

# Focus ON READING

*Vocabulary*

READING  
COMPREHENSION

## Walk Two Moons

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**ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE**

**Reproducible Activities**



## Check Your Understanding

### Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

- How far is Euclid, Ohio, from Bybanks, Kentucky?
  - 200 miles
  - 300 miles
  - 400 miles
- Where does Sal say she forgot something at the house back in Bybanks?
  - under the floorboards in her closet
  - behind some plaster in the wall
  - under a tree in the backyard
- How far away is Lewiston, Idaho, from Euclid?
  - 2,000 miles
  - 2,500 miles
  - 3,000 miles
- What is Sal terrified of?
  - spiders and insects
  - planes
  - cars and buses
- What was Sal's mother's favorite tree?
  - willow tree
  - sugar maple tree
  - chestnut tree
- What does Sal's father do for work in Euclid?
  - He works at an accounting firm.
  - He works on a farm.
  - He sells farm machinery.
- Why did Sal think it was remarkable that Mrs. Partridge guessed Phoebe's age?
  - Mrs. Partridge is hearing impaired.
  - Mrs. Partridge is blind.
  - Mrs. Partridge had never met Phoebe before.
- What is interesting about Margaret's last name?
  - It means *dead body*.
  - It is not the same as her mother's.
  - She prefers not to use her last name.
- What does Margaret do for work?
  - She is a science teacher.
  - She stays home and takes care of her mother.
  - She is a nurse.
- What did Sal think Ben's hair smelled like?
  - Phoebe's mom's blackberry pie
  - the trees back in Bybanks
  - grapefruit

## Focus Your Reading

### Vocabulary Words to Know

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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.

**cinch**—a thing done with ease

**gullible**—easily fooled or cheated

**primitive**—little evolved

**intriguing**—interesting

**accumulated**—increased gradually in quantity or number

**interjected**—threw in between or among other things

**detour**—a deviation from a direct route or the usual procedure

**mana**—a sudden and an unexpected source of gratification, pleasure, or gain

**malevolent**—having, showing, or arising from intense, often vicious, spite or hatred

**notion**—a theory or belief held by a person or group

### Things to Know

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

**Shrapnel** is fragments from bombs, mines, or shells usually used in war.

**Mount Rushmore** is a national memorial located in South Dakota's Black Hills. Former U.S. Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln are carved into the mountain, making it the world's greatest mountain carving.

**The Wisconsin Dells** are a natural formation of sandstone and rock carved out by the Wisconsin River.

A **philosopher** is a person who seeks wisdom.

A **rhododendron** is a type of bush with leathery leaves and large, colorful flowers.

A **bowie knife** is a type of hunting knife. A **sheath** is a case to keep the blade of the knife covered.

## 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. “Well, it sure ain’t a **cinch** being a father, either,’ Gramps said.”  
cinch: \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Sometimes I am a little slow to figure these things out. My father once said I was as **gullible** as a fish.”  
gullible: \_\_\_\_\_
3. “My mother had not liked the term *Native Americans*. She thought it sounded **primitive** and stiff.”  
primitive: \_\_\_\_\_
4. “Mary Lou thought the messages (this one and the other one) were **intriguing**. ‘How exciting!’ she said.”  
intriguing: \_\_\_\_\_
5. “I thought it was going to be only me and Phoebe and Mary Lou going, but by the time we left the house, we had **accumulated** Tommy and Dougie as well.”  
accumulated: \_\_\_\_\_
6. “Occasionally, they **interjected** a ‘Gol-dang!’ or a ‘No kidding?’”  
interjected: \_\_\_\_\_
7. “Just before we reached the South Dakota border, Gramps took a **detour** north . . .”  
detour: \_\_\_\_\_
8. “He flung himself up and down the aisles, receiving the journals as if they were **manna** from heaven.”  
manna: \_\_\_\_\_
9. “Christy and Megan . . . were whispering over on the other side of the room and casting **malevolent** looks in Mary Lou’s direction.”  
malevolent: \_\_\_\_\_
10. “So when Phoebe suggested that my father and I should not go to Margaret’s, I was quite willing to agree with that **notion**.”  
notion: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check Your Understanding

### Short Answer

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Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why doesn't Sal want to send any postcards?
2. What did Ben draw after Phoebe and Sal told him about the messages, and why was it significant?
3. What does Sal ask the Indian when she and her grandparents visit Pipestone, and what is his answer?
4. How did Gram decide that she would marry Gramps?
5. Why does Gramps always say, "This ain't our marriage bed, but it will do"?
6. How did Sal's father act differently at Margaret's from how he acted at home?
7. What important question did Mrs. Winterbottom ask Prudence, and how did Prudence respond?
8. How did Sal react to Margaret Cadaver's gift?
9. What happens to Gram at the river when they stop to swim?
10. How does the boy at the river help Gram?

## Focus Your Reading

### Vocabulary Words to Know

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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.

**cantankerous**—difficult or irritating to deal with

**sullen**—gloomy

**colossal**—of an exceptional or astonishing degree

**cavorted**—engaged in extravagant behavior

**reluctantly**—with hesitation or unwillingness

**skittish**—easily frightened

**coaxed**—influenced or persuaded

**console** (*verb*)—to comfort

**lather** (*noun*)—an agitated state

**pitiful**—to be pitied; in a sad state

### Things to Know

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

**Poplars** are a type of tree that grows quickly and is part of the willow family.

A **wild boar** is a wild hog from which most domestic pigs have been derived.

**Greek mythology** is the study of Greek myths dealing with gods and heroes.

A **warrior** is a person engaged in war.

**Covent Garden** is a theater in London known for its opera performances.

**Amnesia** is the loss of one's memory.

## 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 guess this **cantankerous** woman is getting out of here,” Gramps said.”  
cantankerous: \_\_\_\_\_
2. “She was as crotchety and **sullen** as a three-legged mule, and I was not quite sure why.”  
sullen: \_\_\_\_\_
3. “Besides, I was too busy throwing the most **colossal** temper tantrums.”  
colossal: \_\_\_\_\_
4. “The next day at school, I studied Mr. Birkway as he leaped and **cavorted** about the classroom.”  
cavorted: \_\_\_\_\_
5. “Phoebe **reluctantly** got dressed, pulling a wrinkled blouse and skirt from the closet.”  
reluctantly: \_\_\_\_\_
6. “The chickens were fidgety, the cows were **skittish**, and the pigs were sullen and glum.”  
skittish: \_\_\_\_\_
7. “I finally **coaxed** Moody Blue to drop it, and when I picked up the rabbit, its heart was beating faster than anything.”  
coaxed: \_\_\_\_\_
8. “Whenever anyone tried to **console** me about my mother, I had nearly chomped their heads off.”  
console: \_\_\_\_\_
9. “Prudence was in a **lather** when she came home.”  
lather: \_\_\_\_\_
10. “He put his arm around me and we sat there together on the porch, two people being completely **pitiful** and lost.”  
pitiful: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check Your Understanding

### Short Answer

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Write a short answer for each question.

1. What did Sal say was one of the last memories she had of her mother?
2. What did the third mysterious message, “In the course of a lifetime, what does it matter?,” mean?
3. What happened to Sal’s uncles?
4. Why did Sal’s mother say she had to leave?
5. Why does Sal wish her father were not such a good person?
6. What did Sal hope would happen to Mrs. Cadaver and Mr. Birkway, and why?
7. What did Mrs. Winterbottom say in the notes she left for her family?
8. What did Sal draw when Mr. Birkway asked the students to draw their souls, and what was strange about it?
9. Why was Sal bothered by how Phoebe and her family acted after Mrs. Winterbottom left?
10. What did Phoebe think happened to her mother?

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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.

**astonished**—surprised; amazed

**treacherous**—providing insecure footing or support

**careening**—to sway from side to side

**tentatively**—hesitantly; uncertainly

**descended**—to swoop or pounce down

**chaotic**—confusing; unorganized

**impulse**—a sudden decision

**besieging**—pressing someone with requests

**somberly**—depressingly; gloomily

**partitions**—things that divide

### Things to Know

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

A **gorge** is a narrow passage, like a steep-sided canyon, carved through land.

A **ravine** is a small, narrow, steep-sided valley that is usually formed by running water.

**Outcroppings** are parts of rock formations that appear at the surface of the ground.

An **umbilical cord** connects a fetus from its navel to its mother.

The **greenhouse effect** is the warming of the surface and atmosphere of a planet, caused by conversion of solar radiation into heat.

**Sioux Indians** refers to a group of Native Americans of the Great Plains area.

**Yellowstone** is a national park in eastern Idaho, southern Montana, and northwestern Wyoming. It is the largest national park in the United States.

**Old Faithful** is a spring in Yellowstone National Park that throws forth jets of heated water at regular intervals. This type of spring is also known as a *geyser*.