

Comprehension

Answer these questions **after** you read the book. Whenever you wish, you may go back over what you have read.

This mystery story, like many others, contains excitement *and* a puzzle. Tell whether the incidents mentioned in questions one to three help build up (A) the danger and excitement, (B) the puzzle or (C) both A and B.

- (12) **1** Hans drives through the wire fence at San Pedro Harbor.
- (12) **2** Jupiter tells Bob and Pete to test all the secret entrances of their Headquarters, except Emergency One and Secret Four.
- (12) **3** Bob tells Jupiter about the Boy Scout with the gold tooth.
- (10) **4** Which *two* of Miss Agatha's character traits are most common among old people? (A) She longs for the past. (B) She is afraid to leave home. (C) She is very "spunky and determined."
- (3) **5** Jupiter knew two specific facts—there was a bank on the corner, and someone was digging near it. He *should* have put these two facts together and come up with (A) another specific fact. (B) a general picture of what was happening. (C) a *myth* (legend or story) to explain the facts.

- (5) **6** On page 141, why does the author point out the fact that Jupiter looks fat? The author wants to (A) puzzle the reader. (B) give the reader a clue about what Jupiter is doing. (C) tell the reader exactly what Jupiter is doing.

- (5) **7** Which of these incidents is *least* realistic? (A) The boys eat lunch at the house of Jupiter's aunt and uncle. (B) Bob dreams about gnomes. (C) Pete starts to let himself down on the rope from the tower.

- (14) **8** When he is talking to the boys at the end of the story, Alfred Hitchcock turns to "page 18" in the "bundle of papers" on his desk. Alfred Hitchcock is actually reading this book and talking to the characters in it at the same time! The author wants to give the story (A) a calm, logical ending. (B) an illogical, slightly weird ending. (C) a happy ending.

Pretend you are writing a mystery story, using the *same* methods as the author of this book used. Now answer questions nine and ten.

- (12) **9** Do you give the reader *all* the clues before your detective explains the mystery? Answer **yes** or **no**. *no*
- (12) **10** Do you put in any amazing, unlikely coincidences? Answer **yes** or **no**. *yes*

Detail

Read these questions before you start to read the book. They will tell you what to look for while you are reading. After you have read over all the questions, begin reading the book. When you have finished the book, answer the questions.

Take a piece of paper and write on it, "Answer question four on the Detail Card before you read further." Insert the paper between pages 102 and 103. When you come to it as you are reading, stop and answer question four.

- 1** Which *two* clues does Jupiter use to make his deduction about Miss Agatha's "gnomes and elves and dwarfs"?
 (A) He sees the gnome in the window. (B) He sees the pictures of children. (C) He sees that Miss Agatha has written about gnomes.
- 2** What is the "trick Juve sometimes used, which almost always gave adults a jolt of surprise"? (A) He eavesdrops behind doors. (B) He speaks in simple sentences with double meanings. (C) He uses long words in complicated sentences.
- 3** At the beginning of Chapter Nine, which "shock technique" does the author use? (A) He describes Bob's dreams about the gnomes. (B) He describes Bob's meeting with the gnomes, but waits until the end to tell the reader that Bob is dreaming. (C) He starts by describing a calm, cheerful scene and suddenly introduces the sinister gnomes.

- 4** Does Mr. Jordan know about *all* of Mr. Rawley's plans? Answer yes or no.

5 On pages 113 and 114, Jupiter uses flattery to make Rawley take him and Pete on the getaway ride. He also uses a hidden threat. What is the threat? (A)

- (B) Jupiter might wish to join Rawley's organization. (C) Rawley's getaway plans might make a fool out of Rawley. (D) Rawley's getaway plans might be clever.

6 Why does Jupiter "mope" and "act grumpy" after the rescue at San Pedro Harbor? (A) He was frightened by his

- (B) experience at San Pedro. (C) He wasn't the hero of the rescue. (D) He was working hard with his hands.

7 In the first two chapters, which one of these details turns out to be most important in the solution of the Golden Belt mystery? (A) All the electric wires lead

- (B) into the museum by one cable. (C) There is a velvet rope around the Rainbow Jewels. (D) It is Children's Day at the museum.

The following are three plans in which the gnomes are involved. (A) The Golden Belt is stolen. (B) Someone wants Miss Agatha to sell her house. (C) Someone wants to tunnel under Miss Agatha's house to the bank vault. Tell which plan is "masterminded" by the characters mentioned in questions eight to ten.

- 8** Mr. Rawley (Answer A, B or C.)

- 9** the midgets

- 10** Miss Agatha's nephew

Vocabulary

These questions will help you learn some of the more difficult words in this book. If there are any words in the list which you do not know after you answer the questions, look them up in the dictionary.

1 Suddenly a bag of flour fell off the shelf and hit the floor with a (A) click. (B) bang. (C) thud. HINT: Choose the word whose sound best fits this description.

2 Mary wondered if she were having delusions. Bags of flour didn't move by themselves! *You* might think you were having a delusion if (A) a black cat crossed your path. (B) a green cat crossed your path. (C) a spotted cat crossed your path.

3 Mary called in Inspector Flynn. "You were in the room alone," the Inspector said. "Therefore you must have moved the flour." Was the Inspector's deduction correct? Answer yes or no.

4 The deduction was something the Inspector (A) observed. (B) guessed. (C) figured out.

5 Which was the flaw in the Inspector's logic? He hadn't found out whether (A) Mary had been standing near the shelf. (B) Mary was frightened. (C) Mary had seen the bag fall.

6 A flaw in a china plate is a spot where the plate is (A) perfect. (B) not perfect. (C) shiny.

7 Was the Inspector's logic (A) his mistake, (B) his delusion or (C) his thinking process?

8 Just then the Inspector noticed that a tiny hole had been drilled through the wall behind the shelf. "Aha!" he exclaimed. "I deduce that (A) someone pushed the flour off the shelf." (B) the flour fell by itself." (C) there is a hole in the wall."

9 Look up *deduce* in a dictionary. When a detective deduces a fact, he is really (A) "noticing" the fact. (B) coming to a conclusion about the fact. (C) "educating" the fact.

10 Which new piece of evidence did the Inspector use in making his second deduction? (A) the bag of flour (B) the hole in the wall (C) his brain

thud	maneuver
delusions	sneak
deduction	baffled
flaw	riddle
logic	preposterous
deduce	suspect
evidence	clue
scheme	lured
accomplices	nabbed
diversion	executed

Survey

Answer these questions before you read the book. When directions are given, follow them carefully. You will be surprised how much you can tell about a book before you read it!

- ③ **1** Study the cover and the end papers of the book. Are the Three Investigators grown men or young boys?

- ⑦ **2** Read the Contents Page. Will the Three Investigators get into serious danger? Answer yes or no.

Read the Introduction (titled "Don't Read This!"). Then answer questions three and four.

- ③ **3** What is the name of the leader of the Three Investigators?

- 4** The Three Investigators have a secret meeting-place in (A) the old movie lot owned by Jupiter's aunt and uncle. (B) the junk yard owned by Jupiter's aunt and uncle. (C) the Middle East.

- 5** Skim pages 11 to 14. Why does Jupiter want to figure out how to steal the Rainbow Jewels? (A) to sell them (B) to act as a "consulting firm" for a gang of adult thieves (C) to gain experience in solving jewel robberies

Skim pages 31 to 33. Then answer questions six and seven.

- 6** Alfred Hitchcock, the famous motion picture director, requests the boys' help in (A) solving the jewel robbery. (B) helping a lady who says she is bothered by gnomes. (C) helping a lady who says she knows who the jewel robbers are.

- ⑥ **7** What are gnomes? (A) small frightening animals (B) little elflike people, supposed to be imaginary (C) small jewel robbers

- 8** Read pages 35 and 36 carefully. Miss Agawam lives (A) in an old movie theater. (B) in a building which was once a bank. (C) between an old movie theater and a bank.

- 9** Read pages 77 and 78. If one of the Three Investigators wants to communicate with another Investigator who is not close by, does he use (A) a walkie-talkie, (B) a tape recorder or (C) color-coded question marks? HINT: Be sure you know what *communicate* means.

- ⑦ **10** Is it likely that the case of the mysterious gnomes is somehow connected with the jewel robbery? Answer yes or no.

Activity

If you enjoyed this book and would like to share it with others, choose one of these things to do when you go for your book conference.

1 Many people really believe in gnomes and other strange, supernatural creatures! Find out about *poltergeists*, the “mischievous ghosts” who are said to move objects across tables, knock over lamps and play other small annoying tricks. Some scientists say that poltergeist phenomena seem to occur most often in homes where there are teen-age children.

2 Give your class some “practice in deduction”! Make a report on a famous mystery — but don’t reveal the solution right away. Show the class diagrams and a schedule of events, and give them brief descriptions of the people involved in the mystery. See if the class can guess the solution. You may wish to report on a crime that really happened; or you may decide to report on one of the classic mysteries of detective fiction, many of which are more complicated than most real-life mysteries. If you think your “trainees” are clever enough, try presenting Agatha Christie’s *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Group Activity

Here is an activity which you can do with your Interest Center. As the “project leader,” you should encourage group members to use facts and ideas from the books they have read to make the activity more interesting.

Your Interest Center can organize a “Cliffhangers advertising campaign” to interest other members of the class in the books you have read. Remember, the purpose of advertising something is to tell what your “product” is and to show how good it is.

The first thing you will want to decide is the best way to advertise. Perhaps you can catch the attention of your class if you make posters for the bulletin board. Or you might want to run off handbills on the school mimeograph machine and distribute them to the class. Or perhaps you will decide to write commercials (these could be presented at the beginning and the end of your drama activity for the book *Sparrow Hawk*).

Each member of the Interest Center should write a one- or two-line description of the book he has read. The group can put all these descriptions and show the variety of books in the Center.

Then the group can cooperate in making the posters or handbills—or whatever you decide is the best way to advertise.

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION

- 1..... A
- 2..... C
- 3..... B
- 4..... A, B
- 5..... B
- 6..... B
- 7..... C
- 8..... B
- 9..... no
- 10..... yes

Answer Key

CLIFFHANGERS

DETAIL

- 1..... B, C
- 2..... C
- 3..... B
- 4..... no
- 5..... B
- 6..... B
- 7..... C
- 8..... C
- 9..... A
- 10..... B

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

- 1..... C
- 2..... B
- 3..... no
- 4..... C
- 5..... A
- 6..... B
- 7..... C
- 8..... A
- 9..... B
- 10..... B

Answer Key

CLIFFHANGERS

SURVEY

- 1..... young boys
- 2..... yes
- 3..... Jupiter Jones
- 4..... B
- 5..... C
- 6..... B
- 7..... B
- 8..... C
- 9..... A
- 10..... yes