

A black and white close-up photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes and curly hair. The image is the background for the text.

Zonta

**Reading Guide**

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## Purpose

This reading guide will help the reader focus on building vocabulary, strengthen reading fluency, follow the plot, focus on themes, use inferring skills, and discover character growth. It will provide opportunities for readers to engage in authentic discussion while encouraging an understanding of varying perspectives.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Zonta's* reading guide focuses heavily on characterization. Why Zonta acts, thinks, or feels a certain way can be inferred from the reading. However, the intention is for the reader to piece together the plot events that begin to transform how Zonta acts, reacts, and changes. The reader must be willing to be critical and reflective as they tackle Zonta's story.

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MY EASY READ BOOKS, LLC  
GUIDED READING FOR *ZONTA*, BY L.B. TILLIT  
NOTICE TO TEACHERS

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# Chapter 1 Carlos

*Suggestion:* Reread the last chapter of *Ozzie* before you begin the first chapter of *Zonta*.

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**2**—to, too, two

**abt**—about

**bf**—boyfriend

**chill**—calm

**cmon**—come on

**hook up**—get together, but can also mean have sex

**hw**—homework

**lame**—weak

**lol**—laugh out loud

**nw**—no way

**plz**—please

**r**—are

**rn**—right now

**pic**—picture

**thnx or thnxs**—thanks

**tinsel**—thin shiny metallic strips, often used to decorate during holidays

**u**—you

## Questions

What was Zonta trying to do before she got the text from Carlos?

What bothered her about Carlos's texts?

What did Zonta do to get Carlos to stop texting her?

## Reflections

Zonta has been taught that *it is best to never make anyone mad if you could help it*. Do you agree with this statement? Explain.

What are your first impressions of Zonta and Carlos? If you have read *Ozzie*, have these impressions changed? Explain.

## Chapter 2 Nice

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**ADHD**—Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder is a disorder that often causes people to struggle with focusing and finishing tasks. There are many levels of ADHD and not everyone who has ADHD is impacted the same way.

**RV**—recreational vehicle; a large bus used for camping and traveling

**w/**—with

**y**—why

### Questions

What was Zonta getting tired of?

Who was Vonny, and why did Zonta text her?

Why was Zonta relieved when Ozzie guessed she was texting Vonny?

### Reflections

What do you learn about Vonny and Zonta's friendship?

Why did Zonta feel guilty about worrying that Ozzie might bend the iron railing that he was leaning against?

Since Zonta and Ozzie used to date, do you think it was a good idea that Ozzie was at Zonta's house? Explain.

## Chapter 3 Not Okay

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**beat the crap out of**—hurt someone/beat someone badly

**permanently**—lasts that way forever

**ruined**—messed up

**snug**—a little tight

### Questions

Why did Ozzie ask Zonta if she wanted him to wait upstairs?

Why was Zonta being nice to Ozzie?

Why was Zonta frustrated with Lilly?

### Reflection

Do you think Zonta has a right to be frustrated with Lilly for staying at Zonta's house so long?

Why/why not? How do you think Zonta should handle her frustration?

## Chapter 4 Lilly

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**behead**—cut off the head

**instantly**—right away

**regretted**—sad that something had happened

### Questions

Zonta said, “I guess you and Lilly are good friends now.” Why did she regret saying that to Ozzie?

What did Ozzie say about his friendship with Lilly?

How did Lilly help Zonta?

### Reflections

Do you believe Zonta when she said she didn’t care about Ozzie and Lilly’s friendship? Explain.

How did the mood change when Lilly showed up to help?

# Chapter 5 Party

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**harassed**—said or did things that were hurtful, that caused fear or discomfort; bullying

**jock**—slang for athlete, someone who plays a sport

**ringlets**—small circles

## Questions

How was Zonta's plan to invite people to the party a "bad" plan? Do you agree? Explain.

Why was Zonta a little relieved that a bunch of people did *not* show up?

Who was Silvia Hemby and why did Zonta think it was great that she came?

## Reflection

Do you think Silvia and Zonta were really friends? Explain.

## Chapter 6 A Sure Thing

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**tangled**—all twisted together

**opposites**—people who are totally different from each other

**straddled**—sat with one leg on either side of

### Questions

Why did Zonta think that Chastity Shaw and Silvia Hemby were total opposites?

Why was Ozzie not happy with Chastity?

Why was Zonta upset with Chastity and Owen?

### Reflections

What do you learn about Chastity, Owen, and Silvia?

What is the difference between how Lilly dealt with the situation and how Zonta dealt with it? Who do you think dealt with the problem the right way? Explain.

# Chapter 7 Game

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**gaming console**—an object (looks like a small plastic box) that has the electric and computer information needed to play a computer game

**flaming**—so red that it looks like fire

**gangly**—tall and thin with awkward movements

## Questions

Why did Vashon Wilkes and several friends suddenly show up at Zonta's party?

What did Zonta realize about Ozzie?

What did Zonta still not understand about Ozzie? Why?

## Reflection

Why do you think this chapter is called "Game"? Explain.

## Chapter 8 Tease

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**idk**—I don't know

**tbh**—to be honest

### Reflection

Do you agree with Vonny's argument? Explain.

## Chapter 9 The Gift

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**combat boots**—sturdy boots that look like soldiers could wear them

**hesitation**—pausing/waiting to do something

### Questions

What did Lilly not grow up with? And why was that fact fun for Zonta? What happened to change Zonta's joy?

Why did it bother Zonta so much that Lilly called her parents by their first name?

### Reflections

Do you think Zonta had a right to be upset with Lilly's reaction to the expensive gift? Explain.

Why do you think Lilly reacted the way she did? Discuss.

# Chapter 10 Turkey

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**said grace**—said a prayer/dinner blessing

**torture**—when someone is made to suffer/feel pain

## Questions

What did Zonta's family learn about Lilly when she called the turkey smell torture?

Why did Monta give Zonta a glare?

Why did Zonta feel like she had to downplay the amount of food at the table?

## Reflection

Why do you think Zonta teased and had fun with Lilly after the table was set? What had Zonta realized?

# Chapter 11 A Way Out

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**granite**—type of stone

**hang**—short for hang out, stay

**offensive**—hurtful

## Questions

Why did Zonta love New York City?

How did Zonta's parents respond to Zonta's plea to move to New York City?

What did Zonta find that was a huge surprise?

## Reflections

Do you feel that Monta and Zeb took Zonta seriously when she expressed her need to leave Hancock? Explain.

Why do you think that Zonta was upset instead of happy about Lilly's actions? What did she mean by "a way out"?

# Chapter 12 Gone

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**b**—be

**freaked out**—really upset

**leave on read**—when someone does not respond to a text but has read the text, seems very rude

**omg**—oh my gosh/God/goodness

**pissed**—slang for very angry

## Questions

What was it about Zonta's behavior that shocked Zeb and Monta?

Why did Zonta struggle to text others about Lilly?

What did Zonta learn from her texting with Ozzie and Vashon?

## Reflection

What do you think about Vashon's point of view about Lilly? Do you think Ozzie was right to be upset with Vashon? Explain.

# Chapter 13 Dumped On

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**baffled**—confused

**wired differently**—think about things differently

## Questions

Why did Lilly's line in the letter "get on with your family thing" suddenly make sense to Zeb and Monta? And how did they react to Zonta's line of thinking?

How had Zonta's ADHD impacted her relationship with her parents?

## Reflection

Zonta made a very strong statement about why they should have believed Vashon. What is your reaction to her statement? Do you agree with her? Explain.

## Chapter 14 Found

### Questions

Where did the police find Lilly?

Why was Zonta's father not allowed to go pick up Lilly?

### Reflection

What do you think Zonta meant when she said, "Even though I had my family back, something had changed"? Do you think she was right? Explain.

# Chapter 15 New Year's Eve

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**elegant**—very fancy

**reasoning**—thinking

**SAT**—a test used by colleges/universities to measure how ready a student is for college/university. SAT scores are used by the colleges/universities to compare students. This is often one factor used to help decide who should be admitted.

## Questions

What were the real reasons why Zonta did not want to go to the New Year's party?

What did Monta say about taking the SAT that upset Zonta? What was Zonta's argument against her mother's plan?

## Reflections

Do you think Monta's plan to help Zonta will be a good one?

What do you think will happen between Zonta and Lilly when school starts again?

## Chapter 16 Tuesday

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**dreaded**—fear that something will happen

**sidekick**—buddy, person who is there to support someone in their actions, both good or bad

### Questions

Based on your knowledge of Ozzie, what do you think he was not telling Zonta when she got excited about him playing football again next year?

What fear became real when Zonta entered her first period class?

How did Ozzie take control of the situation?

### Reflection

What did Zonta realize had changed between Ozzie and her? Was this a good thing? Explain.

# Chapter 17 Catch

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**avoiding**—staying away from

**gag**—puke/vomit

## Questions

How did Zonta try to get Carlos to leave her alone? Did it work?

What did Zonta keep telling herself that made Carlos's actions less serious in her mind?

## Reflection

Do you think Carlos's actions were just playful teasing or serious harassment? Explain.

## Chapter 18 Lunch

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**breath of fresh air**—interesting and exciting in a positive way

### Questions

Why do you think Zonta called Colin's actions a breath of fresh air?

What was confusing to Lilly about Zonta?

### Reflections

Look back over your prediction in Chapter 15's reflection section. Was your prediction about Lilly and Zonta's interaction at school correct? How was it similar/different?

Do you agree with Lilly's comments towards Zonta? Or was Zonta also right about some of the reasons she did not come after Lilly? Discuss.

# Chapter 19 Note

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**evidently**—clearly

**being forward**—not proper

**hauling**—carrying

**verge**—edge

## Questions

What was your first impression of Emma as she interacted with Zonta?

Why was Zonta slow to take the note? Did she have good reason to be careful?

Why did Zonta laugh at what was written in the note?

## Reflection

Emma tells Zonta that her brother was “not into girls like you.” This was a clear reference to the rumor that was spread and cleared up by Ozzie. Do you think it is realistic that a rumor can keep going even if the truth is out there? Is this a problem, or not really a problem. Discuss.

## Chapter 20 Joseph

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**retro**—styles related to the past

**Principles of Business and Finance**—a class that teaches the basics of business and finance

**vibes**—feeling/mood

### Questions

What did Zonta decide to do after she read the note from Emma's brother?

Why was Zonta suddenly worried?

### Reflections

Compare Joseph's text to Zonta's text. What do Joseph's texts tell you about Joseph?

What do think of Zonta's plan to meet at Good Vibes? Explain.

# Chapter 21 3<sup>rd</sup> Period

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**cliché**—overused phrase

**drastically**—extremely

## Questions

What past between Emma and Blake was briefly mentioned? What role did that past seem to have on where the two chose to sit?

How were Blake's actions different when he was not with Carlos? What does this tell you about Blake?

Why was Mary Ann surprised at Zonta's friendly welcome?

## Reflection

What was Zonta's biggest reason for being nice to Mary Ann? Do you think that it was okay?

## Chapter 22 Thursday

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**clean slate**—a new start

**give you flack**—give you a hard time

**prep**—short for preparation, to get ready for something

**vague**—not clear enough

### Questions

Why did Zonta not connect with Mary Ann right away?

What caused Zonta to finally connect to Mary Ann?

### Reflections

Zonta and Mary Ann discuss the concept of being viewed as “rich”? If you were a part of their discussion, what would you agree with, disagree with, or add?

On page 79, review the two choices that Mary Ann talks about. Do you think she was right? Discuss the reality of those two choices.

# Chapter 23 Tutor

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**fab**—fabulous

**groovy**—excellent/wonderful

**lava lamp**—a glass structure that is filled with liquid and wax that are heated, which causes the wax to float around, creating different shapes

**linoleum**—type of flooring made out of natural materials

**pea coat**—a coat like U.S. sailors used to wear

**vinyl**—a synthetic/artificial material, a type of plastic

## Questions

What was Zonta's first impression of Joseph?

How did Joseph respond to Zonta that made Zonta feel like a child?

## Reflection

Do you agree with Joseph's statement that the tutoring would only work if Zonta did it for herself?

Explain.

## Chapter 24 Silvia

### Question

What shocked Zonta when she heard Silvia talk to Joseph?

### Reflections

Who did Zonta compare Silvia to, and do you think it was a fair comparison?

Discuss the “shift” in Zonta. What happened, and do you think this was a good shift? Explain.

## Chapter 25 Joey-Pie

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**assaulting**—attacking

**accuse**—to claim someone has done something wrong

### Questions

Why did Silvia ask her parents to hire Joseph to tutor her?

How did Joseph's' parents react when Joseph shared the problem he was having with Silvia?

### Reflection

How do you feel about the way Joseph's parents responded to him? Are you surprised or not? Explain.

How does Silvia compare to Carlos now?

# Chapter 26 Without Ozzie

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**graze**—gently touch

**transformed**—changed

**ttyl**—talk to you later

## Questions

What was Lilly trying to get Zonta to see about herself?

What did Carlos do and how did Zonta handle it?

What did Zonta realize at the end of the chapter? What do you think it means?

## Reflections

Do you agree with Lilly? Do you think Zonta is only about herself? Explain.

What do you think Blake's reaction to Carlos's action says about Blake?

## Chapter 27 New Friends

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**distorted**—pulled out of shape

**give a once over**—to look at someone closely

**nudged**—gently shoved

**Picasso**—Pablo Picasso was a famous artist who lived from 1881 to 1973 who was known for his abstract art

**updo**—hairstyle that is up and away from the face

### Questions

Why was Zonta surprised that Mary Ann had friends?

What did she learn about Mary Ann from Summer? What did Zonta feel this information said about her friendship with Mary Ann?

### Reflections

What are your first impressions of Imani and Summer?

How have Lilly's comments begun to mess with Zonta's thinking?

## Chapter 28 Really?

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**desperate**—in need of help because all seems lost

### Questions

What did Mary Ann point out to Zonta?

What was Zonta having a hard time expressing?

### Reflection

What does this chapter tell you about Mary Ann?

## Chapter 29 Off

### Reflection

Why was it important to Zonta to act like everything was okay when she was with Joseph? Review her reasons why. Are any of her reasons good reasons? Are any of her reasons bad reasons? Discuss.

# Chapter 30 No Way!

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**linger**—stay, put off going somewhere else

**rager**—big party

**word**—definition

## Questions

What did Vashon want from Zonta?

Why did Zonta say no?

## Reflection

How did the mood change when Vashon was around? What does this tell us about Vashon and his relationship to others?

## Chapter 31 Hard Press

### Questions

What were two different ways that Zonta tried to get Carlos to leave her alone?

What did Zonta finally have to do to get Carlos to stop?

### Reflection

What shift did Zonta feel as she dealt with Carlos? Do you think that this shift will help her with the situation in the future? Explain.

# Chapter 32 Accident

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**affection**—feeling

**notion**—idea

**pathetic**—sad

## Questions

What did Ms. Nazari believe happened between Carlos and Zonta? Why did she believe this?

What excuse did Ms. Nazari make for Carlos's actions?

How did Zonta react to this information? How was this reaction different from the way she normally reacted?

## Reflections

Do you agree with Ms. Nazari? Explain.

Why do you think Ms. Nazari did not want to ask Blake about what happened?

## Chapter 33 In the Toilet

### Questions

Why did Zonta text Ozzie?

What made her tell Ozzie the truth?

### Reflection

What does this scene tell you about Zonta and Ozzie's friendship?

# Chapter 34

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**martial arts**—type of fighting, usually known by names like karate, judo, kung fu, and others

**straining**—putting a lot of effort into it

## Questions

How did Ozzie help Zonta?

Why did Zonta apologize to Ozzie, and what was his reaction? What did Zonta learn about Lilly from Ozzie?

## Reflection

Look over all the self-defense advice Ozzie gave Zonta. Which ones do you think might work? Which ones might not work? Discuss

# Chapter 35 Trust

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**recliner**—chair that leans back

## Questions

What did Zonta finally learn about why Ozzie had planned to take his own life? What was her reaction?

What are some key actions that Ozzie had taken to heal or get better?

## Reflections

In what ways do you see Ozzie changing? Are there things he has already said or done that are evidence of his “getting better”? Discuss.

How would you describe Zonta and Ozzie’s relationship? Do you think it was a positive one or not? Explain.

## Chapter 36 Good Vibes

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**register**—get through to; see an understanding

### Questions

Why did Zonta dread her tutoring sessions ending? What does this tell you about how she felt about Joseph?

What did Joseph push Zonta to tell him?

How did Joseph respond to Zonta's story? What advice did he give her?

### Reflection

Do you agree with Zonta's parents on how to deal with Carlos? Explain.

# Chapter 37 Favor

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**collapsed**—fell onto

**founding**—setting up/beginning

**influence**—people will listen to them when decisions have to be made

**justify**—defend, explain why someone is right

## Questions

What did Zonta's mom want Zonta to do? Why?

What excuses did Zonta's mom use to get Zonta to go?

## Reflections

On page 137 Zonta said, "I was done. And as strange as it was, a part of me felt good. Free." Why do you think she felt that way at that moment? Explain.

What do you think was most important to Zonta's mother? How would you have responded to her?

What do you think will happen at the party?

## Chapter 38 The Ride

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**salty**—angry, showing she is not happy

**sick**—1. awful 2. awesome/cool

**spewing**—spitting out

**trashed**—very drunk

### Questions

What was revealed about Silvia's family?

Why didn't Silvia's history matter much to Zonta?

### Reflections

How has Zonta's relationship with Silvia changed? Explain.

Do you think Silvia's history should matter to Zonta? Explain.

# Chapter 39 The Rager

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**gawking**—looking at

**hearth**—the space in front of the fireplace. This can feel like a sitting area/bench if it is large enough.

## Questions

How did Vashon get to the party?

What did Zonta do differently this time when Carlos spoke to her?

What shift did Zonta notice in Blake?

## Reflections

Why do you think it surprised Zonta to see Mateo at the party?

Do you think Carlos was done with Zonta? Explain.

## Chapter 40 Mateo

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**calculating**—thinking through something

**piercing**—intense

### Question

What did Mateo tell Zonta she needed to do? Why?

### Reflection

What does this chapter reveal about Mateo?

# Chapter 41 The Plan

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**Crown Victoria**—a large car that used to be made by Ford

**snuggly**—warm and comfortable

**thriving**—doing well/healthy

## Questions

What was the plan? Did it work?

Why did Zonta trust Mrs. Wilkes?

## Reflection

What do you think Zonta learned about Mateo?

## Chapter 42 Home

### Reflection

What do you think was said between Mrs. Wilkes and Zonta's parents? How do you think she "set them straight"?

## Chapter 43 Intense

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**assured**—promised

**icky**—not nice, off-putting

**scenario**—story line

### Questions

How did Zonta know her parents were upset and sorry for what had happened?

What did Zonta's parents try to do to make things better with Zonta?

### Reflections

Do you think Zonta's parents are finally taking the right approach? Explain.

Do you think Zonta has good reason to worry about her parent's approach? Explain.

## Chapter 44 Time

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**mental**—overthink and worry

### Questions

What do Zonta's reflections of Joseph, Mary Ann, Summer, Imani, and Ozzie tell you about how Zonta has changed?

Why did Zonta want to head over to Lilly's house?

### Reflection

Why do you think Zonta was not ready to share where she was going with her mother? Do you think she should be ready to share? Explain.

## Chapter 45 208 Maple Road

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**eyesore**—when something is ugly

### Question

How did Lilly and Zonta act towards each other?

### Reflection

Why do you think that Lilly did not really want Zonta to come into her house? What do you think it will be like?

## Chapter 46 What?

### Questions

What apology did Zonta finally give Lilly? How did Lilly react?

What was the real reason Lilly left Zonta's home? Why do you think it was hard for Zonta to understand Lilly's reasoning?

### Reflections

Was your prediction of how the inside of Lilly's home would look correct? Do you think it was okay for Lilly to let Zonta in? Explain.

Based on what Lilly explained, do you believe Lilly had a good reason to leave Zonta's home on that snowy morning after Christmas? Discuss.

How would you describe Zonta and Lilly's relationship at the end of the chapter?

## Chapter 47 Alone

### Questions

Why did Zonta feel it was safe to go to the bathroom alone?

What was the sudden change in mood and why did the mood suddenly change during Zonta's trip to the restroom?

### Reflection

Why do you think Carlos was so angry and why do you think he followed Zonta into the restroom?

# Chapter 48 Attack

## Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**resorted**—fell back on

## Questions

How did Ozzie's self-defense lesson's help Zonta?

How did Blake stop Carlos?

## Reflections

Why do you think Blake stepped in? What new information do you learn about Blake? Has your opinion of Blake changed any? Discuss.

Do you think Zonta was right to say the words she said to Ms. Nazari? Explain.

## Chapter 49 Changed

### Vocabulary

Check out how these words are used in context:

**flurry**—a lot taking place at once

### Questions

What did Mateo do that surprised Zonta? And what did Zonta have to do to stop him from hurting Blake? What does this tell us about Mateo?

How did Lilly get to Zonta? What does this tell us about Lilly and Zonta's friendship?

### Reflections

What changes do you think Zonta sees in Blake?

What changes did Zonta see in herself? Do you think these changes are good? How do you see Zonta differently than you did at the beginning of her story? Discuss.