

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

SESSION #9 (CH. 57-64)—Summer 2026 ESL360 Book Club

This summer we are reading *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han. The novel is about a teenage girl navigating first love, family, and the slow process of figuring out who she is. Each week's discussion is also framed by a short passage from *The Laws of Human Nature* by Robert Greene.

Robert Greene is one of the most widely read authors in the world. His books have sold millions of copies and have been translated into dozens of languages. His book *The Laws of Human Nature*, published in 2018, became a number one New York Times bestseller immediately. The book draws on psychology, philosophy, history, and biography to identify eighteen patterns in human behavior that shape what we do, often without our awareness. Greene has a talent for taking difficult ideas from scientists and philosophers and making them clear and useful for everyday readers. The book is not a textbook. It reads more like a guide to understanding the people around you and the person you are still becoming.

You do not need to read Greene's book. Each week, one short passage is provided on your session sheet. Think of it as a camera lens. Jenny Han shows us a story. Greene provides a way of looking at it. The laws selected relate directly to what happens in the novel. Lara Jean is a teenager figuring out who she is and what she wants. The people around her illustrate, in real and recognizable ways, the very patterns Greene spent years studying. Reading the novel through Greene's lens makes the story richer and our discussions deeper and more interesting.

Reading Schedule

Session	Date	Chapters	Theme
1	June 3, 2026	Ch. 1–6	<i>The Law of Repression</i>
2	June 10, 2026	Ch. 7–12	<i>The Law of Irrationality</i>
3	June 17, 2026	Ch. 13–18	<i>The Law of Death Denial</i>
4	June 24, 2026	Ch. 19–24	<i>The Law of Shortsightedness</i>
5	July 1, 2026	Ch. 25–32	<i>The Law of Covetousness</i>
6	July 8, 2026	Ch. 33–40	<i>The Law of Role-Playing</i>
7	July 15, 2026	Ch. 41–48	<i>The Law of Envy</i>
8	July 22, 2026	Ch. 49–56	<i>The Law of Compulsive Behavior</i>
9	July 29, 2026	Ch. 57–64	<i>The Law of Conformity</i>
10	August 5, 2026	Ch. 65–72	<i>The Law of Aimlessness</i>

Your Weekly Assignment:

Before each session, read the assigned chapters and review the discussion questions on this sheet. Think about each question and jot down a few notes of your own thoughts in the space provided. You do not need to prepare a formal answer. You simply need to come ready to share your perspective. The more thinking you bring to the room, the richer our conversation will be.

SESSION 9: CHAPTERS 57-64 & THE LAW OF CONFORMITY

Conformity is the tendency to think, behave, and want the same things as the group around you, sometimes without realizing it and sometimes on purpose, in order to belong.

FROM THE NOVEL

"Lara Jean, when you're dating someone, there are just . . . certain things you do, okay? Like sit next to each other on a school trip. That's pretty much expected." (Ch. 62)

GREENE'S LAW

Robert Greene writes that when we are part of a group, whether a family, a school, a community, or a culture, we naturally begin to think and act like the people around us. Sometimes this happens slowly, without our awareness. Other times, we notice ourselves making a change on purpose, so that we can fit into a new group or a new place. We start to want what the group wants and believe what the group believes. We feel uncomfortable when we disagree. This is not weakness. It is a deep feature of human social life. Greene warns that this pull toward conformity can sometimes cause a person to lose track of their own values, opinions, and desires. But adjusting how we act on the outside does not have to mean losing who we are on the inside. Real independence, Greene says, does not mean rejecting the group. It means staying connected to the people around you while staying honest, in your own mind, about who you really are.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Chapter 62, Peter is genuinely angry that Lara Jean sat with Chris instead of him on the bus. He tells her that when you are dating someone, there are "certain things you do" and that it is "pretty much expected." Greene says we absorb the rules of a role without ever deciding to follow them. Where do you think Peter's idea of what a girlfriend is supposed to do comes from, and has he ever actually chosen it for himself?
2. Greene says groups quietly assign us roles, and it can be uncomfortable when we must adapt. In what ways have you had to conform since coming to the United States?

Session 9: VOCABULARY

Chapters 57-64 & The Law of Conformity



curfew n. /'kʊ:rfju:/ KER-fyoo

A curfew is a rule that says you must be home, or inside a certain place, by a specific time.

"Curfew is at eleven, and it's already ten forty-five." (Ch. 63)



vulnerable adj. /'vʌl.nərə.ə.bəl/ VUL-ner-uh-bul

If you feel vulnerable, you feel emotionally open and easily hurt, often because you are showing your true feelings to someone.

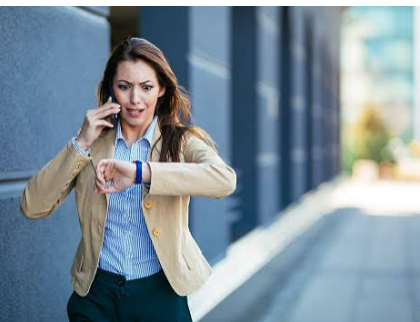
"His voice is different: it's ragged and urgent and vulnerable somehow." (Ch. 63)



hold your breath phrase /hoʊld jɔ:r brɛθ/ hold yor breth

If you hold your breath, you stop breathing for a moment, usually because you are nervous, excited, or waiting anxiously to see what will happen.

"I held my breath and prayed the bottle would land on me." (Ch. 57)



hustle v. /'hʌs.əl/ HUHSS-ul

If you hustle, you move quickly and work hard to get something done, especially when you are busy or rushed.

"Before long I'm hustling too." (Ch. 58)



send a chill down your spine phrase /send ə tʃɪl daʊn jɔ:r spain/
send uh chill down yor spyn

If something sends a chill down your spine, it makes you feel a sudden sense of fear, nervousness, or unease.

"It sends a chill down my spine." (Ch. 64)

Session 9: GRAMMAR—REVIEW + USING “QUESTION” WORDS

Chapters 57-64 & The Law of Conformity

REVIEW OF GRAMMAR RECIPES A, B, & C

1. Recipe A — Auxiliary + BASE FORM

Some auxiliary verbs are followed by the **base form** of the main verb.

- These include **do / don't / does / doesn't / did / didn't / can / can't / could / couldn't / will / won't / would / wouldn't / should / shouldn't / must / mustn't (pronounced "musent") / shall / shall not / may / may not / might / might not**.
- When an auxiliary verb from the list above is in a question, it follows this grammar recipe:
AUX verb + subject + BASE FORM of the main verb + ?
- The auxiliary verb “be” is the most irregular verb in English — the only verb with three present simple forms, two past simple forms, and a base form that looks nothing like any of its conjugated forms. It does not follow Recipe A when used in sentences.

2. Recipe B — BE as AUXILIARY + PRESENT PARTICIPLE (-ING)

The auxiliary verb “be” follows a different pattern than the auxiliary verbs above.

- BE functions as an auxiliary when it *works alongside another verb to form a tense to describe things like an ongoing action or temporary state*.
- When the verb “be” functions as an AUX VERB in a question, it follows this grammar recipe:
AUX verb (am / am not / is / isn't / are / aren't / was / wasn't / were / weren't) + subject + main verb as PRESENT PARTICIPLE (-ING) + ?
- Examples:
 - > “What are you doing?” — are is the auxiliary; doing is the main verb
 - > “Was she crying?” — was is the auxiliary; crying is the main verb
 - > “Why is he laughing?” — is is the auxiliary; laughing is the main verb

3. Recipe C — BE as MAIN VERB

“Be” can also function as the main verb in a statement or question when it describes things like *who* someone is, *what* something is, *where* someone is, or *what* something is like. In this role, no other verb follows.

- If the verb “be” functions as the MAIN VERB, it follows this grammar recipe:
> **BE (am / am not / is / isn't / are / aren't / was / wasn't / were / weren't) + subject + ?**
- Examples:
 - > “Is she a teacher?” vs. “Are (aux) you teaching?”
 - > “Are you tired?” vs. “Are (aux) you feeling tired?”
 - > “Were they in the library?” vs. “Were (aux) they studying in the library?”
 - > “Is this for the bake sale?” vs. “Are (aux) you baking that for the bake sale?”
 - > “Are you serious?” vs. “Are you smiling at me?”
 - > “Where **were** you?” vs. “Were (aux) you going to the store?”

STARTING QUESTIONS WITH QUESTION WORDS—WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, & HOW

Why use question words?

1. A question **without** a question word requires someone to choose from a specific set of options.
Examples:

- "Are you mad at me?" (yes / no are the only options)
- "Are you going on vacation to Mexico or Turkey?" (Mexico or Turkey are the only options.)
- "Is your birthday in January or February?" (January / February are the only options).

Notice how this type of question does not ask for any details.

2. A question **with** a question word expands the question. It asks someone to supply the answer themselves instead of picking from a few choices. Examples:
 - "**Why** are you mad at me?" vs. "Are you mad at me?"
 - "**Where** are you going on vacation?" vs. "Are you going on vacation to Mexico or Turkey?"
 - "**When** is your birthday?" vs. "Is your birthday in January or February?"
3. Imagine Lara Jean's trip to find John McClaren at the Model UN event in Chapters 57–58. Notice that each question word below asks for something different but the questions themselves still follow Recipe A or B.*

Question Word	Asks for . . .	Example
Who?	the name of a person	Who did Lara Jean go to see?
What?	a thing, an action, or information	What did Lara Jean do at the event?
Where?	a place	Where did Lara Jean see John McClaren?
When?	a time	When did Lara Jean go to the event?
Why?**	a reason	Why is Lara Jean going to see John?
How?	a method, a manner, or a degree	How did Lara Jean recognize John?

Notice that all six of these questions follow either recipe A or B.

- Recipe A: Question word + aux (not "be") + subject (L.J.) + main verb (base form) + ?
- Recipe B: Question word + "be" (aux) + subject (L.J) + main verb [present participle -ing] + ?

Therefore, adding **who, what, where, when, why, or how** changes the TYPE of information being asked for but not the STRUCTURE of the question.

*In some questions, "who" (or occasionally "what") IS THE SUBJECT. These are called "subject questions." When the question word is the subject and the question uses simple past or simple present tense, don't use an aux verb. Examples:

- "Who kissed Peter?" (Who is the subject + simple past tense = no aux verb) vs. "Who did Lara Jean kiss?" (Lara Jean is the subject, not "who," therefore aux verb "do / did" + base form of main verb—Recipe A)
- "Who looked at Margot?" (Who is the subject + simple past tense = no aux verb) vs. "Who was Margot looking at?" (Margot is the subject, not "who," therefore aux verb "be / was" + main verb present participle form (-ing)—Recipe B)

* Note: this example uses Recipe B to show that question words in general work with either recipe. "Why" questions can also use Recipe A.

Session 9: PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Chapters 57-64 & The Law of Conformity

GRAMMAR

Section 1 — Identify the Recipe: A, B, or C

1. "Did Chris bring alcohol on the ski trip?"
2. "Was Peter talking to Genevieve when Lara Jean arrived?"
3. "Is Margot upset about the Cookie Bonanza?"
4. "Why did Genevieve spread the rumor?"
5. "Were Kitty and Dad skiing on the black diamond slopes?"
6. "Is Chris coming on the ski trip?"
7. "Did Peter give Lara Jean donuts?"
8. "Was Lara Jean waiting for Peter outside the lodge?"
9. "Is the hot tub behind the main lodge?"
10. "Why is Peter angry at Lara Jean?"

Section 2 — Correct the Error

11. "Why is Peter go to the ski trip?"
12. "Where you are going after the Model UN event?"
13. "Did Margot arrived yesterday?"
14. "Does Peter serious about Lara Jean?"
15. "What did Genevieve doing in the bathroom?"

Section 3 — Choose the Correct Question Word

16. ___ did Lara Jean go to find John McClaren? (Who / Where / Why)
17. ___ recognized Lara Jean right away at the event? (Who / When / What)
18. ___ was Margot upset when she got home? (What / When / Why)
19. ___ did Peter get for Lara Jean the night before the bus ride? (What / Where / Who)
20. ___ told Lara Jean about the rumor in the bathroom? (When / What / Who)
21. ___ did the ski trip take place? (Where / Why / Who)

Section 4 — Write the Question

Instructions: Each item below gives you a statement and the type of question to build from it. Write a question that asks for the missing information, using the recipe indicated.

22. Turn into a Recipe A question (ask what Peter did last night):
Statement: Peter finished his homework last night.
23. Turn into a Recipe B question (ask what Margot is planning):
Statement: Margot is planning the recital party.
24. Turn into a Recipe C question (ask whether Chris is nervous):
Statement: Chris is nervous about the ski trip.

25. Turn into a Recipe A question using a modal (ask whether Margot should do something):
Statement: Margot should apologize to Lara Jean.
26. Turn into a Recipe B question, past tense (ask what Peter was doing):
Statement: Peter was talking to Genevieve at the party.

Recycled Grammar

27. Write a present perfect question using: Margot / ever / visit / Scotland
28. Correct the error: "She has go to the Model UN event before."
29. Complete (past perfect): By the time Margot came home, Lara Jean ____ (already / bake) all the cookies.
30. Correct the error: "By the time Peter arrived, Lara Jean already leave."
31. Choose: "She looked at him (skeptical / skeptically) when he explained the rumor."
32. Correct the error: "He answered her question very confident."
33. Complete (third conditional): If Lara Jean ____ (not / sit) with Chris on the bus, Peter would not have been upset.
34. Rewrite using the third conditional: "Genevieve spread the rumor. Lara Jean got upset."

VOCABULARY

1. New Vocabulary — Session 9

- Fill in the blank: With only ten minutes left, everyone had to ____ to finish setting up before guests arrived.
2. True or False: A curfew is a rule requiring you to be home or in a certain place by a specific time.
3. Fill in the blank: Admitting he was scared made him feel completely ____ in front of her.
4. Fill in the blank: The eerie silence in the empty house ____ her spine.

Choose the correct sentence:

5. a. She held her breath as she waited to hear the results.
b. She held her breath and kept chatting loudly with her friends.
6. Fill in the blank: Her parents set a strict ____ of 10 p.m. on school nights.
7. True or False: If you feel vulnerable, you feel emotionally exposed and easily hurt.
8. Which situation best describes hustling?
a. Someone strolling leisurely with no particular plan.
b. Someone rushing to get several things done quickly.
c. Someone sitting still, waiting patiently.
9. True or False: If you hold your breath, you keep breathing normally the entire time.
10. True or False: If something sends a chill down your spine, it makes you feel calm and relaxed.

Recycled Vocabulary — Sessions 1–8

1. True or False: If you are flustered, you feel confused, nervous, or rushed, usually because you are in an awkward or stressful situation.
2. True or False: If you let a bad feeling fester, it fades away quickly without causing any problems.

3. Fill in the blank (frenzied / skittish / momentous): The crowd became ____ when the doors finally opened, pushing and rushing in all directions.
4. Which situation best describes people who bicker? a. A calm, respectful discussion about an important decision. b. Two strangers meeting for the first time. c. Two siblings arguing over something small and unimportant in an irritated way.
5. Fill in the blank (In retrospect / Reluctantly / Begrudgingly): ____, it's easy to see that Genevieve was never really over Peter — but at the time, Lara Jean couldn't tell.
6. Fill in the blank (crowing / bickering / lingering): She couldn't resist ____ about her promotion to everyone in the office.
7. Which situation best describes someone who is oblivious? a. A person who doesn't notice the tension in a room and keeps chatting cheerfully. b. A person who notices immediately when the mood in a room changes. c. A person who reacts to every small detail around them.
8. Fill in the blank (delusions of grandeur / an impulse / a smirk): His plan to build a personal empire overnight showed clear ____.
9. Which situation best describes an impulse? a. A sudden urge to do something without thinking it through. b. A carefully researched decision made after weeks of thought. c. A long-term plan agreed upon by a whole family.
10. Fill in the blank (hinged on / coveted / dismissed): The whole plan ____ whether Margot would agree to help.
11. True or False: If you are mesmerized by something, you find it boring and want to look away.
12. Fill in the blank (colossally / mischievously / begrudgingly): The mistake was ____ embarrassing — there was no way to downplay it.
13. Fill in the blank (wistfully / skeptically / sheepishly): She stared ____ at the old photo, thinking about a time she couldn't get back.
14. Choose the correct sentence: a. She announced her promotion sheepishly, thrilled to share the good news. b. She admitted her mistake sheepishly, avoiding eye contact.
15. True or False: If you do something gleefully, you do it with great delight, often at someone else's expense.
16. Fill in the blank (coveted / interrogated / quantified): She ____ her sister's new car every time she saw it.
17. Which situation best describes a mischievous look? a. A look that shows someone is serious and focused on work. b. A look that shows someone is about to do something playful and slightly naughty. c. A look that shows someone is exhausted and ready for bed.
18. Fill in the blank (begrudgingly / gleefully / tantalizingly): Kitty nodded ____, clearly unhappy about the chore.
19. Fill in the blank (momentous / traitorous / skittish): The decision to move overseas was a ____ one for the whole family.
20. Fill in the blank (tantalizingly / eerily / begrudgingly): She paused ____ before revealing the surprise, enjoying the suspense.
21. True or False: A dismissive comment shows that you take someone's idea very seriously.
22. Fill in the blank (impromptu / anticlimactic / insufferable): The get-together was completely ____ — nobody had planned it in advance.

23. Choose the correct sentence: a. She felt numb after the shocking news, unable to react or speak.
b. She felt numb after the shocking news, laughing and celebrating with everyone.
24. Fill in the blank (eerily / colossally / tantalizingly): The old house felt ___ quiet, as if something wasn't right.
25. True or False: If you are shell-shocked, you are calm and thinking clearly.
26. True or False: If someone is not to be trifled with, they should be treated with caution.
27. Choose the correct sentence: a. She gave him a skeptical look because she believed his excuse completely. b. She gave him a skeptical look because she doubted his excuse.
28. Fill in the blank (did a double take / gave a smirk / had an impulse): She ___ when she saw the unexpected guest walk in.
29. True or False: An anticlimactic event turns out to be less exciting than expected.
30. Which situation best describes someone who is not cut out for something? a. A person who has years of experience but no interest in the job. b. A person who has all the natural skills needed for a job and thrives in it. c. A person who lacks the qualities or temperament needed for a task and struggles with it.
31. True or False: A skittish person reacts in calm, predictable ways.
32. Fill in the blank (quantify / interrogate / covet): It's hard to ___ exactly how much the experience meant to her.
33. Choose the correct sentence: a. He lingered at the door, not ready to say goodbye yet. b. He lingered at the door, rushing out as fast as he could.
34. True or False: A traitorous act shows loyalty to the people who trust you.
35. Fill in the blank (flinch / linger / bicker): He tried not to ___ when the dentist mentioned the cost, but his expression gave him away.
36. True or False: Someone who is insufferable is extremely unpleasant to be around.
37. Fill in the blank (interrogate / quantify / trifle with): The detective began to ___ the suspect with rapid questions.
38. Fill in the blank (pure serendipity / an impulse / a smirk): Meeting her old friend at that exact café was pure ___.
39. True or False: A smirk can show satisfaction about someone else's misfortune.

Session 9: ANSWERS TO PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Chapters 57-64 & The Law of Conformity

GRAMMAR

Section 1

1. A — did + Chris + bring (base form)
2. B — was + Peter + talking
3. C — is + Margot (main verb, describes her state)
4. A — did + Genevieve + spread
5. B — were + Kitty and Dad + skiing
6. B — is + Chris + main verb (in -ing form)
7. A — did + Peter + give
8. B — was + Lara Jean + waiting
9. C — is + the hot tub (main verb, describes location)
10. C — is + Peter (main verb, describes his state)

Section 2

11. → "Why is Peter going to the ski trip?" — Recipe B needs is + present participle, not base form.
12. → "Where are you going after the Model UN event?" — the auxiliary must come before the subject.
13. → "Did Margot arrive yesterday?" — did + base form, not past tense.
14. → "Is Peter serious about Lara Jean?" — Recipe C; be is the main verb here, not do.
15. → "What was Genevieve doing in the bathroom?" — was + present participle; did cannot pair with -ing.

Section 3

16. Where did Lara Jean go to find John McClaren? — the Model UN event.
17. Who recognized Lara Jean right away at the event? — John.
18. Why was Margot upset when she got home? — because Cookie Bonanza and the tree happened without her.
19. What did Peter get for Lara Jean the night before the bus ride? — mocha sugar donuts.
20. Who told Lara Jean about the rumor in the bathroom? — Genevieve.
21. Where did the ski trip take place? — at the lodge.

Section 4

22. What did Peter do last night?
23. What is Margot planning?
24. Is Chris nervous about the ski trip?
25. Should Margot apologize to Lara Jean?
26. Was Peter talking to Genevieve at the party?

Recycled Grammar

27. Has Margot ever visited Scotland?
28. → "She has gone to the Model UN event before." — past participle, not base form.
29. By the time Margot came home, Lara Jean had already baked all the cookies.
30. → "By the time Peter arrived, Lara Jean had already left." — past perfect needed.
31. skeptically — an adverb is needed to modify the verb "looked."
32. "He answered her question very confidently." — adverb, not adjective.
33. If Lara Jean had not sat with Chris on the bus, Peter would not have been upset.
34. If Genevieve had not spread the rumor, Lara Jean would not have gotten upset.

VOCABULARY

New Vocabulary

1. hustle
2. True
3. vulnerable
4. sends a chill down
5. a
6. curfew
7. True
8. b
9. False — you stop breathing for a moment; you don't breathe normally.
10. False — it makes you feel fear, nervousness, or unease.

Recycled Vocabulary

1. True
2. False — festering means it gets worse, not better.
3. frenzied
4. c
5. In retrospect
6. crowing
7. a
8. delusions of grandeur
9. a
10. hinged on
11. False — mesmerized means so fascinated you can't look away.
12. colossally
13. wistfully
14. b
15. True
16. coveted

17. b
18. begrudgingly
19. momentous
20. tantalizingly
21. False — dismissive means you don't think it's worth taking seriously.
22. impromptu
23. a
24. eerily
25. False — shell-shocked means confused and unable to think clearly.
26. True
27. b
28. did a double take
29. True
30. c
31. False — a skittish person is nervous and unpredictable.
32. quantify
33. a
34. False — traitorous means a serious betrayal.
35. flinch
36. True
37. interrogate
38. pure serendipity
39. True