Brown Bag Items for *After the First Death* (Spring ’15)

1. school bus (2 other students selected this)
2. the word “fear”
3. General Marchand’s tranquilizer pills
4. the theme of “heroism”
5. Part II of the novel
6. a typewriter
7. the bridge
8. the masks/ a mask (7 other students suggested this)
9. the drugged candy or funny-tasting candy, drugged chocolate or candy (6 other students selected this)
10. smelly underwear/ soaked underwear (2 other students selected this)
11. “Homeland” or “my homeland” (120) (1 other student selected this)
12. keys (1 other student selected this)
13. the rock Artkin requests/a small, round, smooth stone (1 other student selected this)
14. a fake gun –symbolizing violence
15. a lion – symbolizing strength
16. innocence
17. father figures
18. the concept of terrorism
19. the concept of complex relationships
20. masking tape
21. “the good” is not always the victor; “the good guys” don’t prevail, but the “villain” is given a second chance (1 other student selected this)
22. lack of self-identity or identity
23. a scale
24. a toy elephant (4 other students selected this item)
25. “He felt his stomach muscles tightening. Looking at the dead child once more he pondered how quickly death could arrive.” (38)
26. “She knew she could not depend on Miro any longer or her hopes of winning him over. You don’t win monsters over. Even a sixteen-year-old monster. So she had to rely on herself. (143)
27. “They are alive in us. As long as we are alive, one of us, then they will never be dead.” (122-23)
28. “But now she recognized him for what he was: a monster. And the greatest horror of all was that he did not know he was a monster.” (130)
29. “But it was impossible for Artkin to die. They would never win the freedom of their homeland if men like Artkin died. The world would become meaningless without him. So would Miro’s own life.” (114)
30. “…Maybe there’s a relationship between bravado and cowardice. And tough language made you feel tougher, braver. Maybe the tough kids at school, tough in behavior and language, were really the scared ones after all, the way she talked tough to herself now to keep up an appearance of bravery.” (116) – (1 other student selected this quote.)
31. “But innocence, she saw now, could also be evil. Monstrous.” (130)
32. “Who was guilty, then: the monster or the world that created it?” (171)
33. “I have given my life to it [Inner Delta]. And in a sense, gave you and your mother’s lives to it.” (87)
34. “Miro had accepted the explanation without complaint. Stealing was a way of life. But a dim knowledge took shape within him. The theft of his only toy was a theft of something within him.” (59)
35. “Do not seek to own anything, do not try to make anything belong to you, do not look for pleasure in anything. It will be taken from you sooner or later as you must take from other people.” (59)
36. “The men involved were willing to assume the role of scapegoats. See what I mean about patriotism, Ben? This is the greatest patriotism: to accept disgrace for the sake of your country. The traitor as patriot. Was Judas, too, a scapegoat?” (189)
37. “’It [Inner Delta] was saved, Ben,’ he said. ‘Oh, there was some damage, of course.’”(84)
38. “Miro tried not to show his anger. He tightened his lips, kept his cheeks taut. He was furious that Artkin should think that killing someone – who? a bus driver? a nothing? – should bother him. Or perhaps Artkin was taunting him again to keep him keen, on edge, sharp.” (18)
39. “He could tell her casually about his ability to hurt a person with his hands, but it embarrassed him to say he liked Presley and the Bee Gees.” (127)
40. “Without the mask, he was Miro Shantas, the boy without even a real name to identify him to the world. With the mask, he was Miro Shantas, freedom fighter. He often wondered which person he really was.” (41) (2 other students selected this quote)
41. “…the possibility that hope comes out of hopelessness and that the opposite of things carry the seeds of birth—love out of hate, good out of evil. Didn’t flowers grow out of dirt?” (118) (2 other students selected this quote)
42. “And when she told him that it was sad not to trust anyone in the world, she felt cheap and soiled and treacherous, knowing she was using the words to awaken him to her, using them the way she imagined a prostitute used her body to arouse a man.” (171)
43. “In the service of your country it is often necessary to perform these deceits.” (190)
44. “The astericks again. Denoting the passage of time.” (80)
45. “The moment was here then. But she didn’t know whether she was ready or not. She had to summon a Kate Forrester she’d never known before: the brave Kate Forrester.” (153) (1 other student selected this quote)
46. “Miro both loved and hated the mask.” (40)
47. “I was serving my country. I am a patriot. I did it for my country. Not for myself.” (225)
48. “She realized again innocent he was in the most terrible sense of innocence: the innocence of a monster.” (218)
49. “I can’t breathe and nobody to tell me if I was bra[ve]…” (221)
50. “All the Kate Forresters. Were other people like that, she wondered, not simply one person but a lot of them mixed together?” (65)
51. “He wished Artkin was here to listen to him, to see how well he had learned his lessons.” (119)
52. “I keep thinking I have a tunnel in my chest.” (1)
53. “Her mind was crowded with newspaper headlines and television newscasts of hijackings all over the world, gunfire and explosions, innocent people killed, even children.” (45)
54. “*Deliver this message within the hour—it is a matter of life or death.*”
55. “We (Artkin and General Marchand) knew each other across the ravine, although we had never met.” (193).
56. “After the terror must come the politics, the talking, the words…So while we still use bombs, there comes a time when we must use words.” (111)
57. “We do not want a bus full of dead children – that would destroy the plan, everything.” (39)
58. “My father, the phantom.” (56)
59. “She’d always thought of innocence as something good, something to cherish. People mourned the death of innocence…But innocence, she saw now, could also be evil. Monstrous.” (130)
60. “I have not even taken a blood-pressure pill, which as you may have suspected is not really a blood-pressure pill but a tranquilizer of sorts.” (188)