

Chapters 10-13



Lessons and Activities

Chapter 10 - Vocabulary

Sparingly: adv. Economically; in a limited way

Scurrying: v. Moving quickly

Switchboard: n. A machine with instruments necessary for completing telephone circuits manually

Chapter 10 - Comprehension Questions

1. Why do the mice have to depend on Keith for food?
2. Why isn't Keith's father able to find an aspirin?
3. Do you think Ralph will be able to find an aspirin? Why or why not?
4. If Ralph finds an aspirin, how do you think he will bring it to Keith?

Chapter 11 - Vocabulary

Steadfast: adj. Steady; unchanging

Misery: n. Great unhappiness

Cunning: adj. Shrewd; sly

Chapter 11 - Comprehension Questions

1. Why is Ralph's family upset about his search for an aspirin?
2. The teachers call Ralph a pest. Ralph thinks the teachers are pests. Explain why these characters think as they do.
3. Tell why Ralph could be described as cunning.
4. What would you have done if you had caught Ralph searching your hotel room?

Chapter 12 - Vocabulary

Grimly: adv. Sternly; severely

Detour: n. A route taken when the main route is closed or blocked

Din: n. A loud, steady noise

Nuisance: n. Something that causes trouble

Chapter 12 - Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Ralph's plan to bring the aspirin to Keith.
Do you think it is a good plan? Why or why not?
2. Explain how the dog is a nuisance.
3. Give a summary of this chapter.
4. Use examples from the story to explain why Ralph's plan works.

Chapter 13 - Vocabulary

Tip: n. A small gift given in exchange for a service

Flaw: n. A break or crack that spoils the perfection of something

Hamper: v. A large basket that usually has a cover

Tantalizing: adj. Teasing with something that is desired but out of reach

Chapter 13 - Comprehension Questions

1. What is the main idea of the book?
2. What was your favourite part of the book? Why?
3. Did you enjoy reading the book? Why or why not?
4. Would you like having Ralph as a friend? Why or why not?

Extension Activities

Advertisement

Newspaper Ad for the Drugstore
located 25 miles from the Mountain
View Inn.

Include details listed in Chapter 10,
such as the store's hours.

What else can you include in your
ad that would make people want to
shop at the store?

Examine advertisements in a
newspaper for ideas.

Review Article

Write a Review Article for the Travel Section of a Newspaper

Choose one of the California destinations described in Chapter 11. Conduct research about that location. Compile your findings.

Write a review article for the travel section of a newspaper. Research articles from the travel section to use as a model.

When writing, describe the destination and tell why readers would or would not want to visit. Include information about hotels, restaurants, and activities.

Art

Pretend you are Keith. You are trying to convince Ralph to live in a cage so he can come back to Ohio with you.

Brainstorm and draw a picture of a mouse's "dream cage;" something that Ralph might not mind living in.
