

Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

Walk Two Moons

Sharon Creech

ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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?

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.

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

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*.