DIRECTIONS

- Read three (3) chapters at a time then answer the questions below.
- Write your answers directly below the questions. Use the text to answer the questions. Direct quotations and paraphrasing are encouraged. Include the page number, when possible, to support your answer.

Chapters 1-3

1. What is the effect of having chapter one told through the eyes of a child? How might this affect the reader’s response?

2. Clarify how Draper indirectly characterizes Gerald’s mother in these chapters. Does this characterization successfully create empathy for Gerald as a protagonist?

3. Juxtapose the relationship of Gerald and Aunt Queen with that of Gerald and his mother. Why might the author have created such as stark contrast between them?
Chapters 4-6

1. What is the role of religion, or faith for Aunt Queen? What does Aunt Queen’s physical condition indicate about her faith and resiliency?

2. Discuss the character of Jordan Sparks, using specific details from the text. Does he have any redeeming qualities, or does Draper create Jordan’s character as a clear antagonist?

3. Discuss the character of Angel, pulling specific details from the text. What is implied about her life and family, prior to moving from Atlanta?
Chapters 7-9
1. Clarify how Monique’s attentiveness to Jordan is used as foreshadowing of the neglect that occurs with Angel. Relate this to the secret that Jordan demands Angel keep from Monique and Gerald.

2. Following the death of Aunt Queen, Gerald’s life becomes less enjoyable. How might the setting (various aspects of the apartment) be symbolic of how miserable Gerald has become?

Chapters 10-12
1. When confronted with the reality of Jordan’s abuse, Monique’s incredulity is disturbing, but is it realistic? Consider how Monique’s character develops from the start of the novel through these chapters.
2. Contrast the reactions of Monique and Mr. Washington, to the allegations of Jordan’s abuse. What might the author be emphasizing to the readers about parenting and family?

Chapters 13-15

1. What might be foreshadowed by Mr. Washington’s unwavering support of Gerald and Angel throughout the trial?

2. Would Monique be considered a dynamic or static character at this point in the novel? Her reason for going to the trial should be considered here.
3. What roles do friends and activities play in these chapters, in terms creating normalcy for the Gerald and Angel? Does the importance placed on these friends and activities seem realistic given the typical priorities of most adolescents?

**Chapters 16-18**

1. Does Gerald’s physical and emotional growth foreshadow the possibility of a dynamic shift in his character, and in the story?

2. How does the tragedy with Monique set the stage for the story to near its climax? Consider Angel’s depression and Gerald’s reaction to Jordan.
Chapters 19-21
1. Which characters react appropriately to Monique’s accident? And which do not? What is inferred through their individual reactions?

2. Who kept in touch with Gerald to help him? And how is this character created in contrast to Jordan?

Chapters 22-24
1. Was Robbie Washington's death foreshadowed earlier in the novel? Consider the way in which the author presents Gerald’s joy and then subsequent pain.
Study Guide for *Forged by Fire*, by Sharon Draper
Summer Reading for Advanced EL English

2. Clarify how the development of Gerald’s character sets up the story’s climax, and makes it plausible?

3. Why is it necessary for the Jordan’s character to die in the fire? Consider the normal trajectory of a story.

**Answer the two questions below on a separate sheet of paper.**


2. Think of the characters in the story—Gerald, Aunt Queen, Monique, Angel, Jordan Sparks. What does the story say about people in general? In what ways does it remind you of people you have known or experiences you have had? You may also write about stories you have read or movies or television shows you have seen. Use examples from the story to explain your thinking.