While reading

Introduction

1 Fill in the missing words from this summary.

full-time government environment law justice practice writing
John Grisham got his (a) ......................... degree from the University of Mississippi.
He became a lawyer and was later elected to national (b) ....................... to represent
the state of Mississippi. He continued his law (c) ....................... while he was serving in
government. He was also (d) ....................... early in the morning before going to the office.
Grisham started writing (e) ....................... in 1991 after the success of his novel The Firm.
A year later, he finished his novel The Pelican Brief. This book dealt with issues involving
politics, law and the (f ) ....................... .
In The Pelican Brief, one person fights against powerful organizations to get (g) ....................... .

Chapters 1–3

2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

Explain your answers.

a  Khamel only kills people for political reasons.

b  The Supreme Court judges are used to receiving death threats.

c  Rosenberg and Jensen both take the death threats seriously.

d  Rosenberg and Jensen have nothing in common.

e  Jensen has a secret side to his life.

f  The President and his Chief of Staff are worried about the public’s response to

the death of the two judges.

g  Thomas feels that the death of the judges could bring about bad changes
to the country.

Chapters 4–6

3 Choose the right words in italics for this summary.

Thomas went to see Darby after four days and she (a) gave him / threw away a copy of her
theory. She thought it was (b) valuable / worthless. Thomas showed it to (c) the President / someone in the FBI. Gray Grantham is a

(d) reporter / cleaner with the Washington Post. He had a phone call from a (e) judge / lawyer
who said he knew something about the killings of Rosenberg and Jensen. This person was
frightened and gave Gray (f) his name / a false name. The FBI realized that the killer was
Khamel, which meant that someone had (g) waited a long time / paid a lot of money for the
murders. The FBI also had a copy of the Pelican Brief – (h) a book about birds / the document that
Darby Shaw had written. Thomas gets into his car and there is a (i) bomb / killer inside. Darby
knows she needs to (j) call the police / hide.

4 Match the letters with the numbers below to make complete sentences.

a  If Thomas had not drunk so much in the restaurant, …..

b  If Thomas and Darby had not had an argument, …..

c  If Darby had been in the car, …..

d  If Thomas had not given the Pelican Brief to

Gavin, …..

1) she would have died too.

2) he and Darby would not have had an argument.

3) there would not have been a bomb in the car.

4) Darby would have been in the car with Thomas.

Chapters 7–10

5 Why are these things important?

a  missing files from Darby’s computer

b  the thin-faced man at Thomas’s funeral

c  Darby’s long legs

d  the fact that Gavin has visited student bars

e  the microphone in the telephone

6 Khamel comes to New Orleans. Put his

actions in the correct order (1–9).

a  He turns off the lights in Gavin’s room.

b  He receives a phone call about Darby

Shaw.

c  He leaves Gavin’s hotel.
The Pelican Brief

Chapters 11–12
7 Choose the best answer (1 or 2) to complete the sentence.
   a Darby wants Gray to find a list of ……
      1) judges who support the President.
      2) people who donated lots of money to get the President elected.
   b The boss of the *Washington Post* says they cannot print the story unless they ……
      1) have one more person who can give information.
      2) get approval from the President.
   c Darby agrees to walk with the man to the riverboat because ……
      1) knows he will be killed.
      2) thinks he is Gavin.
   d Voyles does not want the President to know they are continuing to investigate the Pelican Brief because he wants the President to ……
      1) be happy when they solve the case.
      2) look bad.
   e When Mattiece discovered lots of oil in the marshlands in 1979, he was quiet about it because he ……
      1) wanted to buy all the land in the area.
      2) was concerned about the wildlife.
   f Environmental groups were mainly concerned about drilling on that land because they ……
      1) thought Mattiece was a greedy businessman.
      2) wanted to protect the brown pelicans.
   g Mattiece knew the best way he could win his case was by ……
      1) giving money to environmental groups.
      2) having Republican judges in the Supreme Court.

Chapters 13–14
8 Choose the correct name (1–7) from below.
   a …… employs Matthew Barr to talk to Mattiece.
   b …… leaves his hotel because someone has found him there.
   c …… looks for someone who looks like Garcia outside Brim, Stearns and Kidlow law firm.
   d …… talks to Gray about Garcia in his car.
   e …… flies to Florida and waits for a phone call.
   f …… rings the Georgetown law school and asks about some students.
   g …… identifies Garcia as a lawyer named Morgan.
      1) Darby                      2) Fletcher Coal
      3) Gray                      4) Edward Linney
      5) Croft                     6) Matthew Barr
      7) Smith Keen

Chapters 15–18
9 Match the letters with the numbers below to make complete sentences.
   a When Barr asks Mattiece about the Pelican Brief, he is surprised because ……
   b Darby cannot see Curtis Morgan at the office because ……
   c Sneller decides he and his men could wait for Darby at the *Washington Post* because ……
   d Morgan knew about Mattiece’s involvement with the judges because ……
   e Morgan had left documents at the bank because ……
   f Voyles wants Coal’s name to appear in the article because ……
   g Wakefield kills himself because ……
      1) he wants him to look bad.
      2) Gray would eventually return there.
      3) he had been killed in a mugging.
      4) he was afraid he might be killed.
      5) Mattiece seems to blame Coal for all the problems.
      6) he feels he cannot escape from all the problems and will be found guilty.
      7) he had read a note by mistake.
The Pelican Brief

Chapters 1–3
1 Match the letters with the numbers below.
   a Luke does not look at Khamel because …..
   b Khamel is famous because …..
   c Voyles says the judges are dead because …..
   d Darby thinks the judges were killed because …..
   e Thomas is similar to Gavin because …..
   f Darby feels disappointed when she sees the files about the case because …..
   1) they did not go into private practice to get rich.
   2) they did not let the FBI guard them properly.
   3) he is the best at his job.
   4) there are a lot of them.
   5) he does not want Khamel to think he could recognize him.
   6) there was a connection between them.

Chapters 4–6
2 Write the name of the person (1–8) next to the description.
   a ….. kills the two judges.
   b ….. works directly for the President.
   c ….. is the head of the FBI.
   d ….. is a reporter on an important newspaper.
   e ….. is the law teacher who is killed.
   f ….. is the law student who wrote the report.
   g ….. is a lawyer who has some information about the deaths of the Supreme Court judges.
   h ….. works for the FBI and passes along the Pelican Brief.

Chapters 7–10
3 Answer these questions YES or NO.
   a Does the President want Voyles to stop investigating the Pelican Brief?  YES  NO
   b Is Gavin happy that the FBI has stopped the investigation?  YES  NO
   c Does Croft get photographs of Garcia at the pay phone?  YES  NO
   d Did Garcia let Gray know that Khamel had probably killed Rosenberg and Jensen?  YES  NO
   e Is Darby surprised that someone has deleted files from her computer?  YES  NO
   f Was it easy for the killers to find Gavin?  YES  NO

Chapters 11–12
4 Write the names (1–6) where each of these activities happened.
   a ….. Darby goes there to meet Gavin but meets Khamel instead.
   b ….. Darby goes there in a taxi after the killing by the riverboat.
   c ….. Darby changes planes there and is seen by someone.
   d ….. Darby meets Gray there and tells him the story.
   e ….. A businessman named Mattiece wants the story.
   f ….. The judge there decides oil drilling should stop until the Supreme Court case is decided.
   1) Baton Rouge  2) Chicago Airport  3) Lafayette, Louisiana  4) marshes along the Mississippi River  5) St Moritz Hotel, New York  6) Riverwalk, New Orleans

Chapters 13–14
5 Choose the right word in italics.
   a Matthew Barr secretly works for the White House / environmental group.
   b Barr is told by Coal to find Mattiece and shoot him / talk to him.
   c Coal tells Barr that if stories about Mattiece are true, then the President will choose two judges who care about the oil business / environment.
   d The cleaning woman working outside Gray’s hotel room saw Gray / another man leave there.

Chapters 15–18
6 Put these events in the correct order (1–7).
   a □ Gray and Darby read a document explaining Morgan’s understanding of the Mattiece case.
   b □ Gray calls the FBI, the White House and the law firm to tell them about the story.
   c □ Gray talks to Keen and the Post’s lawyer about writing the story.
   d □ Gray joins Darby on a beach.
   e □ Gray leaves his business card with Morgan’s father.
   f □ Darby agrees to leave the country (with the help of the FBI).
   g □ Morgan’s wife gives Gray a key to a lock-box at the bank.