. Showing off the teeth to scare predators away
2. As a way to stretch facial muscles
3. Signal the rest of the tribe that it’s time to sleep
4. Semi-polite way of telling someone that they are boring everyone to death (Miranda’s theory)

What is Miranda’s theory on yawning?
Semi-polite way of telling someone that they are boring everyone to death (p. 22)

What is Sal’s attacker wearing when he punches Sal?
A green army coat (p. 22)

Where did Sal get punched?
On their way home from school in front of the garage (p. 22)

What city does the story take place in?
New York City (p. 23)

What incident signaled the end of Miranda and Sal’s friendship?
Sal getting punched (p. 24)

What is Miranda’s way of dealing with someone on the street she was afraid of?
Asking them if they know what time it is. (p. 25)

What are Miranda’s mom’s rules for life in New York City?
1. Always have your key out before you reach the front door.
2. If a stranger is hanging out in front of the building, don’t ever go in – just keep walking around the block until he’s gone.
3. Look ahead. If there’s someone acting strange down the block, looking drunk or dangerous, cross to the other side of the street, but don’t be obvious about it. Make it look like you were planning to cross the street all along.
4. Never show your money on the street. (p. 25)

What is Miranda’s special trick for dealing with scary-looking people on the street?
She asks them for the time (p. 25)

What does Miranda blame her father for?
Her flat brown hair (p. 27)

Name the four items listed on the wish list created by Miranda’s mother (p. 29)
1. Trip to China
2. Good Camera – for the trip to China
3. Carpets for Miranda’s room – wall-to-wall
4. New TV
5. Sailboat (added by Richard)
What did Richard scribble at the bottom of Miranda’s mom’s wish list?
Sailboat (p. 29)

How does the kid who punched Sal tell Miranda the time when he doesn’t have a watch?
He looked at where the sun was behind a building (p. 31)

Who lives in the apartment above the garage?
The boy who punched Sal in the stomach (p. 31)

What hobby does Sal take up after he gets punched?
Playing basketball (p. 32)

What forced Miranda to take notice of the girls in her classroom?
Sal’s decision to break up their friendship (p. 33)

What is the name of Miranda’s classmate who always has to use the bathroom but is too shy to say so?
Alice Evans (p. 33)

What grade is Miranda in?
Sixth grade (p. 33)

What is Miranda’s first memory of Julia?
When they painted self-portraits in art and she complained that there wasn’t construction paper to match her skin & eye color (p. 34)

Why wasn’t Miranda and her classmates occasionally allowed to go out for lunch?
There was a man running stark naked down Broadway (p. 35)

What do Miranda and her classmates call the sandwich place?
Jimmy’s (p. 35)

Why does Miranda not like to eat pizza with Annemarie?
Because she peels off all the cheese like a scab and eats it (p. 35)

Who does Miranda befriend when Sal stops hanging out with her?
Annemarie (p. 36)

What is Annemarie’s dad’s job?
He illustrates medical journals (p. 37)

What is Annemarie’s room covered with?
Pictures of Julia (p. 38)

What happens when Miranda eats mustard?
Her lips burn (p. 38)
How much is The $20,000 Pyramid Winner’s Circle worth if you win a third speed round? $20,000 (p. 40)

What does Dick Clark say at the beginning of every Winner’s Circle? Here is your first subject... Go. (p. 41)

Why does Miranda’s mom think her teacher, Mr. Tompkin, is a frustrated architect? Because he probably really wanted to be an architect, but to avoid fighting in Vietnam he became a teacher. (p. 43)

Who is the head of Miranda’s class’s Main Street Planning Board? Jay Stringer (p. 43)

What was Miranda’s class constructing in the back of the classroom? Main Street, a scale model of a city block (p. 43)

What does Miranda’s mom say Mr. Tompkins wanted to do instead of teach? Become an architect (p. 43)

What is Miranda’s project for Main Street? A playground (p. 44)

What is Julia’s project for Main Street? A tinfoil UFO that would fly up and down the street on an invisible wire (p. 44)

What kind of Candy does the school secretary usually give office monitors? Bit-O-Honey and Hershey Kisses (p. 44)

What does everyone call the school secretary and why? Wheelie, because her chair has wheels and she uses them to scoot around the office (p. 44)

What does everyone call Miranda’s school secretary and why? Wheelie; she rolls around in her wheelie chair all day (p. 44)

What is the dentist’s first name? Bruce (p. 45)

What service does Miranda’s school offer to families with low income? An in-school dentist (p. 46)

What was the name of the boy that punched Sal? Marcus Heilbroner (p. 47)

What books are Marcus and Miranda reading while waiting at the dentist’s office? Concepts in Mathematics (Marcus) (p. 48) and A Wrinkle in Time (Miranda) (p. 135)
While waiting at the dentist’s office, Marcus says to Miranda, “Some people think it’s possible.” What is he talking about?

Time travel (p. 49)

What are the names of the ladies in *A Wrinkle in Time*?

Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which (p. 49)

Why does Marcus say the ladies in *A Wrinkle in Time* lied?

Because they don’t get Meg back home five minutes before she left (p. 49)

Where do Meg & Calvin land in *A Wrinkle in Time*?

In the broccoli (p. 50)

How does Einstein define “common sense”?

Habit of thought (p. 51)

When did Marcus say he read *A Wrinkle in Time*?

Second grade (p. 52)

Who comes up with the idea to ask Jimmy for jobs?

Colin (p. 54)

Who are the kids that work at the sandwich shop?

Miranda, Colin and Annemarie (p. 55)

What are the kids not supposed to touch in the sandwich shop?

Plastic bank shaped like Fred Flintstone (p. 55)

Where do Miranda, Colin, and Annemarie get a job?

Jimmy’s sandwich shop (p. 55)

What is Jimmy’s bank shaped like?

Fred Flintstone (p. 55)

What possession does Jimmy keep on a shelf in the back room?

A plastic bank shaped like Fred Flintstone (p. 55)

What did Julia despise the smell of?

Pickles (56)

How do Miranda, Colin, and Annemarie get paid for working at Jimmy’s?

They get to take a soda and make themselves sandwiches from the setup tray (p. 56)

Why is Miranda’s door unlocked one day when she gets home from school?

Someone has used their spare key to get into the apartment (p. 58)

Where does Miranda find the first note?
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In her library book (p. 60)

What two favors does Miranda’s first note ask for?
To write the note writer a letter, to mention the location of her house key (p. 60)

What skill did Miranda, Colin and Annemarie have to demonstrate before Jimmy would allow them to serve customers?
Each had to show Jimmy that they could cut a sandwich roll in a perfect V-Cut (p. 62)

What is Jimmy’s special way of cutting the sandwich rolls called?
The V-cut (p. 62)

What did Jimmy call Colin and Annemarie when they worked behind the counter together?
Counter Couple (p. 63)

What did Jimmy call Colin when he put his apron on to start working?
Lady (p. 63)

Out of Miranda, Colin, and Annemarie, who can’t master Jimmy’s V-cut method?
Miranda (p. 63)

What two things does Miranda wish for the first time she brings Annemarie home to her apartment?
That the boys wouldn’t be in front of the garage & the laughing man wouldn’t bother them (p. 64)

What does the laughing man call Annemarie?
Angel (p. 65)

Where did Miranda find the second note?
She found the second note in a bag of sandwich rolls she was counting for Jimmy (p. 67)

What is in the Fred Flintstone bank?
Two-dollar bills (p. 69)

Where did Colin and Miranda discover a bunch of folded up two dollar bills?
The Fred Flintstone bank (p. 69)

What is Miranda’s mom’s term for the thing that we all have the keeps us from seeing the world as it really is?
A veil (p. 71)

What is Miranda’s nickname for Julia?
Swiss Miss (p. 74)

How many sandwich rolls does Jimmy get delivered at a time?
Eighty (p. 74)

What incident made Miranda “good-strange” about Colin?
Their foreheads touched while looking inside Jimmy’s bank (p. 74)

What did Julia do to Miranda that leads Miranda to declare war on her?
Shoots a rubber band at her in class (p. 78)

Name two smells Miranda is attracted to that are dangerous.
Smell of new copies and the smell of dry-cleaner exhaust (p.79)

Who was the only sixth grader that had to bring an extra set of clothes to school?
Alice Evans (p. 80)

How many one-dollar bills are in circulation for every two-dollar bill?
Twelve (p. 81)

Jimmy says there are actually a lot of two-dollar bills in circulation. If so, why don’t you see them around much?
Because people hold on to them (p. 81)

Why does the A&P hate two-dollar bills?
There is no space in the cash register for them. They have to pull out the tray and store them underneath and they forget about them (p. 81)

What customer does Jimmy kick out of the sandwich shop?
Julia (p. 82)

What did Jimmy do that made Miranda decide he wasn’t so bad?
He asked Julia to leave the store, he saw right through her like she did (p. 83)

What did Miranda’s mother do with the little bags of potato chips and animal crackers Louisa brought to her from the nursing home?
She took them to the pregnant-jailbird “parenting group” she ran downtown (p. 85)

What possession of Richard’s went missing?
His extra pair of work shoes (p. 87)

What is the punch line to Richard’s joke, “What did the zero say to the eight?”
Nice belt (p. 87)

What was Miranda going to use to make the swings for her playground project?
Paperclips for the chains and rubber tires for the seats (p. 88)

What health condition does Annemarie have?
Epilepsy (p. 92)

Why did Julia keep calling Miranda an idiot?
Because she didn’t know that Annemarie had epilepsy and was on a special diet (p. 92)
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What happens to Miranda when she gets put on the spot?  
She turns bright red and begins to hear the ocean (p. 93)

Why did Sal squat down and pretend he was tying his shoe when he walked home from school one day?  
Marcus was walking toward him and Sal was trying to avoid being punched again (p. 94)

What two things did Annemarie’s special diet restrict?  
Breads and Starches (p. 95)

What is Annemarie on a special diet?  
She has epilepsy. Her dad read about the diet and she thinks it is working (p. 95)

What does Annemarie find on her doorstep?  
A rose (p. 95)

What is Annemarie not supposed to eat?  
Bread and starches (p. 95)

Why does Miranda end up wearing her mom’s coat to school one day?  
It was really cold outside and her mom thought she needed a jacket with a hood (p. 97)

What things does Miranda find in the pocket of her mom’s coat?  
$5 bill, three singles, scarf, old tissues, the third note (p. 97-98)

What is the proof the note writer offers Miranda? (p. 98)  
3 p.m. today: Colin’s knapsack.  
Christmas Day: Tesser well.  
April 27th: Studio TV-15

What purpose do yawns serve according to the note writer?  
They cool the brain by bringing air high into the nasal passage, which has the effect of increasing alertness (p. 98).

Where does Miranda find the third note?  
In the pocket of her mom’s coat (p. 98)

What does “tesser” mean?  
To travel, through space or time or both (p. 99)

What planet is Meg’s father being held prisoner on?  
Camazotz (p. 99)

What object did Julia use to try and explain the nature of time to Miranda?  
Her diamond ring (p. 102)

Who, besides Marcus, understood time travel?  
Julia (p. 102)
What three characters discuss Miranda time-traveling to the movie theater?
Marcus, Miranda, Julia (p. 102)

Why did Marcus say he punched Sal?
He said he wanted to see what would happen (p. 105)

What did Miranda find when she looked in Colin’s backpack?
She found two of Jimmy’s rolls (p. 109)

Who says, “Pajamas are good for the soul.”?
Annemarie’s dad (p. 111)

Who does Miranda suggest Annemarie’s rose is from? Why does she say this?
Annemarie’s father, because Miranda doesn’t want it to be from Colin – she’s jealous (p. 112)

When Miranda finally gets a close-up look at the laughing man, what two things does she notice?
There is something familiar about him and he looks old (p. 113)

What did Miranda give the laughing man on a cold day as she came home from visiting Annemarie?
She gave him her cheese sandwich (p. 114)

What is a CSP?
Crazy-shaped person (p. 115)

What happened whenever Sal slept over at Miranda’s?
He would wake up the middle of the night, complain of something, and wanted to go home (p. 119)

Why does Miranda get so worried about the cleanliness of her apartment whenever Annemarie comes over?
Because Annemarie’s home is nicer and cleaner than Miranda’s, and she doesn’t want her or her dad thinking poorly of her (p. 119)

Annemarie and Miranda are both jealous of each other’s parents. Why?
Annemarie wishes her dad treated her like a real person like Miranda’s mom does, instead of babying her. Miranda wished her mom treated her special, like Annemarie’s father (wrapping her special food up with ribbon), instead of like a real person (p. 121)

What did Miranda’s mom do for Annemarie that made Miranda appreciate her a little more?
Got up early to cook special food for Annemarie (p. 122)

What did Miranda’s mom make for breakfast when Annemarie slept over?
Bacon Omelets (p. 122)

How did Annemarie, Colin and Miranda soothe Jimmy’s anger towards them?
They bought him a greeting card and wrote him a note saying they weren’t the thieves (p. 124)

Why was Jimmy angry with the kids?
Because someone had stolen his bank and he thought it was one of them. (p.124)

Why did Jimmy keep Colin, Annemarie, and Miranda from coming into his store one day? Someone stole his bank and he suspected it was one of them (p.124)

Why does Jimmy fire Miranda and her friends? Because his Fred Flintstone bank is stolen (p. 124)

What was on the front of the card Annemarie picked out for Jimmy? What was on the inside? Roses, inside it was blank (p. 125)

How did Annemarie pay for the greeting card for Jimmy? She put it on her dad’s account (p. 125)

Where did Colin, Miranda and Annemarie buy Jimmy’s greeting card? Gold’s Stationery (p. 125)

Why did Annemarie call Jimmy a “racist”? Because after realizing his three workers didn’t steal his bank, he named Julia because she was black (p. 129)

Why does Jimmy accuse Julia of stealing his bank? Because he’s racist (p. 129)

Finish this phrase that Colin uses: “Julia needs money like a fish needs . . .” A bicycle (p. 129)

Once Jimmy decides Colin, Annemarie, and Miranda didn’t steal his bank, who does he think did it? Who actually stole it? Julia (p. 129), the laughing man (p. 151)

What does Miranda’s mom often wear that Miranda thinks look dumb? Striped tights (p. 134)

What does Miranda get her mother and Richard for Christmas presents? A pair of earrings, a bottle of purple nail polish with glitter in it, striped tights and an erasable pen from Gold’s (p. 134)

What does Miranda get for Christmas? A beaded bracelet, a portable radio, a fancy journal to write in with clouds on the cover, a sweater, a tin of really crispy ginger cookies, and a first edition of *A Wrinkle in Time* (p. 134)

What is special about Miranda’s first edition of *A Wrinkle in Time* from Richard? It is signed by the author (p. 135)

What is written inside Miranda’s copy of *A Wrinkle in Time* that Richard gives her?
Miranda, Tesser well. Madeleine L’Engle (p. 135)

When did Miranda get up the courage to apologize to Annemarie for what happened at Jimmy’s regarding Julia?
New Year’s Day (p. 138)

Who did Miranda go visit on New Year’s Day?
Annemarie (p. 138)

Why did Miranda think Annemarie’s elevator was so nice and cozy?
It had wood paneling, a cloth-covered stool in the corner, and a bell that went off every time it passed a floor (p. 139)

In addition to the doorman, what else does Miranda love about Annemarie’s building?
The elevator (p. 139)

What’s Annemarie’s dad’s name?
Jerry (p. 141)

List three things Miranda realized while sitting behind Julia during a school assembly?
1. It was Julia who had left the rose for Annemarie
2. Julia cared about Annemarie, but Annemarie didn’t see it because Miranda was in the way
3. Alice Evans was about to pee her pants

What is the New Year that is celebrated in the book?
1979 (p.143)

What kindness did Miranda show Alice Evans at the Assembly?
She offered to be her bathroom partner since she could tell she needed to go (p. 144)

Who does Miranda realize left the rose for Annemarie?
Julia (p. 144)

What did Miranda do while Alice was in the bathroom?
She ran to the office to ask Wheelie for a piece of paper (p. 146)

What does Miranda write on the note she passes to Julia during the assembly?
“Truce” and her phone number (p. 147)

How does Miranda find out that the laughing man stole Jimmy’s bank?
He has been spending the folded $2 bills at Belle’s and she tells Miranda (p. 150)

Every day for several weeks, what was purchased at Belle’s Market using two-dollar bills?
Butter-on-white and a banana (p. 150)
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Who had been spending two-dollar bills in Belle’s Market?
The laughing man (p. 151)

Who stole Jimmy’s Fred Flintstone bank?
The laughing man (p. 151)

What does Belle think of the laughing man (two adjectives)?
Looney and polite (p. 151)

What does the laughing man always say to Miranda?
“Smart kid” (p. 151)

What is Miranda’s last name?
Sinclair (p. 152)

What kind of cake were Miranda and Julia going to make for Annemarie’s birthday?
Flourless (p. 152)

Who kisses Miranda?
Colin (p. 153)

What were Julia and Miranda planning to make after school, at Julia’s home? They were going to practice making Annemarie a Flourless birthday cake (p. 153)

What happened when Miranda opened her front door for Colin? Colin kissed Miranda and then she kissed him back (p. 153)

What is Julia’s mother doing when Miranda comes over to help bake a cake for Annemarie? Meditating in a closet (p. 154-5)

In Julia’s bedroom, what familiar item caught Miranda’s attention? Julia’s copy of the book A Wrinkle in Time (p. 155)

Where did Julia have to hang her outer-space posters? In her bathroom (p. 155)

What was the title of Julia’s Mysteries of Science poster? “Is There Intelligent Life in Outer Space?” (p. 156)

According to Julia, what color hair did Miranda have? Caramel (p. 156)

Why did Sal yell “Shut up!” as he walked home from school ahead of Miranda? Because the boys outside the garage said something to him and threw potato chips at him (p. 157)

Why did Sal run into the traffic of Amsterdam Avenue? Sal saw Marcus coming toward him and thought he was going to punch him again (p. 158)
What did Miranda see next to the laughing man and between two parked cars that flickered for just a few seconds?
A naked man, holding his head in his hands (p. 158)

Who was chasing Sal that made him run out into the street?
Marcus (p. 159)

What does Miranda do out of habit when she doesn’t want something to happen?
Covers her ears (p. 159)

How did the laughing man save Sal’s life?
He kicked Sal with his right leg (p. 160)

Who saved Sal from the oncoming truck?
The laughing man (p. 160)

Who got Miranda out of the street after the truck accident?
Belle (p. 160)

What four words did Miranda see on the mailbox? What did Miranda realize these words symbolized?
Book, bag, pocket, shoe (p. 161) They were the four places she had found the notes (p. 161)

Where did Miranda find the fourth and final note?
She found it inside Richard’s stolen shoe (p. 162)

Who did Miranda discover to be the thief of Richard’s shoes?
The laughing man (p. 162)

Who gets hit by the big truck and dies?
The laughing man (p. 162)

Why are the notes always written on stiff paper that feels like it has once gotten wet?
Because the writer had to hold them in his mouth (p. 162)

What are Sal’s injuries after his fall?
A broken arm and three broken ribs (p. 163)

From his accident, Sal suffered a broken arm and how many broken ribs?
Three (p. 163)

Who had been writing Miranda secret notes?
The laughing man (p. 164)

Why does Marcus travel through time?
To save Sal’s life and his own (p. 164)
What does Sal’s mom think is a giant conspiracy against the health of all Americans? 
McDonalds (p. 166)

In the end, why did Sal say he was avoiding Miranda all this time? 
Because he needed a break from their friendship so he could try to meet some new friends (p. 168-169)

Why do the police show up at Miranda’s school? 
To talk to Marcus about chasing kids into the street (p. 171)

What two things does Miranda do to protect Marcus from the police? 
She calls her mother and gets Marcus out of class and takes him to the dentist (p. 173)

Besides Wheelie, who else helps Miranda stall the police from finding Marcus? 
The school dentist (p. 174)

What two floors in *When You Reach Me* have white hexagon tiles? 
Miranda’s apartment’s bathroom and the dentist’s office (p. 176)

What is the name of the law office that Miranda’s mom and Richard work for? 
Able and Stone (p. 177)

What was the real reason that Marcus hit Sal in the stomach? 
Because his older brother, Anthony, told him he needed to hit someone and get hit himself in order to understand life a little better. And he wanted to understand life better. (p. 177)

On the day after Sal’s accident, why did police show up at Miranda’s school? 
To arrest Marcus for chasing Sal into the dangerous street on purpose (p. 178)

Who reported Marcus to the police? 
Belle (p. 178)

List the four people who went with Miranda’s mother to watch her compete on the $20,000 Pyramid? 
Miranda, Richard, Sal and Sal’s mom Louisa (p. 182)

At what point in time did Miranda realize that Marcus is the laughing man? 
When Mom is in the Winner’s Circle (p.185)

Miranda realized that the laughing man had traveled through time and was actually who? 
Marcus (p. 189)

How long, precisely, did it take Miranda to figure out the notes and who the laughing man was? 
Fifty-five seconds (p. 189)

How much money did Miranda’s mom win all together? 
12,100 – [$10,000 for the bonus round and $2,100 cash bonus] (p. 190)

What did Miranda’s mom make for Richards birthday dinner?
Tacos and a cake (p. 191)

What did Miranda make to put on top of Richards birthday present and her mom’s envelope?
Origami Frogs (p. 191)

What did Miranda write on her mom’s envelope that Richard gave her for safekeeping?
That she didn’t care about wall-to-wall carpeting and that carpets are full of dust mites anyway (p. 191)

What is Miranda and Richard’s secret plan for the $20,000 pyramid winnings?
To send Miranda’s mom to law school (p. 191-2)

What did Miranda give Richard for his birthday?
An origami frog and keys to the apartment on a key ring tied with sailor’s knots. (p.192)

What did Miranda and her mom give Richard for his birthday?
Two keys, one for the lobby door and one for the apartment. Miranda made the key ring; it was a sailor’s knot. (p. 192)

What two things does Miranda find under the mailbox?
Her spare key and a drawing of an older Julia (p. 194-5)

Why did Miranda find writing the letter to her “note-writer” to be a terrible burden?
The letter is to Marcus and it would be telling him about his own death (p. 195)

Who did Miranda recognize as the old woman sketched on the paper that’s under the mailbox where the laughing man used to lay?
Julia (p. 195)

The notes Miranda received were on small pieces of crumbled paper that seemed to previously be wet, why?
Because Marcus couldn’t carry anything while time traveling and had to put the notes in his mouth (p. 197)

What does Miranda decide to say to Marcus when she hands him her letter?
Try not to land in the broccoli (p. 197)

What is the last sentence of the book (not including Acknowledgments)?
“He’s a smart kid.” (p. 197)

Where does Miranda find the mysterious notes?
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
DTDL Battle of the Books 2012

First one: stuck in a library book (p. 60), second one: in one of Jimmy’s bread bags (p. 69), third one: in a pocket of her mom’s coat (p. 98), fourth one: in Richard’s stolen shoe lying by the mailbox (p. 162)

Name 5 things Miranda’s mom swiped from work?
White index cards (p. 5)
Green Marker (p.3)
A paper calendar (p.3)
Magnet (p.29)
Bundle of markers (p.5)
Rubber band (p.5)

Items on the cover of the book (and their significance):
Bag of bread: From Jimmy’s, where Miranda finds her second note (p. 67), also part of the note writer’s proof (p. 109)
Green coat: I’m assuming it’s the coat Miranda is wearing where she finds the third note (p. 98)
$2 bill: Jimmy keeps them folded up in his bank (p. 69), bank gets stolen (p. 124), turns out the laughing man stole it and is spending the money at Belle’s (p. 150)
Black shoe: Richard’s shoes go missing (p. 87), where Miranda finds the last note (p. 162)
Mailbox (with shadow): where the laughing man sleeps (p. 16), where Miranda figures it all out (p. 162)
Key: hidden key in the stairwell, the first note asks to mention it (p. 11, 60), how the laughing man gets into Miranda’s apartment to get things and hide notes
Book (with slip of paper sticking out): Miranda finds her first note sticking out of a library book (p. 60)

Chapter titles (and what they mean):
Things You Keep in a Box: Miranda keeps the mysterious notes in a box under her bed (p. 1)
Things That Go Missing: Miranda’s mom swipes supplies from her office (p. 3)
Things You Hide: Miranda and her mom hide their spare key in the stairwell fire hose (p. 11)
The Speed Round: The first part of The $20,000 Pyramid (p. 12)
Things That Kick: The crazy guy on the corner is sometimes called Kicker because he did these sudden kicks into the street (p. 16)
Things That Get Tangled: Miranda ties knots to help solve her problems (which is what to do about the note writer) (p. 20)
Things That Stain: Sal gets punched and his bloody nose stains his jacket (p. 23)
Mom’s Rules for Life in New York City: Gives Miranda’s mom’s rules for staying safe (p. 25)
Things You Wish For: Miranda’s mother has a wish list if she wins money on the game show (p. 31)
Things That Sneak Up on You: The kid who punched Sal was walking behind her, and it made her forget all about the laughing man (p. 31)
Things That Bounce: Sal starts playing basketball once he stops hanging out with Miranda (p. 32)
Things That Burn: Mustard burns Miranda’s lips (like in the dipping sauce Annemarie’s dad offers) (p. 38)
The Winner’s Circle: The second part of The $20,000 Pyramid (p. 39)
Things You Keep Secret: Older kids keep the fact that they go to the school dentist a secret (p. 53)
The First Note: Miranda gets her first mysterious note (p. 60)
Things That Smell: Julia hates the smell of pickles on Colin’s sandwich (p. 56)
The Second Note: Miranda finds her second note (p. 67)
Things You Don’t Forget: Miranda’s door is unlocked one day and her mom knows she wouldn’t have forgotten to lock it (p. 58)
Things on a Slant: Jimmy’s bread is cut in a special slanted V-cut (p. 62)
The First Proof: Miranda checks the note’s first proof, Colin’s knapsack at 3 pm, and finds Jimmy’s two missing rolls (p. 109)
White Things: Annemarie’s coat is white (p. 65)
The Second Proof: “Tessie well” was written inside Miranda’s book on Christmas (p. 135)
Things You Push Away: the “veil” we all wear that keeps us from really seeing things (p. 71)
The Third Note: Miranda finds her third note (p. 98)
Things You Count: Miranda’s job at Jimmy’s is to count the bread (p. 73)
Messy Things: Working with the sandwiches at Jimmy’s can be messy (Annemarie gets mustard on her sweater) (p. 77)
Invisible Things: Marcus ignores Miranda in the hall like she’s invisible (p. 80)
Salty Things: Louisa brings over potato chips (leftover from the nursing home) for Miranda’s mom to bring to her pregnant jail group (p. 85)
Things You Pretend: Julia and Miranda have a somewhat fake conversation to get Annemarie back into it (p. 90). Maybe Annemarie also pretended she’d be back soon from the nurses office? (p. 91)
Things That Crack: Julia’s watch cracks (p. 93)
The First Proof: Miranda finds the last note (p. 162)
Things Left Behind: A rose is left on Annemarie’s doorstep (p. 95), she always throws her lunch away (p. 96), also might apply to Miranda feeling left behind because Annemarie is becoming friends with Julia again and likes Colin
The Second Proof: “Tessie well” was written inside Miranda’s book on Christmas (p. 135)
Things That Make No Sense: Miranda, Julia, and Marcus discuss time travel (p. 104)
The Third Proof: Miranda checks the note’s first proof, Colin’s knapsack at 3 pm, and finds Jimmy’s two missing rolls (p. 109)
Things You Hold On To: $2 bills (p. 81)
The Second Proof: “Tessie well” was written inside Miranda’s book on Christmas (p. 135)
Salty Things: Louisa brings over potato chips (leftover from the nursing home) for Miranda’s mom to bring to her pregnant jail group (p. 85)
Things You Give Away: Miranda gives a sandwich to the laughing man (p. 114)
Tied-Up Things: Annemarie’s special food is tied up like presents from her dad (p. 121)
Things That Fall Apart: The kids’ gig at Jimmy’s ends, the trio of Annemarie, Colin, and Miranda kind of breaks up when Annemarie gets angry over comments made about Julia (p. 130)
The Last Note: Miranda finds the last note (p. 162)
Christmas Vacation: Miranda’s break from school (depressing – no friends) (p. 132)
The Second Proof: “Tessie well” was written inside Miranda’s book on Christmas (p. 135)
Things in an Elevator: Miranda loves Annemarie’s elevator (p. 139)
The Last Note: Miranda finds the last note (p. 162)
Things You Realize: Miranda realizes 3 things: Julia left the rose for Annemarie, Julia cared for Annemarie but she didn’t see it because Miranda was in the way, and Alice Evans was about to pee her pants (p. 144)
The Last Note: Miranda finds the last note (p. 162)
Things You Beg For: Miranda had to beg Wheelee for a piece of paper to write Julia a note (p. 146)
Difficult Things: the laughing man’s “trip” was difficult, Miranda was having a difficult time figuring everything out (p. 164)
Things That Turn Upside Down: weird day for Miranda – she finds out the laughing man stole Jimmy’s bank, Julia calls her up to do something, and Colin kisses her (p. 153)
Things that Are Sweet: Julia and Miranda make a practice cake for Annemarie’s birthday, Julia’s room is all girly and ruffles, Julia tells Miranda her hair is the color of caramel (p. 156)
Things That Heal: Sal’s injuries, his friendship with Miranda (p. 169)
Things You Protect: Miranda, and others at the school, help stall the police from finding Marcus (p. 174)
Things You Line Up: Sal lines up basketball shots, Miranda tries to line up the whole story (p. 181)
The $20,000 Pyramid: Miranda’s mom finally is on the show (p. 182)
Magic Thread: Miranda realizes Marcus is the laughing man, the magic thread that holds the story together (p. 189)
Things That Open: Miranda gives her mom an envelope with law school apps and Richard a birthday present (keys) (p. 191)
Things That Blow Away: The laughing man’s picture of Julia under the mailbox may blow away some day (p. 195)
Sal and Miranda, Miranda and Sal: Back together again, sometimes, plus with other friends (p. 196)
Parting Gifts: Miranda thinks of other things she could tell Marcus that would help him (p. 197)