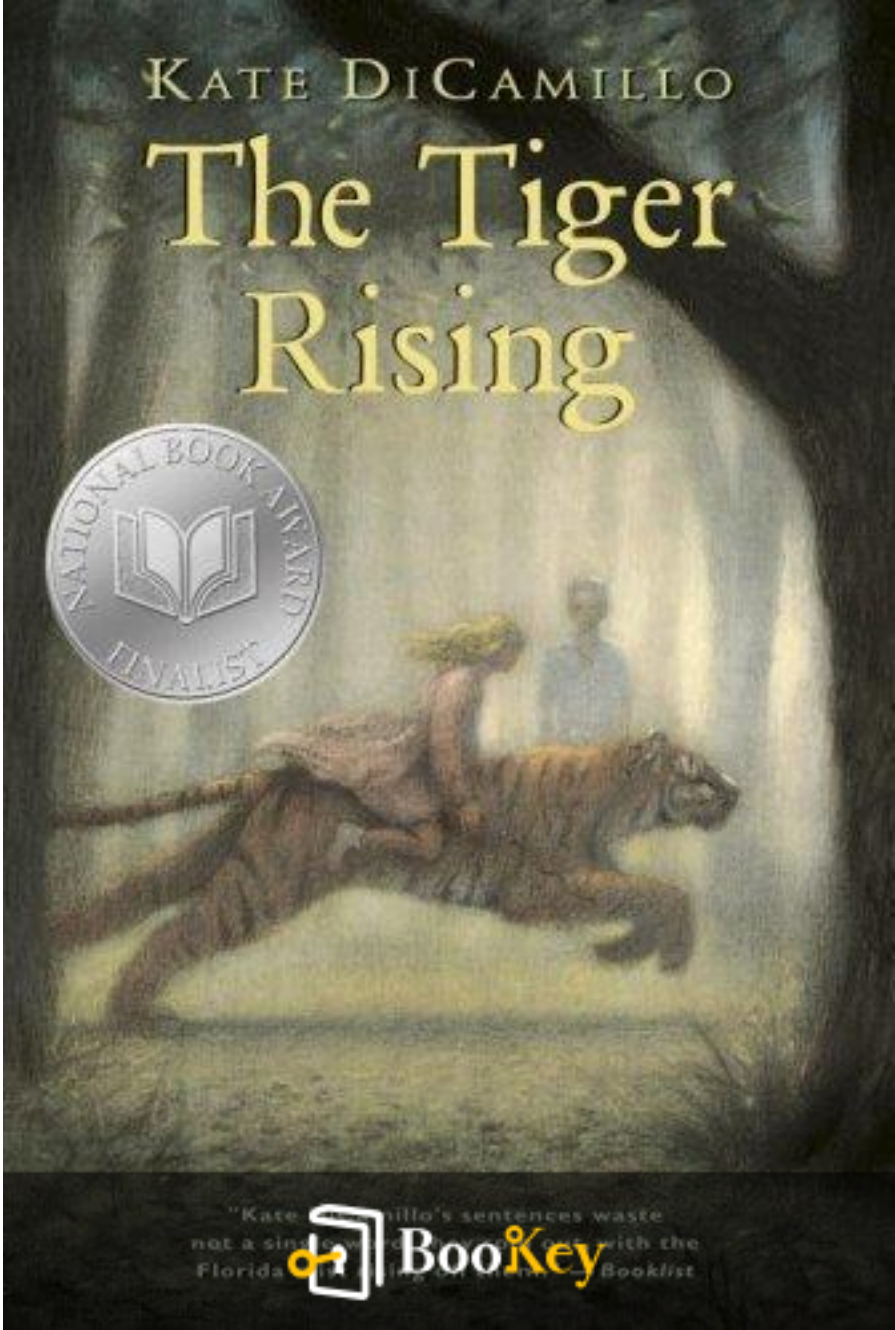


The Tiger Rising PDF (Limited Copy)

Kate DiCamillo



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The Tiger Rising Summary

Embracing courage in the face of fear.

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About the book

In "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, readers are invited into a poignant tale of loss, resilience, and the complexities of human emotion through the eyes of a 12-year-old boy named Rob, who grapples with the unexpected death of his mother. Set against the backdrop of a dusty motel in Florida, Rob's encounter with a caged tiger becomes a symbol of his buried feelings and unspoken fears. As he forms an unlikely friendship with the spirited Sistine, a girl who challenges his withdrawal from the world, together they confront the pain of their pasts and the potential for healing. This evocative story captures the magic of childhood and the power of confronting one's inner turmoil, urging readers to consider what it truly means to be free.

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About the author

Kate DiCamillo is an acclaimed American author known for her ability to weave heartfelt tales that resonate with both children and adults alike. Born on March 25, 1964, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she developed a love for storytelling early in life, inspired by her experiences and the profound connections between characters. DiCamillo's works, including the Newbery Medal winners "Because of Winn-Dixie" and "The Tale of Despereaux," showcase her signature blend of humor, poignant themes, and magical realism. With a background in English literature and a passion for children's books, she has crafted numerous beloved stories that explore themes of friendship, loss, and the importance of kindness, ultimately leaving a lasting impact on the world of children's literature.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

In the first chapter of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, we meet Rob, a young boy grappling with sadness and the challenges of his new life in Lister. The chapter begins with Rob standing under the colorful Kentucky Star Motel sign, waiting for his school bus. He hopes the sign will bring him good luck, and indeed, he feels extraordinarily lucky after discovering a tiger in a cage behind an abandoned gas station in the woods. The tiger, with its vibrant orange and gold fur, captivates Rob, who is both amazed and frightened by this rare and beautiful creature.

Rob's mind is filled with thoughts of the tiger as he stands waiting, letting these thoughts overshadow his worries about a painful rash on his legs and the heavy emotions surrounding his mother's death, which have been locked away in his heart for months. He recalls the mourning process after the funeral, a day filled with tears for both him and his father. That moment marked a significant shift for Rob; he has not cried since, choosing instead to pack away his feelings, likening himself to an overflowing suitcase.

As he awaits the bus, Rob is aware of the pending bullying he faces from classmates, Norton and Billy Threemonger, but he manages to divert his attention. With the image of the tiger in his mind, he feels a sense of strength and bravery that helps him cope with the struggles of his reality. The tiger becomes a symbol of hope and resilience for Rob, a way to uplift the

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burdens he keeps bottled up inside. As the rain begins to fall, Rob envisions the majestic tiger sitting proudly on top of his emotional suitcase, reminding him of the magic that still exists in the world despite the challenges he faces.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, we get a vivid glimpse into the struggles of Rob, a boy who endures bullying from Norton and Billy Threemonger as he rides the school bus in Florida. As the chapter opens, Rob is confronted by Norton, who mocks him by calling him the "Kentucky Star." Despite the bullying, Rob remains nonchalant, physically asserting his defiance by simply shrugging off the taunts. He seeks refuge in the last seat of the bus, where Billy soon follows, shoving his face close to Rob's and launching into more insults.

Billy's and Norton's bullying escalates with Billy shoving Rob and Norton digging his knuckles into Rob's scalp. Rob bears the pain silently, refusing to cry, which seems to infuriate his tormentors even more. He has learned that fighting back often makes the situation worse and feels empowered by the mental image of the tiger he often thinks about—this symbolizes strength and resilience for him.

The tension in the bus suddenly shifts when Mr. Nelson, the driver, unexpectedly stops the bus. This catches everyone off guard, momentarily halting the bullying. As they watch in shock, a girl with yellow hair and a pink lacy dress climbs aboard the bus, suggesting a turning point for Rob's day.



This chapter not only highlights Rob's struggle with bullying and his inner strength but also foreshadows new possibilities with the introduction of the girl, hinting that her presence may change the dynamics of Rob's current reality. Themes of resilience, the search for belonging, and the hope that change can bring are woven throughout this encounter, making it a rich and engaging part of Rob's journey.

Chapter	Summary
Chapter 2	Rob faces bullying from Norton and Billy Threemonger on the school bus in Florida. Despite their taunts, Rob remains calm, focusing on an empowering mental image of a tiger, symbolizing strength. The bullying escalates with physical aggression, but Rob learns that retaliating often worsens the situation. Suddenly, the bus driver Mr. Nelson stops the bus, interrupting the bullying and allowing a girl in a pink dress to board. Her arrival symbolizes a potential turning point in Rob's life, introducing themes of resilience, belonging, and hope for change.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Inner Strength Amid Adversity

Critical Interpretation: In the face of relentless bullying and demeaning taunts, you can find inspiration in Rob's quiet defiance and mental resilience. Just like Rob, when life throws challenges your way, it's crucial to tap into your inner strength—symbolized by the tiger he often envisions. Instead of reacting with anger or despair, you might choose to rise above the negativity, maintaining your dignity while seeking solace in your own thoughts and dreams. This chapter encourages you to confront adversity with courage and to recognize that, like Rob, you have the power to endure and maintain hope for a brighter tomorrow.

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Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "The Tiger Rising," we meet a new character, Sistine, who stands out not just by her unusual name but also by her unexpected choice of clothing: a pink lacy dress that feels completely out of place on the school bus. As she walks down the aisle, Rob, the main character, watches her with a mix of curiosity and recognition of her strangeness. The other boys, Norton and Billy, quickly mock her, making fun of her clothing and questioning her name. Despite their taunts, Sistine holds her ground, responding sharply and confidently.

She shares that her name is inspired by the Sistine Chapel, which fascinates Rob, as he remembers seeing its beautiful artwork in a book at school. This moment not only illustrates Sistine's strength but also sparks a connection in Rob's mind between her name and the stunning imagery of the chapel that once filled him with joy. Instead of dwelling on the teasing and the unpleasant thoughts of his own life, such as his rash or his troubled family memories, Rob finds solace in the imagery of art and the idea of creation—of God reaching out, symbolizing connection and understanding.

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "The Tiger Rising," we meet Sistine Bailey as she steps into Rob's sixth-grade homeroom class. With her distinctive gravelly voice, she introduces herself, quickly drawing the attention of her classmates who seem fascinated and startled, as if she's an alien. Dressed in a pink dress and bold in her opinions, Sistine declares her dislike for the South and makes it clear she's only there temporarily, looking forward to being picked up by her father. Her outspoken nature and defiance immediately set her apart, earning both the laughter of her peers and a reprimand from Mrs. Soames, who humorously advises her to watch her words.

Rob, who prefers not to be the center of attention, focuses on his drawing of a tiger, a symbol of his yearning for creativity and escape. Memories of his mother teaching him how to whittle wood flood his mind, showcasing the deep bond they shared before she fell ill. He recalls her gentle encouragement, believing he already had the instinct to create, emphasizing the theme of unspoken bonds and the impact of familial love.

As Rob is lost in his thoughts, Mrs. Soames interrupts to send him to the principal's office, abruptly pulling him away from his moment of artistic reflection. His classmates, including Jason, add to his turmoil by teasing him as he leaves. Meanwhile, Sistine watches him with a look of disdain, hinting at the complexities of her character—a blend of strength, anger, and perhaps



a desire for connection.

This chapter vividly captures the themes of identity, childhood struggles, and the longing for understanding, all while introducing the clash of personalities between Rob and Sistine. Their interactions set the stage for future developments, showcasing the challenges they both face in a new environment.

Key Elements	Description
Character Introduction	Sistine Bailey enters Rob's sixth-grade homeroom with a distinct voice, quickly capturing the attention of her classmates.
Sistine's Personality	Dressed in a pink dress, she boldly shares her dislike for the South and her temporary presence, signaling her strong opinions.
Rob's Reflection	Rob focuses on drawing a tiger, symbolizing his longing for creativity and escape, recalling memories with his sick mother.
Themes	Explores identity, childhood struggles, and the quest for understanding through the interactions between Rob and Sistine.
Interactions	Rob is sent to the principal's office by Mrs. Soames, facing teasing from classmates, while Sistine observes with disdain.
Character Dynamics	The chapter emphasizes the clash of personalities between Rob and Sistine, setting the stage for future developments in their relationship.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

In Chapter 5 of "The Tiger Rising," we find Rob summoned to the principal's office, which feels cramped and smells of pipe tobacco. Mr. Phelmer, the principal, expresses his concern about Rob, particularly regarding his legs and their ongoing issue. Rob's struggles with social interactions and school performance are addressed, highlighting his isolation. Mr. Phelmer asks if Rob has been diligent with the medicine prescribed by his doctor, which Rob insists he has been, though he avoids eye contact, staring instead at the wall covered with accolades.

The conversation takes a pivotal turn when Mr. Phelmer suggests that perhaps Rob should stay home for a few days to allow the medicine time to work. While this suggestion seems aimed at protecting both Rob and the other students, it also offers Rob a sense of relief. He feels a flicker of joy at the thought of not having to go to school. Embracing this newfound freedom, Rob agrees to the plan, earning a note from the principal to take home to his father.

As he leaves the office, Rob folds the note carefully, tucking it alongside a drawing of a tiger in his pocket. This symbolizes not only his escape from school but also his deep connection to the tiger, which represents his inner struggles and dreams. In that moment, Rob realizes a profound truth: his legs may never heal, but he has carved out a small sanctuary of freedom for



himself. The chapter encapsulates themes of isolation, freedom, and the triumph of inner strength over adversity, showcasing Rob's complex emotions and the beginning of his journey toward self-acceptance and joy.

Key Element	Description
Setting	Principal's office, cramped and smells of pipe tobacco
Characters	Rob, Mr. Phelmer (the principal)
Principal's Concern	Rob's isolation and struggles with legs, social interactions, and school performance
Medicine Discussion	Mr. Phelmer inquires if Rob has been taking his prescribed medicine
Rob's Reaction	Rob avoids eye contact, staring at wall accolades
Proposed Plan	Mr. Phelmer suggests Rob stay home for a few days
Rob's Feelings	Feels relief and joy about the idea of not attending school
Symbolism	Rob tucks a note from Mr. Phelmer and a drawing of a tiger in his pocket
Themes	Isolation, freedom, inner strength, self-acceptance
Conclusion	Rob finds a sanctuary of freedom, symbolizing his emotional journey despite his physical struggles



Chapter 6:

In Chapter 6 of "The Tiger Rising," Rob finds himself floating through a school day, feeling lighthearted because he knows he won't have to return. He avoids the lunchroom due to the presence of bullies Norton and Billy Threemonger and instead sits outside on a bench, lost in thought about a drawing he made of a tiger. Since losing his mother, food has lost its appeal, and he daydreams about transforming his drawing into wood.

His tranquil moment is shattered by the chaotic buzz of excitement from the lunchroom as Sistine Bailey marches confidently through the doors, soon to be targeted by a group of kids who throw something at her. Rob, initially frozen in place, feels a surge of protective instinct as he witnesses the scene unfold. Despite his reservations, he instinctively shouts to defend Sistine, urging the other kids to leave her alone. The situation escalates as tensions rise, and Rob's determination to stand up for her grows, prompting him to run away from the bullies who pursue him.

Though he can't fully comprehend why he feels compelled to help Sistine,

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of "The Tiger Rising," an unexpected day unfolds for Rob Horton, highlighting both his struggles and the emergence of a new connection. It begins with the recent discovery of a tiger, adding a thrilling element to the already tumultuous atmosphere of his life. On the bus home from school, Rob sits next to a new girl, Sistine Bailey. Her appearance is disheveled—her dress is torn, and she has a scrape on her arm, but her striking black eyes draw Rob's attention.

Sistine is fiery and direct, immediately confronting Rob and making it evident that she doesn't want to be there any more than he does. She expresses her disdain for their small town and lack of appreciation for culture, which makes Rob feel a mix of surprise and curiosity. When he reveals that he knows what the Sistine Chapel is, their conversation deepens; he unexpectedly shares details about his life, including his struggles with a disability that prevents him from attending school.

In a remarkable moment, Sistine places her hand on Rob's leg, asking to "catch" his condition so she can escape school. This gesture reveals her desire to connect and perhaps escape her own problems. Rob feels a fleeting warmth from her touch, reminiscent of his mother's gentleness, but he quickly pushes that thought aside. Their interaction is laced with tension as they navigate their social isolation amidst the chaotic noise of the other kids.



As they talk, Sistine's determination shines through; she insists on bringing Rob his homework, but Rob, still reeling from the vulnerability of sharing personal details, rejects the offer. The moment is interrupted when bullies, Norton and Billy, approach, relieving Rob of the pressure to speak further with Sistine by resorting to hostility. In this blend of connection and conflict, themes of loneliness, the longing for connection, and the struggle against one's circumstances emerge, painting a vivid picture of Rob's inner life while hinting at the potential friendship between him and Sistine.

Key Elements	Details
Character Introductions	Rob Horton and Sistine Bailey meet on the bus.
Sistine's Appearance	Disheveled with a torn dress and a scrape on her arm; has striking black eyes.
Themes	Loneliness, longing for connection, struggle against circumstances.
Interaction Dynamics	Sistine confronts Rob about their small town and shares a desire to escape; Rob feels both surprised and curious.
Rob's Vulnerability	Shares details about his disability preventing school attendance.
Connection Moment	Sistine touches Rob's leg, symbolizing her desire to connect and escape her issues.
Rob's Reaction	Feels warmth from her touch reminiscent of his mother but quickly pushes it aside.



Key Elements	Details
Homework Exchange	Sistine offers to bring Rob homework, but he declines.
Conflict Introduction	Interruption by bullies, Norton and Billy, adds tension to the moment.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of connection and vulnerability

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 7 of 'The Tiger Rising', you experience the power of opening up to someone new, even when it feels uncomfortable. As Rob finds a moment of warmth in his conversation with Sistine, it becomes clear that sharing your struggles and vulnerabilities can foster unexpected connections that may lighten the weight of loneliness. This chapter inspires you to embrace moments of courage in reaching out to others; it reminds you that vulnerability is not a weakness but a pathway to forming meaningful relationships and finding solace amid life's challenges. Just like Rob and Sistine, when you take a step toward connection, you might uncover the strength to confront both your fears and the world around you.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In Chapter 8 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, we find Rob and his father in their motel room, facing a note from the principal that concerns Rob's health. His father reads the letter with a sense of weariness, trying to understand the implications. Rob reassures him that what he has isn't contagious, but his father still suggests getting a doctor's note. The father encourages Rob to stand up to the boys who bully him, and this conversation brings a flicker of positivity as Rob imagines Sistine's fierce spirit, which makes him smile.

While his father is busy with maintenance work at the motel, Rob is tasked with helping out around the place. As they share a simple meal of overcooked macaroni and cheese, Rob's father expresses a desire to one day have a real kitchen, though Rob tries to hide his disappointment about their current situation. After dinner, Rob spends time carving a piece of wood. He intends to create a tiger but unexpectedly ends up sculpting Sistine instead. This moment reflects his feelings and thoughts about her, showcasing the theme of how art can be a personal expression of emotions.

As the night unfolds, Rob dreams of the tiger, envisioning it running free through the woods with Sistine riding on its back. This dream symbolizes Rob's longing for freedom and adventure, contrasting sharply with his current life's restrictions. The chapter encapsulates the bond between Rob



and his father, the relentless struggles they face, and Rob's emerging feelings for Sistine, all intertwined with the powerful imagery of the tiger that represents both fear and hope.

Key Elements	Description
Characters	Rob, Rob's Father, Sistine
Setting	Motel room
Plot Summary	Rob and his father discuss a note from the principal about Rob's health. They share a meal as Rob's father wishes for better living conditions. Rob carves wood, intending to create a tiger but shaping Sistine instead, reflecting his feelings for her.
Themes	Struggles with bullying, longing for freedom, expression through art, bond between father and son
Symbolism	The tiger symbolizes freedom and adventure, contrasting Rob's current life.
Conclusion	Rob's dreams and thoughts highlight his desire for a better life and his budding relationship with Sistine.

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Chapter 9:

In Chapter 9 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, we find Rob waking up early, propelled into a sense of responsibility by his father's insistence that he is now a "working man." The morning is shrouded in darkness and rain, but Rob finds a sense of comfort in the glow of the Kentucky Star sign outside their motel room, likening it to a personal shooting star. Despite this spark of hope, he hides his true feelings and wishes, as he's learned to keep his emotions locked away after the death of his mother.

Rob recalls the painful memory of her funeral, where bright sunshine felt harsh and overwhelming. The experience made him uncomfortable with affection from others, particularly the way people remarked on his resemblance to his mother. These memories weigh heavily on him, and he has made an unspoken rule: he will not cry. In the damp, rainy morning, he prefers the gloom over the sun, which triggers such painful recollections.

His father, consumed with his own grief and frustrations, attempts to connect with Rob over coffee, a small moment that offers a glimpse of tenderness.

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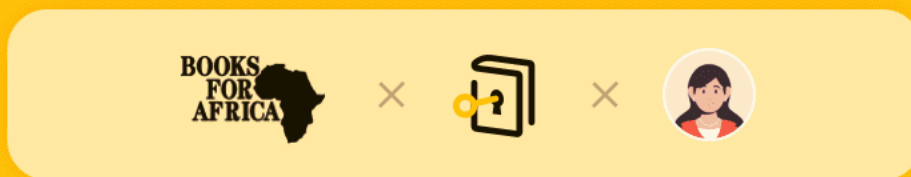
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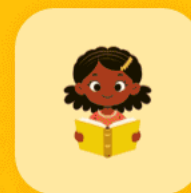
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Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 10 of "The Tiger Rising," Rob is busy sweeping the laundry room when Willie May, the housekeeper at the Kentucky Star motel, comes in. She expresses her frustration with her job, declaring she would prefer cleaning up after pigs than dealing with the disrespectful guests of the motel. Rob admires Willie May's unique beauty and strength, thinking about how he would have crafted her as a person if he could. Their conversation quickly shifts when she notices Rob isn't in school.

Rob awkwardly explains he's home because of the unfortunate condition of his legs, which have been broken out for six months. Willie May, wise and direct, comments on his situation and suggests he's holding in his sadness, which is manifesting physically in his legs. Her metaphor about sadness needing to rise to the heart strikes a chord with Rob, as he contemplates the emotional weight he carries.

Despite his initial skepticism, Rob absorbs her words. Willie May's no-nonsense attitude, coupled with her insistence that the school principal lacks common sense, exposes the absurdity of his worries. As she leaves, Rob feels a compelling urge to share his secret about the tiger he discovered in the woods, seeking someone who would believe him wholeheartedly.

This chapter weaves together themes of emotional struggles, the importance



of connection, and the weight of unexpressed sadness. Willie May serves as both a mentor and a grounding presence for Rob, helping him realize that he doesn't have to carry burdens alone, setting the stage for his journey toward healing and understanding.

Chapter	Summary
Chapter 10	<p>Rob sweeps the laundry room when Willie May, the motel housekeeper, expresses her frustration with disrespectful guests. Rob admires her strength and beauty. Their conversation reveals Rob's absence from school due to his legs being broken out for six months. Willie May suggests that Rob is holding in sadness, which manifests physically, prompting Rob to reflect on his emotional struggles. Her words resonate with him, and he begins to see the absurdity of his worries. As she leaves, Rob feels the urge to share his secret about the tiger he found, highlighting themes of connection and emotional burdens. Willie May acts as a mentor, guiding Rob toward healing.</p>

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Chapter 11 Summary:

That afternoon, Rob was quietly weeding outside the Kentucky Star motel when the school bus arrived, bringing with it the teasing taunts of Norton Threemonger and his sidekick, Billy. They mocked Rob for his illness, calling him “disease boy” and joking about leprosy, but Rob kept his head down, envisioning a fierce tiger brandishing its teeth at them. The torment faded away when he saw Sistine approaching. Dressed in a torn lime green dress, her knuckles bleeding, she handed him his homework, and despite his resolve to remain silent, he couldn’t help but feel concerned for her.

Sistine’s curiosity about the motel’s name sparked a brief, almost forced conversation. Rob’s responses were short and curt, reflecting his internal struggle to open up. When rain began to fall, Sistine stood, soaking and intense, as she scrutinized the motel and the blinking sign. In that moment, something within Rob shifted as he observed her determined expression and her marks of struggle.

Feeling a surge of bravery, Rob finally shared the secret he had kept to himself: “I know where there’s a tiger.” Sistine reacted not with disbelief, but with fierce interest, asking just one word, “Where?” This exchange marked a significant moment of connection between them; Rob realized he had found the right person to share his secret, suggesting a budding partnership driven by adventure and understanding. As they stood in the



rain, the scene reflects the themes of friendship, courage, and the longing to escape their realities.

Key Event	Description
Rob's Isolation	Rob is weeding outside the Kentucky Star motel when he faces bullying from Norton and Billy, who mock him for his illness.
Appearance of Sistine	Sistine arrives, dressed in a torn dress and with bloodied knuckles, and hands Rob his homework, showing concern for her.
Conversation Sparks	A brief, awkward conversation occurs regarding the motel's name, revealing Rob's internal struggle to connect.
Rain Scene	As it rains, Sistine is intense and focused, causing Rob to see her in a new light, prompting a shift in his feelings.
Rob's Revelation	Rob gathers courage to reveal his secret about knowing where a tiger is located, to which Sistine responds with enthusiasm.
Bonding Moment	This moment signifies a connection between Rob and Sistine, hinting at friendship, adventure, and mutual understanding.

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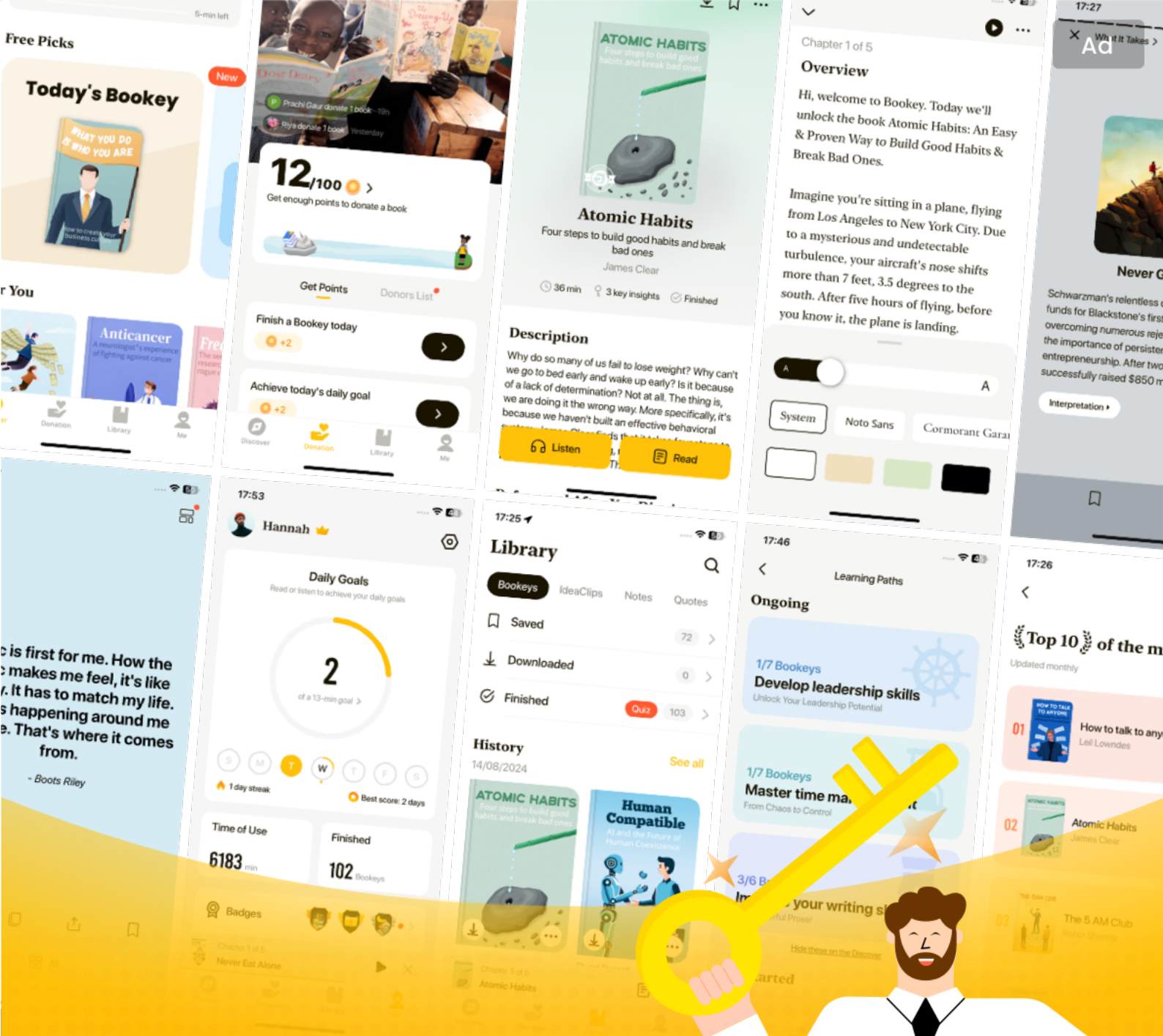
Chapter 12:

In Chapter 12 of "The Tiger Rising," Rob and Sistine venture into the woods, setting the stage for a deeper connection between them. Rob is initially hesitant about Sistine's bright dress and shiny shoes, but she asserts her dislike for it, suggesting he lend her some of his clothes. This moment underscores her bold personality and willingness to break away from convention.

Upon entering Rob's motel room, Sistine surveys the disheveled space, her eyes lingering on the unmade beds and the macaroni pan left from dinner. As she takes in the surroundings, she displays a mix of curiosity and judgment, much like her reactions to Rob and the world around her. Her attention shifts to Rob's wooden carvings, which he has painstakingly crafted. The pieces resonate with her, prompting an unexpected admiration. When she learns that Rob created them, she excitedly likens him to Michelangelo, calling him an artist, which fills Rob with both embarrassment and joy. This interaction highlights the budding friendship and mutual respect developing between the two characters.

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In this chapter of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, Rob and Sistine walk through a damp, dripping landscape, illustrating the heaviness of their surroundings—an emotional mirror to their troubled lives. Sistine shares insights about her mother, who has returned to Lister after her father's affair with his secretary, Bridgette. The revelation of her unstable family life weighs heavily on both kids, especially for Rob, who feels a rising loneliness thinking about Sistine's impending departure to live with her father.

Rob tries to redirect the conversation, expressing concern for Sistine's shoes, which she admits she hates along with all her clothes. The discussion drifts toward their families, revealing the disconnect between them. Rob's reluctance to share about his own mother, who has passed away, is palpable. Their conversation is laced with emotion, and Sistine's frustration grows as Rob maintains his silence, contrasting their approaches to vulnerability.

When Sistine angrily claims she doesn't care about Rob's secrets, she abruptly turns away, mirroring Rob's internal struggle to connect while masking his pain. Watching her walk away feels unbearable for Rob, as he recalls a dream where she rides a tiger. Impulsively, he calls out for her to wait and admits his mother's death—a significant breakthrough revealing his hidden sorrow.



Their shared moment of honesty leads to a renewed connection as they decide to walk back together toward the tiger. This chapter beautifully explores themes of loss, the quest for understanding, and the stark reality of childhood friendship strained by personal struggles, all set against the rich backdrop of their environment. Through simple yet vivid language and dialogue, DiCamillo captures the complexity of emotions that bind Rob and Sistine together, despite the barriers between their experiences.

Key Elements	Summary
Setting	Damp, dripping landscape reflecting the heaviness of Rob and Sistine's lives.
Sistine's Family Situation	Sistine shares about her mother returning after the father's affair, highlighting her unstable family.
Rob's Emotions	Rob feels rising loneliness and concern about Sistine's departure to live with her father.
Conversation Themes	Discussion about family reveals disconnect; Rob hesitates to share about his deceased mother.
Sistine's Frustration	Sistine gets angry at Rob's silence, contrasting their vulnerabilities.
Rob's Breakthrough	In an impulsive moment, Rob admits his mother's death, marking a significant emotional breakthrough.
Renewed Connection	Their honesty rekindles their friendship as they decide to walk back together toward the tiger.
Themes	Explores loss, understanding, and childhood friendship amidst personal struggles.



Key Elements	Summary
Writing Style	DiCamillo uses simple, vivid language to convey deep emotional complexity between the characters.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of vulnerability in building connections

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, you see how Rob's breakthrough moment of sharing his pain allows him to connect with Sistine, which is a powerful reminder that vulnerability can pave the way for authentic relationships. Just like Rob, you may often find yourself hesitating to share your struggles out of fear or shame. Yet, it's in those moments of honesty that true bonds are formed, providing both solace and understanding in times of emotional turmoil. Embracing your vulnerability not only fosters deeper connections with others but also promotes healing and growth within yourself.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, Rob and Sistine confront the reality of a tiger trapped in a shabby cage surrounded by rusted chainlink fence. The tiger, with its striking beauty, captivates Sistine, who marvels at its grace, comparing it to a famous poem about a tiger's brightness. Rob, cautious about approaching the tiger too closely, feels a mix of admiration and unease, fearing what the animal might do.

Sistine's strong sense of justice ignites as she expresses her belief that it is wrong for the tiger to be confined. She proposes that they could set him free, a notion that sends Rob into a state of panic. He feels uncomfortable with the idea of liberation, reminding her that it's not their tiger to release. Sistine insists forcefully that they must act to save the tiger, highlighting her determination and fierce spirit.

As they debate the tiger's fate, he seems to listen, momentarily stopping his pacing. The tension escalates when Rob hears a car approaching, realizing it's Mr. Beauchamp, the owner. They quickly flee into the woods, with Rob instinctively grabbing Sistine's delicate hand. As they run, a warm feeling spreads within Rob, a sense of joy and connection to Sistine despite their urgency. Her irritation with his habitual shoulder shrugging brings a moment of shared laughter, illuminating a blossoming bond between them.



In this chapter, key themes of freedom, compassion, and companionship surface as Rob grapples with the tiger's plight and his own feelings. The chapter vividly illustrates their contrasting personalities—Sistine's boldness and passion clashing with Rob's cautious nature—and captures the innocence of childhood friendship, underscoring the transformative power of happiness and shared experiences.

Element	Summary
Setting	Rob and Sistine encounter a tiger trapped in a cage.
Sistine's Perspective	Sistine is captivated by the tiger's beauty and grace, comparing it to a poem.
Rob's Feelings	Rob admires the tiger but feels uneasy about its situation.
Conflict	Sistine advocates for setting the tiger free; Rob panics at the thought.
Key Themes	Freedom, compassion, and companionship highlighted through their debate.
Character Dynamics	Sistine's determination contrasts with Rob's cautious nature.
Climax	They hear Mr. Beauchamp's car and flee into the woods, showcasing their bond.
Moment of Connection	Rob and Sistine share a laugh while escaping, indicating a budding friendship.



Chapter 15:

As Rob and Sistine return to the motel parking lot, laughter fills the night air, highlighting their blooming friendship. However, the moment takes a turn when Rob's father appears at the door, shrouded in the dim light from their room. The conversation reveals a contrast between the carefree spirit of Rob and Sistine and the reality of Rob's father's authority.

Rob stands straight, respect evident in his demeanor, while Sistine, confident and bold, makes her presence known. Their interaction reflects the different worlds they come from, with Rob's father questioning Sistine about her whereabouts and parental guidance. Sistine, undeterred, asserts her independence, looking for change to call her mother. This small exchange captures her fierce spirit, contrasting with Rob's reserved nature.

Rob's father hands over coins for the payphone but his concern for Rob's safety lingers, evident in his command to return indoors. As they head into the motel room, Rob's earlier happiness fades. He experiences a wave of nostalgia, recalling brighter times when his mother was alive, filling their

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Chapter 16 Summary:

In Chapter 16 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, Rob waits on the curb outside their motel room for his friend Sistine, who is inside making a phone call. He awkwardly holds her green dress, wrapped in a grocery bag, trying to keep it safe from the grease on his legs. When Sistine returns, she shares that her mother is coming to get her and talks about her unusual name, which comes from the Sistine Chapel where her parents met. They share a moment looking at the stars, with Sistine expressing a desire to free a tiger they discovered, lamenting that the tiger can't look up at the stars.

The mood shifts as Sistine asks about Rob's mother, who died of cancer, prompting an emotional response. Rob reveals he isn't supposed to talk about her because they moved to escape the memories. Their conversation reflects their shared pain and isolation. Just as Rob shares his mother's name, a car approaches—it's Sistine's mother, looking perplexed by her daughter's appearance. The interaction is tense; Mrs. Bailey presses Sistine to come home, revealing a strained relationship. Sistine's defiance surfaces when she calls her mother a liar, showcasing her frustration and desire for agency. As the car drives away, Rob quietly reflects on his mother's name, revealing deep, unexpressed feelings of loss and longing. The chapter captures poignant themes of grief, connection, and the struggle for freedom, both in the context of their lost loved ones and the tiger they hope to release.

Element	Summary
Setting	Outside a motel room, Rob waits for Sistine.
Characters	Rob, Sistine, Sistine's mother (Mrs. Bailey)
Plot	Sistine shares news about her mother coming to get her, and they discuss their shared pain over loss.
Themes	Grief, connection, longing for freedom.
Interactions	Sistine expresses frustration with her mother, leading to a tense confrontation.
Emotions	Sadness, defiance, yearning.
Ending	Rob reflects on his mother's name as they leave, symbolizing his unresolved grief.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

The next morning, Rob is in the laundry room with Willie May, folding sheets and chewing gum. His mind is troubled; he's been thinking about the tiger and what Sistine said about setting it free. Seeking advice, he asks Willie May if she has ever been to a zoo. She recounts a visit to a nearby zoo, emphasizing how unpleasant it was for the animals, but she doesn't give a clear answer on whether they might mind being caged.

Intrigued, Rob presses further, inquiring if it's wrong to keep animals locked up. Willie May then shares a poignant memory from her childhood about a parakeet named Cricket that her father gave her. She vividly recalls how she held the tiny bird, feeling its heartbeat and being enchanted by its song. However, unable to bear seeing it caged, she decided to let it go, which led to a harsh punishment from her father. This moment is bittersweet for her, yet she finds solace in the thought of Cricket visiting her dreams.

Rob is affected by Willie May's story; he feels a deep sorrow as he recalls a painful memory of his own—a time when he witnessed his father shoot a bird. This memory fills him with a sense of loss and regret, underscoring the emotional weight of the conversation. He tries to express his feelings about the caged tiger but finds it hard to articulate. Willie May's final remark, "Who don't know something in a cage?" resonates with him, reinforcing the theme of confinement, whether of animals or the emotions we carry, and



suggests that many share a similar understanding of loss and freedom.

As they fold the sheets in silence, Rob is left reflecting on this painful connection to the idea of being trapped—both for the tiger and for himself, intensifying the sense of isolation and yearning for freedom that permeates the story.

Key Elements	Summary
Characters	Rob, Willie May
Setting	Laundry room, morning
Main Conflict	Rob's struggle with the idea of the caged tiger and the concept of freedom based on his conversation with Willie May.
Willie May's Experience	Recalls visiting a zoo; shares a childhood memory about a parakeet that she had to release, highlighting the pain of confinement.
Rob's Reflection	Feels sorrow from Willie May's story and recalls his own painful memory of witnessing his father's violent act against a bird.
Themes	Confinement, loss, freedom, emotional struggles
Final Insight	Willie May's remark about being in a cage resonates with Rob, symbolizing shared experiences of loss and yearning for freedom.



Chapter 18:

In Chapter 18 of "The Tiger Rising," Rob is busy sweeping the walkway at the Kentucky Star motel when he encounters Beauchamp, a boisterous man with an unmistakable appearance and a toothpick always in his mouth. Beauchamp's larger-than-life personality bubbles over as he approaches Rob, teasing him about his lack of a mother's rules and inquiring about his school status. Rob replies that he's sick, and Beauchamp seizes the moment to offer Rob an intriguing, albeit dubious, opportunity to make some money by helping him with a "wild animal" he has on his property.

As Beauchamp talks about his plans for this so-called wild animal, excitement builds in Rob's heart, hinting at an adventure ahead. Beauchamp invites him to hop into his jeep and take a ride to see what he has, dismissing Rob's hesitations about his work. Once in the vehicle, Rob notices a heavy, smelly bag in the back and discovers it has blood on his fingers, revealing the grisly nature of Beauchamp's "deals."

Beauchamp's reckless driving into the woods adds an element of thrill, and

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Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 19 of "The Tiger Rising," Rob is taken on a thrilling yet nerve-racking ride by Beauchamp to see a tiger that he owns. Beauchamp jokingly instructs Rob to keep his eyes closed as they approach, building suspense. The moment Rob opens his eyes and sees the tiger, he is awestruck, although he struggles to show genuine excitement.

Beauchamp boasts about the tiger, claiming it's a sign of his rugged manliness and how he came to acquire it—by accepting it as payment from someone who owed him money. His plans for the tiger are both outlandish and chilling; he contemplates using it to attract customers to his motel or even killing it for its fur. To Rob's dismay, Beauchamp reveals that he needs help feeding the tiger, offering him two dollars for each feeding session.

As Beauchamp hands Rob a set of keys, he warns him with a mix of intimidation and mockery, emphasizing that the big keys could lead to disaster if used incorrectly. The grim atmosphere thickens when Beauchamp demonstrates how to feed the tiger through a small door, revealing a wild and predatory creature that seems both majestic and menacing.

Rob feels a pang of connection between the tiger and his friend, Sistine; he realizes she would resonate with the fierce spirit of the tiger and would advocate for its freedom. The intense burden of having the keys to the cage

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weighs on Rob, symbolizing his conflicted feelings about captivity and freedom. As he rides back, he feels both the thrill of the moment and the moral weight of his knowledge, foreshadowing a pivotal decision about the tiger's fate that he anticipates sharing with Sistine. This chapter captures themes of power, the struggle for agency, and the deep connection between humans and animals, setting the stage for future choices that challenge Rob's integrity and courage.

Key Elements	Summary
Characters	Rob, Beauchamp, Sistine
Setting	On the way to see the tiger
Plot Point	Rob visits Beauchamp's tiger, builds suspense with eyes closed
Beauchamp's Attitude	Boasts about the tiger and intends to exploit it for profit
Rob's Feelings	Awe at the tiger but struggles to express excitement
Symbolism of Keys	Represents power, responsibility, and moral conflict
Connection with Sistine	Rob feels Sistine would understand the tiger's plight
Themes	Power, agency, connection between humans and animals
Foreshadowing	Hints at Rob's future decisions regarding the tiger's fate



Chapter 20 Summary:

In Chapter 20 of "The Tiger Rising," the tension builds around the choices Rob and Sistine face regarding the fate of the tiger they've discovered. Rob feels the weight of a secret he carries—the keys to the tiger's cage, given to him by Beauchamp, who has instructed him to keep the tiger's existence, and their deal, a secret. When Sistine, wearing Rob's clothes, excitedly rushes to see the tiger, she brings a sense of urgency and determination. She believes they must save the tiger, citing how it could potentially live alongside panthers in the wild, revealing her adventurous spirit.

Their conversation quickly escalates as Sistine expresses her desire to set the tiger free, having learned about big cats from a library book. Rob, however, feels a heavy responsibility and concern for the tiger's safety, recalling a story about a bird that didn't survive after being released. He doesn't want to act recklessly, leading to a clash between their perspectives. Sistine's frustration mounts as she shakes the cage, desperate to make a change; her anger extends to the place they are in and her situation.

In a poignant moment, as Sistine breaks down in tears, Rob is struck by the depth of her emotions. He instinctively comforts her, drawing on memories of his own mother's affection, which emphasizes their shared struggle and vulnerability. His words, "I got you," echo the nurturing bond he once had, symbolizing a connection not only to Sistine but also to his own lost past.



This moment highlights themes of empathy, the need for connection, and the longing to protect, as they both grapple with their shared experience of feeling trapped—whether by circumstances, expectations, or grief. As the tiger paces in its cage, it becomes a powerful symbol of their own desires for freedom and understanding in a world that often doesn't allow it.

Key Points	Details
Characters	Rob and Sistine
Conflict	Choices regarding the fate of the tiger they discovered
Rob's Secret	Holds keys to the tiger's cage, instructed by Beauchamp to keep it a secret
Sistine's Urgency	Wears Rob's clothes, eager to save the tiger, believes it could live in the wild
Discussion on Freedom	Sistine wants to free the tiger based on knowledge from a book; Rob feels responsible for its safety
Emotional Climax	Sistine breaks down in tears; Rob comforts her, recalling memories of his mother
Thematic Elements	Empathy, connection, protection, shared feelings of being trapped
Tiger Symbolism	The tiger represents their desires for freedom and understanding

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Chapter 21:

As dusk settles over the Kentucky Star motel, Rob and Sistine walk back inside, a palpable silence hanging between them. Sistine, still grappling with her feelings about the tiger they decided to release, breaks the quiet with a tired declaration that she needs to call her mother. Rob, eager to support her, follows without hesitation.

As they approach the laundry room, they encounter Willie May, a character full of mystery and wisdom. Leaning against her car and puffing on a cigarette, she acknowledges Rob with a casual "Boo" and points out that Sistine is following him. Rob introduces the two, and a tense interaction ensues. Sistine's sharp attitude reveals her underlying anger and walls, while Willie May's straightforwardness confronts Sistine's emotions head-on. Willie May, recognizing the anger festering within Sistine, offers her a piece of gum, bridging an unexpected connection. Rob holds his breath, wishing for an alliance to form between the two.

Their exchange reveals profound truths; Willie May sees through their

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Chapter 22 Summary:

In this chapter of "The Tiger Rising," we find Rob navigating a tense situation at home with his father, who is clearly upset about finding a bag of rotten meat hidden under Rob's bed, meant for feeding a tiger. The confrontation reveals Rob's father's deep frustrations with his work and life, as he feels underappreciated and insulted by Beauchamp, who is providing them with unworthy meat. Despite Rob feeling the urge to defend Beauchamp, he wisely holds his tongue, aware of the volatile emotions simmering within his father.

As the confrontation escalates, Rob's father contemplates taking violent action against Beauchamp, revealing his anger and frustration that manifest in an eagerness to grab his gun. Rob, however, remembers the calming influence of his mother, who used to soothe his father's rage with gentle words and comforting gestures—something Rob feels ill-equipped to replicate. Instead of intervening further, Rob retreats, leaving his father to stare at the locked gun case that symbolizes his own restrained anger.

Outside, Rob seeks solace under the Kentucky Star sign, where he tries to carve a piece of wood despite his distracted mind, burdened by his father's fury and the tears of his friend Sistine. As memories of a happier time with his mother flood back, he recalls a moment spent lying beneath an oak tree, connecting with the beauty and richness of nature. This memory becomes a



refuge for him, filling his thoughts with color and calm.

In a therapeutic moment of creativity, Rob carves a bird that resembles Willie May's Cricket, bringing life to his creation and allowing him to momentarily escape the realities of his home life. When he returns to the motel room, he finds his father asleep, reflecting a weary man caught in the grip of his troubles.

This chapter encapsulates the themes of anger, memory, and the search for solace amidst turmoil. Rob's attempts to understand his father and find peace through art highlight the complexity of their relationship, along with the struggles they face in their lives. The imagery of the green leaves and the carved bird serve as symbols of hope and beauty, contrasting with the harshness of their circumstances, ultimately portraying the resilience found in creative expression and memory.

Key Themes	Summary
Home Tensions	Rob's father is upset over rotten meat meant for a tiger, revealing his frustration with work and life.
Rob's Dilemma	Rob feels the urge to defend Beauchamp but chooses to remain silent, understanding his father's volatile emotions.
Violent Thoughts	Rob's father contemplates violent actions against Beauchamp, highlighting his anger.
Calming	Rob remembers his mother's calming influence, contrasting with his

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Key Themes	Summary
Memories	current inability to soothe his father.
Nature's Refuge	Rob seeks solace under a sign, carving wood despite his troubled thoughts about home and Sistine's tears.
Creative Escape	Rob carves a bird, momentarily escaping his reality through creativity and connection to memories of his mother.
Symbolism	The carved bird and green leaves symbolize hope and beauty amidst harsh circumstances.
Resilience	Rob's experiences illustrate the themes of anger, memory, and finding solace through art and nature.

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Chapter 23 Summary:

The next morning, Rob feels a mix of excitement and anxiety as he sets out to find Willie May, carrying the keys to the tiger cage and a wooden bird he made for her. He finds her in the laundry room, where she's relaxing with a cigarette and a distant look in her eyes. They exchange greetings, and Rob reveals he has crafted something special for her, but he hesitates and worries about its quality. Willie May senses his apprehension and prompts him to share what he made.

When he finally presents the wooden bird, Willie May closes her eyes and holds out her hand, trusting him despite her initial reluctance. Rob places the bird in her palm, and even though she doesn't immediately look at it, her acknowledgment that it represents Cricket—the bird she loves—speaks volumes. She hints at her deep connection to the object, indicating that it brings her comfort despite it not being a real bird.

Their conversation reveals a nugget of wisdom from Willie May: "I ain't got to do nothing except stay black and die," capturing her acceptance of life's hardships while highlighting resilience. When asked about his woodworking skills, Rob mentions learning from his mother, prompting a mutual recognition of their shared circumstances.

As they work together, Rob helps Willie May with her chores, stripping

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dirty sheets and staying close to her. Throughout the morning, the keys to the tiger cage jingle in his pocket, a physical reminder of the impending choice he faces when Sistine comes home from school, eager to set the tiger free. This chapter encapsulates themes of hope, connection, and the emotional weight of one's choices, as Rob navigates his newfound friendship and the responsibilities tied to his secret.

Key Points	Description
Rob's Morning	Rob feels excitement and anxiety about finding Willie May and presents her with a wooden bird he made.
Willie May	She is found in the laundry room, appearing relaxed yet distant, and they exchange greetings.
Wooden Bird	Rob presents the bird to Willie May, who closes her eyes, signaling her appreciation and connection to the object.
Connection	Willie May reveals her emotional bond to the bird as it represents Cricket, her beloved bird, providing her comfort.
Wisdom	Willie May shares a poignant quote about acceptance and resilience amidst life's hardships.
Shared Circumstances	Rob shares his woodworking skills learned from his mother, leading to mutual recognition of their struggles.
Rob's Responsibilities	Rob helps Willie May with chores while the keys to the tiger cage serve as a reminder of the choice he faces regarding the tiger.
Themes	The chapter reflects themes of hope, connection, and the emotional weight of personal choices.



Chapter 24:

In Chapter 24 of "The Tiger Rising," we meet Sistine, who steps off a bus looking vibrant but injured, with a skinned knee and a swollen eye. Her first words are directed at Rob, asking about Willie May, the so-called prophetess. As they talk, it's clear that Sistine is a fighter, someone who refuses to back down and is willing to confront challenges head-on. She reveals that she is in trouble for wearing Rob's clothes to school, but instead of backing away, she seeks answers about a tiger they've kept hidden.

Rob, more cautious, tries to temper Sistine's aggression, suggesting that sometimes it's better to walk away from fights. But Sistine passionately insists on fighting back, displaying her fiery spirit. Her determination leads them both to find Willie May, who is busy vacuuming. Their interaction is charged, as Sistine demands answers about the tiger, and Willie May reacts with playful aggression at first.

As they converse, Willie May reveals a bird she's holding, and it becomes a moment of beauty that captivates Sistine, reminding Rob of why he admires

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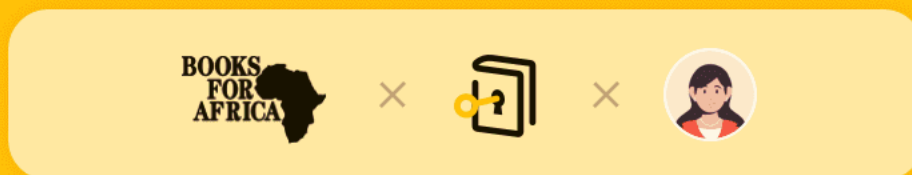
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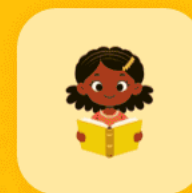
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Chapter 25 Summary:

In this chapter of "The Tiger Rising," Rob, Sistine, and Willie May walk in silence through the woods, each absorbed in their thoughts. When they reach the tiger's cage, Willie May expresses her outrage at the idea that someone like Beauchamp could own such a majestic creature. Sistine challenges Rob to set the tiger free, believing strongly in the rightness of doing so. However, Willie May counters her argument by emphasizing the realities of survival for the tiger if released. These conflicting views create tension among the characters, particularly between Sistine and Rob.

As Rob grapples with the weight of their conversation, he feels a sense of sad relief when Willie May doesn't pressure him to unlock the cage. Sistine's fervent belief in her father's impending arrival further alienates her, leading her to lash out at Rob with hurtful words. Her emotions run high as she claims to hate him and hopes never to see him again. Rob is deeply affected by her outburst, feeling the sting of her words as if they were physically painful.

Willie May intervenes, trying to soothe Rob's hurt, and she expresses a desire to see the tiger rise up and confront Beauchamp for his cruelty. This idea resonates with Rob, blending the symbol of the tiger with his own buried sadness. Inspired by Willie May's words, Rob makes a profound realization about his feelings and the tiger's situation. The chapter ends with



Rob feeling a sense of clarity about his next steps, as the weight of his emotions comes to rest on him, guiding him toward action. Overall, this chapter explores themes of freedom, the struggle between right and wrong, and the inner battles we face when dealing with pain and loss.

Key Elements	Details
Characters	Rob, Sistine, Willie May
Setting	Woods, tiger's cage
Conflict	Sistine wants to free the tiger; Willie May stresses survival realities.
Character Dynamics	Tension between Sistine and Rob due to differing views on freedom and responsibility.
Sistine's Emotions	Lashes out at Rob, claims to hate him, feeling alienated due to her father's absence.
Willie May's Role	Tries to comfort Rob and voices a desire to see the tiger confront Beauchamp.
Themes	Freedom, moral dilemmas, pain, and loss.
Rob's Realization	Finds clarity about his feelings and the tiger's situation, guiding him towards action.



Chapter 26 Summary:

In Chapter 26 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, Rob is determined to let the tiger go and runs to find Sistine, calling her name as he spots her in her vibrant orange dress. Although Sistine is initially resistant and claims she's not speaking to him, she stops to listen when he reveals his plan to set the tiger free. Rob's excitement is palpable as he brandishes the keys to the tiger's cage, indicating he's serious about following through with his intention, especially for Sistine's sake.

However, their moment is interrupted by Beauchamp, a threatening figure who pulls up in a red jeep, testing Rob's courage. Beauchamp's boisterous personality and inappropriate comments create tension; he even refers to Sistine as if he owns the moment. Despite Rob's unease, Sistine surprises him by responding sweetly to Beauchamp, showcasing her confidence and defiance.

After Beauchamp leaves, Sistine observes that he's actually afraid of the tiger, and Rob reflects on this newfound understanding of fear. This realization deepens their connection and highlights the themes of vulnerability and strength. As they discuss her father, it's clear Sistine wants to move beyond that pain. She asserts that it doesn't matter to her; what truly matters is the tiger. With a shared sense of purpose, they decide it's time to set the tiger free, symbolizing their mutual desire to escape their own



struggles and embrace freedom.

Chapter	Main Events	Themes
Chapter 26	<p>Rob is determined to free the tiger and seeks out Sistine.</p> <p>Sistine initially resists but listens when Rob mentions his plan.</p> <p>Beauchamp interrupts their conversation, threatening Rob's resolve.</p> <p>Sistine responds confidently to Beauchamp, displaying her strength.</p> <p>Afterward, they discuss fear and their personal struggles.</p> <p>They resolve to set the tiger free together, representing their desire for liberation.</p>	<p>Themes of courage and resilience.</p> <p>Understanding fear and vulnerability.</p> <p>The desire for freedom and escaping personal pain.</p>

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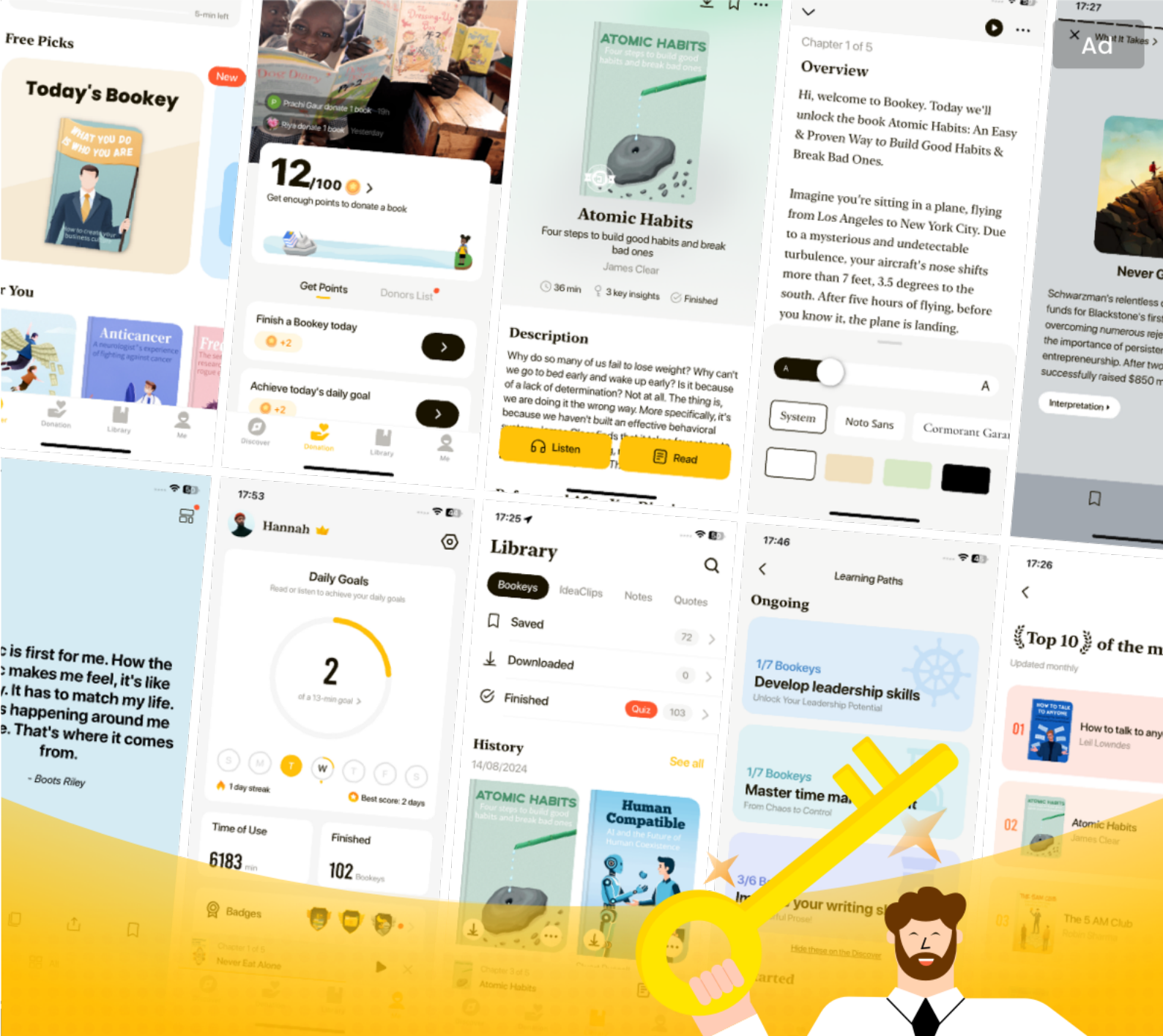
Chapter 27:

In this thrilling moment from "The Tiger Rising," Rob and Sistine are on the brink of a significant and emotional act—they are about to free a tiger from its cage. With anticipation, Rob skillfully unlocks the first three locks, a task that feels almost magical and fills him with wonder. Sistine is eager, pushing him to hurry as they prepare to open the door and release the tiger. Rob is filled with fear, worried about what might happen if the tiger attacks them, but Sistine reassures him that gratitude will keep them safe because they are the tiger's "emancipators."

As Rob swings the door open, they jump back, expecting the tiger to jump out. However, the tiger remains inside, pacing and unaware of its freedom. Sistine's determination shines through as she shakes the cage, demanding the tiger to leave. Rob joins her, frustrated and desperate, shaking the cage and yelling at the tiger to escape. In a moment of shared energy and anger, both children implore the tiger to break free, revealing their urgency and connection to this majestic creature.

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Chapter 28 Summary:

In Chapter 28 of "The Tiger Rising," emotions reach a boiling point for Rob and Sistine as they confront the aftermath of tragedy. The chapter opens with Sistine praising Rob for a decision he made, but his thoughts drift to a painful memory involving a character named Cricket, hinting at his internal struggle. Suddenly, they hear Willie May's frantic voice, followed by the crack of a gunshot, which sends them into a state of shock.

When Willie May finds them, she celebrates their safety, but Rob feels hollow, not whole without his beloved tiger. As they return to the scene, Rob's world shatters when he sees his father standing over the tiger's lifeless body, rifle in hand. Consumed by grief and rage, he confronts his father, screaming that the tiger was his and blaming him for the loss. This moment escalates into a visceral conflict when Rob lashes out physically and verbally, expressing a deep-seated resentment toward his father for taking away not just the tiger but a piece of his heart linked to his deceased mother.

Amid the chaos, Rob demands his father acknowledge his mother's name, revealing a shared grief binding them. His father's whispered confession of "Caroline" breaks the tension and draws them into a poignant embrace, establishing a moment of connection in the midst of suffering. They recognize their mutual need for each other in their shared loss, though they both mourn a love they cannot reclaim.



The emotional strain leads Rob to tears, marking a cathartic release as he acknowledges the void left by his mother and the tiger. Willie May's presence serves as a grounding force, reminding them both of the reality they face. As Rob approaches the tiger one last time, he feels a wave of sorrow, and Sistine joins him, suggesting they honor the tiger with a funeral, recognizing its beauty and significance.

This chapter beautifully captures themes of grief, connection, and the struggle to find solace after loss. The bond between Rob and his father is tested, revealing vulnerabilities and the need for healing as they come to terms with their pain, while the tiger symbolizes both freedom and the fragility of life. Together, they prepare to give the tiger a respectful farewell, acknowledging its beauty and the impact it had on their lives.

Aspect	Summary
Chapter Number	28
Main Characters	Rob, Sistine, Willie May, Rob's father
Emotional State	Confrontation of grief and tragedy
Opening Event	Sistine praises Rob, but he recalls painful memories related to Cricket
Triggering	Gunshot heard; panic ensues



Aspect	Summary
Incident	
Rob's Reaction	Feels hollow without the tiger; grief intensifies upon seeing the tiger dead
Conflict	Rob confronts his father about the tiger's death; physical and verbal outburst
Shared Grief	Rob demands his father acknowledge his mother; they bond over shared loss
Resolution Moment	Father whispers "Caroline"; they embrace, revealing vulnerability and need for connection
Willie May's Role	Serves as a grounding force amid chaos
Closure for the Tiger	Rob and Sistine plan a funeral for the tiger, honoring its life
Themes	Grief, connection, struggle for solace, fragility of life



Chapter 29 Summary:

In Chapter 29 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, Rob and his father dig a grave for the tiger amidst the rain, marking a poignant moment filled with sorrow and reflection. As they finish, Willie May insists that they should say some words over the tiger before burying him. Sistine steps forward, reciting a beautiful poem that captures the essence of the tiger and evokes deep emotions within Rob, prompting tears that he fears might never end.

When Sistine finishes, she encourages Rob to share his thoughts, but all he can express is his love for the tiger. Willie May, acknowledging her complicated feelings about animals in cages, offers a small wooden bird as companionship for the tiger in his final resting place. Rob's father, perhaps feeling the weight of his actions, admits he had to shoot the tiger for Rob's sake, drawing a brief moment of connection between him and Rob.

As the burial proceeds, Rob feels a flicker of sunlight on his arm, a symbol of hope. Sistine soon blames herself for the tiger's death, but Rob reassures her he has no regrets about what transpired. They discuss plans to create a headstone and bring flowers to honor the tiger's memory, deepening their bond as friends. Sistine apologizes for previous hurtful words, and as they walk back hand in hand, Rob feels a newfound lightness, as if shedding the weight of grief and lingering guilt. This chapter deftly weaves themes of



loss, friendship, and the healing power of connection, showcasing transformative moments for both Rob and Sistine as they navigate their complex emotions surrounding the tiger's fate.

Key Elements	Description
Setting	Rainy atmosphere during the burial of the tiger.
Characters Involved	Rob, Rob's father, Willie May, Sistine
Event	Rob and his father dig a grave for the tiger.
Key Moment	Sistine recites a poignant poem for the tiger, evoking deep emotions.
Rob's Feelings	Overwhelmed with sorrow, finds tears that seem endless.
Willie May's Gesture	Offers a small wooden bird for companionship to the tiger.
Father-Son Dynamic	Father admits to shooting the tiger for Rob's sake, creating a connection.
Symbols	A flicker of sunlight symbolizes hope during the burial.
Sistine's Regret	Blames herself for the tiger's death; Rob reassures her.
Plans for Remembrance	They plan to create a headstone and bring flowers for the tiger.
Themes	Loss, friendship, healing power of connection.
Outcome	Rob and Sistine deepen their bond and Rob feels a sense of lightness.



Chapter 30:

In Chapter 30 of "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo, the bond between Rob and his father deepens, revealing complex emotions surrounding loss and the future. After applying medicine to Rob's legs, his father serenades him with a song that reminds them both of Rob's late mother, Caroline, creating a poignant connection with their shared history. As they talk, Rob learns he must confess to Beauchamp about letting the tiger go, a difficult truth he feels ready to face, especially now that he views Beauchamp as the real coward. His father's support is evident as he plans to help Rob through this challenging moment, even if it risks his job, demonstrating a willingness to stand by his son despite his own fears.

Rob's feelings are illustrated through a dream where he and Sistine chase a vibrant bird emerging from the tiger's grave. This dream symbolizes hope and freedom, suggesting that Rob is starting to find joy again, influenced largely by his relationship with Sistine. Waking up, Rob contemplates crafting a wooden tiger for Sistine, reflecting on the happiness this creation might bring her. This desire to create something for his friend showcases his

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