

Comprehension

Answer the questions **after** you read the book. Unless the questions tell you to look in the book, answer them without going back over what you have read.

- ⑩ **1** Does the author depend most heavily on **conversation, description** or **rhyme** in telling his story?

- 2** What was the real reason that Dingo Towne didn't leave his fortune directly to his heirs? (A) He didn't like any of them. (B) He didn't want Billy's mother to marry Roger Callow. (C) He liked to play practical jokes.

- 3** Which of Jupiter's inventions was most helpful when the investigators wanted to find someone quickly? (A) the Rocky Beach Chain Gang (B) the telescopic spyglass (C) the Ghost-to-Ghost hookup

- 4** Which of the following statements best describes Skinny Norris? (A) He was a mean prankster. (B) He was a crook. (C) He was a good detective.

- 5** When the boys were at their headquarters, how did they know when someone was coming? (A) They heard their footsteps. (B) Someone always stood guard outside. (C) They used a stove pipe with angled mirrors.

- 6** Mystery writers often use a device known as a "red herring" to throw the reader off the track. A "red herring" is a person the reader thinks is the villain, but turns out not to be, after all. Who is the "red herring" in this book? **Cecil Percival, Skinny Norris, Roger Callow**

- 7** How did Jupiter know that the will behind the ceiling fixture in the cabin was a fake? (A) He didn't trust Roger Callow. (B) Dingo's friend Sadie told him that Dingo had destroyed the earlier will. (C) He wasn't sure, but he took a wild guess.

- 8** Jupiter realized Roger Callow was a thief when _____. (A) Roger hired the two thugs to kidnap them (B) Roger pulled a gun on them (C) he found out Roger was a fortune hunter

- 9** Why did Roger Callow need the money? (A) He owed a fortune to gamblers. (B) He was greedy. (C) He wanted it for Nelly and Bobby.

- 10** Are The Three Investigators successful in solving the case because (A) they always get their man, (B) they are good at their work, or (C) Alfred Hitchcock helps them?

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.*

In questions one to three, tell which of the events listed happened **first**, **second** and **last**.

- ⑤ **1** Jupiter Jones, Pete Crenshaw and Bob Andrews are trapped in a runaway houseboat because of Skinny Norris.

- ⑤ **2** Pete Crenshaw causes Roger Callow to lose his balance and fall off the gangplank.

- ⑤ **3** People were swarming all over Dingo Towne's property, fighting and screaming at each other.

In questions four to six, tell which of the statements describe **Jupiter Jones**, **Pete Crenshaw** and **Bob Andrews**.

- ⑮ **4** This investigator is very athletic. It is his bravery and clearheadedness that saves the others from drowning.

- ⑮ **5** This investigator is very smart. He knows where to look for the answer and he never gives up until he finds it!

- ⑮ **6** This boy is very careful and studious. He keeps all the records for the investigators.

- 7** Was one of the reasons Dingo Towne drew up this will because
⑧ (A) he liked all his relatives, (B) he liked a good joke, or (C) he liked writing rhymes?

- 8** The Three Investigators had their headquarters in a junkyard. Was this because
⑧ (A) they couldn't find a better place, (B) it didn't cost too much, or (C) they could hide the headquarters from strangers and enemies?

- 9** Is Alfred Hitchcock (A) an uncle of Jupiter Jones, (B) a friend of the dead man, or (C) the man who recommended the detective team?
④

- 10** Reread Dingo's final letter on page 129. Does Jupiter discover
⑥ (A) that this is Dingo's final trick, (B) that the search was for nothing, or (C) that Dingo spent all his money?

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 The rabbits were shocked and dismayed. They had just heard that their leader had been killed in a fight by his old adversary, London Leo. Is *dismayed* related in meaning to **happy**, **horrified** or **dissatisfied**?

2 Is *friend* a **synonym**, **antonym** or **homonym** for *adversary*?

3 That horrible scoundrel finally won in battle, and now stood triumphantly before them! Can a scoundrel be evil-hearted? Answer **yes** or **no**.

4 Does the root word of *triumphantly* mean **success**, **parade** or **sad**?

5 "I'm your leader now! 'E's dead and 'E's buried!" said London Leo in an authoritative tone. If someone speaks in an authoritative tone, is he or she bossy? Answer **yes** or **no**.

6 The rabbits couldn't get used to his cockney accent. Does *cockney accent* refer to (A) the way he spoke, (B) the way he walked, or (C) the way he looked?

7 Five rabbits decided to run away, but London Leo's guards brandished sticks and clubs at them. Is *brandished* a **synonym**, **antonym** or **homonym** for *waved*?

8 Finally, they escaped and hid in a ramshackle old barn. It was so dilapidated that pieces of roof kept falling down. Is a ramshackle old barn a damaged old barn? Answer **yes** or **no**.

9 Is *dilapidated* related in meaning to *ramshackle*? Answer **yes** or **no**.

10 "Now, everyone will pay me one lettuce leaf per day for rent!" said London Leo to the others. At that, all pandemonium broke loose and the rabbits went crazy. Is pandemonium (A) a state of confusion, (B) a kind of party, or (C) a signal to end the meeting?

eccentric	ramshackle
formidable	shiftless
bequeath	confound
dismayed	authoritative
triumphantly	encyclopedic
dilapidated	pandemonium
cockney	vigorously
scoundrel	brandished
boomerang	adversary
ventilation	eavesdrop

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!

- 1** A glance at the cover of *The Mystery of the Dead Man's Riddle* tells you that this book is _____. **fiction**, **nonfiction**, **a biography**

- 2** Look at the title page. Were the characters created by **(A)** Alfred Hitchcock, **(B)** William Arden, or **(C)** Robert Arthur?

- 3** Read "An Announcement from Alfred Hitchcock" on page vii. Which of the following statements best describes the dangers that the Three Investigators will face in this case? **(A)** The dead man will try to have them killed. **(B)** Their lives will be in danger from greedy villains and unknown dangers. **(C)** Once they solve the riddle, the case will end.

- 4** Read page 52. Do the Three Investigators locate Skinny Norris **(A)** by looking for him, **(B)** by using the Ghost-to-Ghost Hookup, or **(C)** by using the telephone?

- 5** Glance at the table of contents. Do the titles of each chapter show that **(A)** the boys are often in danger, **(B)** the

boys are always playing tricks on others, or **(C)** the boys need help from Alfred Hitchcock?

- 6** Skim through the book and glance at the illustrations. Are they **(A)** included in order to decorate the book, **(B)** used to show some of the dangers the investigators meet, or **(C)** portraits of the heroes?

- 7** Look at the list of titles on the back cover. Does this list show that the series **(A)** is all nonfiction, **(B)** is a group of mysteries solved by the same team, or **(C)** is a group of mysteries solved by Alfred Hitchcock?

- 8** Read page 4. Was Marcus Towne **(A)** a shy, kind man, **(B)** a generous man who loved his family, or **(C)** a peculiar man who acted oddly?

Read Marcus Towne's will on pages 6 and 7. Then answer questions nine and ten.

- 9** Did Marcus Towne think all his relatives were **(A)** useless people who didn't like him, **(B)** worthy of his estate, or **(C)** fond of treasure hunts?

- 10** Did Marcus Towne get his fortune by **hard work**, **gambling** or **stealing**?

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 Mysteries are fun to solve even for people who aren't detectives. Organize a treasure hunt for your class or your activity center. Hide an object and leave clues on slips of paper hidden in your classroom or on the playground. Think up at least ten clues so that, when one is found, it leads to the next one. Make more fun by rhyming your clues.

2 Using your daily newspaper, choose an unsolved crime and imagine that you are the detective working on solving the mystery. Plan how you would go about it. Think through each step. Include some problems that you will face. Look for a funny incident. For example, perhaps the theft can turn out to be something misplaced and not stolen. Give a day-to-day account of your steps in solving the crime. Talk about the suspects as well as the people who help you. You might try to write this as a one-act play.

3 Do you have a favorite fictional detective? If Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot or Sam Spade is your favorite, go to the library and find out about the authors who created these famous characters. What were some of

the things that made the characters famous? (Sherlock Holmes' hat is one example.) If you have read some mysteries about the same detective, prepare an oral report about that person and record it on a cassette. Then listen to it and find ways to make the report even better.

4 Some detectives disguise themselves when they are solving a mystery. Draw the face of a detective. Using clear plastic overlays, make up a few masks. If you have an overhead projector available, you can present a show for your class. Make the drawings as mean or as funny as your imagination allows.