**Study Guide Questions**

***Alas Babylon* by Pat Frank**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions providing detail and depth to validate your actual reading of the novel. Be specific! You may get the chance to use this on upcoming quizzes.

**Plot Development: Chapter 1**

1. What is Florence Wechek’s impression of Randy at the beginning of *Alas, Babylon*?

2. How does the description of the election show a new side of Randy’s character?

3. If the description of the Bragg house is symbolic of the Bragg character, what might it show?

4. Explain the meaning of the phrase “Alas, Babylon.”

5. What relevance does the phrase “Alas, Babylon” have to the theme of the novel?

6. Summarize Mark’s views on the United States’ state of Civil Defense preparedness. Does the author seem to agree with him?

**Chapter 2:**

7. What examples of foreshadowing are there in this chapter involving cars?

8. Describe the Offenhauses and Alice Cooksey—referring specifically to events which illustrate their characters.

9. Discuss this passage as a possible Theme. Explain/Analyze the following quote:

“Censorship and thought control can exist only in secrecy and darkness.”

10. Where does this passage come from? Paraphrase or restate for meaning. Explain/Analyze the following passage:

“And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning. Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgement come.”

11. How is Mark’s authority established in this section?

12. What warning does Mark give about Civil Defense and how is it related to the theme of the novel?

13. What is there about Mark’s warnings that might be considered dated since the novel was written?

14. How does Mark describe Helen? How does her character compare to the character of other women who join Randy’s community after The Day?

15. Why does Randy vow never to cry again?