The Great Gilly Hopkins
Study Guide
Test Thursday, December 13th

Chapter 1: Gilly went to the Trotter's; Miss Ellis (Social Worker) took Gilly there; Gilly is 11, an orphan, and has been in 3 different foster homes in 3 years; Mrs. Trotter has a foster child named William Ernest (W.E.), who is very shy; Gilly has an attitude. She is a troublemaker; Gilly is independent and wants to be in charge. She has a bad mouth; Mrs. Trotter is a large woman; Gilly is smart; The house is very dusty and small.

Chapter 2: Bedroom is small and dusty; Not helpful; Does not want to watch Sesame Street with W.E. Thinks W.E. is "retarded". Went to get Mr. Randolph next door; Mr. Randolph comes over to eat dinner every night; He is blind; Gilly is shocked because Mr. Randolph is an African American. Gilly is kind of racist. Has a picture of her real mom, Courtney Rutherford Hopkins. The picture says that she will always love her. Gilly wants her mom to come rescue her. Mrs. Trotter is very religious. Gilly has bad language.

Chapter 3: Doesn't get much attention from Trotter. Trotter gives all her attention to W.E. Gilly goes to a new school. She is shocked because her teacher is African American and so is half the class. Gilly gets in a fight at recess because she took the basketball from the boys. It was Gilly versus six boys. They went to the Principal's office. Principal is trying to get Gilly to be a good kid. Knows that she is smarter than others, but is behind right now; over-confident.

Chapter 4: Gilly meets Agnes Stokes. (Agnes is kind of dirty. She reminds Gilly of Rumplestiltskin.) Agnes follows Gilly home. Agnes really wants to be Gilly's friend, but Gilly thinks Agnes just wants something from her so she doesn't want to be her friend. Agnes follows Gilly home. Gilly gets a note from her mom. Gilly wants to hitchhike to California to see her mom. (Plans to steal money.) Gilly really misses her mom. They were having dinner. William Ernest choke because Gilly gives him a mean look. Mr. Randolph wants to read, so Gilly goes to Mr. Randolph's house to get a book. She reaches for a book, and money falls. She brought back The Oxford Book of English Verse. It is hard to understand. She thinks they are trying to make her feel stupid.

Chapter 5: Gilly told Agnes that she has a "Big Mouth". Agnes is nosy, lives with Grandma because her parents ran away too. Agnes and Gilly both get free lunch because they are poor. Gilly is using Agnes because she might be useful sometime. Gilly taped the money that she found at Mr. Randolph's house to the bottom of her dresser drawer. Gilly decided to now use W.E. instead of Agnes because W.E. is shy. Gilly makes W.E. a paper airplane and helps him fly it. Gilly starts being nice to W.E. W.E. starts talking more and trusting Gilly. Gilly is only pretending to be nice to W.E. and Trotter. Gilly doesn't want to look back at Trotter because she is smiling. She wants to see this look on her mom's face. Gilly wants to feel cared about, loved, special, important, and happy. She wants to feel like someone is proud of her. She does not want anyone's help! Gilly wants to stay in one place, have one home.

Chapter 6: Gilly makes a mean card offending African Americans. She gives it to Miss Harris to make her mad. Gilly thinks Miss Harris is a robot who has no feelings, so she makes the card to try and make her mad. Gilly gets the joke idea from the news. She sneaks into school, puts the card in her math book. She waits all day for Miss Harris to open her Math book to see the card. It did offend Miss Harris, but not in the way Gilly wanted it to. Miss Harris was mad, but she goes to the teachers' lounge to release it. Gilly's plan backfires, so she runs home after school mad.

Chapter 7: Gilly has a plan to steal Mr. Randolph's money. W.E. and Gilly go to Mr. Randolph's house while Agnes keeps watch. They climb on the chair to look for money on the book shelves. W.E. finds $34. Gilly decides to dust Trotter's house and Mr. Randolph's house so that she can look for more money. Gilly doesn't know if Mr. Randolph is actually blind. Gilly can't find any more money. She only has $39, but she needs $136.60 to get to California. She writes a letter to her mom asking her for money. She will pay her back when she gets there. Gilly is worried that she will turn soft if she stays here.

Chapter 8: Trotter and the kids went to Church. They belong to a white Baptist Church. The kids went to Sunday school. Mr. Randolph had to go to a black Baptist Church. Gilly goes to get a tie for Mr. Randolph, and she steals money from Mrs. Trotter's purse. Gilly packs her bag to leave, and W.E. begs her not to leave. She goes to the bus station. She buys
a ticket to San Francisco. While she is waiting, a police officer comes to get Gilly. He takes Gilly to the station to question her. They look through her things and find her address, call Trotter, and she comes to get Gilly. Trotter does not want Gilly to leave. W.E. begs Gilly to come home. Trotter believes that Gilly is her child and wants to take care of her. Gilly probably feels like someone loves her.

Chapter 9: Gilly heard Miss Ellis and Trotter fighting over whether Gilly should leave Trotter. It is Gilly’s choice if she wants to stay with Trotter or leave. She decides to stay with Trotter until her mom comes to get her. Gilly returned the money, but has to do chores to make up the money she gave to Agnes Stokes. Gilly started to like W.E. and started to help him read. Gilly taught him to defend himself against bullies. Trotter kisses Gilly because she is so happy that Gilly is helping W.E. Gilly is teaching him. Gilly is helping, not hurting. Trotter tries to make the kiss into a joke so Gilly doesn’t get mad.

Chapter 10: Mr. Randolph, Trotter and W.E. have the flu. Gilly takes care of everyone. Courtney's mom (Gilly's grandmother) comes to the house. Grandmother is short and chubby (Mrs. Hopkins). Courtney never told mom that she had Gilly. Courtney hasn't spoken to her parents in 13 years. Gilly's grandfather died 12 years ago. W.E. wet himself because he was sick. Trotter came downstairs because she forgot to cook the turkey for Thanksgiving. Trotter squished Gilly. Grandmother plans to take Gilly. Gilly does not want to leave with the Grandmother because she likes it at Trotter’s and she feels needed there.

Chapter 11: Trotter, W.E. and Mr. Randolph are no longer sick. They eat the turkey. Gilly waited by W.E.'s classroom so no one would bully him. Gilly calls Trotter, W.E. and Mr. Randolph her mother, brother, and uncle. Miss Ellis comes to see Gilly. She tells Gilly that she has to go live with her Grandmother in Virginia. Miss Ellis can't do anything about it. Gilly has changed her mind about Trotter and W.E. and Mr. Randolph. Gilly does not want to leave. Gilly is supposed to leave the next day. Gilly wants to say goodbye to Agnes and Miss Harris.

Chapter 12 and 13: Trotter makes dinner because Gilly is leaving. Everyone is silent at dinner. Trotter says that this is supposed to be a party, not a funeral. W.E. is crying at dinner. Trotter threatens to jump on the table and dance like a chicken if no one talks. Gilly feels bad about calling W.E. "retarded" in her letter. W.E. wants to come visit if there are horses at Gilly's grandmother's house. Gilly does not want to leave. Mr. Randolph gives her The Oxford Book of English Verse. This book was like a part of Mr. Randolph. Gilly has a bad dream about Courtney. Trotter comes in, rubs her back, and tells her it will be Ok. Trotter tells her that she is proud of her. Gilly wants to be real, with no quotations. She wants to be Snow White without the 7 dwarfs or Cinderella with both glass slippers. Mrs. Hopkins comes to pick her up. Gilly moves to Jackson, Virginia. Gilly chooses Chadwell's room instead of Courtney's room because everything was pink and girly. Chadwell (Courtney's brother) died in a plane crash during the Vietnam War. Gilly starts to feel bad for her Grandma because she is as alone as Gilly is. Grandma talks a lot. Things Gilly and her grandmother have in common: Courtney abandoned both of them, both of them want to see Courtney, Grandmother is alone because husband died, and kids are gone, Gilly alone because she was forced to leave the people she loves.

Chapter 14: Gilly writes letters to W.E., Trotter, Mr. Randolph, and Miss Harris. She lies and says that she has horses and that they are millionaires. Gilly enjoys the books that Miss Harris sent her. She says, "You can call me Galadriel now." Gilly's mom is coming to visit on December 23rd. Gilly and her Grandma are very excited. They get their hair done. They put a Christmas tree up, and it is the best tree they have seen. Gilly calls her Grandma Nonnie. Gilly is starting to like her grandmother. Trotter said that W.E. got in a fight and got a bloody nose. W.E. was proud and happy about it.

Chapter 15: Gilly's mom came to Virginia. Courtney did not look the way Gilly expected her to. Nonnie paid Courtney to come see Gilly. Nonnie paid Courtney because she did not want Gilly to be upset, Courtney was poor, Courtney does not care about them anymore, and/or Courtney is more concerned about herself. It was a lie that Courtney always loved Gilly. Gilly called Trotter and told her that she wanted to come home. Trotter told Gilly that "You are at home. Your grandma is home." Trotter said “There are no happy endings in life.” Trotter says that “Life is tough.” Gilly and Trotter said "I love you." Gilly decided to stay with Nonnie.