Solace of the Road

by

Siobhan Dowd

Teacher’s Edition
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Solace of the Road
by Siobhan Dowd

JLG Guide written by Sarah Ward Terrell

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About the Author

Like Holly Hogan, the protagonist of *Solace of the Road*, **Siobhan Dowd** came from Irish parents and grew up in London, England, among stories about her family’s beautiful homeland. Of her upbringing, Dowd said, “Ireland—its landscape, words, and music—became bred in the bone.” When she wasn’t attending Catholic grammar school in south London, she was spending time visiting the homes of family members who lived in Ireland.

After graduation, Dowd attended Oxford University and Greenwich University, where she studied Classics and Gender and Ethnic Studies, and following college she worked for organizations that protect writers around the world from censorship. Her work involved traveling to Indonesia and Guatemala to investigate human-rights conditions for writers. It also involved editing two anthologies of work threatened by censorship; coordinating author visits to prisons, young offender institutions, and schools in socially deprived areas; and advocating for children’s rights for the local government in Oxfordshire.

Dowd’s work came to involve writing for children, when she was invited to pen a story about an Irish youth for *Skin Deep: A Collection of Short Stories about Racism*. After contributing her piece about a young Irish traveler, Dowd began work on her own books, which earned her numerous writing awards. Her books include a mystery novel for middle-grade readers and three young-adult novels about Irish teens coping with difficult family situations. Sadly, *Solace of the Road* is the last book Dowd wrote before she passed away in August 2007. Before dying, Dowd set up a trust in her name that contributes royalties from the sales of her four books to organizations that support disadvantaged readers.

**Sources**

www.siobhandowdtrust.com/about-siobhan-dowd
Prereading Activities

Book Summary
Siobhan Dowd’s *Solace of the Road* is the story of fourteen-year-old Holly Hogan, a “care-babe” living in a home for children in search of foster families. She and her pals, Grace and Trim, are the street-smartest kids in Templeton House, and Miko is her ever-dependable key worker there—or, rather, he was. Now he’s moving on to a new job, and he wants to place Holly with a family before he leaves. Holly couldn’t be less interested—she’s had bad experiences with this in the past. But her broken connection with Miko leads her to accept a placement with Ray and Fiona Aldridge. The placement seems a mistake from the beginning. The harder the Aldridges try to forge a relationship with Holly, the more out of place she feels. She wants to leave foster care for good, and her plan crystallizes when she finds an old wig of Fiona’s. In this halo of ash-blond hair, Holly becomes Solace, a glamorous older girl with enough grit to get to Ireland on her own. In Ireland, Holly hopes to find her real mom from whom she was separated many years ago.

Understanding Genre: Realistic Fiction

1. What are the characteristics of realistic fiction?
   
   Possible response: Realistic fiction is a made-up story that seems as if it could be a true story, because the characters and situations reflect those found in real life.

2. Reread the *Solace of the Road* book summary above. Why is *Solace of the Road* an example of realistic fiction?
   
   Possible response: *Solace of the Road* is an example of realistic fiction, because it about a character coping with true-to-life circumstances.

3. How would Holly’s story be different if it were a biography?
   
   Possible responses: It would be a true story about the life of a real person named Holly Hogan.

4. In *Solace of the Road*, Holly decides to leave her foster home in England to find her mother in Ireland. Do you think it is credible that Holly could make this journey on her own? Why or why not?
   
   Possible response: Yes, it is credible that Holly could make the journey on her own, if she has enough money and knowledge to do so and she can keep from getting caught.
Prereading Activities

Making Predictions
Reread the Book Summary for *Solace of the Road*. Then make predictions based on evidence from the text and/or from your prior knowledge or personal experience.

1. Will Holly make it to Ireland?

   I predict:
   Answers will vary. Students may be divided about whether or not Holly will make it to Ireland.

   Based on what evidence?
   The summary says Holly is street-smart, and the wig may help her to travel unnoticed. However, she is also a young runaway, and people will be looking for her.

2. If Holly finds her mom, do you think her mom will keep her?

   I predict:
   Answers will vary. Students may be divided about whether or not Holly’s mom will keep her.

   Based on what evidence?
   Holly has been away from her mom a long time, which suggests she was abandoned. However, she and her mom were “separated,” which suggests her mom may not have wanted to lose Holly.

3. Set a purpose for reading based on your predictions above.

   Possible purpose: I want to find out how Holly will make it to Ireland and why she and her mom were separated.
Before You Read
Introducing Vocabulary: Figurative Language

**Figurative language** creates images in the reader’s mind. Examples of figurative language include simile, metaphor, and idiom, among others.

- A **simile** is a comparison between two unlike things that includes the word *like* or *as*.
- **Personification** is giving attributes of a person to an inanimate object, as in “The tree waved goodbye.”
- An **idiom** is an expression or a figure of speech. It is a word or phrase that conveys meaning beyond its literal meaning.

Below are examples of figurative language from *Solace of the Road*. Complete the chart by telling whether each example is a metaphor, a simile, or an idiom. Then write what the figurative language means. If you need help, find the figurative language on the page number indicated and use context clues to decide what the figurative language means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figurative Language</th>
<th>Simile, Personification or Idiom?</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Questions fizzed in my brain like angry bees. (Page 4)</td>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>Possible response: Many irritating and frustrating questions came into my mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I saw my dream of Ireland winking at me…. (Page 5)</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>Possible response: My dream of Ireland seemed like it might be a joke.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay cool, girl. (Page 5)</td>
<td>Idiom</td>
<td>Possible response: Relax, girl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underneath, the sea yawned. (Page 6)</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>Possible response: Underneath, the sea was deep and dark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall as a door. (Page 7)</td>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>Possible response: About 6’6” tall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was sliding. (Page 9)</td>
<td>Idiom</td>
<td>Possible response: I was making mistakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The job would be his, sure as sunset. (Page 17)</td>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>Possible response: I had no doubt the job would be his.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave off. (Page 27)</td>
<td>Idiom</td>
<td>Possible response: Stop doing that.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After You Read
Checking Predictions
Before reading, you made a prediction about whether or not Holly’s mom would keep Holly if they were reunited. Based on what you have read, do you still think your prediction could be correct? What information supports your prediction? If your prediction has changed, why do you think differently now?

Answers will vary. Holly thinks of Mam fondly, but there’s something she’s trying not to remember. It could have to do with Denny, whom Holly calls “the Nightmare Man.” Perhaps he caused Mam to leave Holly unwillingly. Or perhaps Mam had a rough side that Holly doesn’t want to think about. This is suggested in Holly’s description of Mam’s eyebrows as being like frowns and by Mam’s dubious dancing job and ever-present see-through drink. Perhaps Holly was taken from Mam for a good reason.

Analyzing the Writing: Sequence
1. Where is Holly in Chapter 1? Is she in a time before or after that described in Chapters 2–6?

   Possible response: In Chapter 1, Holly is on a ferry boat, on her way to Ireland. She is in a time that takes place after what is described in Chapters 2–6.

2. A flashback is an interruption in the action of the story to tell about events that took place earlier. In Solace of the Road, how do readers know the events in Chapters 2–6 took place early in Holly’s story?

   At the beginning of Chapter 2, Holly says, “In the darkness I was falling backwards to where I started my journey.” Falling backwards means going back in time.

3. Some events in Holly’s story are printed in italic font. At what point in time do these events take place?

   Events in italic font are memories Holly is reminded of by the action of the story she is currently describing.
## Getting to Know the Characters: Reactions

A character's **reaction** to what happens to him or her is sometimes more telling of the character’s traits than what the character says about himself or herself. Complete the chart below by finding each situation on the page numbers indicated and then writing what Holly’s reaction to the situation was. Then tell what insight Holly’s reaction gives into her character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Location in Text</th>
<th>Holly’s Reaction</th>
<th>What Reaction Shows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holly remembers Mam with a drink and herself with a tube of toothpaste.</td>
<td>See page 4, Paragraph 12, which ends on page 5.</td>
<td>Holly “scrubbed the scene out like chalk from a blackboard.”</td>
<td>Possible response: There are memories of Mam that Holly doesn’t want to confront.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troublemakers Grace and Trim are Holly’s favorite kids at Templeton House.</td>
<td>See page 8, Paragraph 5, through page 9, Paragraph 2.</td>
<td>Holly does wild things with Grace and Trim and lets them “lead her off the rails.”</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly likes the power she feels as one of the “hairy-scary care-babes” at the Home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miko announces he’s leaving Templeton House.</td>
<td>See page 12, Paragraph 6, through the end of page 14.</td>
<td>Holly says she can “feel herself losing it.” She is heartbroken, and she feels betrayed.</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly depends on Miko and is unsure she can function without him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona talks about the plant Holly was named after; it stays green year round but has berries only in winter.</td>
<td>See page 15, Paragraph 5, through page 16, Paragraph 8.</td>
<td>Holly decides Fiona’s description of the plant is her way of telling Holly she’s all prickles.</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is quick to take offense, and she’s looking for reasons to push Fiona away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona tries to get to know Holly by asking Holly questions about herself.</td>
<td>See page 26, Paragraph 2, through the end of page 28.</td>
<td>Holly becomes irritated by the questions and starts a fight with Fiona so that Fiona will leave.</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly doesn’t want to get close to Fiona; she wants to be left alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona asks Holly what the worst time in her life was.</td>
<td>See page 34, Paragraphs 3–8.</td>
<td>Several bad memories come to Holly, but she doesn’t share them; she leaves the room to go look at Solace.</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is unmoored by her bad memories; she is trying to cope by becoming someone else.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Responding to the Story

1. On page 13, Miko says he doesn’t think there is much he can do for Holly anymore. Why might Miko think he’s no longer really helping Holly?

   Possible response: Rather than find a foster family, Holly wants to stay in Templeton House, so she can be close to Miko. This concerns him, because he is her key worker, not her family. Also, at Templeton House, Holly is becoming a delinquent under Grace and Trim’s influence.

2. Why do you think Holly is quick to judge Fiona and Ray? Is her mistrust of them justified?

   Possible response: Holly’s quick judgments of Ray and Fiona seem unfair, but they are understandable. Holly has never had someone in her life that she can truly depend on. Mistrusting people helps Holly keep them at a distance, so she won’t get hurt by them.

3. A symbol is an object or idea that stands for something more than its literal meaning. What does the wig symbolize for Holly, and how is this different from what it symbolizes for Fiona?

   Possible response: For Holly the wig symbolizes power; it makes her look older, tougher, and more glamorous. However, for Fiona the wig symbolizes weakness; it reminds her of a time when she was sick and scared.

4. Fiona tells Holly that, after having cancer, she was afraid her hair would never grow back. However, it did grow back, just differently. How might Fiona’s hair be a metaphor for hope?

   Answers will vary. Possible response: During traumatic times, hope may seem to disappear, but it returns. One’s hopes may be changed by a bad experience, but they aren’t lost.

Social Studies Connection

Public Transportation

In this section, Holly mentions using some different types of public transportation available throughout England. Reread Chapters 1–6 to find out what they were. Then research what kinds of public transportation are available in the area where you live and chart your findings under the categories Land, Water, and Air, as applicable.

Public transportation mentioned in Chapter’s 1–6 includes a ferry and “the tube.”
Before You Read
Making Predictions
Do you think Fiona’s wig will be a source of strength or weakness for Holly? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary. Holly feels powerful, when she puts on the wig and becomes Solace; perhaps wearing the wig will help Holly learn how to feel more like Solace in her real life. However, at the end of Chapter 6, Holly chooses to find the wig rather than connect with Fiona, who seems genuinely to want to help Holly. The wig will be a source of weakness, if Holly makes wearing it a substitute for creating relationships with people who care for her.

Introducing Vocabulary: Dialect
Holly, the main character in Solace of the Road, is an Irish girl living in England. Because of this, the author writes Holly’s narrative in an English dialect, or a version of English spoken in a particular region or by a specific group of people. Does the author’s use of dialect make Holly’s story more or less credible? Explain your answer.

Possible response: The author’s use of dialect makes Holly’s story more credible, because it makes Holly sound the way someone in her age group and with her background really would.

Below are some examples of words Holly uses in ways that are specific to her dialect. Match each word with its definition. If you need help, find each word on the page number indicated and use context clues to help you determine its meaning.

| _h_ | 1. excluded (page 37) | a. friend |
| _j_ | 2. mobile (page 37) | b. fancy |
| _a_ | 3. mate (page 37) | c. large sum of money |
| _i_ | 4. fags (page 38) | d. juvenile detention |
| _e_ | 5. mug (page 39) | e. fool |
| _c_ | 6. packet (page 39) | f. thanks |
| _b_ | 7. posh (page 39) | g. mother |
| _g_ | 8. mam (page 40) | h. suspended |
| _d_ | 9. secure unit (page 45) | i. cigarettes |
| _f_ | 10. ta (page 58) | j. cellular telephone |
After You Read
Checking Predictions
Earlier you made a prediction about whether the wig would be a source of strength or weakness for Holly. What have you read so far that supports and/or refutes your prediction?

Answers will vary. The wig enables Holly to take action toward her dream of going to Ireland to find Mam; in that sense, the wig is a source of strength. However, the wig is also a source of weakness in that it enables Holly to cover up rather than deal with the ways in which she is the opposite of Solace: She isn’t someone who doesn’t care what others think; she doesn’t have a lorry-load of friends; and she doesn’t truly have a place to land at the end of her journey.

Analyzing the Writing: Archetypes
The word archetype comes from the Greek word archetypos, which means “the first of its kind.” There are many archetypes, or models, for storytelling that have been around for as long as stories have been told. Two archetypal story situations represented in Solace of the Road are “The Journey” and “The Quest.”

1. In stories centered on travel, the main character usually experiences an emotional journey as well as a geographic one. Often, the character isn’t entirely aware of the emotional journey, which involves growth toward understanding the world as it really is.

   a. Where will Holly’s physical journey take her, if all goes as planned? Possible response: It will take her from England to Ireland.

   b. What emotional journey has Holly begun without fully knowing it? Possible response: She has begun a journey toward understanding the truth about why her Mam left her.

2. A quest is the main character’s goal for his or her journey, the reason the character feels compelled to uproot himself or herself. The quest often involves finding and claiming something specific, like a treasure or a person, but in doing so, the character also achieves an emotional reward that is noble and necessary.

   a. Reread page 40. What is the specific goal of Holly’s quest? Possible response: Holly wants to find her mam.

   b. Reread page 41. What emotional reward does Holly hope to get from her journey? Possible response: Holly hopes to find freedom.
Getting to Know the Characters: Archetypes
In addition to archetypes for situations, there are also archetypes for characters in storytelling. One archetypal character represented in *Solace of the Road* is “The Hero.”

1. The Hero is the character with whom the audience identifies the most. This character is courageous, and his or her purpose is to accomplish an important goal. Often, accomplishing this goal involves self-sacrifice.

   a. In what ways is Holly a hero? Possible response: She is someone whose life and goals the audience can identify and sympathize with.

   b. How is Holly not typically heroic? Possible response: Rather than facing her problems, she runs away from them.

   c. What might Holly have to sacrifice in order to achieve her physical and emotional goals?

      Possible response: Holly may have to sacrifice her dream of a happy reunion with Mam.

2. Often, the hero carries *talismans*, objects that have protective and symbolic qualities. Below are some objects that Holly brings with her on her journey. What do they symbolize, and what do they protect? Answers will vary.

   wig: Possible response: The wig symbolizes power and protects Holly from being discovered as a runaway and a child.

   amber ring: Possible response: The ring symbolizes Holly’s last contact with Mam. Because it was a gift, Holly considers it a good-luck charm.

   lizard-skin bag: Possible response: It is not certain yet what the bag symbolizes; it is Holly’s best bag, so it may represent newness or practicality. It protects other items Holly carries.

   map: Possible response: The map symbolizes Holly’s independence and intention. It is also something that belongs to Ray. It protects Holly from losing her way on her journey.

Responding to the Story
1. On pages 36–37, Holly talks about *Jane Eyre*, a book she is reading in her English class. Like Holly, Jane Eyre is an orphan. However, Holly doesn’t like the character of Jane. Why not?

   Possible response: Holly sees Jane Eyre as a weak character. She wants to think she is smarter and more resilient than Jane.
2. Reread pages 40–41. Holly takes the freak hailstorm as a positive sign that her journey as Solace is about to begin. Do you think the hail is a positive sign? What might the hail foreshadow, or predict, for Holly’s journey? Explain your answers.

   Possible response: Hail is dangerous, so it seems like a negative sign rather than a positive one. It may foreshadow turmoil during Holly’s journey.

3. When Holly visits Grace at the Templeton House, why does Grace treat Holly badly?

   Possible response: Grace is upset with Holly for leaving. Like Holly, Grace doesn’t have dependable people in her life, and she tries to protect herself from getting hurt. Rejecting Holly is easier for Grace than being forgotten by Holly.

4. Reread pages 48–49. Why does Ray’s idea of Holly's name written in the sky make Holly sad?

   Possible response: Ray can imagine someone caring enough to write Holly’s name in the sky, but she can’t. She imagines Miko seeing her name and remembering her, but she doesn’t believe that could really happen.

5. Reread Paragraph 3 on page 56. Here Holly describes the amber ring from Mam that she keeps as a good-luck charm. Holly believes the ring is beautiful and symbolic of her value to Mam. However, her description of the ring is full of macabre images. What are the images, and how might they symbolize truths about Mam that Holly chooses not to face?

   Possible response: The ring is shaped like a tombstone, which could symbolize the dead relationship between Holly and Mam. The insect caught in the amber could symbolize Holly caught in her confusion and sorrow over being left by Mam. Mam’s words to Holly, as she gave Holly the ring, were meant to communicate that Holly was receiving something special; however, the image of someone chopping off a finger to get the ring is vicious, not loving.
Chapters 13–20: 
Solace, the Mad, Bad Girl 
pages 68–116

Before You Read
Making Predictions
Do you think Holly will be caught running away before she reaches Ireland?

Answers will vary. Holly has run away and been caught before, and she seems to have learned from her mistakes; she’s better prepared for her journey this time. However, in Chapter 1, when Holly was on the ferry, she seemed to be in a bad situation with her dreams of Ireland fading.

This may mean she will be caught before reaching her destination.

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Earlier you made a prediction about whether or not Holly would be caught running away. Did you read anything that supports or refutes your prediction? What was it?

Answers will vary. Holly is out of money and has no place to stay, which points to her getting caught. However, her disguise seems to be working for her, so she may still make it to Ireland.

Mastering Vocabulary
Complete the following chart by going to each page number indicated and finding examples of a simile, personification, or an idiom on the page, as directed. Then write the example of figurative language you find. Note: Sometimes more than one example of the figurative language indicated can be found on the same page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type of Figurative Language</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 80</td>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>“Guilt follows you around like a bad smell”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 82</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>“Then the sky clouded over and it started spitting”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 88</td>
<td>Idiom</td>
<td>“Under your own steam” “Shake a leg”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 99</td>
<td>Idiom</td>
<td>“The film was a turkey” “Flat out”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analyzing the Writing: Internal and External Conflict

An internal conflict is a problem a character experiences within himself or herself, such as indecision or grief about a loss. An external conflict is a problem caused by actions taken against a character by others in the story or by forces of nature, such as weather or animals.

In the chart below are examples of conflict Holly experiences in Chapters 13–20. Complete the chart by telling whether each conflict is internal or external and then explain your answer.

Note: Some conflicts can have both internal and external causes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict</th>
<th>Internal, External, or Both?</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holly needs something to eat, but she is out of money.</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Hunger is a force of nature, and the need of money to buy food is also a part of nature; it is the nature of living in a place where food is sold rather than found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly is caught in the rain with no place to go.</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Rain is a force of nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly remembers Denny like it was yesterday.</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Holly’s memories of Denny cause emotional turmoil so strong that it hurts her physically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly’s mam called her a troll and told her to scram.</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Internal: Holly’s feelings continue to be hurt by what her Mam said. External: Mam said what she did to make Holly go away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford was starting to feel like glue.</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Factors outside of Holly, such as money and the availability of transportation, keep her in Oxford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly is kicked out of Tony’s apartment on her birthday.</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Internal: Holly feels all the more alone for being treated so roughly on her birthday. External: Holly has nowhere to stay for the night.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting to Know the Characters: Relationships and Interactions
Readers can often gain insights into a character through his or her relationships and interactions with other characters.

1. What insights into Holly’s values and interests do we gain through her interaction with Chloe?

   Possible response: We learn that Holly actually likes books and even considers that she might be a decent writer.

2. As Solace, Holly makes up a story about her parents to tell Chloe. In the story, the writer Holly met in Mrs. Atkins’s class becomes Solace’s father. Why might Holly think of the writer as a father figure?

   Possible response: She might think of the writer as a father figure, because he’s someone who saw value in her and taught her to see this value in herself.

3. What does the boy in the museum have to say about aliens, and why might this idea be comforting to Holly?

   Possible response: The boy says that either everyone is an alien or no one is an alien, and if everyone is an alien, then there is nothing for anyone to be alien against. This idea might be comforting to Holly, because it suggests that no one is truly an outsider or alone.

4. When Holly is lost in Oxford, she finds herself dialing Fiona’s phone number without thinking. What does this suggest about Holly’s relationship with Fiona?

   Possible response: Holly has grown to trust and depend upon Fiona, in spite of herself.

Social Studies Connection

The World Bank
In her conversation with Holly, Chloe says that her boyfriend will leave England next year to take a job at the World Bank in Lagos. Find out what the World Bank does and where Lagos is. Share what you learn with your classmates.
Responding to the Story

1. Holly says she doesn’t believe in miracles. Even so, what things have happened on her journey, so far, that might be considered miraculous?

Possible response: When Holly needed something to eat but had no money, Kim gave her a sandwich for free, and when Holly was lost in Oxford, Magnet Man appeared to show her the way to the buses on Gloucester Green.

2. Consider this analogy: Agricola is to Thule as Holly is to Ireland. If the analogy is valid, what does it suggest about Holly’s trip to Ireland?

Possible response: Holly will come close to seeing Ireland, but she won’t actually make it there.

3. Reread Paragraphs 2 and 3 on pages 84 (Paragraph 3 continues to the top of page 85.). Do you think Holly relates more to the humans or the animals in these scenarios? Also, what does she imagine about the otter that she finds particularly distressing?

Possible response: Holly relates more to the animals. She sees humans as violent and destructive, and she is particularly distressed by the idea of someone “coshing” the otter in the head as it goes about its business, simply for the sake of having the otter’s skin.

4. Reread Paragraph 2 on page 88. Did Denny treat Holly poorly, or is there another reason Holly might think of Denny as a nightmare man?

Possible response: In this memory, Denny is actually kinder to Holly than Mam is. Denny’s frightening qualities are his mask-like face and his clumsy, grotesque behavior. It is suggested that drugs (that look like homemade cigarettes) cause him to act the way he does.

5. In this section, as Solace, Holly experiences extreme highs and lows. At what points does being Solace feel the least and most powerful to Holly?

Possible response: Being Solace feels most powerful as Holly is remaking herself in the clothing stores, creating her new identity. It feels the least powerful, when she gets in over her head with Tony, who expects Holly to act like the world-wise older girl she looks like.
Before You Read
Making Predictions
At the end of Chapter 20, Holly was in trouble. She had just been kicked out of Tony’s apartment, and she had no money and no place to stay. Do you think she will call Fiona for help? What evidence supports your prediction?

Answers will vary. Holly is afraid to call Fiona, because she thinks Fiona won’t want to keep her anymore, and she will have to go to the secure unit for running away again. On the other hand, though, she almost called Fiona once, and Holly’s situation is worse now than it was then. Holly seems to know instinctually that Fiona is someone she can trust.

Introducing Vocabulary: Greek and Latin Roots
A root word is a word part that has its own meaning. Each of the following vocabulary words contains a root word from the Greek or Latin language. Use a dictionary or a word origins book to help you locate the root word in each Vocabulary Word below. Then write the root word and its meaning in the spaces provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Word</th>
<th>Root Word</th>
<th>Root Word’s Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>remembered</td>
<td>mem-</td>
<td>mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>earphones</td>
<td>phon-</td>
<td>sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recycle</td>
<td>cycl-</td>
<td>circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mentally</td>
<td>ment-</td>
<td>mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deliberately</td>
<td>lib-</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recognize</td>
<td>cogn-</td>
<td>know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mimic</td>
<td>mim-</td>
<td>same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mobile</td>
<td>mob-</td>
<td>move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
<td>cred-</td>
<td>believe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After You Read
Checking Predictions
Earlier in the reading, you made a prediction about whether or not Holly would try to call Fiona. Was your prediction correct? Why or why not? Answers will vary.

Answers will vary. Holly decides against calling Fiona and calls Gayle at the ChildLine instead.

Analyzing the Writing: Imagery and Mood
Imagery is descriptive language that appeals to the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing. Imagery contributes to mood, which is the emotion an author communicates in his or her writing.

Complete the chart below by reading each section of text referenced and describing the imagery that goes with the sense listed. Then tell how that image helps convey Holly’s mood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sense</th>
<th>Image(s)</th>
<th>Mood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Page 117, Paragraphs 3 and 4 | Hearing   | Thumping of heart 
Tick-tick-stick-stuck of clock 
Silence of rest of house | Possible response: Holly feels frightened, trapped, and isolated. |
| Page 120, Paragraph 6 | Smell/Touch | Breathing in pints of soft fresh air | Possible response: Holly feels elated and hopeful. |
| Page 122, Paragraph 3 | Sight     | Cracked movie lens 
Empty glass tipped over 
Left-over ice melting | Possible response: Holly feels disappointed and depressed. |
| Page 125, Paragraph 4 | Touch     | Head ached 
Eyelids felt like sandpaper 
Damp with dew | Possible response: Holly feels weary and defeated. |
| Page 152, Paragraph 2 | Taste     | Sausages and Toast 
Salty juice 
Milky tea with steam coming off 
Sugar | Possible response: Holly feels a sense of luxury and satisfaction. |
Getting to Know the Characters: Archetypes
Another character archetype represented in *Solace of the Road* is “The Guardian.” Guardians help the hero pursue his or her goals. They may help by guiding, befriending, or giving something to the hero just when the hero needs it most.

1. Who has given Holly gifts that helped her continue her journey? What did they give her?

   Possible response: Kim gave Holly a sandwich when she was hungry and out of cash; the man with the boat gave Holly water when she was thirsty; and Phil gave Holly a ride, breakfast, and a birthday party.

2. Who has guided Holly, and did their guidance help with her physical or emotional journey?

   Possible response: Magnet Man guided Holly when she was lost on her physical journey, and Gayle guided Holly on her emotional journey by helping Holly understand she could not be blamed for what Mam did.

3. Who has befriended Holly, and what knowledge did she gain from their friendship?

   Possible response: Chloe befriended Holly on the bus and taught her something about the nature of dreams, and Young Einstein befriended her in the museum and taught her that no one is alien.

4. How are Grace, Trim, and Miko guardians to Holly, even though they aren’t with her physically?

   Possible response: Holly remembers and imagines conversations with them that help her know what to do when she is lost, confused, or in need of protection.

5. Had any one of Holly’s guardians not appeared when he or she did, could Holly have come this far on her journey? How does the idea that one has many guardians relate to what the writer in Mrs. Atkins’s class believes about miracles?

   Answers will vary. Possible response: There are many points at which Holly’s lack of money alone could have ended her journey. The fact that so many guardians have helped Holly continue suggests that more is at work than just luck or coincidence. Holly is being helped along by a force larger than she is.
Responding to the Story

1. During the incident with Tony, Holly’s wig fell off, and now the wig is beginning to look disheveled. What does this suggest about the power Holly gains by becoming Solace?

   Possible response: It suggests that the power is an illusion at best. Though Holly feels vulnerable and ashamed after the wig falls off, losing the wig was actually a lucky break; it saved her from what could have been a much more damaging experience with Tony.

2. The closer Holly comes to her destination, the sharper her memory becomes of the events that led up to her separation from Mam. What does Holly remember about the day she helped Mam pick the winning horse?

   Possible response: She remembers that after Denny didn’t come home with the money they won, Mam passed out, and Holly had to put herself to bed.

3. Reread the song lyrics on page 149. What do these lyrics mean?

   Possible answer: The lyrics mean, “If I were where I wish I was, I would not be here.”

4. Think again about the meaning of the lyrics on page 149. How do they relate to Holly’s journey? Is Holly better off where she is or where she’s always wanted to be?

   Possible response: Holly has always wished to be in Ireland with Mam. However, the truth of the situation is that Holly is better off where she is. If she were with Mam, she might still be living a life of neglect.

Health Connection

Personal Safety

On page 125, Holly tells about a technique she used for keeping herself safe when a car approached her on a desolate street. What did she do, and what are other strategies people can use for keeping strangers at bay? Research personal safety strategies on the Internet and report about your findings to your classmates as a visual presentation or report.
**Before You Read**

**Making Predictions**

At the end of Chapter 27, Holly has entrusted Phil with the fact that it is her birthday. Do you think she feels safe enough with Phil that she will drop her Solace persona altogether? Why or why not?

_Possible response: Up until now, Holly has only been tempted to give up her Solace identity when she’s feeling unsafe, so I think she will not tell Phil the whole truth about herself._

**Introducing Vocabulary: Greek and Latin Roots**

Below are Greek and Latin root words from the vocabulary lesson for Chapters 21–27. For each root word, write two words in which the root word can be found. Do not use words given in the last lesson. If you need help, use a word origins book or the Internet. _Answers will vary; possible responses shown._

1. mem-  
   Word 1: _memory_  
   Word 2: _memo_

2. phon-  
   Word 1: _telephone_  
   Word 2: _phonics_

3. cycl-  
   Word 1: _bicycle_  
   Word 2: _cyclical_

4. ment-  
   Word 1: _mentor_  
   Word 2: _mention_

5. lib-  
   Word 1: _liberty_  
   Word 2: _liberate_

6. cogn-  
   Word 1: _cognition_  
   Word 2: _cognate_

7. mim-  
   Word 1: _mime_  
   Word 2: _pantomime_

8. mob-  
   Word 1: _mobilize_  
   Word 2: _snowmobile_

9. cred-  
   Word 1: _credible_  
   Word 2: _incredulous_
After You Read
Checking Predictions
How was your prediction above supported or refuted by what happened in the chapter?

Answers will vary. Students who predicted Holly would not trust Phil with the truth about Solace were correct.

Getting to Know the Characters: Archetypes
“The Mentor” is another character archetype represented in Solace of the Road. The Mentor is a type of guardian whose role is to teach lessons that will be important to the hero on his or her journey.

1. Miko was Holly’s first mentor. How did Miko teach Holly the lessons she uses in her journey?

Possible response: When Miko was Holly’s key worker; he told her stories about when he was a broke kid traveling on his own. Holly remembers tips he shared about how to stay on the move.

2. How did Miko’s stories help Holly to find Phil, her next mentor?

Possible response: Holly happened to remember Miko’s hitchhiking strategies, and she tried them out just as Phil was driving along.

3. What about Phil reminds Holly of Miko?

Possible response: He gives Holly strawberry cake for her birthday, he’s a philosophical wanderer, and he’s very gentle with Holly and concerned for her well-being.

4. Reread page 173. What lessons does Phil teach Holly, and how does he teach them?

Possible response: Phil doesn’t set out to teach Holly, but by being himself he shows her what true selflessness and goodness are, and he inspires her to try and be like him.

Did you know?
Some of the classic mentors in literature and film include Merlin, Gandalf, the Good Witch of the North, and the Fairy Godmother. Can you name the story for each?
Analyzing the Writing: Setting and Mood

In literature, the setting of a story often reflects the mood of the main character(s). For example, if the main character is feeling glum, the setting might be barren and cloudy.

Complete the chart below by reading the excerpts on the pages indicated and then telling what Holly’s mood is in each excerpt and how her mood is reflected in the setting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Holly’s Mood</th>
<th>Mood Reflected in Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 161, Paragraph 8, through the end of page 162</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is feeling happy and at-home with Phil in his truck.</td>
<td>Possible response: The setting is green and hilly, with little cottages, blue skies, and pretty clouds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 166, Paragraph 14, through the end of page 167</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is nervous, because she has just heard a news story about herself on Phil’s radio.</td>
<td>Possible response: There is a brown mountain ahead, a field with cows sitting in a clump in the corner, and a broken-down castle with a tower that is not yet ruined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages 170-172</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is frantic, because she thinks Phil is calling the cops on her.</td>
<td>Possible response: Dark clouds are moving in and thunder is rumbling in the distance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 175, Paragraph 5</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is filled with shame, because she stole from Phil after he was so nice to her.</td>
<td>Possible response: Rain has started and lightning is flashing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 175, Paragraph 6, through page 176, Paragraph 5</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly feels deserving of punishment.</td>
<td>Possible response: Loud claps of thunder explode across the field and tear up the sky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 176, Paragraph 8, through page 177, Paragraph 6</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly feels turmoil over memories of Mam.</td>
<td>Possible response: Holly is under a bridge with white water swirling around her and thunder and lightning all around.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responding to the Story

1. Whenever Holly makes up a new story about Solace and what she is doing, the story includes grains of truth about Holly’s actual life and feelings. How is this exemplified in the stories she tells about Solace on the following pages?

   Pages 160–161: Possible response: This story includes Denny, who really is a nightmare man, but who may or may not have beat up Mam.
Page 165: Possible response: This story includes Miko, who really did move for a job and for whom Holly really does have deep feelings, even though he was not her boyfriend.

Page 187: Possible response: This is a story that includes Holly’s trip to Ireland, where she really does intend to start a new life. She wishes a boyfriend were accompanying her there.

2. What makes the Parish of Long Hope a symbol for Holly’s journey, and what might its name foreshadow or predict?

Possible response: The Parish of Long Hope is a beautiful and idyllic place, just like the home in Ireland Holly has always dreamed of. However, the name of this place may foreshadow that Holly will not find the home of her dreams; the name sounds like “perish’ of long hope.”

3. Reread pages 173. Holly says Phil has made her believe that “God does exist a tiny bit.” In what way does this signal a turning point in Holly’s character?

Possible response: Earlier in her story, Holly didn’t believe in miracles, and she had a pretty cynical idea about what luck is, too. The fact that she has grown to accept the existence of God is significant.

Social Studies Connection

The Mink Fur Trade
While riding in the truck with Phil, Holly and Phil see a mink along the side of the road, and Phil comments that minks must be becoming more common. Why would this be, and why does Phil think “the fur trade must be laughing about it”? Use the Internet or library to research the history of the mink in relationship to the fur trade.
Before You Read
Making Predictions
At the end of Chapter 33, Holly is in search of another ride. Do you think she’ll be able to hitch rides all the way to Ireland?

Answers will vary. Possible response: Yes; Holly’s luck seems to be holding out; she found a ride with Kirk not too long after leaving Phil. It seems likely she will be able to find a ride again.

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Has Holly been able to hitch rides all the way to Ireland?

Possible response: Holly doesn’t make it all the way to Ireland in this section, but she does find a couple more rides, with the motorbike boy and Sian, and then catches a train from Carmarthen to Fishguard.

Analyzing the Writing: Archetypes
A common situation archetype is “The Struggle between Good and Evil.”

1. Holly has struggled with the meaning of good and evil for as long as she can remember. What did Mam say to tell Holly she was an evil little girl, and why did she say it? To what extent did Holly believe what her Mam said about her? Explain your answer.

Possible response: Mam used to say that Holly was a troll and not a doll, simply because she didn’t want to be bothered by Holly. However, Holly took what Mam said to heart; she believed something she had done made her undeserving of Mam.

2. A key aspect to Phil’s goodness is his selflessness. How does Phil’s selflessness place him in stark contrast to Mam?

Possible response: Mam is the opposite of Phil, because she’s completely focused on herself, always looking past Holly “to something else she’s wanting more.”
3. How does Holly rationalize the “evil” inside her when she does wrong things? How do we see Holly’s struggle with her dark side?

   Possible response: Holly realizes she must struggle against the evil in herself when she steals money from Phil. Holly attributes this action to Solace, the mad, bad girl who lives for herself. Holly immediately regrets what she did and wants to right the wrong.

4. What characters, in addition to Phil, represent absolute good in Holly’s life, and why might Holly know she can trust them now that she has met Phil?

   Possible response: Other characters who have acted selflessly on Holly’s behalf include the motorbike boy, Sian, Fiona, and Ray. After meeting Phil, perhaps Holly can better trust that these characters don’t have hidden motives for being good to her.

Getting to Know the Characters: Relationships and Their Effect on Plot

Reread page 210 through page 213, Paragraph 1.

1. Why does Fiona buy Holly the lizard-skin bag?

   Possible response: Fiona is trying to connect with Holly.

2. How does Fiona react when Holly thanks her for the bag, and what does this say about Fiona’s character?

   Possible response: Fiona fights back tears when Holly thanks her, which shows that Fiona genuinely cares for Holly.

3. What does Holly’s memory of Fiona and the bag make Holly want to do, and why doesn’t she do it?

   Possible response: The memory makes Holly want to turn herself in so she can be sent home to Fiona and Ray. However, she doesn’t do this, because she’s deathly afraid of being sent to the secure unit again.
Responding to the Story

1. When Holly meets the boy on the motorbike, he quotes a line from *The Lord of the Rings*: “The blade that was made has been remade.” How does line this relate to what Fiona said about her experience with cancer, and how might it also relate to Holly’s emotional journey?

   Possible response: The blade being remade is like Fiona’s hair growing back differently, and it’s also a good metaphor for Holly’s transformation into someone who is stronger in her understanding of good and evil and her ability to connect with people.

2. As Holly gets closer to Ireland, does she get closer or farther away from realizing her quest? Explain your answer.

   Answers will vary. Possible response: Holly gets farther from the dream of reuniting her mother, but she gets closer to knowing the truth about Mam, which may bring Holly closer to her emotional quest for freedom.

3. In the story about Solace that Holly tells Sian, she says that Mam named her Solace, because she was “what was left over after all else failed.” What is the grain of truth in this story?

   Possible response: It is true that Mam treated Holly like leftovers, and it’s also true that everything else Mam wanted failed—her dreams of Ireland, her relationship with Denny, and her winnings from the horse race.

4. When Miko asks Holly what she is angry about, Holly says she doesn’t know. Then Miko says he thinks Holly’s anger is about the same thing every time. Why do you think Holly is angry?

   Answers will vary. The full truth about the source of Holly’s anger has not yet been revealed, but it likely has to do with the day Child Services took Holly from her home and Mam’s part in making that happen.

History Connection

Carmarthen

On her journey, Holly stops in Carmarthen, the oldest town in Wales. Carmarthen is a town that dates back to Roman times. Find out about artifacts from the Roman Empire that can still be found there, and create a poster about them to share with classmates.
Chapters 40–48:
The Truth About Solace
pages 225–261

Before You Read
Making Predictions
At the end of Chapter 39, Holly has gone back in memory to her life with Mam as it really was. How do you think this will affect Holly and her quest?

Answers will vary. Some students may think that Holly will decide not to find Mam, while others may see Holly finding Mam and finally confronting her about what she did. Perhaps there is still a chance for Holly and Mam to have a relationship, or maybe knowing her Mam again will cease to be important; Holly will choose to focus on connecting with the people she knows she can trust.

After You Read
Checking Predictions
How was Holly’s quest affected when she remembered her Mam as she truly was?

Possible response: Holly realized that even though her revelations about Mam hurt her deeply, she did not have to remain trapped in this pain anymore; she could let it go and move on.

Getting to Know the Characters: Archetypes
“The Devil” is an archetype found in many stories. The Devil is the character with whom The Hero is most at odds. The Devil is nearly impossible to defeat, and his or her primary goal is to destroy.

1. Mam obviously is a monstrous character in Solace of the Road. However, is Mam really The Devil in this story? Why or why not?

   Possible response: Mam was awful, but she didn’t want to destroy Holly, so she wasn’t really The Devil in this story.

2. Holly’s alter ego, Solace, could have destroyed Holly by cutting her off from people who really care about her. But was it ever Solace’s intention to hurt Holly? Explain your answer.

   Possible response: Solace’s intention was to keep Holly safe from disappointment, not to destroy her.
3. Is it possible The Devil in this story is not an actual character, but rather an emotional conflict Holly had to resolve? What conflict in Holly is resolved when the wig falls into the ocean?

   Answers will vary. Possible response: Holly’s fear of living in reality is defeated when the wig, a symbol of “a bad sick time,” falls into the ocean.

Analyzing the Writing: Connecting the Dots
Reread pages 236–240 and then answer the questions below.

1. Though Holly had already been thinking about running away from Ray and Fiona’s, she felt compelled to leave at once, after their fight in Chapter 10 (pages 52–58). Why did their fight rattle Holly so badly? How did it remind her of the one between Mam and Denny?

   Possible response: Like Denny, Ray seemed to be threatening to leave, and, like Mam, Fiona became upset while ironing. After Fiona slammed down the iron, it almost fell on Ray’s foot.

   During Mam and Denny’s fight, the iron actually did fall on Holly’s foot.

2. Another point at which Holly became overwhelmed by her memories was early in her journey, while she is in the museum. How does what she imagines about the otter on page 84 relate to what happened to Holly during the fight between Mam and Denny?

   Possible response: Like Holly, the otter was “coshed in the head.”

3. The voodoo doll in the museum also sickens Holly. What about the voodoo doll might remind Holly of the turmoil with Mam and Denny?

   Answers will vary. Possible response: The voodoo doll has pins in its eyes, as if its owner had tried to curse what another person sees. Holly feels cursed by what she saw happen between Mam and Denny, and she would never wish that curse on anyone else.

Responding to the Story
1. During Mam and Denny’s fight on pages 236–240, the song “Sweet Dreams” is playing. Why is this ironic?

   Possible response: The song is ironic, because it is playing during the most nightmarish event of Holly’s life.
2. Reread Paragraphs 2–10 on page 230. Here Miko says that he and Holly are like buoys; they need something to anchor them. However, Holly disagrees; she says they need freedom. Who do you think is right, and why?

   Answers will vary. In ways they are both right; they need to be anchored by people who care for them, but they also need freedom from the fears that haunt them.

3. Where is Holly as she’s remembering the fight between Mam and Denny, and how does the setting reflect how Holly feels?

   Possible response: Holly is locked below deck in a car on a ferry. She feels trapped both physically and emotionally.

4. Reread page 243, Paragraph 6 through page 241, Paragraph 2. What choice must Holly make in order to release herself from the car?

   Possible response: Holly must choose to risk the possibility of disappointment in order to release herself from the car.
Wrap-up

Reviewing Predictions
Turn to page 5 of this guide to review your first predictions. How accurate were they?

Answers will vary.

Making Connections
1. Describe a time in your life when you had to choose to risk disappointment in order to take a step toward something you needed.

Answers will vary.

2. When is a time you felt lonely, but afterward realized you had people looking out for you?

Answers will vary.

Thinking About the Genre: Adventure
1. This realistic fiction story includes characteristics of classic adventure tales, such as The Lord of the Rings. How are the archetypes represented in Solace of the Road like the archetypes of one of your favorite adventure tales?


2. Why do you think the struggle between good and evil is such a timeless situation in stories?

Possible response: Everyone possesses the potential for both good and evil, and even the best of us sometimes feel pulled to do evil or have difficulty defining what evil is.
Thinking About Theme
1. Why does Holly want to give away the money she stole from Phil, and why does she choose to give it to the Irish boy she sees on the ferry?

Possible response: Holly wants to pass on the goodness she received from Phil to someone else who needs it. She may have given the money to the Irish boy, because he reminds her of herself at his age, and she wants him to know there are kind strangers in the world.

2. Holly wonders how the world would be if Young Einstein, the boy she met in the museum, switched places with the Irish boy she met on the ferry. Why might she be wondering about this, and what do you think the difference in the world would be?

Answers will vary. Possible response: Holly may be wondering this, because she feels that, by trying to live with Fiona and Ray again, she would be kind of like the Irish boy trying to live in Young Einstein’s world. If Young Einstein’s theory about aliens is correct, though, people should be able to thrive wherever they end up; we are all aliens together.

3. Holly’s social workers say she has chaotic high-support needs. What has caused chaos in Holly’s life? Are her reactions to this chaos logical? Explain your answer.

Possible response: The chaos in Holly’s life has been caused by her limited understanding of what happened between Mam, Denny, and herself. She has come to logical conclusions about what happened, but they are based on a small child’s perspective about what happened.

4. In Solace of the Road, Holly finds freedom, though it isn’t freedom from people, and she also finds a mother, even though the mother she finds isn’t Mam. What does this say about the way things are often resolved? Why is it sometimes a good thing when our problems aren’t resolved in exactly the way we envisioned?

Answers will vary. Possible response: Sometimes we envision what we want based on a limited understanding of the world and our potential in it. However, we can trust that we will get what we need, if we go after it with an open heart.
Library Applications

Songs to Travel By
Have students recall the songs Holly mentions in her story. They include “Sweet Dreams” by the Eurythmics, the song Miko wrote for Holly, and a couple country tunes that come on the radio as Phil is driving. Discuss with students how these songs help Holly understand and cope with what she encounters on her journey. Then discuss how music is used in other stories, particularly movies, to convey emotions or messages that add depth to the storytelling. Invite students to write their own Journey and Quest stories, using lyrics from a favorite song to help them generate ideas or communicate thematic elements in their story.

Jane Eyre
Throughout Solace of the Road, Holly makes references to Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, who used the pen name Currer Bell. Like Holly, Jane Eyre is an orphan who must find her own way in the world and depend on the kindness of strangers. At the beginning of Holly’s story, she has disdain for the character of Jane Eyre. However, as her story progresses, Holly identifies with Jane more and more. Have students read Jane Eyre and then write Response to Literature essays in which they compare and contrast the characters of Jane Eyre and Holly Hogan.

Trace Holly’s Journey
Have students use a roadmap of Great Britain to trace Holly’s journey to Ireland. Landmarks Holly mentions in Solace of the Road include the following:

- The A40
- The River Thames
- The Severn River

These cities:
- Oxford
- Cheltenham
- Wales
- Abergavenny
- Llandovery
- Llandeilo
- Fishguard
- Rossglare
Suggestions for Further Reading

Other books by Siobhan Dowd:


Other fiction books:

Tolkein, J. R. R. *The Lord of the Rings.* Houghton Mifflin, 2005
### Correlations to National Standards
#### For Grades 9–12

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</thead>
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