

Chapters 1-3



Lessons and Activities

Chapter 1 - Vocabulary

Bellboy: n. A hotel worker who carries travelers' luggage

Croquet: n. A game in which players use mallets to hit balls through metal wickets

Vacancy: n. An opening

Dreadful: adj. Frightening; very unpleasant

Threadbare: adj. Worn down; shabby

Chapter 1 - Comprehension Questions

1. How are you and Keith alike? How are you and Keith different? Support your answers with specific examples.
2. How does Mrs. Gridley feel about the Mountain View Inn?
3. Why does Mr. Gridley refuse to leave the Mountain View Inn?
4. How is Keith's opinion of mice different than his mother's? How do you know?

Chapter 2 - Vocabulary

Despair: n. Hopelessness

Chromium: n. A hard, shiny, metallic element used to harden steel and protect it from corrosion

Jauntily: adv. With self-confidence and ease

Chapter 2 - Comprehension Questions

1. Is this story an example of fiction or nonfiction?
Why?
2. What are some things Ralph's mother worries about?
3. How does Ralph feel about the motorcycle?
4. Why does Ralph's mother think Ralph is reckless?

Chapter 3 - Vocabulary

Incinerator: n. A furnace used for burning garbage to ashes

Remorseful: adj. Feeling regret for past sins

Venturing: v. Going on an adventure; taking a risk

Tourist: n. A person who travels for pleasure

Predicament: n. A difficult or troublesome situation

Chapter 3 - Comprehension Questions

1. Why does Ralph feel remorseful?
2. What have you learned about Ralph? Make a list of his qualities, or write them in a character web.
3. List some events from this chapter that could not happen in real life.
4. Predict what will happen next in the book.

Extension Activities

Write a Review

Write a Review of the Mountain View
Inn to be Published in the Travel
Section of a Newspaper

Begin with a description of the hotel.
Review Chapter 1 for descriptive
words and phrases to use.

The review should explain why
readers should or should not stay at
the hotel. Include at least two
reasons to support your point of
view.

Research reviews from travel
sections of newspapers to use as
models.

Create an Advertisement

Create an Advertisement for the Mountain View Inn

Look at advertisements in a newspaper and make a list of the qualities they share, such as illustrations, photographs, descriptions, and testimonials from satisfied customers. Gather information about the hotel from Chapter 1.

The ad should include a brief description of the hotel's best qualities and imaginary quotations from happy customers. Illustrate the ad with an appealing illustration or photograph of the hotel.