

The Easy

Was it just an easy way out, or was it merely precautions of the conscientious student? The first week of school, tables were covered with Cliff's Notes as students crammed those last few minutes before tests on summer reading books.

Though there were those who tried to slide by without reading the book, the majority of the students stressed that Cliff's Notes were only used as a quick refresher on books they had read several weeks earlier. As Tammy Beach stated, "I just wanted to make sure I got all the details I could have missed when I read the book."

Shannan Cone admitted that because time ran out, she had to turn to Cliff's Notes in order to catch up on the ending of the plot.

Of course, there were those who tried to get by without reading the book, and yes, the teachers could tell. After grading the test papers, Ms. Crawford warned that "Cliff's Notes are to be used as a supplementary aid. They are not effective weapons against procrastination. Use with caution!" On the other hand, Mrs. Blocker felt that Cliff's Notes were no easy way out simply because the tests were written in such a fashion that Cliff's

Notes alone would not bring a passing grade.

Cliff's Notes were obtained from book stores, attic boxes, and friends who had finished or used the book earlier. They could be found for most books and included a synopsis of the novel and a critique of the characters. Although detailed information was not provided, the central theme of the novel was outlined.

Whether used as a quick crash course or a mild refresher, Cliff's Notes remain the ever-popular first choice for the easy way out.

by Katrena Colson

