

**Middle School Literature for
Christian Homeschoolers:
7th Grade**

Answer Key to Review Questions

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Week 1, Day 1: “John 1:1-14”

1. What do you think verse five means?

The holiness of Jesus shined like a light in the darkness of sin, and those who love sin and “darkness” do not understand Jesus and His works.

2. Why was John the Baptist sent to the world, according to verse seven?

To bear witness of Jesus, so all people on earth might believe in Him.

3. How is verse nine similar to verse seven?

Just as John the Baptist was sent to bear witness of Jesus so “all men” might believe, Jesus is the Light that lights “every man that cometh into the world.”

4. How does someone become one of the “sons of God”? Who gets the credit for this, according to verse 14?

By receiving Jesus and believing on His name (verse 13). God gets the credit, since He gives a new birth to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Week 1, Day 2: “The Highest Education”

1. What does Washington say is the point of education? What does he say an education is *not*?

It is to teach someone how to learn what he wants and how to achieve it, and finds truth, most importantly. To get an orderly mind that knows how to learn other things, and not just a mind that memorizes dates and places on the map and grammar rules.

2. How can a young Christian compare Proverbs 23:23 and John 14:6 to the author’s main point?

Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth, and sell it not,” and in John 14:6 Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” A young Christian can see that the whole reason we exist is to serve the Truth: Jesus Christ.

3. How does Washington say that a person can prove he has a *real* education?

That person treats everyone, regardless of “race” or condition, with love and respect. He also looks for beauty in God’s creation, gives generously to others, and lives in a clean and decorated home.

4. Since you’re a homeschooler, what’s something *you* can do this year to “take charge” of your education, instead of waiting for Mom or Dad to *tell* you what to do all the time? (And be sure to give them a big hug and thank them for homeschooling you!)

Answers will vary!

Week 1, Day 3: “Casey at the Bat”

1. What are some things that happen in this poem that *you* might have seen while attending a baseball game, or another sporting event?

Answers will vary, but maybe cheering crowds who scream at the umpire or referee.

2. Since a batter only gets three strikes until he’s out, why do you think Casey lets the first two strikes go by him without swinging?

He’s showing off for the crowd, because he’s so sure he can clobber any pitch he wants to and doesn’t think there’s any chance he’ll strike out.

3. Did the ending surprise you? Why or why not?

Answers will vary!

Week 1, Day 4: “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi”

1. What makes Rikki-tikki-tavi a likable character, almost like a person? What other characters did you think acted like humans?

Answers will vary, but his friendliness, loyalty to the English family, courage, willingness to help Darzee’s family, and so on. Practically all the animals acted in some ways as humans; Kipling even says that “Darzee was very like a man in some ways.”

2. Describe Nag and Nagaina’s plans to get rid of Rikki-tikki-tavi. What plans does he make after he kills Nag?

They plan to kill the English family, so Rikki-tikki has no family to live with, and he will leave the area so he’s no danger to them anymore. Rikki-tikki asks Darzee to pretend to be hurt to draw away Nagaina, so he can grab her eggs and goad her into a fight.

3. Why do you think Kipling chose snakes as the enemies in the story? What Bible account is this similar to?

Snakes have long been a symbol of evil, beginning with the serpent—the devil who tempted Eve—in the Garden of Eden.

Week 2, Day 1: “The First Telegraph Instrument”

1. Even without knowing much about the machinery Morse talks about in this selection, how do you know his work is impressive?

Answers will vary, but his persistence and his knowledge of so many types of machinery is impressive, especially the ways they can work together, and the endless possibilities of failure.

2. What difficult situation did Morse endure to be able to work on his telegraph invention?

He almost went broke, and he lived meagerly, with barely enough to eat, in a little room; he also faced the possibility of ridicule from others if his invention failed.

3. In 1825, Samuel Morse's wife, Lucretia, died after giving birth to their child. She was then in Connecticut, and he was in New York. News traveled so slowly that Samuel didn't know for a week that she had died, and he was too late to even attend her funeral. How do you think this incident might have motivated him to invent the telegraph?

No doubt he was grieved at not finding out soon enough to attend her funeral, and he might have wanted to spare anyone else that grief, which happened only because communication was so slow. Telegraphy changed the world by its immediate communication.

Week 2, Day 2: "The Leak"

1. Why does The Thinking Machine say that the best criminals aren't even known as criminals at all?

Because they're too smart to be caught, so nobody knows they've committed crimes!

2. What is Grayson's basic problem? What does The Thinking Machine say *must* be the source of the leak?

Others are finding out his plans within minutes of his dictating them to Miss Winthrop. TTM says either the leak is via Grayson or Miss Winthrop.

3. How is the crime committed? Were you able to guess, based on yesterday's reading?

Miss Winthrop types her notes in Morse Code, which is wired to send the information to someone else in another room.

Week 2, Day 3: "The Boat"

1. Study the poem to figure out its rhyme scheme. How would you describe it?

It's called "ABAB" on the odd stanzas, and the even lines rhyme on the even stanzas.

2. How does Peter's attitude toward his life and change slowly over the course of the poem, as shown by the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, and tenth stanzas?

He does things his own way, owns the boat, follows his own will; but slowly as he encounters Jesus, he changes his ways to conform to and obey the will of Jesus.

Week 2, Day 4: "My Financial Career"

Have you ever been in a situation where you got rattled and didn't know what to say? If so, what could you have done better, now that you look back on it? What could the bank customer in this story have done?

Answers will vary!

Week 3, Day 1: North Woods Manhunt, Chapters 1-3

1. What is happening as the story begins?

The SCG is escaping from John Till (the kidnapper of a found girl), who left his ransom money in an icehouse, which the gang has recovered.

2. Describe the Sugar Creek Gang's members.

The narrator (red-haired, freckled Bill Collins); Kindly Little Jim; "pop-eyed" Dragonfly; chubby, poetry-reciting Poetry, acrobatic and strong Circus; leader Big Jim; and Tom Till, the son of John Till.

3. What risky move does Bill Collins decide on?

He decides to grab John Till's boat and motor to the gang's tents on the other side of the river, then hustle off quickly and get help.

4. Describe Little Jim's hobby. How is it related to what the gang finds in the water?

Filling empty whiskey bottles with gospel tracts. The gang finds a floating bottle with an invitation to come to a local Christian church.

5. How do the boys handle breaking the news of John Till to Tom?

Both awkwardly and thoughtfully, since it's so upsetting to Tom to learn his dad participated in a kidnapping and is locked up in an icehouse.

Week 3, Day 2: North Woods Manhunt, Chapters 4-5

1. What does Tom tell Bill he wants to do? What does Big Jim say, and how does Tom respond? What changes Jim's mind?

Go to the icehouse before the police and tell his dad something. Big Jim says no, but Tom thinks his dad might shoot at the police and be killed himself first unless they go to him. A letter from Tom's mother changes Big Jim's mind.

2. Describe Bill's thoughts as the gang races to the icehouse.

He wonders what it would feel like to have a criminal for a father and is thankful.

3. What surprise awaits the gang?

John Till has escaped!

4. Describe Tom's mother's letter.

She tells him that the money is due on their loan, which they don't have, but to trust God to take care of their needs; and to pray for his brother and father, that they'll be saved.

5. What is part of the "standard equipment" for members of the Sugar Creek Gang?

A pocket New Testament!

Week 3, Day 3: North Woods Manhunt, Chapters 6-8

1. What does the gang find on the shore? What does it mean? What does Little Snow-in-the-face mention?

Signs that a boat has been on the sand, and footprints, which means someone is using this part of the island. Little Snow-in-the-face mentions that he sometimes sees lights in the area at night.

2. Describe Poetry's "fish trick."

He catches a small fish not big enough to keep, ties it to a balloon (which acts as a bobber), and the boys follow the fish as it goes back to its school. Then the boys catch a lot of fish!

3. What happens to "Wally"? How does Little Jim react?

Wall gets eaten by a larger walleyed pike, which saddens Little Jim, who says, "That wasn't much of a reward for Wally, after all he did for us."

4. What voice does Bill hear? What does the voice want, and what does he get? What do the boys deduce from this?

It's Tom's brother, Big Bog Till; he wants to talk to him. Tom gives his brother the letter his mother told him to give his father. The boys realize that first, Bob knows where his father is, and second, he's likely the one who let his father out of the icehouse.

5. Describe what Bill and Poetry find, and what's inside.

They find an envelope that apparently Bob is looking for, and when they open it, they find a blank piece of paper, which Poetry thinks has an invisible-ink map. A note inside from John Till tells Bob to meet him at the cemetery so they can get the rest of the ransom money.

6. What do the boys decide to do? What strange thing does Dragonfly request first?

They decide to get another motorboat and beat John and Bob to the cemetery. Dragonfly says first he's going to call the fire warden.

Week 3, Day 4: North Woods Manhunt, Chapters 9-10

1. What does Dragonfly point out on the map? What does it mean?

Two fish, near where the boys were fishing previously for walleyed pike. It means that that's where John is, since he's been catching the fish to hide the ransom money in.

2. Explain what Bill and Poetry want to do, how they're rebuked, and what they see and hear.

They want to motorboat over and capture John and Bob, but Big Jim says it's too dangerous, which disappoints the two. But they're surprised when they see a motorboat with nobody driving it where they are, instead of at Santa's cabin, where Big Jim goes. The motorboat crashes on the dock, and on the bottom of the boat the boys see a whiskey bottle, which Bill thinks means that John Till fell out and drowned. But then they hear someone crying for help.

3. How do the boys react, and what concerns Bill especially?

They go to rescue the person; Bill is especially concerned that it is John Till, and that he will die before he is saved.

4. What was in the bottle in the boat? What happens because of it?

It's the bottle Little Jim put the gospel tract in, and John Till gets saved because of it.

5. What news does John share?

He had nothing to do with the kidnapping—he just wanted the reward. And to pray for him, because he and Bob had a quarrel. John found the kidnappers' map in the grave house of an old Indian chief.

Week 4, Day 1: “An Address to Young Converts”

1. Describe the author's encouragements about reading God's Word.

He says it's critically important to young believers to read it prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with prayer that the Holy Spirit would open up the meaning of it to us.

2. What does Müller mean by “reading in faith”? Other than just reading the Word, what does he encourage Christians to do?

Not just reading the Bible like a storybook, but by taking its words as God's own words. Müller says to be happy, we must be doers of God's word.

3. What does Müller say about prayer? Explain the “parcel” example.

That we should pray all the time—not just about problems that come up, but about “little things,” too. He says that even if a parcel came in the mail and we couldn't open it, to pray about it too.

4. Have you accepted Jesus Christ and asked Him to pay for your sins, like Müller encourages unbelievers at the end of this selection?

Answers will vary.

Week 4, Day 2: “John G.”

1. What is John G. like?

Twenty-two years old, alert, strong, clean-limbed, and brave, even though he's not as strong as he was!

2. What situation do the police face? How does John G. handle it?

A potential violent riot that they must reach and prevent, or at least stop. It turns out to be a false alarm, but John G. travels many miles in a terrible storm, calmly and carefully leading all the other horses there and back.

3. What do the men feel about John G.? How can you tell?

They are appreciative of him and love the horse. They take three hours to dry and brush him off!

4. Compare Proverbs 12:10 to the main idea of this story.

Proverbs 12:10 says, “A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.” The men in this story treat their horses well! Often how a man treats the animals he owns is a good indicator of his character.

Week 4, Day 3: “He Leadeth Me”

1. This selection lists three of the hymn’s “stanzas” (verses) and “refrains” (sections sung after every stanza). Compare the third stanza’s words to Philippians 2:14-16.

Philippians 2:14-16 tells Christians to “Do all things without murmurings and disputings,” so we will be blameless and shine as lights in a crooked and perverse world.

2. Listen to a choir sing “He Leadeth Me.” Do you think the music fits the words?

Answers will vary!

Week 4, Day 3: “Temptation Resisted”

1. How does Charley say his father defines a lie?

As “the intent to deceive.”

2. What does Charley feel, and also tell Archy, that lying does to his enjoyment of whatever he gets to do because of a lie?

It takes away half of it, wondering if he’ll be found out, and knowing he disobeyed to be able to do it.

3. Has someone tried to tempt you to do something wrong, like Archy tempting Charley? Write out a two- or three-sentence response you could give to someone who tries to tempt you in this way.

Answers will vary!

Week 4, Day 4: “In the Country of the Sioux”

1. Which discoveries do you think readers would be most interested in from these selections?

Answers will vary!

2. What details do you remember about Lewis’s notes after you finish reading?

Answers will vary!

3. What is your take on the visit with the Sioux?

Answers will vary!

4. If you were an American at the time of Lewis and Clark’s expedition and you read about these and other adventures of theirs, would it encourage you or discourage you from moving west? Why?

Answers will vary!

Week 5, Day 1: “Psalm 1, Psalm 97”

1. What do you think it means (1:1) to walk “in the counsel of the ungodly,” to stand “in the way of sinners,” and to sit “in the seat of the scornful”?

To listen and follow the advice of those who don't love God, to join sinners in their evil behaviors, and to join those arrogant persons who mock God and others.

2. When the Bible says a person who delights in the “law of the LORD” will prosper in whatever he does (1:3), do you think that means he will become rich?

No, because so many Christians who delight in God's word are not rich financially; it means that God will direct their efforts to be successful in a way that pleases Him.

3. What do you think it means that “The heavens declare his righteousness” (97:6)?

Anyone who sees the creation of the skies can see that God created it

4. What does God command those who love the Lord to do (97:10, 12)?

Hate evil, rejoice in the Lord, give thanks when we remember God's holiness.

Week 5, Day 2: “The Largest Statues in the World”

1. What do the two statues in this selection have in common? How are they different in both their structure and what they represent?

They both are huge, to honor someone/something, took many man-hours and technology to build. They're different in that the Rameses II statue was to honor a king, and the Statue of Liberty was to honor liberty.

2. Research Sir Flinders Petrie's discovery of the statue of Rameses II, and the building and transporting of the Statue of Liberty. What interesting discoveries did you make?

Answers will vary!

Week 5, Day 2: “The Story of Alaska”

1. Tell a few facts about Alaska that you remember from the story.

Answers will vary!

2. What did the discovery of gold do for Alaska?

It increased settlement greatly, with everyone trying to strike it rich.

3. Find out a few more facts about Alaska. (Suggestions: when it became a state, other gold discoveries since 1897, how many hours of sunlight it receives, what the lowest recorded temperature was, and so on.)

Answers will vary!

Week 5, Day 3: “A Poison Tree”

1. How does the poet handle his “two angers” differently in the first stanza? What happens to those angers?

He tells his friend, and they resolve their argument; he keeps it from his foe, and his anger towards him grows worse and worse.

2. What happens to the poet’s anger toward his foe?

It gets worse and worse, because he doesn’t resolve it.

3. What do you think the apple represents? How does this relate to the Genesis, chapter 3?

The apple likely represents sin and then death, which is what Adam and Eve were threatened with by God if they ate the forbidden fruit in Genesis 3. Similarly, the poet’s foe dies after eating the poisoned apple in the poet’s garden.

4. Explain what happens to the author’s foe in the last stanza, and compare this to the Bible passages referenced in the introduction.

He dies, killed by the poet. The Bible passages command us not to be angry with someone without a cause, to love our enemies and do good to them, and to “be angry and sin not” and not to “let the sun go down upon your wrath.”

Week 5, Day 3: “A Ballad of Trees and the Master”

1. How are the two stanzas of this poem alike? (What repetition or rhymes connect?)

They both have similar first lines, their second lines rhyme, they both have a line with “came” and one with “shame,” they end with a similar line.

2. How does “A Ballad of Trees and the Master” compare to the passages referenced in the introduction?

The poem is about the willingness of Jesus to suffer and die for the world’s sins, and the verses tell us that Jesus humbled himself and was willing to die on the cross, and He was made a curse for us, fulfilling the passage in Deuteronomy 21:23.

Week 5, Day 4: “Benjamin Franklin”

1. Why was Benjamin Franklin’s taking of the stones wrong? How does what the Bible says about one of government’s proper duties in Jeremiah 22:3 related to Ben’s action?

It’s stealing! One of government’s proper duties, according to Jeremiah 22:3, is to deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor.” The government, therefore, is there to stop or punish stealing.

2. Ben’s father says, “No act can possibly be for the benefit of the public generally, which involves injustice to any individual.” Explain what this statement means.

Any government that does something supposedly to benefit everybody, while at the same time violating the rights of an individual, puts EVERYBODY'S rights in jeopardy, because if the government can violate one person's rights to "benefit all," it can violate ANYBODY'S rights and claim to do the same thing.

3. Ask your Mom or Dad to tell you one thing that our government does, while *claiming* it's for the benefit of the public, and at the same time violating the rights of an individual or many individuals.

Answers will vary!

Week 6, Day 1: *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*

1. Even though you've probably heard this tale from the Robin Hood leg-end before, what details in Howard Pyle's telling of it were new to you, or made the story more enjoyable?

Answers will vary!

2. Today Robin Hood is commonly referred to as someone who "robs from the rich and gives to the poor." How is this picture of him incorrect, based on Pyle's version?

Robin Hood, in Pyle's version (and others), actually protected the poor from the government's stealing their money—stealing it back!

Week 6, Day 2: *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*

1. The Sheriff of Nottingham says he is angry because Robin Hood breaks the laws of England, but what is he *really* angry about?

He's really angry about being shown up by Robin Hood and his men, and being made to look foolish.

2. If you've never read or seen this particular Robin Hood story, did you guess the identity of Jock o' Teviotdale before the reveal at the end?

Answers will vary!

3. What is especially satisfying about the very last few paragraphs?

Answers will vary, but the sheriff didn't know the identity of the prize-winning archer, and when he gets the message that it was Robin Hood, he blows up in anger, and the reader feels that justice has been served!

Week 6, Day 3: "My Kate"

1. Describe the poem's rhythm—that is, how many syllables does nearly every line have? Which syllables are stressed more than the others?

Nearly every line has 11 syllables; the accented syllables there are syllables 2, 5, 8, and 11. For the few lines that are 12 syllables, the accented syllables are 3, 6, 9, and 12.

2. Even though Kate isn't particularly pretty or brilliant or wise, what is it about her that impresses the author?

Her gracefulness, soft-spoken manner, her ability to make others nobler and purer, and so on.

3. What effect does Kate have on those she is around? What does the author vow to do in the last stanza?

She ennobles them, makes them want to please God and act more purely. In the last stanza, the author vows to Kate, who has died, that she will carry on Kate's work.

4. Compare Kate's qualities with Proverbs 31:30 and 1 Peter 3:1-5.

Proverbs 31:30 says "Favour [charm, grace] is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." 1 Peter 3:1-5 commands Christian wives to be pure in their conversation, to "adorn" themselves with a "meek and quiet spirit" instead of jewels and hairdos, and to honor their husbands.

Week 6, Day 4: "Cicely"

1. What about Miss Shelby makes her so unattractive, compared to her cousin? What does Rhoda give Cicely for the first time in two months?

Her cold, selfish attitude toward the hard-working girls in the dressmaking shop, demanding that some of them be made to stay to get her the dress she wants for her cousin. Rhoda gives Cicely a smile!

2. Why is Cicely in the miserable situation she's in? What is she hanging on for?

She and her sister Marcelle have to pay their father's debts; Cicely is hanging on for a year of working in the dressmaking store until the debt is paid, and she can return home.

3. When Rhoda sees Cicely so upset from spoiling the dress, she realizes that "the crimson spots on her evening gown held a new significance." What do you think this means?

Rhoda realizes that Cicely has literally spilled her blood to make her (Rhoda) happy, and that she feels ashamed of making Cicely go through so much just to make her happy.

4. How does Cicely's generosity with her roses do her even more good? What does she appreciate just as much as the roses themselves, and why?

She shares them with Miss Waite during the day, and Miss Waite returns her favor by inviting her to a delicious supper and helping her save the petals. Cicely appreciates the note from Rhoda that says, "Sincerely, your friend" just as much as the roses, because it lightened her heart knowing that someone in the big city cared about her.

Week 7, Day 1: Mary Louise, Chapters 1-4

1. What about Mary Louise's approach to the girls' problem makes sense? (What *don't* the other girls know?)

She tries to look at both sides; why doesn't Miss Stearne want the girls out in town—is there something wrong with the films they see?

2. Describe Colonel Weatherby.

He's Mary Louise's grandfather—old, dignified, untalkative, and wealthy. With Mary Louise he talks much, however, and is funny and a good companion. He teaches Mary Louise virtues that he himself doesn't show. He is called "Colonel," but he doesn't want to discuss why when Mary Louise asks him about it.

3. How has Mary Louise's childhood been unusual?

She's been cared for by others and moved around. In fact, she recently was separated from her mother and grandfather for three years, taken care of by the Conants, and she and her family moved to Beverly. She has learned to be more adult in her behavior from Gran'pa Jim's teachings and these unusual circumstances.

4. Describe Mary Louise and Gran'pa Jim's odd encounter with the man on their walk. What dramatic change happens directly afterwards?

A man runs into them, looks at Gran'pa Jim, and says, "James Hathaway! After all these years!" Gran'pa Jim, however, tells the man he's mistaken and pushes by him. Afterwards, after Mary Louise sees Gran'pa Jim and her mother go into the library to secretly talk, they leave town to go to the Conants' home, telling Mary Louise to write them secretly, so no one knows she's writing to them.

Week 7, Day 2: Mary Louise, Chapters 5-8

1. What surprise visit does Mary Louise receive? Do you think the visitor's claims are true?

The man she and Gran'pa Jim ran into the day before says he is a government agent sent to arrest Gran'pa Jim for crimes he committed. Answers will vary on the second question!

2. How does the newspaper article affect Mary Louise?

It makes her feel like an outcast; she turns gloomy. (The other girls ostracize her; she's not invited to two parties, for example, and is wrongly accused of stealing.) Miss Stearne wonders if the Colonel will ever pay her again, so she prevents Mary Louise from buying "frivolous" items like new shoes, and keeps the money for upcoming tuition. ML eventually pawns some jewelry to get a ticket to travel to the Conants' home.

3. What is Miss Stearne's surprising response to Mary Louise's announcement? What is your opinion of this?

She forbids her from leaving the grounds of the school, and even locks doors in the school to prevent ML from leaving that night! Answers will vary.

4. Did you guess the fat-nosed man's identity before he introduced himself to Mary Louise? What do you think she should do?

Answers will vary on both questions!

Week 7, Day 3: Mary Louise, Chapters 9-11

1. What does Mary Louise find out via her watch? How does this weigh against what she believes about him?

That her mother's maiden name is Hathaway, just like the government agent said her grandfather's name is. This isn't enough to convince her that he has done anything wrong, since he has always been against lies and taught her well; also, her mother has been devoted to him ever since she can remember, which ML doesn't believe would happen if he were guilty.

2. Explain what Mary Louise learns from Mr. Conant.

Conant is her grandfather's lawyer; he's not staying with Conant, as Mary Louise thought. Gran'pa Jim uses a complicated system of forwarding letters to prevent anyone's discovering where he lives. Conant is fully convinced that he is an upright, innocent man.

3. Describe Irene Macfarlane.

She's sixteen, an orphan, wheelchair bound, and very cheerful; she inspires Mary Louise.

4. What key question about her grandfather does Mary Louise ask Mrs. Conant? What is her reply?

Since her grandfather always tells her to "face the music," why does he run away from the government, instead of facing up to the false charges? Mrs. Conant doesn't know the answer.

5. What else does Mrs. Conant tell Mary Louise?

That her father was a foreigner, quickly married her mother, and didn't have full approval of Gran'pa Jim, although he put him and his daughter up.

6. Sum up the telegram from the Colonel.

It arranges for Mary Louise's expenses while staying in Dorfield with the Conants, and warns them: "Hot" and "Caution," meaning that agents are on his trail, and for Mary Louise not to say anything to strangers about her grandfather, or even about herself.

Week 7, Day 4: *Mary Louise*, Chapters 12-13

1. Name several ways in which Irene influences Mary Louise.

She works hard at sewing, drawing, playing piano, and so on, inspiring Mary Louise not to mope and to expend more energy working hard. And Irene, although unable to walk, never complains, going through life with a cheerful attitude, thankful to God for her many other blessings.

2. How does Irene advise her when Mr. Conant announces that he has enough funds for her needs?

Irene advises Mary Louise not to try to contact or find out where Gran'pa Jim is (so she won't jeopardize his being found), and to be content to know that he loves her, as he's shown by providing for her, even though he doesn't write.

3. Describe Bub. How does he react to Irene differently?

An uneducated, slow-moving young man hired to watch over the Morrison place. He infuriates Peter Conant when he refuses to open the cabin, since he wasn't told of their coming, and can't read the note the Morrisons left for the Conants. Bub doesn't like females, but he becomes friends with Irene, probably because they're both somewhat different from much of the world.

Week 8, Day 1: *Mary Louise*, Chapters 14-16

1. Who is Agatha Lord? What is she like?

She's a next-door neighbor living at the Bigbee house; she's about 30, sophisticated, a little gossipy, staying the summer to get rest, and generally pleasant.

2. Describe Irene’s “book find.” What frightens her?

She finds papers written about Mary Louise’s mother and grandfather. Irene is frightened when she notices that Agatha has a triumphant, ugly look in her eyes.

3. What do the girls find out in their conversation with Bub?

That Mrs. Talbot tried to poison her husband, that the Morrison car runs beautifully, and that he can drive it!

4. What is your take on the missing book?

Answers will vary, but it seems likely that Agatha took it, since she seemed interested when the girls mentioned previously that there was a letter in the book about Mary Louise’s mother and grandfather. It’s also smart of Irene to have taken the letter out.

Week 8, Day 2: Mary Louise, Chapters 17-19

1. What would you have done about Sarah Judd if you were in the Conants’ position?

Answers will vary!

2. What is Sarah like? What does Mary Louise notice about her?

Untalkative, and Mary Louise notices that Sarah looks constantly from person to person, which reminds Mary Louise of something else.

3. What is Agatha’s maid Susan like? What do the two seem to be doing to Sarah Judd?

Scowling and unhappy; strangely, she is an expert driver and dresses nearly as nicely as Agatha herself! Agatha and Susan both seem to be checking out Sarah Judd carefully.

4. Describe the conversation between Irene and Mary Louise. What does Irene decide to do, and what terror does she experience in the night?

Mary Louise tells Irene she believes she’s being spied upon by Agatha, but Mary Louise pooh-poohs it. Irene realizes Agatha is looking at her ribbon and wondering if the letter is hidden there, so she sews it in the cushion of her wheelchair. She then sees a face at the window, realizes someone saw what she was doing, and hides the letter elsewhere. The cushion, the girls discover, has been stolen during the night!

5. What interesting conversations occur in Chapter 19? What strange thing does Irene say to Agatha?

Mary Louise and Peter Conant discuss the letter, with Conant intrigued about why Irene doesn’t think there’s anything Mary Louise would want to know in it; Bub and Mary Louise talk in the car, with Bub saying she’s right about not trusting Agatha Lord; Irene and Agatha talk, with Irene wanting to know what Agatha knows about the cushion, and Agatha saying she’s trying to clear Colonel Weatherby’s name of a charge of treason. Oddly, Irene then says, “But we must not do that, even if we could!”—meaning that the Colonel purposely doesn’t want his name cleared, as least not yet.

Week 8, Day 3: *Mary Louise*, Chapters 20-22

1. Sum up the exciting occurrences of Chapter 20.

Sarah Judd and Susan are both revealed to be spies; Sarah finds the letter hidden in one of the shotguns in the den and copies it. Susan discovers her, tries to get information from her, but is refused, so she handcuffs Sarah and tries to find the letter, unsuccessfully. Sarah mentions that Mrs. Conant tells her to look for the letter while Agatha takes everyone else downtown, and Sarah manages to get Bub to send a telegram in town, a message to her bosses. Both women claim to be on the side of right of the Colonel Weatherby case.

2. What does Sarah remark mysteriously to Peter Conant after he brings bad news? What does Conant tell his wife about the vacation?

That since Mary Louise's mother has died, Colonel Hathaway no longer has to live like a fugitive. Conant reveals to his wife that the vacation was Colonel Weatherby's idea, planning to use the out-of-the-way location to give him and his daughter a chance to visit Mary Louise—until Mrs. Burrows got ill, and he found out that government agents learned of the plan.

3. Who is the stranger that Bub picks up? What do we find out new and interesting from him?

He's Gorman, the kindly agent who followed Mary Louise. He says that Sarah Judd is not on their team at all, and that he intercepted her telegram. The group, including Agatha Lord and Susan, make plans on what to do if and when Colonel Weatherby comes to town.

Week 8, Day 4: *Mary Louise*, Chapters 23-26

1. Who is Sarah Judd revealed to be? How is she “against” her father?

She's O'Gorman's daughter; she's “against” him because she's working to clear Weatherby's name, and Gorman works for the government (although he too believes Weatherby is innocent).

2. What has Weatherby been accused of, and running from? Whom was he trying to protect?

He was seen transferring secret government documents to a hostile government that could endanger Americans, but is still innocent, according to O'Gorman. He was trying to protect his daughter, Mary Louise's mother, who was guilty of the crime.

3. What does the letter say, and how does it affect Mary Louise's family?

John Burrows, Mary Louise's father, sent the government secrets; on his deathbed he made his wife promise to deliver them to a foreign enemy, which Mrs. Burrows did, only to keep her promise. Col. Weatherby found out and escaped and hid his daughter and granddaughter. The letter upsets Mary Louise, whose mother was guilty—more of being loyal to her husband than treason. But the letter absolves Col. Weatherby of any supposed crimes—he had nothing to do with the espionage, but was only trying to protect his daughter.

4. Does Irene's attitude make you think about your many blessings? Name some hard things about your life, and compare them to her hardship. What huge blessings do you have to be thankful for?

Answers will vary!

Week 9, Day 1: “Puc-Puggy and His Notes on the Rattlesnake”

1. Why do the Indians call Bartram “Puc-Puggy”? How would you describe their relationship?

It means “Flower Hunter,” since Bartram was a botanist. He seems to have a pretty good relationship with the Indians he encounters.

2. Why do the Indians try to hold Bartram down and “scratch” him? Does he seem like the type who is too “heroic and violent,” as they say?

They say he’s too “heroic and violent,” so they say they need to take out some of his blood! Bartram’s writings don’t make himself out to be any kind of hero—just a scientist and explorer who’s trying to learn about the area’s nature.

3. What is it about snakes that makes them so frightening to many? Have you ever encountered a venomous snake? If so, what kind?

Answers will vary!

4. How does Bartram make rattlesnakes into sympathetic, almost likable creatures?

Talented writing! He remarks on how they aren’t aggressive, they don’t slither even as fast as a child could run, they could have attacked him several times when he was within inches of them but didn’t, and they’re easily killed with just a blow to the head with a stick. He also feels bad about killing the rattler at the end of the selection, and can’t even eat it because he feels so bad about its death.

Week 9, Day 2: “From Morning Till Night on a Florida River”

1. How does Lanier keep the reader interested in his little tale of a trip down the Ocklawaha? (What does he do instead of just listing off one thing after another that he did on that day?)

Answers will vary, but might include how Lanier starts off with an interesting opening sentence, includes lively details, uses strong nouns and verbs to paint pictures in the reader’s mind, and closes with an effective paragraph that wraps up the day.

2. Think of a trip you have taken or an interesting place you have visited. Now, focus on one thing you did that day (or one part of the place you visited), and write an interesting description of what happened. Think of an effective opening sentence (like Lanier’s opening sentence in this selection!), write colorfully about events that you experienced, and give your essay a nice closing that wraps up *your* little tale.

Answers will vary!

Week 9, Day 3: “On the Grasshopper and the Cricket”

1. Describe how the poem fits the pattern of “iambic pentameter.” What is the poem’s rhyme scheme?

It has 10 syllables per line, five “beats,” and an accent on the even-numbered beats. The poem’s rhyme scheme is ABBA, ABBA, CDECDE.

2. What similar lines break the poem up into two parts? How are the two parts similar—and different?

“The poetry of earth is never dead” and “The poetry of earth is ceasing never.” The two parts are similar in that they express how nature is like poetry; they’re different in that the first describes summer (and is linked to the grasshopper), while the second describes winter (and its linked to the cricket).

3. What main message do you think the poet is trying to express?

Answers will vary, but possibly that the parts of nature like grasshoppers and crickets and birds “speak” almost like lines of poetry from the earth.

Week 9, Day 4: “The ‘Gator’”

1. What is even more dangerous to the alligator population than man?

“Cannibalistic” fathers, who eat their young.

2. Give some characteristic of alligators that the author lists in the essay.

They can be killed by bullets, they will eat almost anything, they travel great distances on land, they can grow to great lengths, they rarely attack unless it’s a female defending her young.

3. How does the author say alligators differ in the United States and the Amazon?

U. S. alligators fear man more than Amazon ones, so Amazon ones are more aggressive and dangerous to humans. Amazon alligators are less hunted than U. S. alligators, so they can grow to spectacular lengths.

Week 10, Day 1: “Matthew, Chapter 5”

1. What do you think a “peacemaker” is? (See verse eight.) How can we be peacemakers?

Answers will vary, but someone who helps stop arguments and creates peace among those who disagree, or between themselves and their enemies.

2. How should Jesus followers feel if they are “persecuted for righteousness’ sake? (See verses 10-12.)

It says they should rejoice and be very glad, for it proves they’re righteous with God.

3. Give an example of how Jesus followers can be “salt” and “light” in our world today.

Answers will vary!

Week 10, Day 2: “Uncle Remus Stories”

1. What lessons about human nature are expressed in “The Wonderful Tar Baby Story” and “Why Mr. Possum Loves Peace”?

The first reminds readers: mind your own business! and keep your their noses out of trouble when possible; the second shows how we often fail to act bravely, but make excuses so others won’t know we have faults.

2. Look up the term *reverse psychology* and write down the definition. How does Brer Rabbit use reverse psychology in “How Mr. Rabbit Was Too Sharp for Mr. Fox”?

Reverse psychology is trying to make someone do the opposite of what you say, counting on the hope that the person will want to defy your wish. That’s what Brer Rabbit does to Brer Fox in the story, since he really wants to be thrown into the briar patch!

Week 10, Day 3: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1. Look up and read Luke 11:5-13, Luke 18:1-8, and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How do these passages compare to “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”?

They tell Jesus followers to pray to God for help, because he’s much more righteous than our friends we ask help of and trust they’ll help us, or the wicked judge the widow got to help her; they also tell us to pray without ceasing.

2. Listen to a choir sing this poem/hymn.
3. Take a few minutes and pray to the Lord about something that’s on your heart that you haven’t brought to Him.

Week 10, Day 4: “The Lumber Room”

1. What kind of kid is Nicholas? What makes him still somewhat likable?

He’s a little troublemaker, but still somewhat likable, because he’s not vicious, and the aunts who try to punish him are even more unlikable!

2. How does Nicholas get in the lumber room? What does he find there?

He uses a forbidden key, and he finds all kinds of things that are treasures to a young boy.

3. Explain the trick Nicholas pulls on his “aunt.” Why do you think he thinks about the huntsman’s escape at the story’s end?

He pretends to believe his “aunt” is the devil, so as she calls out to him to help her (she’s fallen into the rainwater tank), he won’t help her, to get even about being punished. Nicholas probably focuses on the huntsman’s potential escape, because he’s wondering if HE will escape without more punishment as well!

Week 11, Day 1: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapters 1-2

1. Why does Rudolf Elphberg’s sister-in-law fuss at him? What is his response? Sum up what the Bible says about Rudolf’s condition in Psalm 25:12-13, Proverbs 14:23, and Lamentations 3:27.

He (Rudolf) is 29 and has no ambition. Rudolf says that he has enough and doesn’t want a job. The Bible says in Psalm 25:12-13, “What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth” (to “dwell at ease” truly, a man should fear the Lord); in Proverbs 14:23, “In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to

penury [poverty]” (work is profitable; laziness leads to poverty); and in Lamentations 3:27, “It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth” (work is good for a young man).

2. List Rudolf’s talents.

Languages, using a sword and gun, and coolness under pressure.

3. What job opportunity is he given? How does he respond?

To be an assistant to an ambassador in six months. He decides to do it if nothing better comes along.

4. Why does Rudolf decide to visit Ruritania? What does he promise Robert and Rose?

His father is dead, but he sees that another Rudolf (a relative) is to be crowned king in three weeks. He decides to visit, promising Robert and Rose he’ll write a book of his trip, if he “find[s] enough material.”

5. What’s wrong with Rudolf’s friend Bertram?

He’s in love with Antoinette Mauban, a high-society woman who apparently won’t marry him, although she pays attention to the Duke of Strelsau—the son of the recently dead King of Ruritania, and half-brother to the king about to be crowned.

6. How does Rudolf interact with Antoinette?

She shows up, glances at him, and ignores him, even though they travel along the same lines for days.

7. What news is Ruritania abuzz about? What does Rudolf learn from his landlady and her daughter?

A mystery surrounds the coronation ceremony, and the date has been moved up. The woman he rents a room from says that although Duke Michael is master of the Zenda castle, she thinks he should be king, and that the king-to-be is a stranger, with hardly anyone even knowing what he looks like, especially since he shaved off his beard. The landlady also says she wishes the new king would just stick to his hunting and wine and let Duke Michael be crowned; the duke has invited the king-to-be to rest at Zenda until his coronation. The landlady’s daughter says that both men want to marry Princess Flavia, and although they pretend to be friends, they’re not.

8. What does Johann do when he sees Rudolf?

He is stunned, and he steps back; then he asks Rudolf if he knows the king.

Week 11, Day 2: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 3

1. What does Johann offer Rudolf? How does he respond?

He says circumstances force him to give up a room his sister offered him, and to take his place. Rudolf accepts, although he decides to walk through woods to get there, not bothering to tell Johann.

2. What is the chateau like?

A fortress that can be lived in, with a moat and drawbridges that can keep anyone from coming in.

3. Whom does Rudolf meet on his walk to the castle? What stuns him?

Colonel Sapt and Fritz von Tarlenheim, two of the king's assistants—and the king. He is shocked to discover that he is almost a twin in appearance to the king!

4. Compare what happens to the king to Proverbs 31:4-5.

The king is a heavy drinker, and Proverbs 31:4-5 says, "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

5. What is scheduled to happen the next day? What does Josef bring, and what does the king-to-be tell Rudolf?

Sapt and Fritz are to meet the king-to-be at 8:00 AM and take him to be coronated. The king drinks a little too much, and even drinks wines from a flagon Josef gives him, saying it is a gift from his brother, the Duke. The king promises Rudolf everything, "to the half of Ruritania."

Week 11, Day 3: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapters 4-5

1. What has happened to the king?

His brother drugged the flagon of wine, and he (the king) can't wake up in time for the coronation. If the king isn't crowned that day, his brother Michael will become king (since the king-to-be, the people know, has a drinking problem and wouldn't forgive him).

2. What does Sapt suggest? How does he coach Rudolf?

That Rudolf take the king's place during the coronation, since they look so much alike. As they ride to their mission, Sapt coaches Rudolf on the king's family, manners, friends, weaknesses, etc.

3. How does Rudolf take the assignment? Describe his ride through the town and seeing Antoinette.

His coolness shines through, and he's game and does his best. He pretends to be king on his ride, knowing the well-off in the rich part of town support him, although the inner town residents support Michael. He catches Antoinette's eye, and they both jump slightly, which makes Rudolf nervous.

4. How does Rudolf handle the inner town crowd? What happens at the ceremony?

He rides with his entourage spaced away from him, to show he trusts the inner town residents. This works well, as one woman remarks about his red hair, and he removes his helmet and shows it, which brings a cheer. Most inner town residents do not support him, though. When he enters the hall, Michael is so shocked he drops his helmet, which confirms to Rudolf that Michael was guilty in drugging the to-be king. Rudolf handles himself pretty well through the ceremony.

5. What does Princess Flavia ask Rudolf? What does this remind him of?

If he's changed and taking life more seriously; this reminds him of Lady Buresdon's same question to him!

Week 11, Day 4: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 6

1. Why does Sapt say they must leave the city, and how does he warn Fritz?

He saw Michael get news from Zenda and read it in private, coming out stunned, so he suspects something is up. He warns Fritz not to open Rudolf's door for any reason.

2. What steps do Sapt and Rudolf take? Who overtakes them?

The exit the castle through a secret passage and ride, Rudolf disguised as Sapt's assistant, out of the city. Michael and Max Holf (Johann's brother) overtake them, suspicious of some trick, and ride to Zenda. Sapt and Rudolf are bothered, though, by their words: "All is well."

3. What do the two find at the lodge?

The woman Sapt tied up has escaped, and Joseph has been murdered while guarding the king.

Week 12, Day 1: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapters 7-8

1. What does the king's disappearance mean?

That Michael came to kidnap him in his drugged state to keep him from attending the coronation; that Michael knows Rudolf is a fraud; and that had Sapt, Rudolf, and Fritz been there, they would have been killed.

2. Why can't Michael tell the people that Rudolf is a fraud? Why doesn't Sapt think Michael will have the king killed?

Because he'd have to admit his treachery in trying to keep his brother off the throne. Michael probably won't have the king killed, because that would put Rudolf on the throne.

3. Describe the battle.

Sapt and Rudolf fight a group of Michael's men; they kill several, and Rudolf's finger is wounded.

4. How does Rudolf know the king is still alive? What does he resolve to do about Michael, and how does he begin?

Several of Michael's men are absent, which means they're guarding him. He resolves to make himself popular with the people and publicly kind to Michael, so if a conflict comes into the open, Michael will look bad. He starts by riding around the town, saluting "his" people, and visiting Princess Flavia, which the people approve of.

5. Explain the "dog bite" conversation.

Michael asks about Rudolf's finger, and Rudolf provokes him by saying a low-down dog did it (which is an insult to Michael!). In the conversation Rudolf slyly warns Michael that he will come to harm if he (Michael) tries to harm him.

Week 12, Day 2: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 9

1. Why does Sapt think the king is at the Castle of Zenda?

Michael and his henchmen are there, and the drawbridge is drawn up.

2. What does “the letter” say? What does Rudolf decide?

It’s from a woman telling him to meet her, or he’ll be killed and “ruin a woman who loves him.” She also says she wants to prevent Michael from marrying Princess Flavia, and that her name starts with “A”—Antoinette. Rudolf decides he believes Antoinette and to go.

3. Sum up what Rudolf is told at the meeting. Describe what happens next.

That Michael made her write the letter, he plans to kill Rudolf in 20 minutes, and three men follow Sapt’s guard constantly. Also, if Michael kills Rudolf, they will kill the king and bring his body out, trying to blame Sapt and declaring a state of emergency, so Michael or the Princess will become ruler (and Michael will marry the Princess). Antoinette doesn’t want him to marry her, which is why she helps Rudolf. Michael’s three henchmen try to kill Rudolf, but he attacks them with an iron table, knocking them back, and escapes.

Week 12, Day 3: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 10

1. Describe what Rudolf finds out from the Prefect of Police’s report. How does he get his chance to remedy one part?

He wounded one of his attackers in the arm, and the Princess of Flavia and people of Ruritania are displeased that the king hasn’t attempted to woo her. Rudolph gets his chance with the Princess that night at a ball.

2. How does the ball go? What disaster does Sapt help Rudolf avoid?

Rudolph falls in love with the Princess, who feels the same, telling him she just recently has begun to love him. He almost spills the beans about who he is, but Sapt, who has apparently been listening, stops him.

3. How do (a) Fritz and (b) Sapt view Rudolf’s actions?

Fritz frowns at seeing Rudolf dancing closely with Princess Flavia, and afterwards almost refuses to speak to him. Sapt warns Rudolf not to take this romance seriously—that it’s just a trick. But Rudolf insists it’s real, and the two threaten each other over it, until they agree to go help the king from his captivity in the Castle of Zenda.

Week 12, Day 4: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 11

1. What two letters does Princess Flavia receive? How does Rudolf handle this?

One from Michael asking her to come to the castle, and one from Antoinette warning her not to go with him anywhere. Rudolf has Marshal Strakencz guard the Princess, and tells him he’s leaving, but will send daily messages to him. If the marshal fails to receive one, then the king is dead, and he is to kill Michael and put Flavia on the throne.

2. Where does Rudolf go? Why is this so difficult?

To the Castle of Zenda to save the king; it's difficult, because if he saves the king, the king will be able to marry Flavia instead.

Week 13, Day 1: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 12

1. What about Michael's personality does Rudolf think favors him as he goes to meet Michael at the Castle of Zenda?

That Michael is so wicked that he won't suspect Rudolf means to do the real king any good.

2. Sum up Rudolf's meeting with the inn housemaid. What does he find out from Sapt, and what does he vow?

She's surprised to see him, thinking he's the king. He tells her to bring Johann to the inn. Sapt meets Rudolf and tells him one of their men was shot, with the bullet meant for Rudolph. Rudolph vows revenge, promising to kill all six of Michael's men.

Week 13, Day 2: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 13

1. What offer does Rupert offer Rudolf? How is it taken, and what does Rupert do before leaving?

Freedom and millions of dollars, but Rudolf refuses, angering Rupert with his reminders that he's honest with men and women, unlike Rupert. Rupert tries to kill Rudolf, stabbing him, before he rides away.

2. Sum up Johann's story. How does Rudolf threaten him?

Three of the six are always in the castle's outer room (with no windows), with order to kill the king (in the inner room) if the outer room is ever attacked. If they kill the king, they have a method of sliding his body into a pipe and sinking it 20 feet down into the moat, while escaping themselves. Rudolf tells Johann to tell no one who the prisoner in the castle is, upon punishment of death.

Week 13, Day 3: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 14

1. Who comes to Zenda? Why? How does this affect Rudolf?

Princess Flavia, who has heard Rudolf was wounded (over the protests of the marshal). Rudolf is pleased, but realizes the time to act is soon, and that his advisors tell him he must marry her soon. He thinks about running away, but realizes that would ruin the plans.

2. Sum up the attack of the castle.

Rudolf goes to the pipe, kills the guard, and sees a light—the king's room—through a chink of masonry. Sapt and Fritz fight Michael's men with Rudolf, kill two, though Rupert escapes.

Week 13, Day 4: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 15

1. Explain how Rudolf smooths over the deaths of the conspirators. Why does Michael say nothing, and what does Princess Flavia say?

He claims it was from dueling, and bans the practice except for the most serious issues. Flavia approves. Michael says nothing, of course, because he is keeping his conspiracy covered.

2. What awkward situation does an English officer bring to Rudolf?

Rassendyll's friends have reported his "disappearance," which they have traced to Antoinette, and Rudolf has to keep the officer from finding too much out!

3. Explain Rupert's proposal.

He tells Rudolf that if the group storms the castle, he will arrange the death of Michael, as long as Sapt and Fritz die too, leaving just himself and Rudolf. Rupert is willing to kill Michael, he says, because of a dispute about a lady.

4. What note is delivered to Rudolf?

From Antoinette, begging him to release her from captivity in the Castle of Zenda.

Week 14, Day 1: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapters 16-17

1. What is Rudolf forced to do about Flavia? How does this affect Michael and Antoinette?

Keep her close to him, since he's away from the city, to make the people think he's about to propose to her—which he does, two weeks from then. Michael is angry, and Antoinette is somewhat pacified, since the princess is a rival to her affections for Michael.

2. How are the conspirators and the king getting along in the castle?

They argue a lot; the king's health is rapidly worsening, and the conspirators are forced to get a doctor and have Antoinette help nurse the king back to health.

3. What does Johann tell Rudolf? What are Rudolf's instructions to him?

How the conspirators occupy the castle, who has keys, which rooms are where, who's guarding the king, etc. Rudolf tells Johann to deliver a letter to Antoinette. Also, at 2 AM to fling open the chateau's front door and call out, then run to safety.

4. Sum up Rudolf's plan. What does he see watching through Antoinette's window and afterwards?

Sapt and a group go to the chateau and silently kill anyone that finds them. Antoinette is to yell "Help! Rupert!" so Michael will come help her, and eventually, Rupert will come to find out what's going on. Other parts include creating confusion, trying to rescue the king, and—if the rescuers don't return by morning—Strakencz will march to the castle and demand the king's release. Rudolf sees Antoinette rebuffing Rupert's advances, Michael's anger at him, and Rupert's climbing up the castle wall using footholds to try to get back in Antoinette's room.

Week 14, Day 2: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapters 18-19

What scene with Rupert does Rudolf come up on during his battle? What does Rudolph do?

Rupert has killed Michael, Antoinette tries to shoot him, but he leaps into the moat. He goes after Rupert, although he is wounded, catches up to him and tells him he spared his life in the castle, and demands Rupert fight like a man.

Week 14, Day 3: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapters 20-21

1. Sum up the other sides to the story that Rudolf misses.

Antoinette follows Michael from Paris to Ruritania, sees that she has a rival (the princess), and finds herself tangled in the duke's schemes. She learns how cruel he is, and about his plan to take the throne, and throws herself against his plans. When Rupert attacks her, she resists, and he flees. Johann is wounded resisting Rupert, Rudolf's allies see the plans have altered slightly, break down the door, find Michael dead, find the king, lay him in Michael's room, with Antoinette aiding him. They then search for Rudolf, with Fritz finding him after hearing his shout to Rupert to fight. The group decides to put forth the story that the king bravely fought against his attackers and escaped, which they successfully do.

2. How does the farm-girl slightly alter the group's plans? What is Princess Flavia's reaction?

She tells Princess Flavia that the king is here, meaning Rudolf, who is lying in the bushes—although the princess says he's wounded at the castle. Sapt comes, and the princess insists upon seeing Rudolf. She is confused when she sees him, Sapt tells her Rudolf is not the king, and she faints.

3. What rumors of the Prisoner of Zenda spread? What does the king tell Rudolf?

That he is dead, that he vanished alive, that he was a friend of the king, that he was kidnapped and taken away, etc. The king thanks Rudolf and regrets that his advisors say he can't publicly tell the true story and give Rudolph his due. He also thanks Rudolf for showing him what a king should be like.

4. What does Rudolf tell the king that makes him look at Rudolf's hand?

Rudolf says he was tempted to take the crown, not saying why (it's because he loves Princess Flavia).

5. Describe Rudolf's meeting with the princess, and his time with Sapt and Fritz.

He tells her he loves her, and she says the same, but they both agree that honor binds them to never marry. Sapt and Fritz are warm and overwhelmingly kind.

Week 14, Day 4: *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Chapter 22

1. Describe Rudolf's return home and encounters.

He rests for weeks, grows back his beard, and thinks about his adventures. Antoinette is back, but in seclusion, with rumors flying; she answers a letter from Rudolf cordially. George Featherly wonders what's different about him, and suggests that Rudolf has been in love.

2. What does George Featherly say about the events in Ruritania?

That it was a hush-hush affair, and that the prisoner was actually a woman in disguise, who caused a fight between Michael and the king! He also remarks that the princess is cold toward the king now.

3. How does Rose react to Rudolf's absence? What irony is there in her reaction?

She scolds him for doing nothing and making others waste time looking for him—while the irony, of course, is that he was quite busy!

4. Explain the job she proposes for him, and why he doesn't accept.

The job is with the embassy at Strelsau, which Rudolf doesn't accept, because he looks so much like the king and might meet up with those with whom he interacted during his adventures there.

5. What photographs does Robert show Rudolf, and what does he recommend to his brother?

Photos of the "king's" coronation (actually, Rudolf). Robert recommends against going to Strelsau.

6. What feeling does Rudolf have? How does he keep a link to Ruritania in his life?

He believes he is destined for more adventures, and he visits Fritz and his family each year in Dresden.

The Prisoner of Zenda, For Additional Thought/Essay Questions

1. Can you think of a friend or relative your age (or older) who doesn't do much or any work (like Rudolf at the story's opening)? Do you think that person is truly happy? Why or why not? What is the importance of work, other than just the *need* to work to earn a living and eat?

Answers will vary on the first question, but the importance of work includes feeling good about accomplishing something, using the talents God gives you, earning rest, and so on.

2. Do you think there's a specific incident that Rudolf sees or experiences that convinces him to take part in the scheme to save Ruritania? If so, what do you think it is?

Answers will vary!

3. What life-long benefits does a person gain by doing something difficult and risky—but also noble and praiseworthy?

Answers will vary, but a few possibilities: confidence, a good conscience before God and man, the willingness to try other difficult things, respect from others, showing a good example and inspiring others, and so on.

4. Explain the meaning of the following Bible passages, and how they relate to *The Prisoner of Zenda*: Matthew 6:1-4, Luke 17:7-10, 1 Peter 2:17.

*In Matthew 6:1-4, Christians are told to give to others secretly, and God will reward them openly; this is similar to Rudolf's decision to honorably step down and turn the kingdom over to the real king of Ruritania, without any public acknowledgement of his deeds. Luke 17:17-10 reminds Christians that, like a servant that does his duty for his lord, they are to do their duty before God; Rudolf several times in *The Prisoner of Zenda* says he is happy to do his duty for the king because he is the king. 1 Peter 2:17 says this: "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king"; Rudolf does right by his friends, countrymen, and king.*

Week 15, Day 1: “Safety Match”

1. What does Mr. Boom claim to Dick Tarrell about Kate’s state of mind at the story’s opening? How does Dick’s attempt at speaking with her privately go?

He claims his daughter is lonely and would be glad to marry any man who showed interest in her. Dick’s attempt to speak to her along bombs; she barely even looks at him, preferring to read instead.

2. How does Boom try to use Raggett? What does *he* think of the plan?

He thinks Kate just wants to win an argument with her father, so he sets up Raggett to try to woo Kate, so he can say he doesn’t approve of Dick, so Kate will try to resist her father and be attracted to Dick. Kate has already called Raggett an “old chap with one foot in the grave and a face like a dried herring.” Raggett understandably balks!

3. What is Kate’s surprising answer to Raggett’s proposal? How does he react?

She agrees to marry him! He gurgles and chokes when she talks about a three-week honeymoon in London, then when she goes to bed, he blames her father for getting him into this mess.

4. Describe the conversation between Kate and Dick after her father and Raggett leave.

He tells her she’s getting a good man in Raggett, and she tells him she knew all the time it was a setup, since she heard Raggett and her father discussing the idea. Then she says she’d like to marry Dick, and he is glad to hear it!

5. Look up the term “safety match.” What does it mean? Why do you think the story is titled “Safety Match”?

A safety match is a newer type of match that didn’t use white phosphorus, which was dangerous to people. The term “safety match” in the story’s case refers to the “match” between Kate and Dick.

Week 15, Day 2: “On Raising Questions”

1. What would you say is the author’s main point in “On Raising Questions”?

It’s okay to work through doubts in your Christian faith, but to actively try to find problems with Christianity and the Bible is weird and unproductive—why would you try to undercut your only hope for salvation?

2. Explain the “two philosophers and a countryman” illustration.

The two philosophers waste time debating this and that about food, while the countryman just believes and eats and is full. This is like someone who simply believes God’s word and is spiritually “full,” as opposed to someone who thinks up endless questions against God that don’t help him at all.

3. Why does the author say it’s dangerous for someone to cut out or disbelieve this or that part of the Bible as just a fairy tale, or incorrect?

Because that undercuts the whole Bible; if parts are incorrect, why isn’t ALL of it wrong or untrustworthy? What are we going to put our faith in, if some parts—who knows which is true and which isn’t—are wrong?

Week 15, Day 3: “Thankfulness”

1. Why does the author, interestingly, thank God that “our joy is touched with pain”? (See the third stanza.)

It keeps our lives from being “too perfect,” so we appreciate the idea of heaven more, and we lean on God to take us through these times.

2. How does it affect a Christians’ life to know that—as it says in the fifth stanza—“the best [is] in store”?

Like the first question, it keeps us focused more on the life to come than this temporary earthly life.

Week 15, Day 4: “The Pimentia Pancakes”

1. How does Judson’s often fancy way of talking contrast with his behavior toward Willella Learight and Jackson Bird?

He uses fancy vocabulary a great deal, but he (a) acts like an uncultured, gun-toting, violent cowboy who settles things with his gun instead of his brains, when he’s first with Jackson Bird; and (b) acts awkwardly around Willella when he’s courting her, talking of weird things like skinning cows and doing rattlesnake imitations when she’s wanting to sing opera songs.

2. What is the basic gag that Jackson Bird uses to fool Jud? In what funny ways do Willella and Uncle Emsley act when Jud asks about pancakes?

Jackson tells Willella and Uncle Emsley that Jud got hit on the head with a frying pan while somebody was cooking pancakes, and that he now acts crazy and starts talking about pancakes. Willella and Uncle Emsley think Jud is going nuts, asking about a pancake recipe...but, of course, Jackson has put Jud up to it, so Willella will think Jud’s crazy and be sure to marry Jackson!

3. What common elements of a tale set in the American West does this story contain? How is the gunfighting element different?

Cowboy riding and talk of cattle herding, saloons, a lot of western lingo, and the threat of guns (although the only gunplay is Jud’s shooting a few animals to intimidate Jackson, and it’s a battle of wits to win the hand of Willella, instead of some typical gunfight at high noon).

Week 17, Day 1: *The Time Machine*, Introduction & Chapter II

1. What does the Time Traveler claim about time itself? Explain how his friends react.

That time is just another dimension and may be explored and grasped, even traveled through!

2. Describe the miniature Time Machine and the full-sized one. What does the Time Traveler do with the miniature one?

The miniature one is a marvel of complex dials and parts; the Time Traveler gives it to the Psychologist to send, apparently, into time, and it swirls and disappears.

3. Where does the Psychologist say the miniature time machine must have gone, and why? How does he explain that the machine might not have gone where he originally said it had?

He says it must have gone into the past, because if it had gone into the future it would still be there in front of them, spinning. But he corrects himself, saying it might be invisible to the naked eye, like a bullet or fast-spinning wheel.

Week 17, Day 2: *The Time Machine*, Chapters III-V

1. What kind of men are assembled at the Time Traveler's home? Why do you think he asked those particular ones?

Important men, including a newspaper editor and journalist. He seems to have asked them because he wanted to tell them something important.

2. Describe the Time Traveler's condition when he arrives.

He is haggard, dirty, exhausted, without shoes, and looks as if he's been through a difficult, even dangerous experience.

3. How do the Editor and Journalist react to the claims of Time Travel?

They're openly skeptical and mocking of it, to both the guests and the Time Traveler himself.

4. Sum up the interesting things the Time Traveler experiences when first using the Time Machine.

It's disorienting to him; he sees the sun/moon whipping by to indicate days and nights quickly passing; he sees things like snails zipping by;

5. Why does the Time Traveler worry about the Time Machine's position? What calms his fear of this?

He worries that he will occupy the space that some object will occupy in the future, and might therefore destroy the Time Machine. He says, though, that the Time Machine's speedy travel through time erases this concern. (This is similar to the old Star Wars film where Han Solo has to program the route for his spaceship the Millennium Falcon before he jumps to light speed, to make sure he doesn't travel at light speed through a star that is in his way!)

6. What does the Time Traveler see when he stops the machine?

Thunder, hail, flowers, and a giant figure like a winged sphinx carved in white stone. Also huge buildings, as well as persons dressed in soft robes. A pale, frail man about four feet tall comes toward the Time Traveler.

7. What precautions would you take if you knew you were going to take a trip in a time machine?

Answers will vary!

Week 17, Day 3: *The Time Machine*, Chapters V-VI

1. How far into the future has the Time Traveler gone?

Eight-hundred two thousand, seven hundred one years!

2. Describe the figures that the Time Traveler meets. What does he think of them?

Frail, childlike, weak, lazy, easily tired. The Time Traveler is disappointed that they're not scientifically advanced and sophisticated.

3. What is the dining hall like?

Large, but broken-down and old. In it the little people eat fruit that is on the various tables.

4. If you stepped out of a time machine in the future, what would you do to try to stay safe?

Answers will vary!

5. What makes the Time Traveler think communism rules in the future?

No single homes or cities exist, just giant living structures; everyone looks and acts the same; there is little drive or energy shown by the people; there is evidently no private property anywhere.

6. What does the Time Traveler think about nature and man's relationship to it?

That man in the nineteenth century was working on conquering nature (improving food and animal husbandry and so on), and that he thought the world in AD 802,700 showed evidence of this—with beautiful flowers everywhere, and a lack of gnats, flies, weeds, etc.

7. Compare the Time Traveler's thoughts on the world in AD 802,701 to the world he comes from.

He sees—at first!—the world of AD 802,701 as an ideal one, where no one fights or dies, where disease doesn't exist, where work is easy, and where the people barely have to work or think. The world of 1895, to the Time Traveler, was made of men who strove to build, sell, and conquer, and he sees the people in this new world as better—for now.

Week 17, Day 4: *The Time Machine*, Chapters VII-VIII

1. What is the "sudden shock"?

The Time Machine is gone!

2. What does the Time Traveler deduce has happened? How?

It has been taken into the dome/palace; he sees the tracks it has left, showing it was moved, and he sees footprints like footprints of sloths.

3. What does he decide to do? What would you do in his situation?

To be patient, immerse himself into the culture, and use his cunning to retrieve his time machine. Answers will vary to the second question!

4. What mysteries does the Time Traveler struggle to understand? Can you think of answers to any of those mysteries?

What the “wells” are, where loud bangs are heard; where the people bury their dead; why there are no sick or old among them; how the people are clothed and shoed without machinery. Answers will vary to the second question!

5. What is strange about what happens to Weena? What does she fear?

She’s about to drown, but no one even thinks about helping her except for the Time Traveler, who saves her. As he develops a friendship with her, he realizes she greatly fears the dark, as do many others.

6. What does the Time Traveler think he sees one evening/morning, and again in a tunnel? What does he conclude about them?

White, apelike creatures, with one dragging another creature behind. The one in the tunnel has glowing eyes and is clumsy, and the Time Traveler concludes that they are underground dwellers, the other half of mankind in the world.

7. Sum up the Time Traveler’s theory about the Morlocks and the Eloi.

He thinks the Eloi (who live above ground) have tamed or enslaved the Morlocks into working and providing for them. (The Time Traveler compares the two groups to haves/have-nots, similar to his own era in London, in which some live in comfort and security, and some live in poverty outside the upper class.)

Week 18, Day 1: *The Time Machine*, Chapters IX-X

1. Describe the Time Traveler’s encounter with the Morlocks.

He climbs down a “well” to find out about them. They recoil at his match flame, then get bolder and attack him. He escapes by climbing the well ladder, although he loses one boot.

2. What’s the Time Traveler’s new theory about the Morlocks and Eloi?

That the Eloi might have previously ruled the Morlocks, but that the relationship had reversed, and that the Eloi fear the dark because of the Morlocks.

3. What does he resolve to do? How?

To fight back by finding a safe place from the Morlocks in the dark, and to try to defeat them, ultimately. He plans to get weapons and fire, break open the doors under the White Sphinx, and recover his Time Machine.

Week 18, Day 2: *The Time Machine*, Chapter XI

What does the Time Traveler discover in the Palace of Green Porcelain?

Remains of an old culture, a museum, well-preserved glass containers, a path to the Morlocks’ underground domain, matches, camphor, and a club to use to fight the Morlocks.

Week 18, Day 3: *The Time Machine*, Chapters XII & XIII

1. Describe the confusion and trouble “in the darkness.”

The Time Traveler and Weena try to find a safe place, but are attacked and surrounded by Morlocks. They manage to fend them off using matches and the club, helped by the forest fire. Weena, however, faints and is lost in the upheaval.

2. How does the Time Traveler guess as to how the Underworld came to dominate the Upperworld?

He says that the Upperworld got lazy after focusing too long on comfort and ease, and that the Underworld, still used to working, retained its drive, leading that group to gain dominance over the lazier Upperworld.

3. Explain this line from the Time Traveler, describing the Eloi: “Very pleasant was their day, as pleasant as the day of the cattle in the field.”

The Eloi never consider anything except what happens to them at the time, and they live like brainless cattle being fed by their masters.

4. What surprises await the Time Traveler when he goes to recover his Time Machine under the White Sphinx?

The bronze doors are wide open, and the Time Machine is sitting there unguarded! But as he goes to sit in it, he finds it has been oiled and cleaned, and that it is a trap. The Morlocks close the doors, leaving the Time Traveler in the dark, and he barely escapes them by starting the Time Machine back again.

Week 18, Day 4: *The Time Machine*, Chapters XIV, XV, XVI, Epilogue

1. What does the Time Traveler see on his next venture through time?

Far into the future, an Earth that barely resembles the present world, giant crab creatures, air difficult to breathe, then a dying sun and bitter cold (and an almost lifeless planet), and finally, blackness, suggesting the Earth has ended.

2. What do the guests think about the Time Traveler’s story?

Most scoff, even though he produces unknown flowers and other evidence of his trip, like scared knuckles from fighting the Morlocks.

3. What happens to the narrator to confirm his belief of the Time Traveler’s story?

He sees the Time Traveler disappear after getting on the Time Machine again, and relates that no one has seen him for more than three years.

4. Describe the narrator’s thoughts on the world at the story’s end. What do the flowers represent to him?

Answers will vary, but it’s pretty hopeless, based on what the Time Traveler says about his time trips. The flowers were given to the Time Traveler by Weena, as a present, and to the narrator they represent “gratitude and a mutual tenderness still lived on in the heart of man.”

The Time Machine, For Additional Thought/Essay Questions

1. If you had a time machine, would you go to the future or to the past? Where would you go, and why?

Answers will vary!

2. Who is the narrator? How does telling the story from his viewpoint increase interest?

The narrator is a friend of the Time Traveler. Answers will vary on the second question, but might include things like “It makes it seem as if the story is near,” or “It gives us someone to identify with, especially concerning questions like: ‘Is the Time Traveler’s story real?’”

3. The Eloi are lazy, lack ambition, have diminished language skills, lack sympathy for others (Weena’s near drowning, for example), and think little about tomorrow as long as they’re given food. How are some people in our society similar?

Answers will vary, but a few possibilities: Many today lack knowledge of history, math, and the ability to write; smart phones have turned many users into self-absorbed clods who stare down at their phones, even when others are sitting right next to them; many today live simply for a thrill or fun time, thinking little about tomorrow.

4. H. G. Wells was a *socialist*—someone who believes that government should use force to make the rich and poor more “equal.” How does Wells show his belief in socialism in *The Time Machine*? What does the Bible say the purpose of government *should* be, instead of making people more “equal”? (See Jeremiah 22:3, Ezekiel 45:9, Romans 13:3-4, and 1 Peter 2:13-14.)

In The Time Machine, the narrator remarks several times about so-called “classes” in society—the rich and the poor—and how he hopes science and progress (and maybe “enlightened” governments) will end those differences. In contrast to the notion that the government should take from some and give to others, the Bible teaches that the purpose of government is to “execute judgment and justice,” “remove the spoiled (those who are stolen from) from the hand of the oppressor,” be a “terror” to “evil” (those who harm or steal from others), and to punish “evildoers.”

5. The Time Traveler says this at one point in *The Time Machine*:

I grieved to think how brief the dream of the human intellect had been. It had committed suicide. It had set itself steadfastly towards comfort and ease, a balanced society with security and permanency as its watch-word, it had attained its hopes—to come to this at last.

What do you think he means by this?

Something like this: Mankind’s desire for knowledge wasn’t for bettering humanity, but to make life easier—a more selfish reason. And if our only goal is to have an easy life, that will probably end up hurting us (like it did the Eloi). Of course, you could also say: “What’s wrong with technology that makes life easier and safer—things like dishwashers, cars, computers, advanced lifesaving surgeries, and things like that?”

6. As opposed to the gloomy outlook for the future, as shown by the Time Traveler’s last trip (possibly representing author H. G. Wells’s pessimism about the world’s future), how does a Christian (a) look at the world differently, and (b) look forward to the future? (See Proverbs 23:17-18, Isaiah 46:9-10, John 16:33, Hebrews 13:8, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Revelation 21:1-7.)

A Christian looks at the world differently, not like how Wells seems to put his hope in science and reason—that one day the world will reach a point where all works together for good. The Christian looks at this world as a temporary stopping point, just a small blip before eternity with Jesus. Things a Christian can remember about the future: “There is an end,” but those who fear God have hope in it (Proverbs 23:17-18); God knows the future and will do all He sets out to do (Isaiah 46:9-10); Jesus has “overcome the world” (John 16:33); Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8); Christians have a “lively hope” in their resurrection that is reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5); and that rather than hoping in a planet that will be destroyed and remade by God, Christians look to the “new heaven” and “new earth” that God will prepare (Revelation 21:1-7).

Week 19, Day 1: “Have You Done Your Best?”

1. Which things said by Booker T. Washington spoke to you or prompted you to think about the quality of your work, or your attitude toward it?

Answers will vary!

2. Look up and read Colossians 3:22-24, a passage Paul wrote to Christian slaves. What are Christian slaves commanded to do? If that’s true, what does God expect of those of us who *aren’t* slaves?

Christian slaves are told to obey their masters, working “heartily, as to the Lord.” If SLAVES are commanded that, surely we who aren’t slaves can work hard at our not-as-hard jobs and responsibilities.

3. Write down several things you can start doing this week—today, if possible—to help your Mom and Dad, either around the house, or may-be by taking charge of your own homeschooling. Pray about your attitude, and commit to the Lord to make it better!

Answers will vary!

Week 19, Day 2: “Billy” Sunday: The Man and His Message

1. How does Billy Sunday’s speaking style differ from many preachers you’ve probably heard?

It is plain and down to earth, a speaking style much like the way people normally talk, instead of a highly formal style many preachers use today.

2. Write down one or two plain-spoken or interesting sentences from the sermon excerpts in this selection.

Answers will vary!

3. How is Billy Sunday tough on both non-Christians *and* those who call themselves Christians?

He tells non-Christians they need to stop messing around and believe on Jesus Christ, and he tells those who identify as Christians to start acting like it!

Week 19, Day 3: “Jim, Who Ran Away from His Nurse, and Was Eaten by a Lion”

1. Look up the definition of *parody*. Compare T. S. Arthur’s “Temptation Resisted” (see page 63) to “Jim, Who Ran Away from His Nurse.” How does today’s poem qualify as a parody?

The poem qualifies as a parody because it exaggerates and pokes fun at stories like “Temptation Resisted,” which are trying to teach an actual moral; Belloc’s poem is mocking this type of story, in a lighthearted way.

2. Read another selection or two from Hilaire Belloc’s *Cautionary Tales for Children*. What “lesson” did what you read offer to children?

Answers will vary!

Week 19, Day 4: “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder”

1. What evidence is there at the “scene of the crime” that points to McFarlane’s guilt?

His walking stick with blood on it, Oldacre’s disappearance, papers scattered around, and the charred remains of someone in the fire set by Oldacre’s home.

2. Why does Oldacre tell McFarlane to keep his inheritance from him a secret from anyone?

Because Oldacre wants to make it look as if McFarlane killed him for the money.

3. Why does Holmes doubt McFarlane’s guilt after hearing his story?

He doesn’t think he would kill Oldacre the same day he was made his heir, do it right after a housekeeper who can identify him let him in, or conceal the body while leaving his stick.

4. Why is the thumbprint an important piece of evidence?

To the police, it “proves” that McFarlane committed the crime, but to Holmes, who already examined the exact place and found nothing, it means that somebody put that thumbprint there recently.

5. What is the motive of the criminal?

Hatred of McFarlane’s mother for rejecting his marriage proposal many years ago; Oldacre planned to disappear and take his money under another identity, and at the same time, get even with her.

Week 20, Day 1: “The Eagle”

1. Where is the *alliteration* and the *simile* in this poem?

The alliteration is the line “clasps the crag with crooked hands”; the simile is “like a thunderbolt he falls.”

2. What’s the poem’s rhyme scheme and number of syllables in each line?

AAA, BBB. Each line has nine syllables.

3. How is the eagle “ring’d with the azure world”? (That is, what blue things is the eagle surrounded by?)

It is surrounded by blue things: the sky and the ocean.

Week 20, Day 1: “Ingratitude”

1. Define the word *ingratitude*.

Not being thankful.

2. What does the poet speak to?

The winter wind and the frozen sky. This is called an “apostrophe.”

3. What does the poet say is worse than a cold winter wind and a bitter, frozen sky?

Man’s ingratitude, and a friend who fails to remember your faithfulness as a friend.

4. What does God’s Word say about ingratitude in Luke 6:35 and 2 Timothy 3:1-2?

It says that God loves and blesses all people, even the unthankful, and that in the last days, men will be lovers of their own selves, and overcome by sins, including being unthankful.

Week 20, Day 2: “The Golden Windows”

1. What about this story makes it read like a fairy tale or a fable?

It is short, the characters are never named, and the writing style resembles a fable or fairy tale.

2. What lesson does the boy say he learns? What does he mean by it?

That his house has windows of gold and diamond. He really means that it looks beautiful to others who see it from the other side of the valley—that is, he has something to be thankful for that he didn’t “see.”

3. Have you ever envied someone else’s home or possessions? What have you been blessed with that you wouldn’t trade for anything?

Answers will vary!

Week 20, Day 2: “A Dilemma”

1. What is ironic about the uncle’s saying to the narrator that he (the uncle) wants his nephew “continuously to remember [his] dear uncle”?

He remembers his uncle, all right; all he can do is think about how cruel of a trick he’s played on him for the rest of his life!

2. Do you find it strange that the nephew finds a list of the stones and their value “between the leaves of [his] uncle’s Bible”? If so, why?

Would a man who read his Bible a lot pull such a cruel trick on someone, and talk about how he hates the poor, and how much he hates his sister-in-law?

3. Well, what *would* you do if you were faced with this dilemma?

Answers will vary!

Week 20, Day 3: “Inscriptions on a Sun-Dial”

1. Who is narrating the above poem?

The sun-dial itself!

2. In what other way could the reader interpret the poem’s last two lines?

It’s another way of saying that just because a “shadow” (misfortune or sadness) has fallen over your life is no reason to despair: The presence of a shadow means there must be a light, too!

Week 20, Day 3: “Four Things”

Think of four different things that a person *should* do. Then write your own, original last four lines to the above poem.

Answers will vary!

Week 20, Day 4: “The Revolt of Mother”

1. What kind of people are Sarah and Adoniram Penn?

She’s a hard worker, loyal and thankful to her husband, resourceful, and strong-minded. He’s cheap, and grunts instead of talking; he also seems to be more concerned about making money than taking care of Sarah’s needs properly.

2. Why is Sarah upset at the digging of the barn?

Adoniram had promised her before to build a house, not another barn; they need a new house built before they build a new barn to put four cows in, since their present house is so old and in bad shape.

3. What does Nanny say to Sarah that shocks her into action?

She says she’s too embarrassed to have her wedding in the house, but would be willing to have it in the new barn, because it will be nicer!

4. What does the town think of what Sarah has done? What do they do when Adoniram is due back?

They talk endlessly about it; some think she’s insane, and some say she’s rebellious. They hang around the Penn farm when Adoniram is due back to see the possible fireworks!

5. Why do you think Adoniram weeps at the story’s end?

Answers will vary, but maybe he feels bad for neglecting the needs of his wife for so long.

Week 21, Day 1: *The Yellow Pearl*

1. What do Aunt Gwendolin, Uncle Theodore, and Grandmother argue about when Margaret arrives?

What to do about Margaret; Aunt Gwendolin instantly tries to make sure she conforms to American culture and talks down about her, prejudiced against Chinese persons. Uncle Theodore and Grandmother resist some, but Uncle Theodore sides with Gwendolin.

2. What is your feeling toward Aunt Gwendolin? Why?

Answers will vary, but probably resentment, because she's so inflexible about allowing Margaret to be herself and acknowledge her ancestry—even insisting that the family pretend she's Spanish!

3. What feeling about herself does Margaret get, ask her uncle about, and buy books about China to study?

She wonders why Americans like her aunt and uncle dislike Chinese persons so much, and wants to find out.

4. How do the words of Confucius on women's behavior (page 83) compare to Philippians 2:3?

Confucius says women should "be always modest and respectful in demeanor, and prefer others to themselves," which echoes Philippians 2:3, which says to Christians, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

5. What pointed comments about American habits does Margaret make?

American women spend endless time talking about dress sleeves and talk saucily, and the men have faces that say, "Get out of my way!" She hates the gaudy furs that American women often wear, although she admits that the rich in China also wear them.

6. What reasonable question about dress and church, and about the cost of the oak panels, does Margaret ask Aunt Gwendolin? What's your take on this?

"Does God require us to wear such fashionable clothes to worship Him?" That's a good point, and it probably makes the reader think about the habit is a good one. Margaret also notes that the \$3,000 spent on decorating the church would have paid for much of the missionary's costs—but Aunt Gwendolin tells her not to "talk foolishness"!

7. How does Grandmother answer Margaret's similar question about Christians?

Grandmother realizes the hypocrisy of the church's spending so much on fancy things instead of on their missionaries and the poor, and she says, basically, "No, Jesus would not approve of that."

Week 21, Day 2: *The Yellow Pearl*

1. What does Margaret think about the women at her aunt's dinner party? What do you think she'd say if she could see how women dress today?

She's shocked at the immodesty (bare arms, which Chinese women wouldn't dare show); she'd probably be floored completely by the blatant immodesty today.

2. What two things upset Margaret, in a supposed “Christian” country? How do Uncle Theodore and Aunt Gwendolin react to Margaret’s sadness?

Strikers refusing to work until they’re paid what the demand, and men who sell alcohol. Uncle Theodore says Margaret is very sharp, and Aunt Gwendolin says she’s a cross between a witch and a devil!

3. Why does Aunt Gwendolin get a Chinese cook? Describe him and the “biscuit incident.”

She tries to make Margaret think lower of herself—that if she sees a Chinese cook, she’ll think that her Chinese heritage is only fit for lower jobs and positions. Yee Yick is a good cook, vain, and trying to learn English. He sprays milk from his mouth onto the biscuit mix out of habit, and Aunt Gwendolin and Uncle Theodore eat three each that night, commenting on how good they taste!

4. Describe the humor in the outfit that Margaret wears to go out walking.

She dresses as an old woman, and is treated respectfully by others, and isn’t recognized as a young woman. Aunt Gwendolin sees her going up the back stairs and asks Yee Yock who the old woman was, and Yee Yick, mindful of his promise to Margaret, says he didn’t see any old woman!

5. What does Mrs. Paton tell Margaret? How does it affect her?

That Margaret has a special talent and duty to use it. Margaret is excited and wants to find out what it is.

6. Sum up the conversation with Dr. Ballington about China and civilization. Why do you think he shoots a look at Margaret when she sings her Spanish song?

Aunt Gwendolin is insulting of the Chinese, but Dr. Ballington points out some ways in which their culture is ethical and places high value on good things. He probably knows Margaret isn’t Spanish after she sings her song, which is likely why he looks at her with a mysterious smile.

7. Why do you think Margaret is so determined to help Mrs. Yet? How does it seem to pay off?

She’s also a Chinese woman struggling to fit into American society, and her heart goes out to her. By buying Mrs. Yet clothes—and her testifying in English—she credited herself as a reliable witness in favor of her husband, who has apparently been falsely accused.

Week 21, Day 3: *The Yellow Pearl*

1. How does Margaret find her special talent and duty?

She learns that Mrs. Yet is stricken with diphtheria, and she goes to help take care of the baby, as well as paying for a nurse to take care of Mrs. Yet.

2. In what ways does Dr. Ballington help Margaret and the Yet family?

He gives her advice on using disinfectants to reduce the chance of her being infected, and he quotes some Chinese poetry, which makes Margaret feel good, and not so disliked. He also buys a soft, comfortable mattress for the Yet baby, who is sick because of his teeth.

3. How is Margaret's experience at the theater still appropriate to our modern day? What does Margaret say about America after visiting a home for incurably sick children?

People still go to movies and plays that feature all sorts of immoral, violent, and ungodly material and language, even adults who ought to know better. At the children's home Margaret thinks that in China, such children would be killed because they were "useless."

4. What does Margaret feel when she sees the ballroom dance? What conflicting advice does she get?

She loathes the idea of having to dance with some man's arms around her, sleeveless!, and doesn't want to "come out." Professor Ballington says she should marry some good man, and Mrs. Paton says she should dedicate herself to missions.

5. Describe the interesting conversation Margaret has with Graham, the chauffeur.

He says when he finishes medical school, he wants to go to China to start a medical school—that "all the broken legs will be set in this country whether I am here to set them or not; I want to go where they will not be set unless I do it."

6. What comment does Aunt Gwendolin make about Margaret's speech, and how is this typical of her whole attitude? Why do you think she wants so badly to send Margaret to boarding school?

She says Margaret's speech isn't high-class enough (she means "artificial," as Uncle Theodore puts it). This idea is typical because it's what Aunt Gwendolin has been about the whole time—making Margaret into someone she's not at all. Answers will vary on the last question, but it's possible that Aunt Gwendolin just wants to get Margaret out of her hair.

7. Based on how Margaret's first days at boarding school, how do you think things will go for her?

Answers will vary!

Week 21, Day 4: *The Yellow Pearl*

1. What does Margaret say that newspaper stories focus on, as the example of Mrs. Delancy's party shows?

What women are wearing (not what they do or say), with the men not mentioned at all.

2. What is your reaction to Mrs. Delancy's Christmas spending and response to Mrs. Paton's request for funds to help the poor?

Answers will vary, but it seems hypocritical and self-indulgent to pretend to be unable to give to the poor when you've spent so much on frivolous items.

3. What does Grandmother do in winter that Margaret appreciates so much? What does Margaret say she's having trouble doing with Aunt Gwendolin and others?

Grandmother says she doesn't have to go back to boarding school, showing that she loves Margaret and wants her around. Margaret is struggling with loving others (like Aunt Gwendolin) who are cruel to her.

4. Why does Margaret feel so miserable in Mexico? What lesson is that for us today?

She is so very rich, but feels worthless, since she has nothing to accomplish. That same truth holds today!

5. What do Grandmother and Uncle Theodore think of Aunt Gwendolin's marriage? What do Grandmother and Uncle Theodore say about Professor Ballington? What is Margaret's response to Ned?

The two think the man Gwendolin's marrying is just a broke fortune hunter, and Gwendolin is willing to marry him for his title. Grandmother thinks Ballington would be a better match for Gwendolin, but Uncle Theodore says he's more likely to favor Margaret! She rejects Cousin Ned's marriage proposal, saying it's the furthest thing from her mind.

6. Explain the point Grandmother makes about the "yellow peril."

Some Americans thought that they should keep Chinese out because they might overtake the nation, so there was a backlash against them.

7. Why does such a large space of time go by, from June to June, until Margaret writes in her diary? What decision of hers ends the story?

She is working hard and busy, which distracts her and keeps her from having time to write. She decides to go with Dr. Graham to China to work with his medical practice, and very likely marry him.

Week 22, Day 1: "What Can I Do?"

1. Croft says he can't earn his way into heaven because he's not able. What does the Bible say about earning our way into heaven?

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

2. What happens as Croft goes to work? How does this work end up blessing both him and Tom's friends?

Tom becomes a blessing to Croft by reading to him, and he blesses the boys by instructing them and talking about noble and holy things. Croft is rewarded by the townspeople for doing this for Tom, and Tom is rewarded for helping the boys by eventually becoming a schoolmaster.

3. What is some talent *you* have that you could use to help someone around you like Croft helped Tom?

Answers will vary!

Week 22, Day 2: "A Pioneer Mother"

1. List some of the qualities of the author's mother. Which of these are especially touching to you?

She longed for her husband to return from war, endured hardship, cracked jokes, taught the author to read, didn't hold grudges, was beloved by all, she patiently endured diseases like smallpox with no complaint, she moved respectfully when her husband wanted to, and so on. Answers will vary on the second question.

2. How does the death of her eldest daughter affect Mrs. Garland?

She becomes "middle aged" to her sons, because her grief "ages" her, but keeps her cheerfulness.

3. When the family goes west, and they part with Hamlin, how do the neighbors send Mrs. Garland off? How does she respond?

They buy her rich gifts—silverware and glassware; Mrs. Garland cannot even speak her thanks. Their neighbors weep when they say goodbye, and it's a very emotional scene, knowing that they will almost surely never see each other again.

4. Why does the author say he wrote this account of his mother?

To make other weary older mothers happy, and to encourage children to visit their elderly parents—to pay them back for the hard work that the parents went through to provide for them.

5. Find online a video of a violinist/fiddler playing “Money Musk” and “Old Dan Tucker” (like the author’s mother used to play).

6. The author mentions his mother’s highly beautiful singing voice, and thinks that the world lost a great singer because his mother worked the farm and home instead. What talent does *your* mother have that might have made her well-known or appreciated by others that she gave up in order to stay home and teach you?

Answers will vary!

Week 22, Day 3: “Up Hill”

1. Why does the poet use italics for every other line?

It shows that the poem is a conversation between two persons.

2. What do you think “the road” in this poem really stands for, other than an actual road? Why?

It likely stands for life itself—how it is like a journey that’s sometimes difficult, but with “rest” at the end of the journey.

3. Compare lines five and thirteen to Matthew 11:28-30.

Those lines say that there is rest at the end of the journey; in Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells His followers to come to Him, and He will give them rest.

Week 22, Day 4: “Quality”

1. What kind of men are the Gessler brothers? What are their shoes like?

They’re German shoemakers, hardworking and pleasant, and their shoes are works of art, lasting a long time.

2. What does the author learn about the Gesslers and their business when he brings his new walking boots back to them? How does the author soothe his guilt?

First, they’re not the Gesslers’ boots; second, the larger firms are taking away much of the Gesslers’ business; third, they’re not as good as the Gesslers’ boots; fourth, the Gesslers are struggling to survive, and

Mr. Gessler looks much older suddenly. To sooth his guilt, he buys several pairs of boots, and they are so well made that he doesn't have to go back for two years.

3. What discovery does the author make one day as he enters the Gesslers' shop? Why has this happened? What could the Gesslers done to have avoided it?

He enters and learns that the elder Gessler has died, then comes in some time later and learns that the younger Gessler has also died. The Gesslers were expert shoemakers, but they couldn't compete with other shoe stores and their advertising. They didn't keep up with the times, so nobody knew about their high-quality boots.

4. Why do you think the story is titled "Quality"?

Because of the quality of work the Gesslers did.

Week 23, Day 1: "Proverbs 13"

1. Put into your own words the main ideas expressed by verses three, seven, thirteen, and twenty-four.

Answers will vary, but something like (in order): "A person can stay out of trouble by keeping his mouth shut and not talking too much (or foolishly), but can get into trouble by talking too much"; "Many rich persons have lots of money, but nothing really valuable, and many poor persons have little money, but great riches that aren't money"; "Obeying God's Word keeps a person out of trouble"; and "A parent that doesn't spank his child really hates his child, but a parent who loves his child trains him up starting when he's young."

2. Which ones of the other verses' main ideas have you seen come true in your experience and observation?

Answers will vary!

Week 23, Day 2: "Bears of High and Low Degree"

1. How does the author's descriptions of the bears make them seem almost human?

They have many of the same faults and strengths of humans: protectiveness about their children, grouchiness, the desire for food, and so on.

2. What do you think the author's lighthearted approach and sense of humor do for his bear tales?

Answers will vary!

3. Look up the grizzly bear, and find out a few facts about the animal that you weren't aware of.

Answers will vary!

Week 23, Day 3: "The Children's Hour"

1. Name some of the strong nouns and verbs that Longfellow uses in this poem to create images in the reader's mind.

Answers will vary!

2. Do you have younger brothers or sisters that you enjoy playing with? What are some funny or cute things you love about them?

Answers will vary!

3. Look up the Mouse Tower and the legend of Bishop Hatto. Now go back and read the four lines beginning with “They almost devour me with kisses....” How is this picture the poet paints a little clearer now?

The legend of Bishop Hatto has him in a castle with a tower across the river in Bingen, Germany. Hatto supposedly kept food from the townspeople, and even tricked them into going into a barn to wait for food, then locking them in and killing them, saying, “Listen to the mice squeak!” Hatto then was attacked by mice, which ate him alive. The poem compares the author’s daughters climbing up and wrapping themselves around him like the mice attacking Hatto.

Week 23, Day 3: “I Like to See It Lap the Miles”

1. Well, what is the “it” referred to in this poem’s first line?

It’s a train!

2. Sum up what happens in each stanza.

In the first stanza, the train is traveling fast around the country; in the second, the train goes around mountains and rock beds; in the third, the train goes into tunnels loudly; in the fourth, it roars loudly again and comes to the station and stops.

Week 23, Day 4: “A Doctor’s Cow”

1. Give several reasons why Dr. Layton refuses to get rid of Harry.

It was just a mistake by a careless boy, not a malicious act; Harry has improved since coming to the farm; it won’t bring back the cow if they do get rid of him; Harry is heartbroken over his mistake; it will hurt Harry’s ability to find another place if they let him go; and Harry’s future is more important than a cow!

2. How does the Dr.’s investment in Harry reap many dividends?

Besides the natural and most important one of saving Harry’s future and giving him a chance at a new life, Harry does well, marries well, becomes a father, and rises as an honest senator. And he repays the doctor with a monetary gift as well.

3. How does this story compare to God’s treatment of mankind? (See, for example, 2 Peter 3:9.)

2 Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” God is patient with His creation, and wants everyone to repent and be saved, much like the doctor showed great patience with Harry.

Week 24, Day 1: “Giving Up the Right to Our Standard of Living”

1. What one principle does the lady doctor say about her house? Why?

She'd never have anything in her house that would prevent ordinary poor people from coming in it. It's to keep from creating a stumbling block for others who might believe, but see the missionaries as rich people.

2. The author says that missionaries must make some adjustments in their living to fit into their surroundings in a new land, but shouldn't always adopt *every* custom or practice. What principle should missionaries follow to help them decide whether they should adopt a new custom or practice?

The principle is that they should try to blend in with the natives to win them over and win their confidence, and so they'll know that the missionaries aren't snooty or looking down on them. But if a practice violates their Christian faith, those missionaries shouldn't conform to it.

3. How can advice from a foreign missionary about what new missionaries should and shouldn't do apply to *your* life as a young person today?

Answers will vary!

Week 24, Day 2: “Shandon Waters”

1. Sum up Shandon Waters's background, and why the townspeople are stunned to see her in town.

She was orphaned at six, grew up a rough and untamed girl, and didn't know social customs very well. The people are stunned to see her, because since becoming a widow six months ago she hasn't left her home.

2. How does Dan's death affect Shandon?

She becomes even more withdrawn and anti-social, and never visits anybody.

3. How does Shandon react to the news about Mary's wedding, and Mary and the doctor's appearance?

She's upset because Mary seems to have everything, and she's more upset because she's marrying the doctor who operated on Dan, who didn't survive. Shandon is quite angry at the doctor, and she lashes him in the face with her whip.

4. How does the town rally around Shandon Waters when Danny needs help? If you had to predict what happens the next few years after this tale, what would you predict?

Mary and the doctor gladly postpone a huge wedding to help Danny when he's poisoned, even when the doctor still has a scar on his face from Shandon's whip. Answers will vary on the second question, but surely Shandon will try to interact more with the Deaneville residents after this!

Week 24, Day 3: “Old Aunt Mary's”

1. List several things that stuck in your mind that the poet loved about going to Old Aunt Mary's house.

Answers will vary!

2. Do you have a relative like Old Aunt Mary, whose home you love to visit? What about that relative's home do you enjoy?

Answers will vary!

3. Write a five-line poem like one of the stanzas of this poem about a relative you like to visit, or a place you love to go. Try to follow the same rhyme scheme as "Old Aunt Mary's."

Answers will vary!

Week 24, Day 4: "Do Insects Think?"

1. Finish this sentence in your own words: "The 'Do Insects Think?' author says (with a sense of humor, of course!) that he knows Pudge is a good thinker, because ____." What is ridiculous about this claim?

Answers will vary, but could include something like, "when he got up in the morning, Pudge had not touched the pile of scattered cards on the floor, which showed that Pudge knew she would make more of a mess trying to refile them—proving that Pudge was thinking carefully!" The claim is ridiculous, of course, because there's no evidence at all that Pudge, a wasp, did this at all!

2. Write an original paragraph of your own—make it about anything you want—that follows the pattern of the author's absurdly funny claim.

Answers will vary!

Week 25, Day 1: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapters One, Two, and Three

1. What is your impression of Tom Bailey after his introduction?

Answers will vary!

2. Sum up Tom's background. What is Aunt Chloe like?

He was born in New England, but moved at a year-and-a-half to Louisiana, learning to dislike the North, though his picture of it is off (thinking it had Indians who scalped people after dark, it was winter all year, and everyone lived in log cabins). Aunt Chloe is Tom's black keeper, and she fills him with stories about the North.

3. How does Tom treat Sam and react to his father's promise to send him North for schooling? How does Tom's father react?

He kicks Sam when he gets angry, which he is about the prospect of going North for his education. This upsets his father, who chides Tom about his silly beliefs, and explains how it really is, which changes Tom's mind. To sweeten the deal, Tom's father tells him he and Tom's mother will visit him every other summer, and he sends ahead a pony named Gypsy.

4. Describe Tom's journey to Rivermouth.

He sails with his parents, determined to bring a gun to protect himself from Indians and pirates, has a tiny room, meets sailors (including one with a mermaid tattoo who makes outrageous claims about his

experiences and tries to tattoo Tom at Tom's request), gets seasick, sees the boat tossed around by winds, and arrives.

Week 25, Day 2: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Four

1. How' does Tom's first visit to Boston go?

He doesn't like the looks of the city compared to New Orleans, but thinks it's pretty when he gets a good look (after the express train gets him there). He enjoys meeting his Grandfather Nutter and looking at the beautiful old houses and decorations.

2. Describe the "Oldest Inhabitant" house. How does Dame Jocelyn fit in?

It has a barn-like roof, large windows, and an interesting history—as a hotel and meeting place, with many famous historical figures having stayed there (Lafayette, William Pitt, John Hancock, Philippe, Washington). Dame Jocelyn lives upstairs in the building and tells endless stories from "the old days" to Tom.

Week 25, Day 3: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Five

1. What part of the Nutter House is most interesting to you? What is Tom's room like?

Answers will vary. Tom's room is above the front door, twice as big as his room on the Typhoon, neat and comfortable, with furniture and books.

2. Who lives in the Nutter House? What are they like?

Grandfather Nutter, his sister Abigail, and their housekeeper Kitty Collins. Grandfather is healthy and an ex-sailor and soldier who tells the story of how he was wounded in the leg during the Revolutionary War; he is a widower. Abigail manages the home (and her brother), having come to live with him right after his wife died and staying for 17 years. Kitty Collins (Miss Catherine) came from Ireland during the Great Famine, married a sailor on board a ship to America, and lived well-off in New York; her husband went to sea, and she never heard from him again, so she drifted to Rivermouth, and the Nutters treat her as one of the family.

Week 25, Day 4: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Six

1. Do you think it's wise for Tom's parents to leave him in Rivermouth? (Would you like that?) Why or why not?

Answers will vary!

2. Describe the Temple School and its boys.

It's a school with 42 boys, some instantly liked by Tom, some not. They make friendly advances toward him, and menacing ones too, including a boy who pantomimes that he will punch Tom, and one who offers him "candy," which turns out to be cayenne pepper!

3. What is Conway like? How does Jack Harris warn Tom, and what does Tom refer to Conway and Seth Rodgers as?

Conway is a creep and tells Tom he'll have to fight him; Jack tells Tom the same thing. Conway and Seth are conspirators, and go together, Tom says, like "a deranged stomach and headache."

4. How does being with the various boys—many of whom don't have it as easy as he does—affect Tom?

For the better, he says—teaching him to get along, act more manly and responsible, and give up the idea that the world revolves around him.

5. Name the things the boys do for fun. How does the theater go—and end?

Go exploring, "sail" to a small island, play baseball, etc. The theater is begun in Tom's carriage house, with him earning "money" by playing many parts, but it ends when Tom shoots an arrow into Pepper Whitcomb's mouth during a production of a play about William Tell.

6. Describe Sundays for Tom

He dislikes them, because on Saturday evenings, the Nutters act as if they're having a funeral, and don't talk or smile or eat hot food. They act miserable, completely different than how they act during the week.

Week 26, Day 1: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Seven

1. What's the upcoming big even the boys are excited about? How does Mr. Grimshaw make allowances for them?

The Fourth of July; Mr. Grimshaw realizes the boys are too excited to do much schooling, so he shapes his lessons in all subjects to reflect the subject.

2. What does Tom do one night to join the boys? Describe the mail-coach incident and punishment.

He climbs down a rope to the ground from his bedroom to join the bonfire the boys are having. He gets into trouble while trying to burn Ezra Wingate's dilapidated mail coach, running it downhill into the bonfire, while Pepper Whitcomb gets out a little late, singeing his hair and burning his eyebrows off! The boys are grabbed by adults and put into a "jail" together. The boys escape by putting up benches to the window and climbing out.

Week 26, Day 2: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapters Eight and Nine

1. What is funny about Grandfather's remarks about the events of the night, and Tom's reactions?

Grandfather says, "Well, Thomas, you didn't wait to be called this morning." He sure didn't; he was burning up a mail-coach and escaping from jail! Tom's reply is also funny, saying that he "took a little run up town." When Grandfather reads in the paper that some troublemakers burned Ezra Wingate's mail-coach and escaped prison, Tom almost chokes.

2. How has Ezra Wingate taken advantage of the situation? What surprise does Tom discover?

He saw the boys burn the coach and is charging them three dollars each to replace it, as old and worthless as it is. When Tom confesses to his grandfather his part, he realizes that Grandfather knew all about it already and had already paid Ezra Wingate. He was just reading the news story to Tom to see how he would react.

3. Describe the pistol and ice cream/mine incidents.

Tom tries to fire the pistol, but it doesn't work, except accidentally, when he's nearly killed as it explodes in his hand; he buries it to hide what he's done. Later, Tom is made the victim of a joke, when the boys get ice cream at a saloon and leave him to pay; when he jumps out and runs away, he runs into a "mine, which explodes,

4. Who are the Rivermouth Centipedes? Describe Tom's initiation.

They're a group of boys forming a secret club that doesn't do much except fine each other for missing meetings; Tom's initiation involves hair-raising obedience to seemingly dangerous commands.

5. Sum up the boys' payback to Bill Conway.

When the town's street signs are mixed up by solders, Bill Conway blames the boys, who are hauled into court. The boys pay him back by embarrassing him and his mother by sticking a sign up over Mr. Meeks's drugstore that says "WANTED: A SEAMSTRESS," knowing that Mrs. Conway is sweet on Mr. Meeks. Even better: The soldiers are blamed for the prank!

Week 26, Day 3: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapters Ten and Eleven

1. Sum up Tom and Bill's fight and the aftermath.

Tom fights Bill over Bill's tormenting Binny Wallace, and gets plastered, although he gets in a few good licks himself. Mr. Grimshaw sees it and punishes both, although he punishes Bill much more harshly (which shows his fairness). Bill never torments Tom again.

2. What kinds of pets are Gypsy and Prince Zany? Do you have a pet with an interesting personality like them?

Vain, smart (able to do many tricks), and intolerant of females, and Tom's favorite. She's partial to the Captain and dislikes Kitty. Prince Zany was Tom's monkey—smart also, and friends with Gypsy, but unfortunately coming to an early death.

Week 26, Day 4: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapters Twelve and Thirteen

Rather than just being about winter and a snow fort, what ideas do you think the author is trying to punch across to the reader about growing up and learning lessons about life

Answers will vary, but possibly about how memories can be so vivid about key occurrences in our lives, like blizzards and massive "battles." Possibly also about how even the young can be—at least part of the time!—somewhat fair about things like squabbles and battles, drawing up rules, and getting carried away as well.

Week 27, Day 1: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Fourteen

How does this chapter affect you as a reader? What does it make you think about, and how does it change the way you see the story's characters?

Answers will vary, but it's a memorable, although sad, chapter. The reader will probably look at the book as not just a collection of funny stories of a boy's childhood, but also of the reality of life and death, and how they can affect others.

Week 27, Day 2: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Fifteen

1. What does the letter from Tom's father say? What other letters does Tom's grandfather receive? How does Grandfather react to these?

Tom's father won't be able to get away from business for another year. The other letters, Grandfather says, are "business letters," and they make him moody and silent.

2. How long has it been since Tom has seen his parents? What does he resolve to do? What does Grandfather say?

Two years; he resolved to visit them in Louisiana, but his grandfather forbids it, saying there's too much risk.

3. What double surprise happens in this chapter?

First, Tom sees Sailor Ben, who has come to port at Rivermouth; then, he finds Kitty, his long-lost wife, in the Nutter house!

Week 27, Day 3: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Sixteen

1. How is Sailor Ben tricked, and how does it affect his family?

He's tricked by a dishonest ship owner into signing on for a three-year tour on a ship. When he finishes, Kitty has moved, and he can't find her at first, but does by chance that night, 10 years later.

2. What happens to Ben and his bride afterwards?

He lives on his saved money in Rivermouth, becoming "one of the institutions of the town," buying a cottage (which he fixes up to look like a ship), and running a thriving crab-net business! Kitty stays on as housekeeper to the Nutters, and Ben is popular with the boys in the town.

Week 27, Day 4: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Seventeen

1. Explain how the author builds suspense with the revelation of the boy's plan. How does this make the outcome more exciting?

He slowly tells day by day of the boys' actions in cleaning, setting up, and buying gunpowder for the cannons. The last day of school he shows the boys restless and edgy, and then explains how utterly silent the town of Rivermouth gets by midnight. Then Tom barely makes it back to bed before the guns go off!

2. What hilarity is there in how the plan comes off?

Tom jumps in bed, fully clothed, hears the BOOM! of each cannon, sees the town waking up, and hears his grandfather stumbling around. Tom is trying to get undressed, but pretends he's trying to get dressed, to fool his grandfather. Just when Grandfather thinks it's over, BOOM! Another cannon goes off. Men are running

all around the town in various states of wakefulness and dress, and go the wrong way at first. The Oldest Inhabitant refuses to go to bed all night, sitting on his rocking chair on the porch with his hat and mittens on.

3. Why aren't the boys caught, even though Sailor Ben knows the truth, and a trap is set for them?

They don't tell on each other, Sailor Ben doesn't tell although his chimney is partly blown off (since he helped the boys), and the boys don't fall for a trap of another gun being set up to be fired.

4. What are your thoughts on this stunt? How could you argue both that it was (a) a harmless prank, and (b) not something that should have been done?

Answers will vary, but (a) nobody was hurt, and nothing (except Sailor Ben's chimney) was damaged, not counting the guns themselves, which were already as good as dead; and (b) somebody could have been hurt lighting the cannons, if one went off accidentally, and it did cause worry and lost sleep in Rivermouth.

Week 28, Day 1: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Eighteen

1. Describe Tom's amusing "love life." What attracts him to Nelly Glentworth? What is unusual about her?

Tom cozies up to a few girls because he sees others doing it; the girls treat him rather badly and use him. Nelly Glentworth is beautiful, charming, and smart; Tom is mostly attracted to her cheerfulness and personality; even Gypsy takes to her—the only girl she ever did.

2. How does Nelly affect Tom? What frustrates him about their age?

He thinks about her so much that his schoolwork suffers, and Tom is frustrated because she's 19 and he's 14, knowing she thinks of him as just a boy.

3. Describe his final thoughts about her.

He says it was a difficult time for him when she left, especially finding out she was to be married (which he compares to an earthquake of a feeling inside himself). But he hasn't thought of her in years; he expects her oldest son is about 14-15 years old, and jokingly calls him a villain!

Week 28, Day 2: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Nineteen

1. Describe how this chapter's title applies to Tom. How does he affect Pepper?

He becomes moody and grumpy, after he realizes he can't marry Nelly. He mopes around, trying to let Pepper know how sad he is, since Pepper is a sympathetic person.

2. How/why does Tom say he enjoys his misery? How does the author find humor in Tom's moping?

He mopes and thinks about himself, and he notices that others are concerned about and watching him, so he enjoys milking attention out of the situation. The author finds humor in the chapter's title, Tom's over-the-top trips to the graveyard (!), his mysteriously thumping his chest to indicate his pain to Pepper (and saying that it would have been more accurate to thump his head!), etc.

Week 28, Day 3: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapter Twenty

1. What thoughts did you have during your reading of this book about why Tom’s parents had not come to Rivermouth?

Answers will vary.

2. Explain how business and cholera affect Tom’s parents and their plans.

Bad business and a cholera outbreak prevent them from coming to Rivermouth, and Grandfather forbids Tom from going to them, of course.

3. Do you buy the “I’m my grandfather’s son” reason for why Tom does what he does? Why or why not?

Answers will vary, but it’s hard to take it seriously. It’s not hereditary, like hair color or nose shape, although Tom claims it is. Every person makes choices—they can be influenced by others, but they’re THEIR choices.

4. What almost upsets Tom’s plans? What does he realize immediately, and as he thinks long and hard about his decision after it’s foiled?

Sailor Ben shows up on the train Tom takes, but Tom avoids him, helped by his immersion in trying to read a newspaper. After trying to avoid Ben for a while, he realizes Ben is following him under Grandfather’s orders. After he’s caught and on the way home, he realizes that he has acted very foolishly.

5. Describe the surprising reaction Tom receives at home.

Grandfather doesn’t harshly rebuke him at all, but kindly takes his hand—and places in it a letter with a black seal.

Week 28, Day 4: *The Story of a Bad Boy*, Chapters Twenty-One and Twenty-Two

1. How does the letter’s contents affect Tom personally and concerning his future? How is leaving Rivermouth for him?

He is deeply affected by his father’s death, and looks wistfully on teenaged boys with their fathers afterwards, missing that time with his father. He is unable to attend college now, with no money, so he accepts a position in his uncle’s company. He knows he’ll miss Rivermouth, and his grandfather, and sadly, as he leaves, he passes Sailor Ben’s house, which has a flag flying at half mast.

2. Sum up the “fates” of various characters in Tom’s story after his departure.

Gypsy becomes a traveling circus horse; Abigail dies of too many “hot drops” (!); Sailor Ben and Kitty die and are buried close to each other; and Grandfather spends time in both New York and Rivermouth, now known as the Oldest Inhabitant of Rivermouth. Pepper Whitcomb writes back and forth for a while to Tom; Mr. Grimshaw retires and marries; Mr. Meeks marries a Dorothy Gibbs young lady, and Miss Gibbs quits buying from him; the two bullies Conway and Rodgers go into business together.

Week 29, Day 1: *Missionary Travels and Researches*, Chapters I-II

1. Describe how Livingstone is attacked by both a lion and British farmers.

The lion nearly kills him, breaking his arm after being wounded with a shotgun. The Boers, because he speaks out against their shameful treatment of African natives, destroy his home, library, and medicine, and steal and sell his furniture and clothing.

2. What does Livingstone find about many natives' ideas of God and the afterlife? What does Sekelutu say to Livingstone about Christianity?

He says they have a general understanding of good and evil, and God, but sometimes think of him as just a chief, like the old bushman who brags about murdering five persons. Sekelutu doesn't want to read the Bible, because he says it might make him want just one wife, like Sechele, a native chief who converted.

3. Name several memorable events that Livingstone writes about in these two chapters.

Answers will vary.

Week 29, Day 2: *Missionary Travels and Researches*, Chapters III-IV

1. What difficulties does Livingstone face while traveling to the center of Africa? Why does he have to submit to some tribes and persons, even though he could easily overwhelm them with his weapons?

Tribes and individuals demand payment to travel through, and steal his and his group's property. He could have just used his guns to overwhelm these, but fears God and refuses to murder others. It would hurt his Christian testimony to do something like that.

2. Look up some information about and film footage of Victoria Falls.

Answers will vary!

3. Research the meeting between David Livingstone and American reporter Henry Stanley, and the end of David Livingstone's life.

Answers will vary!

Week 29, Day 3: "Songs for My Mother"

1. What beautiful, loving things does the author remember about her mother's hands?

How they touched her cheek, lulled her to sleep, and told of memories when she was a little girl.

2. Explain what the phrase "She shapes her speech all silver fine" means. Compare this to Proverbs 25:11

Her mother chose her words carefully to make them lovely and descriptive and beautiful. Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver," which is close to saying the same thing.

3. What does the author say about the power of words? Compare this to Colossians 4:6.

She says they're the most beautiful thing on earth, they can enrich and enlarge even the poorest and most common, simple things, and they can make others feel better. Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Our speech is to be graceful and kind, well-spoken to others.

Week 29, Day 3: "My Mother's Bible"

1. List several images that this poem made you "see" in your mind.

Answers will vary!

2. What does the poet mean by the lines in the second stanza, "Though they are with the silent dead, here are they living still!"?

The names of the dead written in his mother's Bible are "alive" in the Bible, reminding him of their lives.

3. How can the Bible teach someone "how to die," as the poet says?

It puts confidence and peace in the hearts of those who trust God with their lives and deaths, knowing that they'll be in heaven with Jesus when they die.

4. Name one way that God's Word has been a comfort to you.

Answers will vary!

Week 29, Day 4: "Zero Hour"

1. Look up the term *zero hour*. Why do you think the author used that term for the story's title?

"Zero hour" is the time that an operation—often a military operation—is scheduled to begin. It's the story's title because the climax is the invasion of Earth, scheduled for 5 PM.

2. Why are children only under age nine allowed to play "invasion"? How does the author describe the world's situation at the beginning of the story?

The invaders believe they have imagination and pay attention better than older children and adults. The world's situation is described as perfectly in balance and peaceful—even smug about it.

3. When does the story start to get a little creepy for you, or make you concerned for Earth and/or the parents?

Answers will vary!

4. What do you think a "televisor" is, and what modern device is it quite similar to?

It seems to look and operate like a smart phone!

5. What message do you think the author is sending to parents in this story? Other than Martians, can you think of another organization that tries to turn children against their parents? (Hint: It's one of the reasons your parents homeschool you!)

Answers will vary, but something like, "You better quit staring at your television all day and pay attention to your children!" The organization is the government school system.

Week 30, Day 1: "A Manual on Education"

1. Read out loud to Mom or Dad the line from the second paragraph: "Every man has somewhere in the back of his head the wreck of a thing which he calls his education." Then ask your parent(s) if they can identify with Leacock's statement.

Answers will vary!

2. Name some of the funny remarks that the author makes about various "school topics."

Answers will vary!

3. What do you think "Calithumpians" are? (You can look up the word if you'd like.)

It's just a nonsense group that Leacock sticks in the list of various peoples kids are taught about in history. The name actually refers to a group of loud partiers or noisy rioters.

4. What point do you think the author is making by writing this humorous take on his education?

Answers will vary, but something like, "Much of the information I learned in school was useless, or just focused on memorizing names and dates and so on."

Week 30, Day 2: "The Night Express"

1. What facts make it incredible to Catesby that the crime was committed?

He's sure Skidmore was alone in his compartment, he's sure he locked his door, he's sure the train ever stopped going under 60 miles per hour, and he's sure no one could have left the train without attracting attention.

2. What is the importance of the man's body found in the birding nets? Why does Merrick ask the locals if the nets could hold up against a large animal?

Inspector Merrick recognizes him,

3. How does Catesby's testimony about looking out the window help with the case?

He's positive he was looking out the one side, because he always does since he was involved in a train accident years ago, because of his nerves. Anyone leaving the train could only have jumped out the other side of the train into the fowling nets.

4. How was the crime committed?

The Bianca brothers, who are trapeze artists, did it. Luigi hid in the coffin, crawled out, went on the side of the train to Skidmore's cabin, killed him, and took the gold and threw it out the window. He then waited for the fowling nets to jump into, having experience in landing on nets as a trapeze artist. But the nets had been torn down by the water, and he was killed. His brother, Joseph, was posing as a Marquis and was involved in the crime.

Week 30, Day 3: "I Know Whom I Have Believed"

1. How does the first line of each of the five stanzas contrast with the first line of the chorus (which starts, "But 'I know whom I have believed")?

The stanzas start "I know NOT" something, which contrasts with the chorus, which says, "I KNOW."

2. Find and listen to this song sung by a choir.
3. If you're feeling creative and poetic, write your own sixth stanza, in the same style as the first five (four lines, with the second and fourth lines rhyming).