# Study Guide – Chapter 3: The Ghost Beach

## Summary

The next morning on the island is unbearably hot, with mosquitoes biting the children. Emily urges them to explore north, even though locals had warned them about that part of the island. Tyler jokes about it being the witch’s territory, but Emily insists they need answers. Together, the siblings push past their fear and walk along the shoreline.  
  
They come upon an eerie beach filled with strange shapes and silence. Driftwood, bones, and wreckage make it feel like a place frozen in time. Emily believes the place holds secrets, while Jace is cautious. Tyler’s imagination runs wild, and he is terrified. The group debates whether to turn back, but Emily’s determination pushes them forward.  
  
The chapter ends with them sensing that the beach is haunted not just by superstition but by real tragedy. They are left with the unsettling feeling that someone—or something—might still be watching them.

## Vocabulary (20 words, grades 4–6 level)

driftwood – wood that has been washed up on shore by the sea.

mosquito – a small flying insect that bites and sucks blood.

sticky – thick and hard to move because of heat or moisture.

crouched – bent down low to the ground.

terrified – very scared.

shoreline – the edge of land along a body of water.

secretive – keeping things hidden or unknown.

wreckage – the remains of something that has been destroyed.

eerie – strange and frightening.

frozen – stopped completely; unmoving.

imagination – the ability to create ideas or pictures in your mind.

superstition – a belief not based on reason, often about luck or fear.

determination – the quality of never giving up.

haunted – visited or troubled by ghosts or fears.

sensed – noticed or felt something without seeing it directly.

tragedy – a very sad or disastrous event.

lurking – hiding and waiting, usually in a threatening way.

frightened – afraid or nervous.

hesitant – unsure about doing something.

whispered – spoke very softly.

## Comprehension Questions

1. What problem do the children face the morning after their first night on the island?

2. Why does Emily want to explore the northern part of the island?

3. What does Tyler think about the area they are going toward?

4. How is the beach they discover described?

5. What makes the beach feel so eerie to the children?

6. What is Emily’s attitude about the Ghost Beach?

7. How does Jace react compared to Emily?

8. How does Tyler’s imagination affect him during the chapter?

9. What choice do the children face while standing on the Ghost Beach?

10. What feeling do the children have at the end of the chapter?

## Answer Key

1. The heat and mosquitoes make them uncomfortable.

2. She believes they must know what lies in the forbidden area.

3. He fears it is where the witch lives.

4. It is filled with driftwood, bones, and wreckage.

5. Its silence and strange objects make it feel haunted.

6. She is determined and curious, even though it’s frightening.

7. Jace is more cautious and unsure, unlike Emily’s boldness.

8. His imagination makes him more scared than the others.

9. Whether to turn back or keep exploring.

10. They feel as if they are being watched and that the place hides tragedy.

## Themes

Courage vs. fear: The children must decide whether to face the unknown.

Mystery: The Ghost Beach symbolizes secrets from the past.

Family unity: Despite fear, they move forward together.

Imagination and superstition: Tyler’s fears show how stories influence reality.