A Prayer for Owen Meany

Chapters 7-8

The Dream; The Finger

*Identify the following:*

1. Jerrold’s
2. The Orange Grove
3. The Lady in Red
4. Mr. McSwiney
5. Dr. Dolder
6. Father Findley
7. Buster Freebody

*Answer the following plot questions briefly but specifically:*

1. What was Owen’s major in college?
2. How did Owen pay for college?
3. List the two items which Owen arranged to have placed on the stage in the assembly room.
4. WHY does Owen get expelled from Gravesend Academy?
5. In what two specific ways does the statue of Mary Magdalene resemble the dressmaker’s dummy?
6. Explain the circumstances of Harry Hoyt’s death:
7. In spite of being expelled, Owen does give his commencement speech. Describe the circumstance:
8. What is a “body escort”?
9. Who does Owen save in his dream?
10. What happens to John’s “trigger finger”?
11. What precedes Owen’s name on his gravestone (as seen in his dream)?
12. *Bonus*: How does Owen respond to this question posed to him by Grandmother Wheelwright?  
    “Wouldn’t you rather be murdered by a maniac?” she asked him.  
    “\_\_\_,” said Owen Meany.

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Chapter 9

THE SHOT

1. Describe Hester in 1987:
2. What is John’s students’ reaction to Hester?
3. Johnny says that he heard from Owen twice after he died. Relate both these occasions which Johnny admits are open to interpretation and dispute.
4. What happened to John’s hair after he “heard from Owen”?
5. On what famous British author did John write his Master’s Thesis?
6. What remnant of their childhood hide-and-seek games did John find in the couch?
7. When Grandmother Wheelwright died, what was her thumb doing?
8. Who is Eleanor Pribst?
9. What did Mr. Meany mean when he told John that Owen “wasn’t natural”?
10. What did Mr. Meany show John in the monument shop after Owen’s death?
11. When Rev. Merrill said to John, “LOOK IN THE THIRD DRAWER, RIGHT-HAND SIDE,” why did Irving capitalize these words?
12. What secret thought about Tabby’s death has Rev. Merrill carried with him all these years with a great deal of guilt?
13. Dan reveals to John why he and Tabby waited so long to get married. What was the reason?
14. Did Tabby tell Dan the identity of John’s father?
15. Describe the “miracle” that Johnny devised to restore his father’s faith?
16. What relevant person from Owen’s life chose NOT to attend his funeral?
17. At Owen’s funeral, who approached John and recalled how they used to lift him up in Sunday School? [“How could he have been so light?”]
18. How did Mrs. Meany die?
19. What does Mr. Meany do for a living now?
20. What does Mr. Meany wear as a reminder of Owen?
21. Who’s Dick?
22. The events surrounding Owen’s death reveal the answers to many mysteries set forth in the novel. Explain HOW each fact becomes instrumental in Owen’s heroics?
23. Owen’s voice:
24. Owen’s size:
25. Practicing the basketball shot until it was under 4 seconds:
26. The angel’s speech Owen memorized from childhood:
27. Owen’s arms: