

WEEK 1, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 1-4

1. Why has the princess never seen the stars?

She is not allowed outside at night because of the goblins.

2. Why have the goblins gone underground?

Long ago they got angry at the king and went underground to avoid him.

3. Were they always goblins? If not, what were they?

No, they used to be like other people.

4. Who is the old lady spinning in the garret? What is her name?

She is Irene's great-great-grandmother, and her name is also Irene.

5. Why is the princess upset at her nurse?

Her nurse won't believe she really found an old lady upstairs.

6. What are the two reasons the nurse is upset at the princess?

She thinks the princess is lying and she is offended because the princess said Nursie is not as beautiful as her great-great-grandmother.

WEEK 1, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 6 adjectives (adj)
2. 8 verbs (v)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

When she had turned twice more, and still saw doors and only doors about her, she began to get frightened. It was so silent! And all those doors must hide rooms with nobody in them! That was dreadful. Also the rain made a great **trampling (adj)** noise on the roof. She **turned (v)** and **started (v)** at full speed, her **little (adj)** footsteps echoing through the sounds of the rain—back for the stairs and her **safe (adj)** nursery. So she thought, but she had lost herself long ago...

She ran for some distance, turned several times, and then began to be afraid. Very soon she was sure that she had lost the way back. Rooms everywhere, and no stair! Her little heart **beat (v)** as fast as her little feet ran, and a lump of tears was growing in her throat. But she was too eager and perhaps too frightened to cry for some time. At last her hope failed her. Nothing but passages and doors everywhere! She threw herself on the floor, and began to **wail (v)** and **cry (v)**.

She did not cry long, however, for she was as brave as could be expected of a princess of her age. After a good cry, she got up, and **brushed (v)** the dust from her frock. Oh what **old (adj)** dust it was! Then she **wiped (v)** her eyes with her hands... Next, like a true princess, she **resolved (v)** on going wisely to work to find her way back: she would walk through the passages, and look in every direction for the stair. This she did, but without success. She went over the same ground again and again without knowing it, for the passages and doors were all alike. At last, in a corner, through a half-open door, she did see a stair. But alas! it went the wrong way: instead of going down, it went up. Frightened as she was, however, she could not help wishing to see where yet further the stair could lead. It was very **narrow (adj)**, and so **steep (adj)** that she went up like a four-legged creature on her hands and feet.

WEEK 2, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 5-8

1. Where does the princess end up when she tries to find her grandmother again?

She ends up in the kitchen.

2. How do she and Lottie get lost?

The princess keeps begging to go just a little further until the sun starts to set, and then Lottie gets so scared that she takes a wrong way.

3. What is the name of Curdie's father?

Peter.

4. What are two reasons the goblins are especially annoyed with Curdie?

He helped the princess and he is digging into one of their houses.

5. Why do the goblins hate rhymes?

They hate rhymes because they can't make any.

6. What important information does Curdie find out about the goblins?

They are planning some disaster on the people, and their weak spot is their feet.

WEEK 2, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 5 adjectives (*adj*)
2. 6 verbs (*v*)
3. 3 verb phrases (*v phrase*)
4. 2 passive tense verbs (*v passive*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

Lootie was very **glad (adj)** to please the princess. She got her hat and cloak, and they set out together for a walk up the mountain; for the road was so hard and steep that the water could not rest upon it, and it was always dry enough for walking a few minutes after the rain ceased. The clouds **were rolling (v phrase)** away in broken pieces, like great, overwoolly sheep, whose wool the sun **had bleached (v phrase)** till it was almost too white for the eyes to bear. Between them the sky **shone (v)** with a deeper and purer blue, because of the rain. The trees on the road-side **were hung (v passive)** all over with drops, which **sparkled (v)** in the sun like jewels. The only things that were no brighter for the rain, were the brooks that ran down the mountain; they **had changed (v phrase)** from the clearness of crystal to a **muddy (adj)** brown; but what they lost in color they **gained (v)** in sound—or at least in noise, for a brook when it is swollen is not so musical as before. But Irene was in raptures with the great **brown (adj)** streams tumbling down everywhere; and Lootie **shared (v)** in her delight, for she too **had been confined (v passive)** to the house for three days. At length she **observed (v)** that the sun was getting low, and said it was time to be going back. She made the remark again and again, but, every time, the princess **begged (v)** her to go on just a little farther and a little farther; reminding her that it was much easier to go down hill, and saying that when they did turn, they would be at home in a moment. So on and on they did go, now to look at a group of ferns over whose tops a stream was pouring in a **watery (adj)** arch, now to pick a **shining (adj)** stone from a rock by the wayside, now to watch the flight of some bird. Suddenly the shadow of a great mountain peak came up from behind, and shot in front of them. When the nurse saw it, she started and shook, and tremulously grasping the hand of the princess turned and began to run down the hill.

WEEK 3, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 9-12

1. What does the inside of a goblin's house look like?

It looks just like a cave and doesn't look at all like anyone lives there.

2. What does Curdie think is the goblins' second plan?

Their plan is to break away at the natural dams of the river above the mines and flood the mines with water.

3. What does his father advise him to do?

He tells him to stop digging at the lode where he overheard the goblin family.

4. What does Irene's grandmother tell her will be her trial?

She must come back that week, but she will be tempted to believe that her grandmother was all a dream and to therefore not return.

5. Why does Curdie keep spying on the goblins?

He wants to find out what their first plan is.

WEEK 3, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 4 adjectives (*adj*)
2. 7 verbs or verb phrases (*v/vphrase*)
3. 2 adverbs (*adv*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

One **splendid (adj) sunshiny (adj)** day, about an hour after noon, Irene, who was playing on a lawn in the garden, heard the **distant (adj)** blast of a bugle. She jumped up with a cry of joy, for she knew by that particular blast that her father was on his way to see her. This part of the garden lay on the slope of the hill, and allowed a full view of the country below. So she **shaded (v)** her eyes with her hand, and looked far away to catch the first glimpse of **shining (adj)** armor. In a few moments a little troop came glittering round the shoulder of a hill. Spears and helmets **were sparkling (v phrase)** and gleaming, banners were flying, horses prancing, and again came the bugle-blast, which was to her like the voice of her father calling across the distance, “Irene, I’m coming.” On and on they came, until she could **clearly (adv)** distinguish the king. He **rode (v)** a white horse, and was taller than any of the men with him. He wore a narrow circle of gold set with jewels around his helmet, and as he came still nearer, Irene **could discern (v phrase)** the flashing of the stones in the sun. It was a long time since he had been to see her, and her little heart **beat (v)** faster and faster as the shining troop approached, for she **loved (v)** her king-papa very **dearly (adv)**, and was nowhere so happy as in his arms. When they **reached (v)** a certain point, after which she could see them no more from the garden, she ran to the gate, and there stood till up they came clanging and stamping, with one more bright bugle-blast which said, “Irene, I am come.”

WEEK 4, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 13-16

1. Why do the guards at first laugh at each other over seeing the strange creatures?
Their descriptions of them are so strange that they think their fellow-guards are drunk.
2. Why do the creatures look so strange?
Their ancestors were normal household pets and for lack of sunlight they have changed over the years to look deformed.
3. Why doesn't Irene go up to her grandmother when the cat comes in?
She imagines running through all those hallways with the cat chasing her, only to find that her grandmother isn't there.
4. How does she find her way home?
She sees her grandmother's light and follows it home.
5. What gifts do her grandmother give her?
Her grandmother gives her a ball of finely-spun thread and a ring.
6. What is she to do with the gifts?
When she is in danger, she must put the ring under her pillow and follow the invisible thread to her grandmother, through wherever it leads her.

WEEK 4, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 5 adjectives (*adj*)
2. 6 verbs (*v*)
3. 1 adverb (*adv*)
4. 1 sensory word (*sens*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

At last she could run no longer, and fell, unable even to scream, by the roadside, where she lay for sometime, half dead with terror. But finding nothing lay hold of her, and her breath beginning to come back, she ventured at length to get half up, and **peer (v) anxiously (adv)** about her. It was now **so dark that she could see nothing (sens)**. Not a single star was out. She could not even tell in what direction the house lay, and between her and home she **fancied (v) the dreadful (adj)** creature lying ready to pounce upon her. She saw now that she ought to have run up the stairs at once. It was well she did not scream; for, although very few of the goblins had come out for weeks, a **stray (adj)** idler or two might have heard her. She sat down upon a stone, and nobody but one who had done something wrong could have been more miserable. She **had** quite **forgotten (v phrase)** her promise to visit her grandmother. A rain-drop fell on her face. She looked up, and for a moment her terror was lost in astonishment. At first she thought the **rising (adj)** moon had left her place, and drawn nigh to see what could be the matter with the little girl, sitting alone, without hat or cloak, on the **dark (adj) bare (adj)** mountain; but she soon saw she was mistaken, for there was no light on the ground at her feet, and no shadow anywhere. But a **great silvery globe (sens) was hanging (v phrase)** in the air; and as she gazed at the lovely thing, her courage **revived (v)**. If she were but indoors again she would fear nothing, not even the terrible creature with the long legs! But how was she to find her way back? What could that light be? Could it be—? No, it couldn't. But what if it should be—yes—it must be—her great-great-grandmother's lamp, which **guided (v)** her pigeons home through the darkest night! She jumped up: she had but to keep that light in view, and she must find the house.

WEEK 5, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 17-20

1. Who does Irene's father say her ring belongs to?
It belonged to her mother.
2. Why doesn't Curdie kill the goblins when they attack him?
He is gentle as well as courageous.
3. What does the king want to do with Curdie?
He wants to starve him to death.
4. What does the queen want to do with Curdie?
She wants to have the creatures eat him alive.
5. Why does the queen want to take over the upper lands?
She wants grazing ground for their animals and the cream and cheese from the cows.
6. Where does the string lead Irene?
It leads her into a heap of rocks.

WEEK 5, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 5 adjectives (*adj*)
2. 7 verbs (*v*)
3. 1 question (?)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

At last she **spied (v)** a **dull (adj)** **red (adj)** shine, and came up to the mica-window, and thence away and round about, and right into a cavern, where **glowed (v)** the red embers of a fire. Here the thread began to rise. It rose as high as her head, and higher still. **What *should* she do if she lost her hold? (?)** She was pulling it down! She might break it! She could see it far up, glowing as red as her fire-opal in the light of the embers.

But presently she came to a huge heap of stones, piled in a slope against the wall of the cavern. On these she climbed, and soon **recovered (v)** the level of the thread—only however to find, the next moment, that it **vanished (v)** through the heap of stones, and left her standing on it, with her face to the **solid (adj)** rock. For one **terrible (adj)** moment, she felt as if her grandmother **had forsaken (v phrase)** her. The thread which the spiders **had spun (v phrase)** far over the seas, which her grandmother had sat in the moonlight and spun again for her, which she **had tempered (v phrase)** in the rose-fire, and tied to her **opal (adj)** ring, had left her—had gone where she could no longer follow it—had brought her into a horrible cavern, and there left her! She was forsaken indeed!

“When *shall* I wake?” she said to herself in an agony, but the same moment knew that it was no dream. She threw herself upon the heap, and began to cry. It was well she did not know what creatures, one of them with stone shoes on her feet, were lying in the next cave. But neither did she know who was on the other side of the slab.

At length the thought struck her, that at least she could follow the thread backward, and thus get out of the mountain, and home. She rose at once, and found the thread. But the instant she tried to feel it backward, it vanished from her touch. Forward, it led her hand up to the heap of stones—backward, it seemed nowhere. Neither could she see it as before in the light of the fire. She burst into a **wailing (adj)** cry, and again threw herself down on the stones.

WEEK 6, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 21-24

1. Why does the queen wake up when Irene and Curdie are passing through?

Curdie steals her shoe.

2. What does Curdie believe about Irene's account of her grandmother?

He thinks Lootie is playing a game with her, but when he sees the empty garret room, he thinks that Irene is completely making it up.

3. What story does Curdie's mother tell him about the goblins attacking her?

Curdie's mother was alone and attacked by several goblins one night. She thought they would tear her to pieces, but then a ray of light shone from a globe in the sky, and a white pigeon came down it toward her. When the goblins saw it, they fled and never again bothered her. The pigeon flew back up and the light disappeared.

4. What does Curdie think the goblins are planning?

He believes they are planning to kidnap the princess and make her the wife of Harelip so that they will have control over her father the King.

5. In what direction are the goblins digging?

They are digging deep in the ground toward the castle, and will probably come up right underneath it.

WEEK 6, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 8 verbs (v)
2. 1 sensory phrase (sens)
3. 4 adjectives (adj)
4. 1 short emphatic sentence (EMPH)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

(1) “Your father was going to work in the mine, one night, and I had been down with his supper. It was soon after we were married, and not very long before you were born. He came with me to the mouth of the mine, and left me to go home alone, for I knew the way almost as well as the floor of our own cottage. It was pretty dark, and in some parts of the road where the rocks overhung, nearly quite dark... (2) I **was** suddenly **surrounded (v passive)** by about half-a-dozen of the cobs... One of them **blocked (v)** up the path, and they all began tormenting and teasing me in a way it makes me **shudder (v)** to think of even now... They had some of their **horrible (adj)** creatures with them too, and I must **confess (v)** I was dreadfully frightened. (3) They **had torn (v phrase)** my clothes very much, and I was afraid they were going to tear myself to pieces, when suddenly a **great white soft light (sens) shone (v)** upon me. **I looked up. (EMPH)** A **broad (adj)** ray, like a shining road, came down from a large globe of **silvery (adj)** light, not very high up, indeed not quite so high as the horizon—so it could not have been a new star or another moon or anything of that sort... The same moment, however, down the path from the globe of light came a bird, shining like silver in the sun. It gave a few **rapid (adj)** flaps first, and then, with its wings straight out, **shot (v)** sliding down the slope of the light. It looked to me just like a white pigeon. But whatever it was, when the cobs caught sight of it coming straight down upon them, they took to their heels and **scampered (v)** away across the mountain, leaving me safe, only much frightened. As soon as it had sent them off, the bird went gliding again up the light, and just at the moment it reached the globe, the light disappeared, just the same as if a shutter had been closed over a window, and I saw it no more.”

This is an example of a story summary. Label setting (1), conflict (2), and resolution (3).

WEEK 7, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 25-28

1. Why do the guards shoot Curdie?

They think he is a goblin.

2. Who does Harelip try to carry off?

He tries to carry off Lottie.

3. Why would it have been good to take the king and queen prisoners?

To hold them as hostages until the goblins returned Irene.

4. How does Irene escape?

She follows the string to Curdie's house.

5. Does she know the goblins are in her castle?

No, she hears them and is frightened but she doesn't know it's them.

6. At the end of the last chapter, what do you think Curdie runs off to tell his father?

He probably goes to tell him that now that the goblins' first plan has failed, they will try to flood the mines.

WEEK 7, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 1 sensory phrase (*sens*)
2. 8 verbs (*v*)
3. 1 adverb (*adv*)
4. 2 questions (?)
5. 1 short emphatic sentence (*EMPH*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

Just as the consolation of this resolve **dawned (v)** upon his mind, and he was turning away for the cellar to follow the goblins into their hole, something touched his hand. It was the **slightest touch (sens)**, and when he looked he could see nothing. Feeling and peering about in the gray of the dawn, his fingers came upon a tight thread. He looked again, and **narrowly (adv)**, but still could see nothing. It **flashed (v)** upon him that this must be the princess's thread. Without saying a word, for he knew no one would believe him any more than he had believed the princess, he **followed (v)** the thread with his finger, **contrived (v)** to give Lootie the slip, and was soon out of the house, and on the mountain-side—surprised that, if the thread were indeed her grandmother's messenger, it should have led the princess, as he **supposed (v)** it must, into the mountain, where she would be certain to meet the goblins **rushing (v)** back enraged from their defeat. But he hurried on in the hope of overtaking her first. When he **arrived (v)** however at the place where the path turned off for the mine, he found that the thread did not turn with it, but went straight up the mountain. **Could it be that the thread was leading him home to his mother's cottage? (?) Could the princess be there? (?) (EMPH)** He bounded up the mountain like one of its own goats, and before the sun was up, the thread had brought him indeed to his mother's door. There it vanished from his fingers, and he could not find it, search as he might.

The door was on the latch, and he **entered (v)**. There sat his mother by the fire, and in her arms lay the princess fast asleep.

WEEK 8, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 29-32

1. Why do the miners build a dam in the mines?

They are blocking up the mines from the goblins' flood that was meant to destroy the mines.

2. Why isn't Curdie's house flooded over in the storm?

It is built against a tall rock which protects it from the water coming down the mountain.

3. Why does the goblins' water flood the castle instead of the mines?

Since the dam blocks the water from coming into the mines, the water goes down the next easiest outlet, which is the passageway from the goblin lands into the castle.

4. What happens to the goblins?

Many of them are drowned in their own flood, but others escape outside and eventually become nicer and tamer.

5. What does the king offer Curdie?

He offers to make him his bodyguard.

6. What is Curdie's answer, and what does he ask for instead?

He won't leave his mother and father, but he asks for a petticoat for his mother.

WEEK 8, DAY 1: VOCABULARY TEST

Going by memory, write down the definitions to all the words. If you cannot remember the answer, put down your best guess. Then go through your cards and write the correct answers to the words you got wrong.

1. gyrate: to dance wildly or to move quickly in circles
2. expulsion: the sending away of someone or something
3. dissonance: loud and ugly noises
4. proclivity: a tendency or liking
5. reservoir: a lake used as a water supply
6. outlandish: strange and foreign
7. devise: to plan or invent
8. discomfiture: unease and embarrassment
9. mottled: spotted
10. presume: to suppose
11. inundate: to fill with water; to flood
12. cataract: a waterfall
13. vigilance: watchfulness
14. stature: a person's height or build
15. multitude: a crowd
16. coherently: in a manner that makes sense

WEEK 8, DAY 2: MAIN LESSON

Review

These are the expressive words, sentence structures, and stylistic techniques you should know so far:

- adjective (adj)
- verb (v)
- adverb (adv)
- ly adverb opener (adv OP)
- sensory word/phrase (sens)
- question (?)
- short emphatic sentence (EMPH)
- alliteration (allit)

Read the text. Then, using the list on the previous page, underline and label one of as many of the literary devices and structures as you can find.

Irene **clung (v)** round his neck, and he ran with her like a deer. When he entered the gate into the court, there sat the king on his horse, with all the people of the house about him, weeping and hanging their heads. The king was not weeping, but his face was white as a dead man's, and he looked as if the life had gone out of him. The men-at-arms he had brought with him, sat with **horror-stricken (adj)** faces, but eyes flashing with rage, waiting only for the word of the king to do something—they did not know what, and nobody knew what...

When Curdie ran in at the gate with the princess in his arms, they were all so absorbed in their own misery and awed by the king's presence and grief, that no one observed his arrival. He went straight up to the king, where he sat on his horse.

“Papa! papa!” the princess cried, stretching out her arms to him; “here I am!”

The king started. (EMPH) The color rushed to his face. He gave an inarticulate cry. Curdie held up the princess, and the king bent down and took her from his arms. As he clasped her to his bosom, the big tears went dropping down his cheeks and his beard. And such a shout arose from all the bystanders, that the startled horses pranced and capered, and **the armor rang and clattered (sens)**, and the rocks of the mountain echoed back the noises. The princess greeted them all as she nestled in her father's bosom, and the king did not set her down until she had told them all the story. But she had more to tell about Curdie than about herself, and what she did tell about herself none of them could understand except the **king and Curdie (allit)**, who stood by the king's knee stroking the neck of the great white horse. And still as she told what Curdie had done, Sir Walter and others added to what she told, even Lootie joining in the praises of his courage and energy.

Curdie held his peace, looking **quietly (adv)** up in the king's face. And his mother stood on the outskirts of the crowd listening with delight, for her son's deeds were pleasant in her ears, until the princess caught sight of her.

