**Carrie’s War Summary**

**Chapter 1**
Carrie, a widow, takes her children to the village where she was evacuated 30 years ago during World  War Two. She had been 11 at the time and her brother Nick was nearly ten. At first she is excited at the thought of going back but now, as they walk towards a house she used to visit, she becomes sad and anxious. She says she did a dreadful thing when she was here before. They turn away from the path that leads to the house – she says no one lives there any more in any case – and head back to the village.  As they walk, she tells the children her story.

**Chapter 2**
The book now goes back 30 years. Nick is sick on the train taking a group of evacuees from London to the village where they are to spend the war. Nick and Carrie meet an older boy, Albert Sandwich, who helps them carry their bags to the village hall. The children are told to stand by the wall so the villagers can pick the ones they want to take home with them. One of the organisers encourages Miss Evans – Auntie Lou to take Carrie and Nick. She is nervous as her brother told her to get two girls. Mr Evans is a grocer and lives above the shop. Auntie Lou gives the children something to eat and hurries them off to bed before Mr Evans gets home. Downstairs the children can hear Mr Evans shouting. Nick thinks he must be an ogre.

**Chapter 3**
The children meet Mr Evans for the first time. Auntie Lou explains to the children how her father was killed in the mine. When her mother died too, Mr Evans and his wife took Auntie Lou in and brought her  up alongside their own son. Mr Evans has been more like her father than a brother to her. Carrie and Nick help out in the shop. Nick is caught stealing biscuits and Mr Evans threatens to beat him with his belt but instead prays with him. They settle in to life in the village. The children get a letter saying their mother has gone to Glasgow to be near her husband who is stationed there. She comes to visit for a day.

**Chapter 4**
Nick is given a pair of gloves and a Bible for his birthday. Nick and Carrie have to go to Druid’s Bottom to collect a Christmas goose from Mr Evans’ older sister, Dilys Gotobed. Mr Evans was upset when Dilys
married an English mineowner and has fallen out with her, though he still accepts the annual goose. Auntie Lou has said that the path through the Grove to the house is not a place to be in after dark but Mr Evans thinks that’s all superstitious nonsense. Carrie and Nick try to be brave but are startled by a strange gobbling sound coming through the trees. They run to the house, terrified.

**Chapter 5**
The children enter the warmth and safety of Hepzibah Green’s kitchen where they see Albert Sandwich.
The gobbling noise was made by Mister Johnny Gotobed who has difficulty talking. Nick soon makes friends with him. When they fetch the goose together, Albert tells Carrie what he has learnt about the house and family. He shows her a skull and asks Hepzibah to tell the story of the curse that goes with it. Mister Johnny walks the children part of the way home. Having seen how lovely it was at Druid’s Bottom, the Evans’ house seems much bleaker.

**Chapter 6**
Mr Evans asks Carrie if she saw his sister, Mrs Gotobed. He distrusts Hepzibah and thinks Mister Johnny is an idiot. Nick is angry with Carrie because he thinks she was sucking up to Mr Evans. Carrie overhears Mr. Evans telling Auntie Lou it’ll be useful for the children to go to the house again to keep an eye on Hepzibah. After Christmas, Mr Evans tells the children to take a tin of biscuits to Hepzibah as a thank you present for the goose. Mister Johnny shows them his cow and the hens. Carrie hears Mrs Gotobed crying but doesn’t see her. Mr Evans is in a bad mood when they get back and doesn’t question her. She hopes she imagined that he wanted her to spy on Hepzibah.

**Chapter 7**
Auntie Lou goes away to stay with a friend. In April, Carrie finally meets Mrs Gotobed. Mrs Gotobed is wearing a ball gown. She intends to wear all her gowns before she dies, leaving the best to last. She gives Carrie a message for Mr Evans, only to be delivered after Mrs Gotobed is dead. Carrie has a birthday tea at Druid’s Bottom. Albert walks with her through the Grove and says that some people think it is sacred. He kisses her. When the children get back home, Mr Evans is angry. He is even more cross when he finds out Carrie has seen Mrs Gotobed and not told him about it. Auntie Lou is all dressed up to go dancing so Mr Evans shouts at her instead. Carrie is worried that Mr Evans will force her to be a spy.

**Chapter 8**
Hepzibah tries to explain Mr Evans to Carrie. He’s had a difficult life and it has made him hard and cold. Major Cass Harper comes to see Auntie Lou. At first, to Nick’s annoyance, Carrie sends the major away but then the children help him meet Auntie Lou. The children clean the chapel for Auntie Lou. When they get back, Mr Evans is doing his accounts and looks tired.

**Chapter 9**
Mr Evans’ son Frederick is home on leave from the army. Frederick comes with the children to help harvest the hay field at Druid’s Bottom. He teases Mister Johnny who attacks him with a pitchfork. Mrs Gotobed walks out to see them, dressed in her final ball gown. Mrs Gotobed tells Carrie not to be afraid and to remember the message.

**Chapter 10**
Mrs Gotobed dies in July. Albert comes to tell Mr Evans who closes the shop. Albert and Carrie go for a walk and wonder what will happen to Hepzibah and Mister Johnny. Albert says Mrs Gotobed was going  to leave a Will saying they could stay on rent free at Druid’s Bottom as long as they wanted to. Mr Evans would get the house and Auntie Lou the jewellery. Mr Evans will be angry when he realises that he won’t be able to sell or rent the house because Hepzibah and Mister Johnny will be living there. Carrie thinks he’ll be happy to get the message that Mrs Gotobed wanted to do the right thing. Albert is doubtful. Mr Evans flies into a rage when he hears the message.

**Chapter 11**
Mr Evans seems to calm down but he’s still angry with Hepzibah. Carrie goes to Druid’s Bottom to warn them about Mr Evans but is too late: he’s already been. No Will has been found and Mrs Gotobed’s London solicitor knows nothing about it. Everything will now go automatically to Mr Evans. Hepzibah and Mister Johnny must leave. Mr Evans has been through all of Mrs Gotobed’s things. Mister Johnny seems to be saying that Mr Evans took something from the jewel box. Albert remembers seeing an envelope in there and it is now gone. He thinks it might have been the missing Will and that it was written by a local solicitor rather than the London one. Hepzibah tries to soothe the children by telling stories of when she was young.

**Chapter 12**
Mr Evans and Auntie Lou go to the funeral. Carrie still struggles to believe that Mr Evans would have destroyed the Will. A letter comes saying that her mother has resigned from her ambulance unit and has rented a house for them all to live in. The children can join her in two weeks. Nick doesn’t want to leave Auntie Lou at first, but soon starts getting excited about going. Albert is going to stay with Mr Morgan,  the minister, because he will have to leave Druid’s Bottom when Hepzibah goes. He had tried to ask the local solicitor if he knew anything about the Will but lost his nerve.

**Chapter 13**
Mr Evans says he’ll miss having Carrie in the shop. On their last day in the village, Mr Evans shuts the shop and takes the children and Auntie Lou for a picnic. He talks about when he was a boy. When they get back he gives them each a present: a knife for Nick and a ring for Carrie. The children go to Druid’s Bottom for a farewell tea. Hepzibah tells the story of the skull’s curse again. Carrie shows Hepzibah the ring she’s been given. She suddenly remembers seeing it on Mrs Gotobed’s finger. Albert is angry and thinks that Mr Evans stole the ring from the jewel box, though Hepzibah says it was his to take now he’s inherited everything. Carrie offers to take the skull back to the library but throws it in the horse pond. Albert tells her Hepzibah has found a place on a remote farm where she can take Mister Johnny. The children hurry home. There’s no one there but there’s a note left by Auntie Lou. She has gone away to marry Major Harper. Nick knew about it and hadn’t told Carrie.

**Chapter 14**
The children hurry to bed to avoid seeing Mr Evans. Carrie wakes up and hears Mr Evans downstairs, raking the fire. She is so angry with him she decides to go down and throw the ring in his face. He looks as if he’s been sitting by the fire all night. He starts making the breakfast and moans about Auntie Lou leaving. He shows Carrie an old photo of Mrs Gotobed in his fob watch. She’s wearing the ring he gave to Carrie, which he’d bought his sister with his first wages. He had found it in the jewel box in an envelope addressed to him. He sees the children off at the station. Nick’s glad to be going. As the train pulls away from the village he shouts goodbye to all the things they pass. Carrie screams when she sees Druid’s Bottom on fire. She thinks it’s her fault for throwing away the skull.

**Chapter 15**
It is now back to the present. Carrie’s children leave her to sleep in late at the pub and walk to Druid’s Bottom on their own. They find an outbuilding by the ruined house that seems to be inhabited. An elderly woman is out feeding chickens. The children think it must be Hepzibah. She invites them in for breakfast and introduces them to Mister Johnny. She tells them what happened after Carrie and Nick left. She sends them out to meet Carrie who is walking through the Grove towards them.