

Teacher's Guide to  
*Krazy White Girl*

Written by Mary A. Monroe

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| Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 B    | 1. D   | 1. D   |
| 2 C    | 2. B   | 2. B   |
| 3 A    | 3. C   | 3. B   |
| 4 D    | 4. A   | 4. C   |
| 5 A    | 5. C   | 5. A   |
| 6 C    | 6. A   | 6. D   |
| 7 B    | 7. B   | 7.A    |
| 8 D    | 8. D   | 8. C   |
| 9 C    | 9. D   | 9. C   |
| 10 D   | 10. A  | 10. A  |

| Unit 4 | Unit 5 |
|--------|--------|
| 1 D    | 1 B    |
| 2 C    | 2 C    |
| 3B     | 3 A    |
| 4 A    | 4 D    |
| 5 B    | 5 D    |
| 6 A    | 6 A    |
| 7 D    | 7 D    |
| 8 C    | 8 D    |
| 9 C    | 9 B    |
| 10 D   | 10 C   |

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT ONE

### Chapters 1-5

#### COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

##### A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **disoriented** mean?

“I looked around and felt very **disoriented**. Where was I? Who were all these people?”

- a. embarrassed
- b. confused
- c. shocked
- d. silly

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **disability** mean?

“I ain’t got that kind of money. My **disability** check barely pays the rent and the food I put on the table.”

- a. weak
- b. disliking something
- c. handicapped
- d. poor

3. In the following excerpt, what does the word **demented** mean?

“After all, didn’t my journal from my 8<sup>th</sup> grade class provide the police proof to lock up my mom’s **demented** boyfriend, Ricaldo?”

- a. unstable
- b. dented
- c. sad
- d. mental genius

##### B. Supporting Details

4. The following words were said by

- a. Johnny
- b. Mr. Martin
- c. Ashley Williams
- d. Ricaldo

“You loco-girl. Loco in the head. No man want you. You loco.”

5. The following words were said by
- a. Johnny
  - b. Aunt Lori
  - c. Mr. Martin
  - d. Ricaldo

“...watch out for this girl Ashley Williams. She’s always trying to make trouble, and she could make your high school years hell.”

### C. Main Idea

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Life is boring.
- b. Nicole likes to plead.
- c. Mom chooses Ricaldo over Nicole’s request.
- d. Mom likes to laugh.

“I pleaded with my mom to make him move out and she would just say, ‘He’s a diversion, child. He’s a diversion from my boring life, he makes me laugh, and he stays.’”

7. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Nicole wanted a new hobby.
- b. Nicole turned to cutting because she felt out of control.
- c. Runaways are a big problem.
- d. Cutting is cool.

“I wanted to run away, but didn’t know where to go. I had no control over my life. I felt so lost and alone. It was then that I started cutting.”

### D. Literary Elements

8. What literary device does the author use when she writes, “Suddenly, I felt wet kisses on my face.”

- a. Onomatopoeia
- b. Metaphor
- c. Simile
- d. Imagery of the Senses

9. What literary device does the author use when she writes, “Powerful, like ocean riptides, tugging mercilessly.”

- a. Dialogue
- b. Flashback
- c. Simile
- d. Metaphor

## **E. Conclusions**

**10.** From the following excerpt, you can conclude

- a. Abuse at home got worse for Nicole after Ricaldo moved in.
- b. Ricaldo was mean.
- c. Mom was abusive to Nicole.
- d. All of the above.

“I could stand the fights with my mom – the swearing, the name-calling, even the slaps across my face – because she always made up with me and said she was sorry. But when she announced to me one day that Ricaldo was moving in with us, I was crushed.”

# Unit 1

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. How does Nicole feel about her mom? Why does she feel that way?**

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**2. Why does Nicole think she is a “Krazy White Girl”?**

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**3. What kind of life has Nicole had in 14 years? Explain.**

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**4. Compare and contrast Mom and Aunt Lori’s physical description. How are they different?**

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**5. How did Nicole get started with cutting?**

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## Unit 1

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Are parents responsible if their teenager gets into things like cutting? What can they do to help?**
- 2. Do you know anyone who cuts? Did they stop? What other addictions do teens sometimes fall into when they feel their life is out of control?**
- 3. What other positive things besides cutting could Nicole have done to gain control over her life?**

### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Nicole labels herself “Krazy White Girl.” If you had to label yourself something, what would it be, and why? What limitations do “labels” put on people, and why?**
- 2. Do you feel Mom should let Ricaldo live with her and Nicole? Why or why not? Write a letter to Mom convincing her of your viewpoint, beginning with “Dear Mom.”**
- 3. Nicole wrote two poems in her journal, entitled “Cold,” and “Power.” Write a poem of your own, using either of those two titles.**

### TECHNOLOGY

- 1. Do a web search on “Cutting,” using a search engine like Google. Read and report back in a brief report on the causes and cures for this addiction.**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT TWO

### Chapters 6 - 10

#### COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

##### A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **shivered** mean?

“It was dark because of the time change and I **shivered** as I walked along the sidewalk, past dreary walkways and alleys.”

- a. walk slowly
- b. wiggled
- c. walk fast
- d. shaked

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **defenses** mean?

“Are you sure that’s all that’s bothering you?” Lo asked in a kind, caring way that melted my **defenses**.”

- a. football team
- b. guard
- c. feelings
- d. anger

3. In the following excerpt, what does the word **miserable** mean?

“I figured I was going to be murdered and that’s how my whole **miserable** short life was gonna end.”

- a. depressed
- b. angry
- c. horrible
- d. joyful

4. In the following excerpt, what does the word **vacant** mean?

“This was occurring a few blocks away on a **vacant** street corner lot strewn with empty beer bottles and cigarette butts.”

- a. empty
- b. horrible
- c. crowded
- d. vacation

##### B. Supporting Details

5. The following words were said by

- a. Johnny
- b. Lo
- c. Aunt Lori
- d. Blondie

“Don’t you realize if you get in trouble, they’ll put you in foster care?”

### C. Main Idea

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- a. Blondie and Lo knew Niki had a secret.
  - b. The girls are best friends.
  - c. Secrets bother people.
  - d. Blondie, Lo and Niki are best friends.

“Yep, Blondie and Lo had the uncanny way of seeing through me and knowing when something was bothering me.”

### D. Literary Elements

7. What literary device does the author use in the following excerpt:

“Hey guys, I got us a live one. Sweet thang...where’s your leetle friends today?”

- a. Imagery
- b. Dialect
- c. Metaphor
- d. Simile

8. What literary device does the author use in the following excerpt:

“...and they flew like ghosts in my mind.”

- a. Onomatopoeia
- b. Rhyme
- c. Stanza
- d. Simile

9. What literary device does the author use in the following excerpt:

“You know they care,  
Because they’ll always be there.”

- a. Metaphor
- b. Simile
- c. Imagery
- d. Rhyme

10. From the following excerpt, you can conclude

- a. Niki was happy Johnny was defending her.
- b. Johnny likes to fight.
- c. Girls should have a brother.
- d. Niki has a mental disorder.

“Johnny was putting himself out there for me. I felt bad, but in some ways it made me feel good because someone was standing up for me.”

## Unit 2

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. Describe Niki's attackers. What kind of men are they?**

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**2. What kind of friendship does Niki, Blondie & Lo have?**

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**3. Why is Niki dreading the trial against Ricaldo and seeing Mom again?**

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**4. Why didn't Niki want to discuss her attack with anyone?**

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**5. Who wanted revenge for Niki? Why?**

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## Unit 2

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Niki should have told someone about her attack? Why or why not?
2. Niki says that she learned that she creates her own life by making choices. Do you believe that? What are some things in life that we choose, and what are some things in life that we do not choose? Is life fair?
3. Niki wrote, “Life is good when you have friends who have your back.” How important are your friends to you? What qualities do you value the most in your friendships? What advice would you give to someone who doesn’t have friends?
4. Do you feel it was right for Johnny and his friends to fight Niki’s attackers? If they didn’t fight, what are some things Niki could have done instead?

### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Niki writes in her poem, *Krazy White Girl*, “But Krazy don’t make you worthless.” Pretend you’re an advice columnist. Write a response to a teen who writes for advice because she feels worthless.
2. Niki feels torn in loyalty to tell Aunt Lori about the fight Johnny got into with her attackers. Have you ever felt torn between two decisions? How did you resolve your conflict?
3. Niki writes in her poem, *They Say*, “they prey on the weak.” Bullying can be a problem in schools. Have you ever bullied someone or has someone bullied you? How did you feel? What can be done about bullying in schools?

### TECHNOLOGY

1. Do a web search on “Self-Defense, using a search engine like Google. What things could Niki have done before and during her attack to protect herself.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT THREE

### Chapters 11-15

#### COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

##### A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **kaleidoscope** mean?

“Her room was a **kaleidoscope** of colors – bright student projects were displayed all around, each displaying creativity and personal expression.”

- a. bright
- b. to see
- c. picture
- d. great assortment

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **fibbed** mean?

“Hey, Blondie, Lo, it’s 10 and our ride will be here soon,” I said, knowing full well that we were walking home together.

- a. said
- b. lied
- c. teased
- d. offered

3. In the following excerpt, what does the word **coyly** mean?

“Is that what we’re doing – going out?” I said, rather **coyly**.

- a. mean
- b. shy and teasingly
- c. joyfully
- d. cautiously

4. In the following excerpt, what does the word **devious** mean?

“Ashley is not a fighter. She’s much more **devious** than that.”

- a. devil
- b. obvious
- c. scheming
- d. deva

## **B. Supporting Details**

5. The following words were said by

- a. Ms. Gonzalez
- b. Ms. Parker
- c. Kiki
- d. Blondie

“There’s much pain, Nicole. And much joy. You have a talent, a gift. Have you ever published your writing?”

6. The following words were said by

- a. Lo
- b. Ashley
- c. Kiki
- d. Blondie

“Any chance you got any brown-skinned brothas as fine lookin’ as you who are going too?”

## **C. Main Idea**

7. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Blondie is unique.
  - b. No one is as short as Blondie.
  - c. Blondie is clumsy.
  - d. Blondie like making pottery with molds.
- “That Blondie – they definitely broke the mold when they made her!”

8. The main idea of Chapter 14 is:

- a. Ashley Williams wants to be friends with Niki.
- b. Johnny likes Ashley.
- c. Johnny’s warning Niki about Ashley.
- d. Nick is a two-timer.

## **D. Literary Elements**

9. When the author ends Chapter 15 with the sentence, “If only that had been true,” she is using which literary element?

- a. Flashback
- b. Onomatopoeia
- c. Suspense
- d. Resolution

## **E. Conclusions**

**10.** From the following excerpt, you can conclude

- a. Poetry has deep meaning for Niki.
- b. Niki doesn't think her poetry is good.
- c. Poetry is religion.
- d. Niki likes music.

“I was totally enjoying myself, as one by one, each of the club members went to the open mic to read their poems. Some were sad, some were funny, some were more like a rap, some sounded like lyrics to a song. But all were music to my soul.”

# UNIT 3

## Chapters 11 – 15

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. Contrast how Niki looked like at the beginning of Mr. Martin’s class to how she looks now. How is she different now? What helped her change?**

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**2. Compare and contrast Mr. Martin and Ms. Gonzalez. How are they alike? How are they different?**

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**3. Describe Kiki, who read her poem at the poetry club. Is she shy or confident? How can you tell? Include details from the text.**

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**4. Describe the boy who asks Niki a question, which prompts her to write her poem. What does he look like?**

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**5. Is Blondie shy or bold around boys? How can you tell? Use details from the text to support your answers.**

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## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Blake and his two friends met Niki, Blondie and Lo at a Poetry Slam. Would you consider this a date? How old do you think a person should be to go out with someone? How old should someone be to go on a one-on-one date with someone who has a car? Do your parents agree with you on this topic? Why or why not?**
- 2. The girls leave the Poetry Slam at 10 p.m. Should teens have curfews? If so, what times would you recommend for school and weekend nights?**
- 3. If someone challenges you, do you feel you have to fight back? Why/why not? What are some consequences from fighting?**

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1. Niki writes, “I became so accustomed to writing to release my pent-up feelings...” Think of a problem you have and write a letter to the person contributing to the problem. Then, it’s your choice whether or not you want to send it to them.**
- 2. Do you have a Poetry Club at your school? Would you like one at your school? Write a persuasive letter to your principals convincing them to allow you to start a Poetry Club. It’s your choice to follow through if you want, and see how words can led to positive results!**
- 3. Niki wrote, “You astound me,” about a crush she has. Write a poem about a crush you’ve had.”**

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**Research “Poetry Slams” on your computer’s search engine, such as Google. Write down three locations in your hometown. Perhaps your mom or dad will take you to one to experience the drama first hand!**

## UNIT FOUR

### Chapters 16-20

#### COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

##### A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **despicable** mean?

“That’s why I never would have expected her to do such a mean, horrible, **despicable** act, like she did to me...”

- a. laughable
- b. racist
- c. desirable
- d. horrid

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **oozing** mean?

“My comforter warms me, **oozing** hot blood.”

- a. lots of
- b. gushing
- c. leaking
- d. shooting

3. In the following excerpt, what does the word **chided** mean?

“Nicole, you can’t miss another day of school,” Aunt Lori chided me.

- a. questioned
- b. scolded
- c. screamed
- d. feeling like a child

##### B. Supporting Details

4. The following words were said by

- a. Aunt Lori
- b. Brad
- c. Ms. Randolph
- d. Ms. Gonzalez

“You’ll flunk all your classes. You have to pass 8<sup>th</sup> grade so you go onto 9<sup>th</sup> grade.”

5. The following words were said by

- a. Brad
- b. Ashley
- c. Ms. Randolph
- d. Blake

“So, who is our mystery writer who seems to like cutting herself and blood?”

6. The following words were said by
- a. Blondie
  - b. Lo
  - c. Ms. Sheldon
  - d. Mr. Morgan

“I object . . . she just hatin’ on her for all the hatin’ she got in her life from her.”

### C. Main Idea

7. What’s another title for Chapter 16?
- a. I Was Made the Fool
  - b. A Mean Trick
  - c. Ashley’s Attack
  - d. All of the Above

8. What’s the main idea of Chapter 19?
- a. Niki is weak.
  - b. Ashley won.
  - c. Lo and Blondie save the day.
  - d. Niki will cut the rest of her life.

### D. Literary Elements

9. When Blondie and Lo show up at Niki’s trial, the author used which technique?
- a. Flashback
  - b. Foreshadowing
  - c. Surprise
  - d. Hyperbole

### E. Conclusions

10. What might have happened if Blondie and Lo didn’t show up at the trial?
- a. Ricaldo would have fainted.
  - b. Mom would have switched to Niki’s side.
  - c. Nothing would be different.
  - d. Niki might have lost the courage to face the trial.

# UNIT 4

## Chapters 16 - 20

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. Describe Ashley Williams. What does she look like? What type of person is she? Use details from the text to support your writing.**

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**2. Why was Blondie removed from the trial?**

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**3. How do you think Niki felt upon first walking into the trial?**

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**4. How do you think Niki felt when she discovered Lo and Blondie were at her trial to support her?**

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**5. Does Niki owe Blondie and Lo an apology for not taking their phone calls before the trial? Why or why not?**

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## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Ashley pulled a mean trick on Niki. Why do people do mean things to others? Can this change, or is it part of human nature?**
- 2. Do you feel Niki did the right thing when she refused to take the calls of Blondie, Lo, and Blake? Explain, justifying your reasons.**
- 3. How would you have felt if you saw your mom on the defense side against you at a trial? What type of person is Niki's mom? Do you think she'll change? Why/why not?**

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1. When Niki is humiliated, she has the urge to cut. She runs into the bathroom, and she cries and cries. Write a letter to Niki, giving her advice on how to handle this newest crisis in her life – without cutting.**
- 2. Niki is so happy when she sees Blondie and Lo at her tyrial. Ms. Gonzalez paid for the trip from club funds. Write Ms. Gonzales and/or Blondie and Lo a letter thanking them, pretending you're writing from the viewpoint of Niki.**
- 3. Create a graphic organizer of the trial, listing all the key people in the trial, including all the witnesses for the prosecution and the defense.**

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**Do an internet search on the structure of a trial. Report back to your class about three facts you find interesting.**

## UNIT FIVE

### Chapters 21- 25

#### COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

##### A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **self-absorbed** mean?

“She’s so **self-absorbed** .”

- a. selfless
- b. selfish
- c. caring for others.
- d. intelligent

2. In the following excerpt, what do the words **sequestered** and **deliberation** mean?

“The jury was **sequestered** for **deliberation** .”

- a. scolded ... breaking rules
- b. separated ... discussion
- c. arrested ... witness tampering
- d. reward ... making a good decision

3. In the following excerpt, what does the word **enthralled** mean?

“Writing will always be an important part of my life – I am enthralled with its mystery and power.”

- a. Fascinated
- b. Puzzled
- c. enthusiastic
- d. trapped

##### B. Supporting Details

4. The following words were said by

- a. Mom
- b. Ashley
- c. Lo
- d. Niki

“I emerge, with wings I never knew existed.”

5. The following words were said by

- a. Ms. Gonzalez
- b. Ms. Parker
- c. Mr. Martin
- d. Mr. Morgan

“She regret that someday. None of it is your fault, Nicole. You’re just a child.”

### **C. Main Idea**

6. In the following excerpt, how does Niki feel?

- a. Abandoned
- b. Curious
- c. Silly
- d. Doubtful

Niki thinks, “How could she say he only tapped me? She’s lying against her own daughter.”

7. What “life lesson” does Niki learn in Chapter 25?

- a. Hurt others before they hurt you.
- b. You have to live with addictions.
- c. Once a victim, always a victim.
- d. She’s finally free because she won’t label and limit herself.

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### **D. Literary Elements**

8. In Niki’s final poem, she writes, “Life a butterfly, discovering a whole new life, I emerge...” This is an example of

- a. Rhyme Scheme
- b. Stanza
- c. Iambic Pentameter
- d. Simile

9. When Ricaldo says words like “Jes” for “yes” and “Hoolee” for “Julie,” the author is using...

- a. Onomatopoeia
- b. Dialect
- c. Biography
- d. Autobiography

### **E. Conclusions**

10. Niki thinks, “Naturally, she’s concerned about herself. She’s so self-absorbed.” You can conclude she’s talking about:

- a. Ashley
- b. Blondie
- c. Mom
- d. Ms. Sheldon

# UNIT 5

## Chapters 21 - 25

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. How do you think Niki felt when she heard her mom’s testimony at the trial? Explain.**

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**2. Pretend you are Niki’s mom. Whose side would you have testified for – the prosecution or defense? Explain.**

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**3. Describe the appearance and mannerisms of Ricaldo Velaquez? What is your opinion of him?**

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**4. Niki writes that her mom walked out of the courtroom and out of her life. Do you think they will ever reconcile? Explain your answer.**

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**5. Was justice done at Niki’s trial? Explain.**

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## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Niki began as a loner, but learned that connections to other people help all of us. Think of all the connectons in your life . . . school, friends, family, community, world . . . and imagine how your life would be different without these connections. What can we do to strengthen our relationships with our friends and family.**
- 2. Writing and expressing herself through poetry helped Niki heal and discover herself. Do you enjoy writing? What ways can writing change people and the world?**
- 3. How can labels we put on people limit them and hurt them? Niki discovers that her label of “Krazy White Girl” limited her, and finally feels free. What labels have you or others put on you that limit you? What can we do about labels to free ourselves like Niki did?**

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1. Who was your favorite character in the book? Who was your least favorite? Explain.**
- 2. Do you agree with the jury’s verdict? Pretend the jury found Ricaldo not guilty. Write a letter to the fury foreman telling him your opinion on this “innocent” verdict?**
- 3. Write an email to author Mary Monroe telling her your opinion of Krazy White Girl. Log onto [www.marymonroebooks.com](http://www.marymonroebooks.com) and click on “Contact the Author.”**

## **TECHNOLOGY**

- 1. Log onto the author’s website, see above. Read the author’s story and about other novels she has written. What book is coming soon in May, 2008? What is it going to be about?**
- 2. Niki’s final poem is shaped like a butterfly because she compares her life transformation to a butterfly. Use your computer to write a shaped poem and share it with your teacher and class.**

**I hope you enjoyed this book! Check my web site frequently for exciting news and events.**