

*****Student Questions*****

Boxcar Children: The School House Mystery

Chapter 1 pp7-17

1. What was the whole Alden family doing on the front porch on this hot summer day?
2. Why did Benny's friend Max want the Aldens to go to the coastal fishing village ? Tell about a time someone dared you to do something.
3. Why is the village a dull town?
4. What is the name of the village they found in fine print on the map
5. Why were the Alden's surprised when Mr. Fenton showed their room at the hotel?
6. Since the town seemed dull to the family, where on the island could the Alden's find an adventure ?
7. How is Port Elizabeth like Surprise Island to Benny?
8. Why is the Chapter titled Benny's Plan?
9. Predict who the one friend and the many unfriendly people are on the island.

Chapter 2 pp. 18 -25

1. Why does Miss Gray live alone in the big house?
2. Why is Mr. Fenton sorry for the children brought up on the island?
3. What do the people of Port Elizabeth do with their savings? (put in old sock)
4. Why does Henry think only women and children are staring at them, not the men?
5. Why does grandfather think the people in Port Elizabeth aren't friendly?

6. What does the big boy's mother say about the Aldens?
7. Why is this Chapter called "Being Watched"?

Chapter 3 pp. 27-36

1. What did the fishermen do with the fish they caught?
2. What did the twins, Marie and Hal Moss, wonder about?
3. What did the Moss twins really want?
4. Why do the four Alden children want to talk with Miss Gray?
5. Why is the Chapter 4 titled "A Woman of Few Words"?

Chapter 4 pp. 37- 47

1. Draw a picture of the mansion from the description on page 37.
2. What does Miss Gray say to the Alden children?
3. Why did the children tell Miss Gray they had come to Port Elizabeth Island?
4. What did the children notice lying on the table?
5. Why do you think a woman who barely talked wrote that book?
6. What was the question that Miss Gray asked the children as they were leaving?
7. Why did the children ask Grandfather if they could go to Northport?
8. What did Grandfather think of the school surprise?
9. What supplies did the children buy for the school?
10. Who did the Aldens meet in the parking lot of the Sea Shell restaurant?

Chapter 5 pp. 48 – 54

1. Who is the Money Man?
2. Today is Tuesday. Thursday the school will open. What will happen on Wednesday?
3. Why did the big children need to sit in the back of the schoolroom?
4. Who was the picture of the man with the white wig?
5. What does the Money Man want the towns people to find?
6. What is the name of Chapter 5?
7. Why do Benny and Mr. Alden think the Money Man is wonderful?

Chapter 6 pp. 55-64

1. Why didn't Benny need to ring the school bell?
2. If there were 5 in Benny's class, 5 in Violet's, 6 in Jessie's, and 4 in Henry's, how many children in all?
3. Why is Eddie's cat named Fish?
4. How did Benny solve the problem of no books?
5. When the children went outside for recess, who did they see?
6. Why didn't the children need to worry about the Money Man?
7. Why could this chapter be called "Missing on Painting"?

Chapter 7 pp. 65-72

1. What does Mr. Willet, the Money Man, say that he does for a job?
2. Why wasn't Grandfather's big old penny worth \$250?
3. How much did Mr. Willet offer Grandfather for his dime?

4. Why won't Mr. Willet try to buy anything from Miss Gray?
5. Why doesn't anyone go to the Gray Library?
6. How does Miss Gray's act when she sees Mr. Alden?
7. Why does Grandfather think Mr. Willet has come to the island?
8. Who do you think Grandfather made a telephone call to?

Chapter 8 pp. 73-80

1. What two ways does Henry think Mr. Willet is cheating the islanders?
2. Why did Henry want to change seats with Benny at the restaurant?
3. Why can't the Aldens get back to the island for six hours?
4. How do the Alden family plan to spend the night?
5. What is the name of Chapter 8?

Chapter 9 pp. 80-86

1. How did Mr. Willet get to the island in high tide?
2. Why did the Aldens decide to get back to the island in high tide?
3. Why does Benny think that Freddy Willet has a partner?
4. Why is this chapter named "The Disappearing Stranger"?

Chapter 10 pp. 87-94

1. Why did Benny want to get to the schoolhouse early?
2. Why is the chimney in the schoolhouse awfully big?
3. What was the something that Mr. Alden told the children that they didn't know?

4. Who did Benny think disappeared through the window of the Gray Library?
5. Why did Benny go to Miss Gray's house?
6. Why does Miss Gray think that Mr. Willet took the books?
7. Why did Benny tell Miss Gray not to worry about the missing books?
8. Why do you think Chapter 10 is called the "Discovery"?

Chapter 11 pp. 94-101

1. Why did the Aldens think it was too peaceful on the island on Friday?
2. Why did Grandfather quit fishing when he caught one big fish?
3. Who was the English stranger ?
4. Why do the Aldens pretend that they don't know Mr. Wilder-Smith?
5. Why did Mr. Wilder-Smith say that he needed a post office?
6. How do the children decide to send Mr. Carter a message?

Chapter 12 pp. 102-109

1. Why did Mr. Freddy Willet say that he wanted Benny to go with him to the Easton's ?
2. Why did Mr. Willet give Mrs. Easton 10 dollars for a penny?
3. What did Benny whisper to Mr. Wilder-Smith when he left the Easton's?
4. Why did John Carter want Benny, not Henry to come with him to the schoolhouse?
5. Why is this chapter called "A Sock Full of Money"?

Chapter 13 pp. 110-116

1. How did Hal finally get the children to stop talking about the Money Man?
2. What was the truth that Violet discovered about the Moss twins Hal and Marie?
3. Why did the whole family go to see Miss Gray?
4. How will Miss Gray look after the two Moss twins?
5. What did Miss Gray mean when she said to Mr. Alden, "Violet found the two artists and your Benny found me?"
6. What is the title of this chapter?

Chapter 14 pp. 117-123

1. What information did John Carter leave in the note about Mr. Willet ?
2. Where in the library did Mr. Willet hide the coins?
3. Where in the library did Mr. Willet hide the old books ?
4. When did Freddy know that he was in trouble?
5. Why won't money for the coins do Freddy any good?
6. Why is "Caught" a good name for this chapter?

Chapter 15 pp. 124 - 128

1. Why did the people of Port Elizabeth change their mind about Freddy Willet?
2. How had Miss Gray changed?
3. How did Benny answer Max's question, "Did you catch a thief or find hidden treasure?"
4. How did the children do more than catch a thief and find hidden treasure?

5. What is the name of Chapter 15?

Write yourself into the next Alden family adventure.

Tell about all the character traits the Alden children have that make them responsible citizens.

*****Key*****

Boxcar Children: The School House Mystery

Chapter 1 pp7-17

1. What was the whole Alden family doing on the front porch on this hot summer day? (reading)
2. Why did Benny's friend Max want the Aldens to go to the coastal fishing village (prove nothing exciting was there) Tell about a time someone dared you to do something.
3. Why is the village a dull town? (few people, few visitors, a schoolhouse, store-not even a post office)
4. What is the name of the village they found in fine print on the map? (Port Elizabeth)
5. Why were the Alden's surprised when Mr. Fenton showed their room at the hotel? (2 comfortable beds)
6. Since the town seemed dull to the family, where on the island could the Alden's find an adventure (mansion)
7. How is Port Elizabeth like Surprise Island to Benny? (both surprise food)
8. Why is the Chapter titled Benny's Plan? (he wanted to go to Port Elizabeth)
9. Predict who the one friend and the many unfriendly people are on the island.

Chapter 2 pp. 18 -25

1. Why does Miss Gray live alone in the big house? (family died or left)
2. Why is Mr. Fenton sorry for the children brought up on the island? (isolated, hard life, uneducated)

3. What do the people of Port Elizabeth do with their savings? (put in old sock)
4. Why does Henry think only women and children are staring at them, not the men? (men out fishing)
5. Why does grandfather think the people in Port Elizabeth aren't friendly? (don't trust strangers)
6. What does the big boy's mother say about the Aldens? (towns people are jealous)
7. Why is this Chapter called "Being Watched"?

Chapter 3 pp. 27-36

1. What did the fishermen do with the fish they caught? (boxed, dried, and iced them)
2. What did the twins, Marie and Hal Moss, wonder about? (if the Alden children would teach them)
3. What did the Moss twins really want? (All the children wanted to learn to read)
4. Why do the four Alden children want to talk with Miss Gray? (ask if they can use the schoolhouse)
5. Why is the Chapter 4 titled "A Woman of Few Words"?

Chapter 4 pp. 37- 47

1. Draw a picture of the mansion from the description on page 37.
2. What does Miss Gray say to the Alden children? (they can use the school house)
3. Why did the children tell Miss Gray they had come to Port Elizabeth Island? (to find a mystery)

4. What did the children notice lying on the table? (a book "The Woman Who Talked Too Much" E Gray)
5. Why do you think a woman who barely talked wrote that book?
6. What was the question that Miss Gray asked the children as they were leaving (Ever see a blond-haired man who smiles and shows his teeth?)
7. Why did the children ask Grandfather if they could go to Northport? (get school supplies)
8. What did Grandfather think of the school surprise? (fine idea)
9. What supplies did the children buy for the school? (paints, colored paper, scissors, stars, stapler)
10. Who did the Aldens meet in the parking lot of the Sea Shell restaurant (the blond, friendly stranger in the red sports car).

Chapter 5 pp. 48 – 54

8. Who is the Money Man? (man who buys money)
9. Today is Tuesday. Thursday the school will open. What will happen on Wednesday? (children clean the school.)
10. Why did the big children need to sit in the back of the schoolroom? (front seats small, back sits big)
11. Who was the picture of the man with the white wig? (George Washington)
12. What does the Money Man want the towns people to find? (old things)
13. What is the name of Chapter 5? ("The Money Man")
14. Why do Benny and Mr. Alden think the Money Man is wonderful? (cheats people)

Chapter 6 pp. 55-64

8. Why didn't Benny need to ring the school bell? (the children were all there already)
9. If there were 5 in Benny's class, 5 in Violet's, 6 in Jessie's, and 4 in Henry's, how many children in all? (20 children)
10. Why is Eddie's cat named Fish? (comes when he calls Fish, Fish)
11. How did Benny solve the problem of no books? (he wrote stories about the children)
12. When the children went outside for recess, who did they see? (the Money Man)
13. Why didn't the children need to worry about the Money Man? (he was in Mr. Fenton's store with grandfather)
14. Why could this chapter be called "Missing on Painting"? (button missing)

Chapter 7 pp. 65-72

1. What does Mr. Willet, the Money Man, say that he does for a job? (coin dealer)
2. Why wasn't Grandfather's big old penny worth \$250? (had a hole in it)
3. How much did Mr. Willet offer Grandfather for his dime? (\$100 cash)
4. Why won't Mr. Willet try to buy anything from Miss Gray? (maid will prevent it)
5. Why doesn't anyone go to the Gray Library? (uninteresting books)
6. How does Miss Gray's act when she sees Mr. Alden? (lets him in)
7. Why does Grandfather think Mr. Willet has come to the island? (cheat people)

8. Who do you think Grandfather made a telephone call to? (detective)

Chapter 8 pp. 73-80

1. What two ways does Henry think Mr. Willet is cheating the islanders? (pay too little & give them cheap things)
2. Why did Henry want to change seats with Benny at the restaurant? (knows the man and woman)
3. Why can't the Aldens get back to the island for six hours (high tide)
4. How do the Alden family plan to spend the night? (sleeping in the car)
5. What is the name of Chapter 8? (Caught by the Tide)

Chapter 9 pp. 80-86

1. How did Mr. Willet get to the island in high tide? (a rowboat)
2. Why did the Aldens decide to get back to the island in high tide? (to follow Mr. Willet, - Freddy)
3. Why does Benny think that Freddy Willet has a partner? (because two men in two boats rowed to the island)
4. Why is this chapter named "The Disappearing Stranger"? (can't find Freddy or his boat)

Chapter 10 pp. 87-94

1. Why did Benny want to get to the schoolhouse early? (see where hole in GW's coat button went)
2. Why is the chimney in the schoolhouse awfully big? (hiding place)
3. What was the something that Mr. Alden told the children that they didn't know? (about the Gray Library)
4. Who did Benny think disappeared through the window of the Gray Library? (Mr. Willet)

5. Why did Benny go to Miss Gray's house? (to tell her someone stole books from the Gray Library)
6. Why does Miss Gray think that Mr. Willet took the books? (sell for money)
7. Why did Benny tell Miss Gray not to worry about the missing books? (Grandfather would take care of it)
8. Why do you think Chapter 10 is called the "Discovery"? (discovered missing books)

Chapter 11 pp. 94-101

1. Why did the Aldens think it was too peaceful on the island on Friday (2 people disappeared)
2. Why did Grandfather quit fishing when he caught one big fish? (afraid he'd catch another)
3. Who was the English stranger (Mr. Carter, Mr. Alden's employee)
4. Why do the Aldens pretend that they don't know Mr. Wilder-Smith? (because islanders listening)
5. Why did Mr. Wilder-Smith say that he needed a post office? (send important letters)
6. How do the children decide to send Mr. Carter a message (put in log hole on the beach)

Chapter 12 pp. 102-109

1. Why did Mr. Freddy Willet say that he wanted Benny to go with him to the Easton's ? (buy a penny worth a dollar)
2. Why did Mr. Willet give Mrs. Easton 10 dollars for a penny? (copper)

3. What did Benny whisper to Mr. Wilder-Smith when he left the Easton's ? (hole in log)
4. Why did John Carter want Benny, not Henry to come with him to the schoolhouse? (two fit in chimney)
5. Why is this chapter called "A Sock Full of Money"? (Mrs. Easton empties coins out of a sock)

Chapter 13 pp. 110-116

1. How did Hal finally get the children to stop talking about the Money Man? (made a speech)\
2. What was the truth that Violet discovered about the Moss twins Hal and Marie (natural artists)
3. Why did the whole family go to see Miss Gray? (show her the paintings)
4. How will Miss Gray look after the two Moss twins? (teach school herself)
5. What did Miss Gray mean when she said to Mr. Alden, "Violet found the two artists and your Benny found me? (she was a hermit)
6. What is the title of this chapter? (Surprise for Violet)

Chapter 14 pp. 117-123

1. What information did John Carter leave in the note about Mr. Willet (smuggler wanted by Canadian police)
2. Where in the library did Mr. Willet hide the coins? (in a woodbox)
3. Where in the library did Mr. Willet hide the old books (in the back of the bookcase)
4. When did Feddy know that he was in trouble? (when Mr. Carter asked which name did he sign)

5. Why won't money for the coins do Freddy any good? (he's going to prison)
6. Why is "Caught" a good name for this chapter? (Freddy Willet was caught stealing)

Chapter 15 pp. 124 -

1. Why did the people of Port Elizabeth change their mind about Freddy Willet? (found out just one valentine was worth many dollars, and he'd cheated them)
2. How had Miss Gray changed? (She'll sell old books for new books for the library)
3. How did Benny answer Max's question, "Did you catch a thief or find hidden treasure?" (both)
4. How did the children do more than catch a thief and find hidden treasure? (met an author and discovered two artists)
5. What is the name of Chapter 15? (The Last Song)

Write yourself into the next Alden family adventure.

Tell about all the character traits the Alden children have that make them responsible citizens.