

Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

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I Loved
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ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

semblance—an outward appearance that is sometimes deceiving

delusions—false or exaggerated beliefs

strenuously—with great energy; laboriously

lugubriously—in an overly mournful manner

affluent—having more than enough money and goods

rankle—to annoy; to irritate

fervent—passionate; having deep emotions

remonstrance—criticism or gentle scolding

petulant—peevish or rude

discomfited—embarrassed; caught off guard

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **terrapin** is a type of North American turtle that can be eaten.

Proggng is a regional word that means “foraging” or “searching.” Chesapeake Bay watermen use the term when looking for oysters, crabs, or other shellfish.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945) was president of the United States from 1933 to 1945. He was elected to an unprecedented four terms. Roosevelt came into the presidency during the Great Depression and died shortly before the end of World War II.

The **Great Depression** was a period of grave economic downturn in the United States. It officially began with the stock market crash of October 1929 and continued throughout the 1930s.

The **Methodist Church** is a Protestant church that places great importance on social and personal morals.

Pearl Harbor is an inlet on the southwestern coast of the Hawaiian island of Oahu. On December 7, 1941, the American naval fleet stationed there was targeted in a surprise attack by Japanese bomber planes. Much of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was destroyed.

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “It is the excess of snowball bushes that lends a **semblance** of green to every yard.”
semblance: _____
2. “At thirteen I was tall and large boned, with **delusions** of beauty and romance.”
delusions: _____
3. “He worked on other men’s boats as **strenuously** as his slowly healing body would let him, eking out a meager living for himself and his widowed mother.”
strenuously: _____
4. “Within a few weeks it was **lugubriously** out of tune.”
lugubriously: _____
5. “The rest, children of the island’s slightly more **affluent**, paid fifty cents a lesson.”
affluent: _____
6. “I was proud of my sister, but that year, something began to **rankle** beneath the pride.”
rankle: _____
7. “Old Joshua’s stamp remained upon us—Sunday school and Sunday service morning and evening, and on Wednesday night prayer meeting where the more **fervent** would stand to witness to the Lord’s mercies of the preceding week . . .”
fervent: _____
8. “There was no **remonstrance** for having broken the Fourth Commandment.”
remonstrance: _____
9. “At six, Grandma woke, hungry and **petulant**.”
petulant: _____
10. “Mr. Rice cleared his throat. . . . He was clearly **discomfited** by my behavior.”
discomfited: _____

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. In the opening chapter of the book, when does the narrator say she will go to Rass and fetch her mother?
2. How does the narrator describe her first glimpse of the island from the ferry?
3. Why does each waterman's boat have a washtub on board?
4. How does the narrator describe Call when he is fourteen?
5. What "defect" in Call's character does the narrator feel she must try to correct?
6. What does the narrator read that offers her a "porthole on the world" in the summer of 1941?
7. With what do the narrator and Call nearly fill their bucket?
8. Why does Louise say that she and Caroline would not have been born if her father had not been wounded in France in 1918?
9. Why does Louise "treasure the thought" of her first few minutes of life?
10. In what way does Louise say that Caroline has "diminished" her since they were two years old?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

caricature—an exaggeration of a particular feature or characteristic

precariously—dangerously

melancholy—sadness; depression

lavishly—richly; with great abundance

delegation—a group of people who have been chosen to represent others

feigned—pretended

rivulet—a small stream

exultation—great joy or sense of triumph

allusion—an indirect reference

parasites—things that depend on others in order to live, giving nothing in return

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Tonging involves using a pair of long-handled tongs (a grasping tool) to pick oysters from the bottom of a pond or bay.

Cain was the son of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman described in the Bible. He murdered his brother, Abel.

The **Scriptures** are another term for the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Captain Marvel was a popular comic-book superhero in the 1940s.

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “I had clearly gotten the best of her, so I sobered to an elaborate **caricature** of humility.”
caricature: _____
2. “Momma pointed out her two boxes, which my father and I loaded **precariously** onto the wagon.”
precariously: _____
3. “As a child I thought nothing of it, but when I became an adolescent, I began to read the verses on the tombstones with a certain pleasant **melancholy**.”
melancholy: _____
4. “Gradually, the people of Rass built one from ancient memory **lavishly** cemented with rumor.”
lavishly: _____
5. “Some of the islanders thought a **delegation** should be sent to ask the old man straight out who he was . . .”
delegation: _____
6. “The man **feigned** surprise. ‘I though everyone on this island knew my name.’”
feigned: _____
7. “Even as I yelled, I could feel a tiny **rivulet** of satisfaction invading the flood of my anger.”
rivulet: _____
8. “Always there were two feelings in the dream—a wild **exultation** that now I was free of her and . . . terrible guilt.”
exultation: _____
9. “It had all the elements—romance, sadness, an **allusion** to the war, and faithful love.”
allusion: _____
10. “. . . I could remember, even if the laws of respect kept me silent, that I was a contributing member of the household in which she and Caroline were little more than **parasites**.”
parasites: _____

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. According to Louise, how do the women of Rass Island feel about the water?
2. Why does Louise say, “I suppose I knew that there was no future for me on Rass”?
3. After telling Louise that Caroline is not strong enough to carry groceries home, how does Grandma say Louise is looking at her?
4. What does Caroline do at the ferry dock that embarrasses Louise?
5. What does Grandma remember about the Wallace land in earlier days?
6. According to Louise, how does the Wallace land look now?
7. Why was the young Hiram Wallace the butt of all the watermen’s jokes?
8. When Louise and Call go into the Wallace place to have tea with the strange man, what makes Call laugh for the first time?
9. What does Louise often dream about Caroline?
10. What does Louise wish that Call would say about her poetry?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

deficient—lacking; below a normal level or standard

futile—useless; not effective

unproscribed—not forbidden or prohibited

interloper—an intruder

saboteur—someone who takes harmful or destructive action against a government

aberrations—behaviors that are not considered normal or usual

refurbished—renovated; freshened up

infernal—hellish

undaunted—fearless in spite of danger or trouble

befuddled—confused

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **hurricane** is a storm that includes wind speeds of at least 74 miles per hour. It usually also brings heavy rain, thunder, and lightning. Although hurricanes are tropical storms, they sometimes move north into more temperate regions. In the southeastern United States, they most often occur in late August through September.

According to the Bible, **Moses** was the Hebrew prophet who led the Israelites out of Egypt, where they had been slaves. Moses also delivered the stone tablets containing the **Ten Commandments** to the people.

Paregoric is a medicinal mixture that is made from opium. It was often used as a painkiller in American households in the 1940s.

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “Both Call and the Captain seemed to regard me as mentally **deficient**, since I couldn’t appreciate their marvelous humor.”
deficient: _____
2. “He took another **futile** swing before he answered.”
futile: _____
3. “Was it because it was so wonderful to discover something on this island that was free—something **unproscribed** by God, Moses, or the Methodist conference?”
unproscribed: _____
4. “I no longer wanted the Captain to be a Nazi spy or an **interloper**.”
interloper: _____
5. “That was far more wonderful than being a **saboteur** to be caught or an imposter to be exposed.”
saboteur: _____
6. “But despite these **aberrations** he seemed to be accepted as an islander, simply because he had called Auntie Braxton ‘Trudy’ . . .”
aberrations: _____
7. “The Captain made both me and Call sit down in his clean, **refurbished** living room.”
refurbished: _____
8. “I lured those fool cats right to me and into those **infernal** sacks.”
infernal: _____
9. “‘So?’ Caroline was **undaunted**. ‘We tame them.’”
undaunted: _____
10. “They laughed and imitated the **befuddled** women at the door.”
befuddled: _____

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. How does Louise try to trick the Captain when Call tells him that he cannot hammer on a Sunday?
2. Why does Louise say that she is “sold into slavery” during the summer of 1942?
3. How does Louise describe her spiritual health that summer?
4. How do Call and Louise react when they hear the Captain swear?
5. What does Louise realize some time after the Captain tells her to run to the ferry dock to get help for Auntie Braxton?
6. What makes the Captain think that Auntie Braxton has more money than most of the other islanders?
7. What does Louise offer to do in order to save all of Auntie Braxton’s cats from being killed?
8. How does Louise feel when Caroline gets involved in cleaning Auntie Braxton’s house and giving away the cats?
9. What does Louise observe about people’s behavior when they are facing a disaster?
10. On the night of the big storm, what does Louise promise herself while the Captain is reading from the Bible?