**Pre-reading questions:**

1) Student responses may vary

2) Student responses may vary

3) Student responses may vary

4) Possible students’ answers might include: Peer pressure, stress, new experiences

5) Student responses may vary

**Reader Response Questions:**

1) Student responses may vary

2) Student responses may vary

3) Student responses may vary

4) There are a variety of answers students could use. Charlie’s relationship with his sister changes throughout the text—ranging from the pair not getting along, to becoming close when he helps her with her abortion. His relationship with his parents is relatively constant—and there isn’t too much screen-time with his brother. Students are likely to focus on his sister.

5) Charlie doesn’t seem to want to implicate anyone in the telling of his story. Students might also point out that Charlie feels self-conscious about his situation.

6) A wallflower is someone who watches the things that happen around them.

7) Students responses will vary depending on the issue chosen. One popular answer could be Charlie’s attempt at forming lasting friendships in response to many of these tribulations. Alternatively, some students may point to the fact the letters are being written at all as a way for Charlie to try to deal with these issues.

8) Students may express discomfort in the couple’s forced relations or Charlie’s being in the same room as them. Perhaps students feel Charlie should have spoken up or at least left the room.

9) Students can pick out a variety of scenes are foreshadowing for this. An obvious example is when Charlie and Sam kiss—though this is less foreshadowing and more of a direct correlation. In this example it is important to nudge students towards events earlier in the story. Students may then recall the prominence of Aunt Helen in the story even though she never actually appears. Moreover, Charlie’s parents will never tell Charlie what the bad things that happened in her life are.

10) Student responses may vary

**Interpretive Community Questions:**

1) Students may cite a few different examples of where the novel is clearly dates. Mix-tapes don’t really exist anymore. Smoking at school is *definitely* a no-no. There are no cell-phones or computers. It is also incredibly unlikely students have a meaningful relationship with their teachers outside of the classroom in the 21st century.

2) Student response will vary based off the High School they attend.

3) Students may take a variety of paths for this answer. They might talk about the stigma of homosexuality or mental illness. Some students may mention molestation. Teenage pregnancy is also a problem in the 21st century. Beyond this, encourage students to delve deeper—have these problems made any progress? Why or why not?

4) Student responses may vary

5) Possible students’ answers may include: Charlie’s actions at the Christmas party, Charlie’s response to the truth or dare game, Charlie’s interaction with Susan, and so on. The more important part of the answer is how they defend their choice.

6) Student responses may vary

7) Charlie does not appear to be outgoing so this may be why he has difficulty making friends. He is also at moments detached from reality; his classmates may find him difficult to relate to as a result.

8) Sam and Patrick’s clique seems to be a group bound together by feeling like outcasts. Their clique seems to enjoy music, zines, and Rocky Horror Picture Show.

9) Answers could include various ideologies—for example, his valuation of other people’s happiness and putting theirs before his own. As far as material items, he seems to value music and books an immense amount. People-wise students will be quick to point out he places extraordinary value in his friends and family—especially Patrick and Sam.

10) Charlie wants friends so he does not feel alone his first year of high school without his best friend. He wants his friends to be happy no matter what it takes. Charlie also wants to do well in school. He wants to read and write as much as he can.

**Critical Synthesis Questions:**

1) Students may cite Mary Elizabeth’s interest in complex social issues, while Charlie seems to be concerned with issues with a much smaller scope. Student response will vary on whether or not Charlie could have made more an effort to connect with her.

2) Student responses may vary

3) Students will point out that it very much limits the point of view of the piece—we get experiences through Charlie’s perception and Charlie’s only. Students, with this line of thinking, might observe that Charlie is a relatively unreliable narrator and that his re-cap of events are clearly biased. This differs from first-person limited in that Charlie is very obviously presenting his interpretation of events *to* someone rather than writing them for his own benefit—Charlie even admits to smudging details of the letter to protect the identity of those involved.

4) Student responses may vary but may reflect on Charlie’s unreliability as a narrator, as well as the overly-naïve perspective he offers.

5) Smoking in public places is common. Mix-tapes are an inherent part of the culture. *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* was a huge cultural phenomenon in the 90s.

6) One way the text differs from most Young Adult fiction is the lack of action throughout the novel. While other Young Adult novel are generally plot drive, in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower,* there isn’t always much happening, especially to our main character, Charlie.

7) Middle-class. Proletariat.

8) Student responses may vary

9) Student responses may vary, but very likely will trend towards male due to the fact that Charlie is male. Encourage students to explore traditionally feminine characteristics Charlie may demonstrate.

10) Every letter starts with the date and “Dear friend.” Every letter ends “Love always, Charlie.” Charlie, at least at the beginning of the piece, seems utterly infatuated with happiness and what it means to be happy. After this, student responses may vary. Encourage students to look beyond just how each letter starts and begins and to look more deeply into *what* Charlie bothers to put into letters at all. Are there things he’s leaving out?