

Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

Tuck
Everlasting

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ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How does the author build mystery about the wood?
2. In the first section, the reader is introduced to Mae and Pa Tuck. What is odd about them?
3. What is Winnie's unusual reason for wanting a new name?
4. From her conversation with the toad, do you think Winnie is serious about running away?
5. Why do you think the grandmother insists the music heard in the wood is made by elves? What does this tell you about Winnie's family and about Winnie?

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 wandered along in curves and easy angles, swayed off and up in a pleasant **tangent** to the top of the small hill, ambled down again between fringes of bee-hung clover, and then cut sidewise across a meadow.”
tangent: _____
2. “It widened and seemed to pause, suggesting tranquil **bovine** picnics: slow chewing and thoughtful contemplation of the infinite.”
bovine: _____
3. “But on reaching the shadows of the first trees, it **veered** sharply, swung out in a wide arc as if, for the first time, it had reason to think where it was going, and passed around.”
veered: _____
4. “And all at once the sun was uncomfortably hot, the dust oppressive, and the meager grass along its edges somewhat ragged and **forlorn**.”
forlorn: _____
5. “. . . it belonged to the Fosters, the owners of the touch-me-not cottage, and was therefore private property in spite of the fact that it lay outside the fence and was perfectly **accessible**.”
accessible: _____
6. “He was still asleep, and the **melancholy** creases that folded his daytime face were smoothed and slack.”
melancholy: _____
7. “Tuck rolled over and made a **rueful** face at her. ‘What in the world could possibly happen to me?’”
rueful: _____
8. “‘All *right!* I’m coming!’ she cried, **exasperated**, and then added quickly, ‘I mean, I’ll be right there, Mama.’”
exasperated: _____
9. “‘How delightful to see you looking so fit.’ ‘And why shouldn’t I be fit?’ she **retorted**, peering at him through the fading light.”
retorted: _____
10. “The last stains of sunset had melted away, and the twilight died, too, as he stood there, though its **remnants** clung reluctantly to everything that was pale in color. . . .”
remnants: _____

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer to each question.

1. What is there about the first week of August that sets it apart from the rest of summer?
2. What is it about the road that leads to Treetop that suggests it was laid out by a herd of cows?
3. How is Winnie's house described?
4. Why isn't Winnie curious about the wood?
5. If the road hadn't swung around the wood but instead went right through it, what would the people probably have noticed that would have changed their lives?
6. Why does Mae tell Tuck it is no use having "that dream"?
7. Why does Mae feel it will be safe for her to meet their sons?
8. If Winnie had a brother or a sister, what would that do for her?
9. Who does Winnie tell that she is going to run away?
10. What does the music in the wood sound like to Winnie?

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.

galling—annoying; irritating; bothersome

consolingly—comfortingly

sternly—harshly; bluntly

perversely—unreasonably; stubbornly

faltered—hesitated; wavered; failed

eagerness—enthusiasm; zeal; impatience

scornful—mocking; insulting

elated—excited; thrilled; joyful

vanity—pride in one's appearance; conceit

solemnly—gravely; seriously; soberly

Things to Know

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

Although people could buy ready-made clothing, much of people's clothing was handmade from fabric bought from general stores in rural areas. Wealthy people could afford to buy their clothing or have it made to order. Ordinary people or poorer people usually made their own, and the quality depended upon how much they could afford to spend for the materials. Some items of clothing in the story may not be familiar to people of today. For example, **suspenders** are lengths of fabric with attachments at each end. One end would be attached to the back of the pants, and the other to the front. The suspender would be pulled over the shoulder to hold up the pants. At the time of the story, only men wore pants. A **shawl** is a scarflike length of fabric worn by women as an outer garment. A **brooch** is a decorative pin. It may also be used to hold two pieces of fabric, such as two ends of a shawl, together.

Furniture and textiles were mass-produced, as were pots and pans, utensils, tools, and even items like music boxes, which would have been a luxury item during the time of the story.

Although street lighting in the cities and even the indoor lighting was provided by gas, oil lamps and candles were used by most people to see after dark.

Gypsies were wandering people who did not stay long in one place. Gypsies were often looked down upon by the permanent residents of the places where they stopped.

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. “Still, it was **galling**, this having to admit she was afraid.”
galling: _____
2. “She merely told herself **consolingly**, ‘Of course, while I’m in the wood, if I decide never to come back, well then, that will be that.’”
consolingly: _____
3. “The boy eyed her as she came forward. ‘What’re you doing here?’ he asked her **sternly**.”
sternly: _____
4. “Discovering him, seeing his surprise, and presented at once with choices, Winnie’s mind **perversely** went blank. Instead of crying out for help, she merely goggled at him. . . .”
perversely: _____
5. “The winding key was still revolving, but more and more slowly. The melody **faltered**.”
faltered: _____
6. “. . . they gathered around her like children at their mother’s knee, each trying to claim her attention, and sometimes they all talked at once, and interrupted each other, in their **eagerness**.”
eagerness: _____
7. “She had never longed for a magic wand, did not expect to marry a prince, and was **scornful**—most of the time—of her grandmother’s elves.”
scornful: _____
8. “And all at once she was **elated**. . . . The sweet earth opened out its wide four corners to her. . . .”
elated: _____
9. “It [the hat] came down far over her ears and gave her a clownish appearance, but the shade from its brim was so welcome that Winnie put **vanity** aside. . . .”
vanity: _____
10. “‘How do, Winnie Foster,’ said Tuck, shaking Winnie’s hand rather **solemnly**.”
solemnly: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Winnie doesn't want the toad to think she is what?
 - a. a poor sport
 - b. a coward
 - c. an over-protected little girl
2. In the story, how old is Winnie?
 - a. seventeen
 - b. ten
 - c. thirteen
3. Why does Jesse refuse to let Winnie drink from the spring?
 - a. because it is unsanitary
 - b. because it would be terrible for her to do so
 - c. because he dislikes her
4. What does Winnie find odd about her kidnappers' behavior?
 - a. They put her on a fat horse.
 - b. Instead of Winnie pleading with them, they do the pleading.
 - c. They are in a hurry to leave the wood.
5. When does Mae say they will return Winnie home?
 - a. that night
 - b. tomorrow
 - c. next week
6. How many years before had the Tucks come upon the spring?
 - a. eighty-seven
 - b. ten
 - c. seventeen
7. Why did Miles's wife leave him and take their two children?
 - a. because he looked much younger than she, and she was envious
 - b. because she wanted to live in a big city, and he preferred the woods
 - c. because she thought he must have sold his soul to the Devil
8. When Mae tells Winnie she will have to take her home overnight, why does Winnie feel there is nothing to be afraid of?
 - a. because she knows that she can run away from the Tucks at night
 - b. because the Tucks seem gentle
 - c. because she saw the stranger following them
9. When Winnie "closed the gate on her oldest fears," what does she discover?
 - a. new fears
 - b. her mother's voice
 - c. the wings she has always wished she had
10. When Angus Tuck meets Winnie, how does his expression make her feel?
 - a. like an animal brought home as a pet
 - b. like an unexpected present, wrapped in pretty paper and tied with ribbons
 - c. like an unexpected and troublesome guest who presents a threat to them

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.

indomitable—unyielding; unconquerable

lolloped—lounged; drooped

cavernous—like a cavern, large and hollow

mirage—an illusion, often of a pool of reflecting water

peculiar—unusual; bizarre; odd

supremely—perfectly; flawlessly

silty—having loose sediment made up of very small rocky particles

anguish—distress; suffering

hunched—bowed; stooped; bent

anxiously—worriedly; fearfully

Things to Know

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

By the 1880s, streets were paved in the cities, and bicycles were becoming a mode of travel. But in rural areas with rutted and unpaved roads, people traveled mostly on foot or by animal. Horses were so important for getting to town and plowing fields that the common punishment for stealing a horse was hanging. The Tucks are understandably upset when their only horse is stolen.

In the story, Jesse Tuck is stuck at age seventeen. He suggests that when Winnie is seventeen, they might get married. Marriage customs were different in the 1800s, and it would not be unusual to get married at the age of seventeen.

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. “The Foster women had made a fortress out of duty. Within it, they were **indomitable**.”
indomitable: _____
2. “An ancient green-plush sofa **lolloped** alone in the center, like yet another mossy fallen log. . . .”
lolloped: _____
3. “Beyond this was the bedroom, where a vast and tipsy brass bed took up most of the space, but there was room beside it for the washstand with the lonely mirror, and opposite its foot a **cavernous** oak wardrobe. . . .”
cavernous: _____
4. “For, on the old beamed ceiling of the parlor, streaks of light swam and danced and wavered like a bright **mirage**, reflected through the windows from the sunlit surface of the pond.”
mirage: _____
5. “They had kidnapped her, right out of the middle of her very own wood, and now she would be expected to sleep—*all night*—in this dirty, **peculiar** house.”
peculiar: _____
6. “. . . he’s a pretty nice man, I guess.’ In fact, he seemed **supremely** nice to her now, a kind of savior.”
supremely: _____
7. “Tuck climbed in, too, pushing off, and, settling the oars into their locks, dipped them into the **silty** bottom in one strong pull.”
silty: _____
8. “Winnie struggling with the **anguish** of all these things, could only sit **hunched** and numb, the sound of the water rolling in her ears.”
anguish: _____
hunched: _____
9. “Tuck came, too, a little later, to peer down at her **anxiously**.”
anxiously: _____

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What are some of the things that surprise Winnie at the Tucks' house?
2. Why must the Tucks move on periodically?
3. What does Miles do for a living? What does Jesse do?
4. What do the boys do every ten years?
5. Why can't the Tucks take Winnie home until the next day?
6. Why does Tuck think the pond is the best place to talk?
7. What does Tuck say is all around them on the pond?
8. What does Tuck mean when he compares his family to the rowboat?
9. What does Tuck fiercely tell Winnie he wants to do?
10. What is the happy news the stranger has to report to the Fosters?