



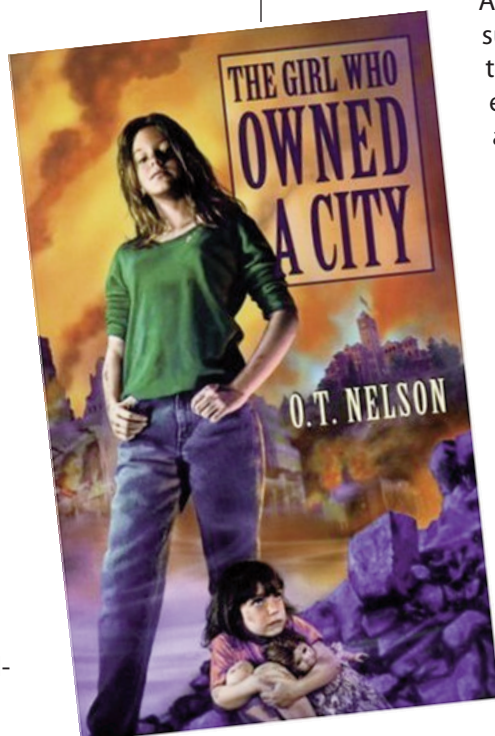
## Synopsis

A viral plague has spread around the world, killing everyone over the age of twelve. Ten-year-old Lisa remains with her five-year-old brother Todd in their house on Grand Avenue in a Chicago suburb, Glen Ellyn. To survive, Lisa scavenges food and necessities from nearby houses and looted stores. She is concerned about security, however, because gangs have formed and are beginning to roam at night. She also realizes that the vacant houses and stores are now empty and she must find a way to replenish her existing supplies, which are going fast. Thinking of ways to find food and survive makes Lisa feel happy and confident.

Acting on one of her ideas, Lisa bikes out to a farm on the outlying Swift Road. There, she finds a barn full of dead cattle—the farm owners were unable to let them out to fend for themselves—and a letter inviting children to take over the farm and figure out how to make things work again. Thinking of a way to get the farm's ample supplies back to town, Lisa decides to learn how to drive her family's car. She succeeds, guided by her memories of her father's instructions while teaching her mother to drive, and brings a carful of supplies back from the farm. When she returns to her house with a second load, she discovers the supplies stolen and Todd beaten up by a gang of thieves.

Lisa decides to organize the children of Grand Avenue into a protective militia, as the American colonists had done. While delivering invitations for a neighborhood meeting, Lisa discovers that her best friend Julie is starving and that to get food, Julie's brother Charlie joined the Chidester Gang headed by Tom Logan and participated in the robbery and attack on Todd. Lisa declares that stealing from others is wrong, and that each person

can provide for himself or herself by thinking of ways to live by their own efforts. At the meeting, Lisa gets the neighborhood children to agree to form a militia, in return for which she will share her idea for where to find an abundance of supplies. Twelve-year-old Craig, who knows a lot about gardening, will head the militia.



Accompanied by Craig, Lisa acts on her supply idea: Secretly, at night, they drive to a grocery warehouse, which no one else has thought of looking for, and find an abundance of supplies of all kinds. The neighborhood children work together and transform Grand Avenue into the heavily fortified Grandville. When Tom Logan's gang attacks, the children of the militia don't perform well, but a roof rockslide injures Tom and turns back the gang. Lisa takes Todd on one of her nighttime runs to the warehouse, the Secret Place, to move supplies to new hiding places, teaching the little boy to drive. When they return to Grand Avenue, they find Logan's gang has set their house on fire.

A depressed Lisa, along with Todd, moves in with Jill Jansen and her "family" of two sisters and a dozen orphans.

Realizing that it is impossible to defend Grand Avenue, Lisa has an inspiration: They will all move into Glenbard, an old fortress-like high school, on a nearby hill. Working secretly at night, Grandville's six captains prepare Glenbard's defenses and new living arrangements, and the children of Grandville move into their new "city." Lisa claims the building as her own private property; she will assume the responsibility for running it. Anyone is welcome to stay if they abide by the rules Lisa has drawn up for the city (there will be no group rule); otherwise, they are free to go. Each child is assigned a specific job, and all work to create an impregnable defense system.

During the next year, new child-families are allowed to join the city, if they pass a rigorous screening process.

Eight gang attacks are easily repelled. Lisa finds the challenge of running the city fun. One night, however, she descends the rope ladder from Glenbard's roof to investigate the silence of their guard dogs and is shot by Tom Logan's gang. Hoping to save Lisa from death, Glenbard surrenders to Logan. Todd, Jill, Craig, and Craig's little sister Erika escape and drive the wounded Lisa out to the farm on Swift Road, where Jill performs her first surgery, removing the bullet from Lisa's arm.

In the next days, Lisa regains her strength and excitedly plans to recapture Glenbard. Craig, however, decides to stay on the farm with Erika, growing food. The children of Glenbard find out where Lisa is, and stream out to the farm. They all return and silently surround their city, while Lisa enters Glenbard by the secret tunnel and confronts Tom Logan face to face. He tricks her out of her gun by a false admission that he can't govern Glenbard effectively, then truly surrenders when Lisa gives voice to his deepest fear and failing: He is afraid he can't earn things for himself in life. Logan and his army disappear, and Lisa turns with renewed zest to dealing with life's challenges.

## Timeline

### Part I

Lisa and Todd live in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where they are the only surviving members of their family. Like the other residents, they are children left after a worldwide plague wipes out all humans over the age of twelve. Lisa and Todd survive at first by scavenging food from nearby houses, but soon, Lisa emerges as a leader of the local children, and devises ways of providing food for her group and defending them from local gangs. This persists until a rival gang burns down Lisa and Todd's house on Grand Avenue, and Lisa realizes they can't defend themselves.

### Part II

Lisa is initially depressed by her inability to see the danger of their former situation, but soon she develops a plan to protect her group of orphaned children: she moves them into the local high school, Glenbard, a fortress-like structure on a hill. During this time, Lisa

expands her ability to problem-solve and provide for others, and creates a community in which she is a sort of benign dictatorship--the "city" of Glenbard. All is well for about a year, when the rival gang that burned her house down infiltrates Glenbard, and Lisa and her group lose their city. Lisa is injured during the raid.

### Part III

Lisa recovers and, like a good military leader, devises a scheme to retake the city of Glenbard. With the cooperation of her group, she is able to overcome obstacles, defeat the rival gang leader, Tom Logan, and establish a new and stronger community.

## Biographical Sketch

O.T. Nelson was born in 1941 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of a Boy Scout executive and a homemaker. He attended the University of Iowa from 1961 to 1963. He first married in 1960, divorced in 1975, and remarried in 1983. Nelson borrowed his two children's (from the first marriage) names for *The Girl Who Owned a City*: Lisa Ann and Owen Todd. In 1964 Nelson, a laissez-faire capitalist, formed College Craft Painters in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, which trained vacationing college students to paint the exteriors of private homes. College Craft became a franchise operation, with painting taught at a "college" using a textbook Nelson wrote. Nelson also founded Room Painters Inc. in Minneapolis in 1983.

Nelson wrote *The Girl Who Owned a City* in 1973 "as a humanist- libertarian...primarily to share with my children Ayn Rand's philosophy about the fullest extent of value and meaning possible to human beings" (*Something About the Author*). In 1987 he wrote a sequel, *Revelation at Castle Danger*, to express his "Christian- libertarian" beliefs. That book, however, remains unpublished. Nelson turned in 1988 to a simple life of Christian study, prayer, and meditation coupled with free time spent in inventing or rediscovering ways to replace high-tech life accessories such as telephones with low- or no-tech alternatives. *Girl* is his only published writing other than trade manuals and handbooks.

## Critic's Corner

Since Nelson, to date, has published only one book, he

has not attracted much critical attention. *Newsweek* magazine, describing his College Craft Painters operation in 1972, called Nelson an “unabashed capitalist,” a stance he seems to have moved away from since 1988. In *Something About the Author*, Nelson described himself as having “a very active mind. I go to bed at night eager to rise early every morning”—character traits that are clearly reflected in his heroine Lisa. Critical comment on *The Girl Who Owned a City* was reserved. The *Center for Children’s Books: Bulletin* (1/76) noted, “The planning and action, and the situation itself, of a world of children on their own, ... have perennial appeal,” but both the *Bulletin* and the *School Library Journal* (12/75) found the characters and the dialogue not very believable.

## General Objectives

1. To explore the theme of self-reliance
2. To consider the requirements for survival in a world without modern technology
3. To examine the concepts of sharing and group rule vs. independence and individual control
4. To gain an understanding of how societies and rules of conduct are established
5. To analyze the ability of children to fend for themselves in a world without adults

## Specific Objectives

1. To trace Lisa’s evolution from fear and confusion to happiness and self-confidence
2. To identify the reasons for the success of Lisa’s city and society
3. To account for Tom Logan’s behavior
4. To understand the role each major character plays in establishing the new society
5. To comprehend Lisa’s philosophy of earning values
6. To analyze and account for the conflict between Grandville/Glenbard and the Chidester/Elm gangs

## Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the page numbers given in parentheses to reread the term in context if you wish.

1. maggots (p. 8)  
(Soft-bodied, legless insect larvae; their presence in the garbage can indicates that the garbage has been in the kitchen for some time and is putrid. The adults have been dead long enough that no fresh food will be fit to eat.)

2. looting; They had looted in the California riots. (p. 8)  
(Looting is stealing goods unhindered from homes and stores during war or riots. The California riots and looting mentioned in the book are the Watts riots of 1967 in Los Angeles.)

3. virus (p. 10)  
(A microscopic particle that can cause disease. Viruses are hard to control, because antibiotics and most other medicines have no effect on them; viral infection can usually be controlled only by vaccine. The sudden appearance of a deadly virus could spread worldwide before a vaccine for it could be developed, as has happened in Lisa’s world.)

4. the worst plague in history (p. 10)  
(A plague is an infectious disease that becomes an epidemic, causing many deaths. The world has periodically been devastated by plagues throughout history.)

5. Lisa found what she wanted under “Groceries—Wholesale.” “Here it is, a Jewel Grocery Warehouse.” (p. 39)  
(Wholesale means the sale of goods in large amounts to retailers or jobbers at a lower price, rather than in small amounts to consumers at full price. A warehouse is a building where wholesalers keep large stocks of goods for sale to retailers. By thinking of the word wholesale, Lisa has found a way to locate a huge supply of goods in an anonymous building that other children won’t recognize as a source of supply.)

6. militia (p. 40)  
(A militia is a military force of volunteers, used only in emergencies. The American colonists, whom Lisa compares with the children of her new world, formed militia units for protection, as Lisa intends to do on Grand Avenue.)

7. “The Pilgrims had the same type of problems.” (p. 53)  
(Lisa compares her situation with that of the early American colonists, the Pilgrims of Massachusetts Bay Colony, who also had to struggle to survive in a very different world.)

8. the Founding Fathers (p. 53)  
(The Founding Fathers are the men who established the United States government. Like them, Lisa plans to establish some form of governing structure for Grand Avenue.)



9. the Glenbard Constitution (p. 136)  
*(Lisa goes a step further for Glenbard than for Grand Avenue in establishing a governing structure. She writes up a constitution, a document stating the system of fundamental principles according to which Glenbard will be governed. All citizens of Glenbard must sign and agree to abide by Lisa's constitution.)*
10. "Is this the Dark Ages or something?" (p. 179)  
*(Lisa compares the situation in Illinois—towns with their own armies and individual generals planning to ally themselves with the super-army of the King of Chicago—with the feudal system in Europe during the medieval period (dating roughly from the fall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century to the early sixteenth century), when wars and violence flourished and learning and culture seemed to vanish.)*

## Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Literal Level

1. In what ways does Todd help Lisa and the other children survive?  
*(Having to take care of Todd gives Lisa an important motivation to gather the supplies and skills necessary to survive. Todd does household chores, helps build the house's defenses, realizes the deflated car tires can be pumped back up, learns to drive, and helps Lisa remove supplies from the warehouse. He sounds the alarm when the Tom Logan gang first attacks, and then releases the rock slide. When Lisa is wounded, Todd figures out a way to get Craig and Jill free to help his sister. Todd also acts as a spy within Glenbard, helping Lisa to recapture the city.)*
2. Why does Lisa decide to set up a city at Glenbard and leave Grand Avenue?  
*(When her family home is destroyed by fire, Lisa realizes that Grand Avenue is not defensible. The children can't be made into offensive combat soldiers. The houses are spread out; each individual house cannot be defended adequately. As the gangs gather size and strength, the Grand Avenue houses will fall to them. Glenbard, on the other hand, is a single, fortress-like building with tall brick walls, set high on a hill. Twenty children could defend it against an army of several hundred, and Glenbard is big*

*enough for many child-families to live and work within it.)*

3. What is the defense plan for Glenbard?  
*(Exterior doors and first-floor windows are covered with solid steel [metal doors from the gym and bathrooms]. A secret tunnel provides a way in and out. Guard dogs roam the outside. The roof is the key to Glenbard's defense. A dozen sentries patrol it at all times. Its rim is lined with bricks, glass, and bags of sand, which will shower down on any attacking enemy. Sentries are armed with guns and Molotov cocktails. Drums of oil are on hand, to be heated and poured down on the enemy.)*

### Interpretive Level

4. Compare Tom Logan and Charlie Harris.  
*(Both boys are military leaders, one of an army of gangs, the other of Glenbard's defense forces. Both enjoy their roles, but only Charlie turns out to be a "brilliant" military leader; Tom recognizes that his taking of Glenbard is really only luck. Tom has decided to survive by stealing from others rather than trying to provide for himself. He is a cruel leader; he beats any children of Glenbard that give him trouble. Charlie, on the other hand, turns away from Tom's steal-from-others approach and becomes a fair and respected militia leader. He is brave and loyal, too; he refuses to reveal the location of the warehouse even when Logan beats him.)*
5. How does Lisa turn her loss of Glenbard from a bad into a good experience?  
*(Her defeat causes her to think more clearly and more logically, and makes her realize how very important it is not to take chances that could have disastrous results. She now understands the price of carelessness. Realizing that she is capable of earning the city back makes Lisa more confident and strong mentally.)*
6. In what ways do the children remain children, and in what ways are they now like adults?  
*(Lisa and the other leaders are very much like adults in all ways; they remain children only in their lack of practical knowledge of how things work, mechanically and socially. The younger children work at assigned jobs like adults, with little time for play. But they have a hard time sharing the scarce toys, and they hide like the frightened children they are when Logan's gang attacks Grandville.)*

7. How does Lisa change during the novel?  
*(At the very beginning, Lisa is afraid when she breaks into a house to find food, and she is fearful and confused during the dark lonely nights in the basement. But as she discovers that she has many ideas to be sure she and Todd survive, she becomes excited about how she can solve problems by thinking. She used to be a jealous older sister, but she turns into an understanding and loving mother figure. She puts her childhood behind her with few regrets and loves her new identity as leader of an entire city. She shows courage in the face of injury, capture, and hostile armies.)*

8. In your own words, explain Lisa's idea of how to achieve happiness.  
*(Lisa believes that happiness comes from earning what you have in life, from facing reality and dealing with it. She thinks that the more challenging the real things you face are, the more fun and happiness you earn by dealing with those challenges. Happiness comes not just from earning material things like money but also, and more importantly, from earning your values, such as love and knowledge.)*

**Critical Level**

9. What hints does the author give us that Craig will end up on the farm?  
*(The first time we meet Craig, when Lisa is handing out her invitations to the militia meeting, Craig says he knows a lot about gardening and has plans for the spring. At the meeting, Craig shows that he is doing more than just thinking about growing things; he is building a solarium to raise vegetables in during the winter. Craig is very interested when Lisa mentions the farm on Swift Road and the note. He says he thinks he'd like to live on a farm, because growing things is fun, and he wishes Lisa would find another militia general to replace him. When Craig becomes a teacher at Glenbard he thinks it is "almost as good as having that farm." With all these hints, it's no surprise to us when Craig decides to remain on the farm once he gets there.)*

10. How does the novel break down naturally into Parts One, Two, and Three?  
*(Part One covers Lisa's attempts to survive on Grand Avenue; it ends with the burning of her house, which shows that Grand Avenue can't be defended against the growing power of the gangs. Part Two is about establishing Glenbard, and it ends with Lisa's loss of the city. Part Three covers Lisa's regaining of the city*

*and her victory over the main enemy, Tom Logan.)*

11. What details of the novel, if any, seem illogical or incomplete (and unexplainable) to you?  
*(Answers will vary. Things that students might mention include: There seem to be no dead adult bodies anywhere [What happened to that farm woman who was too weak to go out to her barn?]; the five-year-old Todd couldn't possibly both see over the steering wheel and reach the floor pedals to drive the car; the gangs wait until Grand Avenue is fully fortified before trying an attack, instead of attacking as soon as they see what's going on; Lisa seems impossibly mature; it seems very unlikely that no one would seriously object to the totally undemocratic way Lisa takes over as "ruler" of "her" city; it also seems unlikely that Tom Logan would completely disappear just because Lisa told him he was afraid to earn anything for himself.)*

**Creative Level**

*(Answers will vary.)*  
 12. Pretending that you are Lisa, write the Glenbard Constitution.  
  
 13. Write a letter from Lisa to the person who will succeed her as "owner" of the city, giving rules and guidelines for being its leader.  
  
 14. What questions would you ask potential new citizens of Glenbard to test if they are fit for admission?

**Across the Curriculum**

**Mathematics**

1. If 14 children each collected one 1.5-gallon gas can for Lisa from their old garages, how many gallons were collected altogether? How far could your family car run on that amount of gas?
2. Using the scale of miles on a map of Illinois, find out how many miles it is from Chicago to Glen Ellyn, and then try to figure out how long it might take an army to march from Chicago to Glen Ellyn.

**Social Studies and Geography**

1. On a map of Illinois and/or the Chicago area, find and highlight Chicago, Glen Ellyn, DuPage County, DuPage County Airport and Hospital, Lombard,

# The Girl Who Owned a City O.T. Nelson

and Villa Park. Write in the distances between towns and cities, and label any important features like rivers, lakes, or mountains.

2. Read about libertarianism. How are its principles expressed in the novel?
3. Make a written or oral report on how the Pilgrims set up their governing system after they arrived in the New World. Compare the Pilgrims' government with Lisa's system.
4. Research and report on the organization and role of the colonial American militia.
5. Draw up a chart comparing features of totalitarian/authoritarian governing systems with Lisa's system.

## Science

1. Make a survey of all the food in your house and figure out how long your family could survive on it alone. Would you be able to meet your nutritional needs while surviving?
2. Lisa notices that the traffic lights no longer work because there is no electricity. List the ways in which your neighborhood/town would be different without electricity.
3. Draw a diagram showing how to rig up an alarm system like the one Lisa and Todd put together for their house, and how each element of the system works. List all necessary materials. (Also Art.)

## Music

1. Compose a "national anthem" for Glenbard. Make up the lyrics, and compose your own melody or use the melody from an existing song.

## Art

1. Draw a picture showing the fortified, booby-trapped, alarm-systemed Grand Avenue.
2. Draw a floor plan of Glenbard, showing dimensions of each room. Be sure to show community rooms, like the kitchen, gym, and library, plus the classroom/apartments for the child-families. (Also Math.)

## Health

1. List the items essential for a complete first-aid and

health care station at Glenbard.

2. Describe the procedures for setting up and carrying out a simple home surgical procedure antiseptically.
3. How would sanitary conditions be maintained at Glenbard, considering hundreds of people are living in a single building with no running water? What would the results be if sanitary conditions were not kept up?

## Student Involvement Activities

1. Lisa finds a single book with words and ideas that she understands, and she uses knowledge from the book to help her run the city. Which of all the books you've encountered in your life would most help if you were in Lisa's position? Explain why, and compare your book choice with those of your classmates.
2. Prepare to take part in a class discussion or debate about the type of government Lisa favors: No group rule; one person, and one person alone, making all the decisions. You could also discuss or debate Lisa's insistence that she owns the city because she thought of setting it up and found the supplies. Instead of discussion or debate, you could role-play as in Item 5 below. (See pp. 132-36 of the novel.)
3. Keep a diary covering the events of one of the sections of the novel from the point of view of Tom Logan, Julie, Craig, Jill, or Charlie.
4. In a small group, discuss and list the things people who live in Glenbard are deprived of. What, if anything, would you most dislike about living there? Compare lists with classmates.
5. You and a classmate role-play the parts of Craig and Lisa during their farming vs. rebuilding the world discussion on pages 68-69 of the novel. Don't restrict yourselves to what Craig and Lisa actually say on those pages.

## Alternate Assessment

1. Write the speech Lisa gives to the waiting crowd of children at the very end of the novel. In the speech, review the establishment of Grandville

and then Glenbard, and mention the successes and mistakes of each. Use those events to tell how you have decided it is best to govern Glenbard. Extra credit: Then tell what lies ahead for the citizens of Glenbard and how you plan to get there.

2. Make a list of the main characters in the novel. Next to each name, give the members of that person's family, his or her role in Grandville, her or his jobs and responsibilities in Glenbard, and a brief description of his or her character.
3. Discuss the roles of boys and girls in the novel. Are they equal? Is what they do dependent on their gender? Be specific.

## Related Reading

*The Big Wave*, Pearl S. Buck.

*The Green Book*, Jill Paton Walsh.

*The Island on Bird Street*, Uri Orlev.

*Julie of the Wolves*, Jean Craighead George.

*Wild Children*, Felice Holman.

### (For more advanced readers:)

*Constance: A Story of Early Plymouth*, Patricia Clapp.

*Where the Lilies Bloom*, Vera & Bill Cleaver.

## Bibliography

*Center for Children's Books: Bulletin*, January 1976, p. 83.

*Kirkus Reviews*, June 1, 1975, p. 605.

*Newsweek*, September 11, 1972, p. 58f.

*School Library Journal*, December 1975, p. 54.

*Something About the Author*, Vol. 62. Detroit: Gale, 1990.

## Vocabulary Test

Match each underlined word with its meaning listed below. Write the letter of the meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

- 1. Abruptly, Lisa swung her leg with all her might.
- 2. When Lisa finally found a light switch, an ironic little smile formed on her lips.
- 3. Lisa was much more confident in herself now and in their ability to survive.
- 4. When he learned that Lisa was going on a trip without him, Todd threw a small tantrum.
- 5. Lisa gained momentum on her bike and crossed the intersection.
- 6. Todd was an efficient worker, gathering their supplies.
- 7. Lisa explained that it would be “logical” to start with the alarm system.
- 8. When an intruder broke the ring of thread, the hanging can would fall, toppling the other cans.
- 9. Jill Jansen’s house had at least eight orphaned children.
- 10. The winter days were short and that had something to do with Lisa’s harried feelings.
- 11. “I think we need to have a volunteer army to protect our freedom.”
- 12. “I won’t share a thing until we have a unanimous deal for a militia.”
- 13. “This beat-up car is indestructible, a wonderful thing left from the old world.”
- 14. “If you would betray a neighbor once, you’d probably do it again.”
- 15. “I’ll need one child for every hour of the day and night to walk up and down the street as a sentry to alert us if an enemy approaches.”
- 16. They had packed only essential items—the things that would save their lives.
- 17. “During this week everyone must report to the ‘strategy’ room after lunch. We’ve got a lot of planning to do.”
- 18. A committee of three would emerge from a heavy door under the protection of the riflemen on the roof.
- 19. “Why her?” Tom wondered for a moment, shuddering, before regaining his composure.
- 20. Lisa’s path was blocked by a boy with a hideous scar on his face.

- |            |                 |                      |                                   |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. guard   | f. suddenly     | k. without parents   | p. unwelcome visitor              |
| b. tactics | g. reasonable   | l. shockingly ugly   | q. not capable of being destroyed |
| c. certain | h. moving force | m. fit of bad temper | r. deliver to an enemy            |
| d. vital   | i. productive   | n. willing worker    | s. with bitter humor              |
| e. worried | j. calmness     | o. come into view    | t. agreed to by all               |



## Comprehension Test A

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each quotation. In the list below, find the character who spoke the words. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the quotation number. You will use some character names more than once.

- 1. "Lisa, please tell me a story."
- 2. "I think I'll make a good doctor some day."
- 3. "Life is real fun. Reality is fun."
- 4. "The gang promised me that we would have food if I joined. I didn't have any choice."
- 5. "Please come to live on our farm."
- 6. "I can't handle your city. You win."
- 7. "I know it sounds crazy, but I think we can do it. We can make things work again."
- 8. "Teaching is almost as good as having that farm."
- 9. "You have the supplies and we have the army. I want to make a deal."
- 10. "We couldn't ask you for help. How could we? After stealing from you? I'm sorry. I couldn't stop them."

- |            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| a. Lisa    | e. Tom Logan      |
| b. Todd    | f. Jill           |
| c. Craig   | g. Julie          |
| d. Charlie | h. Winifred Crowl |

### Part II: Fill-In (30 points)

Write a word in each blank to make each statement true.

- 1. Tom Logan is the leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ gang.
- 2. Lisa's house is on \_\_\_\_\_ Avenue.
- 3. The plague kills everyone over the age of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. In the days before the plague, Glenbard was used as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Lisa thinks of looking for supplies in a grocery \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. Lisa's town is called Glen \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Jill is in charge of the \_\_\_\_\_ at Glenbard.
- 8. Charlie trains to guard the ground around the outside of Glenbard.
- 9. Lisa organizes a defense force, called a \_\_\_\_\_, to protect her street and her city.
- 10. Lisa uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to get out to the farm the first time.
- 11. Lisa's best friend in the days before the plague was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. People can get in and out of Glenbard by using a secret \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. Lisa climbs down the walls of Glenbard on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14. Todd \_\_\_\_\_ is a little brother.
- 15. Lisa finds a single \_\_\_\_\_ with words and ideas that help her run her city.

### Part III: True/False (30 points)

In the space provided, write **T** if the statement is completely true or **F** if any part is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Lisa and Todd's family house is destroyed by fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Decisions at Glenbard are made by voting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Tom Logan's army attacks Glenbard only one time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Lisa believes you must earn what you have in life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. No new children are allowed to join and live at Glenbard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Lisa is fearful and confused in the early days of the plague.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Craig does not enjoy being militia leader.



## Comprehension Test B

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each character description. In the list below, find the character who matches the description. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the description number. You will use some names more than once.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. an 11-year-old who gets shot
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. head of the Glenbard militia
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Craig's little sister
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. stays on the farm instead of going back to Glenbard
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. a 5-year-old who learns to drive
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. was Lisa's best friend in the days before the plague
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. claims he has captured Lisa
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. gets the idea of looking for supplies in a warehouse
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. takes care of a lot of younger orphans
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. leader of a gang

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| a. Lisa    | e. Tom Logan |
| b. Todd    | f. Jill      |
| c. Craig   | g. Julie     |
| d. Charlie | h. Erika     |

### Part II: True-False (30 points)

In the space provided, write T if the statement is completely true or write F if any part of the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Charlie steals from Lisa because he and his sister are starving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The first captain of the militia is Craig.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Julie and Jill are sisters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Lisa has trouble getting Todd to help her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Charlie is an excellent militia commander.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Craig has the idea of using Glenbard as a fortress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Tom Logan's army enters Glenbard through the secret tunnel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Lisa wants to make things, like machines, work again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Lisa does not believe in group rule.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Lisa becomes very depressed after she loses Glenbard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The neighborhood children's defense force is called the Grand Avenue Gang.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Roving packs of wild dogs threaten Lisa's neighborhood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Todd thinks of a way to get help for Lisa after she is wounded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Charlie's guard dogs scare the gang away from Grand Avenue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Todd returns to Glenbard as a spy.

### Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Lisa's city is called
  - a) Grandville
  - b) Glenbard
  - c) Glen Ellyn
  - d) Lombard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. An army of over 2,000 is controlled by the powerful king of
  - a) New York
  - b) Seattle
  - c) Dallas
  - d) Chicago.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Lisa rides her bicycle out Swift Road to find supplies
  - a) on a farm

## The Girl Who Owned a City O.T. Nelson

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- b) in a grocery store
- c) in a warehouse
- d) in a school.

————— 4. Todd gets rid of the gang attacking his house by releasing, from the roof,

- a) a rock slide
- b) a pot of boiling water
- c) a bag of sand
- d) arrows.

————— 5. The Secret Place is a

- a) tunnel
- b) warehouse
- c) cave
- d) farm.

————— 6. The plague is caused by

- a) nuclear war
- b) a volcano
- c) a virus
- d) global warming.

————— 7. After building its defense system, Lisa's street is called

- a) Grandville
- b) Glenbard
- c) Glen Ellyn
- d) Lombard.

————— 8. Lisa climbs down the rope ladder outside Glenbard to investigate

- a) gun shots she has heard
- b) the silent dogs
- c) strange children's voices
- d) a bonfire.

————— 9. Lisa is wounded by

- a) a falling brick
- b) boiling oil
- c) a guard dog
- d) a gun shot.

————— 10. At the farm, Lisa discovers a lot of dead

- a) adults
- b) cattle
- c) children
- d) chickens.

————— 11. This person takes part in the attack on Todd:

- a) Julie
- b) Craig
- c) Charlie
- d) Jill.

————— 12. To bring supplies back from the Secret Place, Lisa uses a

- a) car
- b) bicycle
- c) wagon
- d) tractor.

————— 13. Lisa decides to trust this person, and takes him/her with her to the Secret Place:

- a) Tom Logan
- b) Julie
- c) Charlie



d) Craig.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. After being wounded, Lisa is

- a) taken to the farm
- b) held captive by Tom Logan
- c) taken back to Grand Avenue
- d) taken care of in Glenbard's hospital.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. To set rules for Glenbard, Lisa writes a

- a) rule book
- b) constitution
- c) declaration of independence
- d) list of laws.

**Part IV: Essay (20 points)**

Choose any *two* of these questions to answer. Write one or two paragraphs for each question.

1. How are Lisa and Tom Logan different as leaders?

2. What different roles does Craig play in the course of the story? Mention specific situations.

3. Why does Lisa object to Craig's staying on the farm? With whom do you agree on this—Lisa or Craig? Why?

## Answer Key

### VOCABULARY TEST

- 1. f    11. n
- 2. s    12. t
- 3. c    13. q
- 4. m    14. r
- 5. h    15. a
- 6. i    16. d
- 7. g    17. b
- 8. p    18. o
- 9. k    19. j
- 10. e    20. l

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I Matching (20 points)

- 1. b                    6. e
- 2. f                    7. a
- 3. a                    8. c
- 4. d                    9. e
- 5. h                    10. g

#### Part II Fill-In (30 points)

- 1. Chidester                    9. militia
- 2. Grand                        10. bicycle
- 3. twelve                        11. Julie
- 4. high school                    12. tunnel
- 5. warehouse                    13. rope ladder
- 6. Ellyn                         14. Lisa's
- 7. hospital                       15. book
- 8. dogs

#### Part III True/False (30 points)

- 1. T                    9. F
- 2. F                    10. F
- 3. F                    11. T
- 4. T                    12. F
- 5. F                    13. F
- 6. T                    14. F
- 7. T                    15. T
- 8. T

#### Part IV Essay (20 points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I Matching (20 points)

- 1. a                    6. g
- 2. d                    7. e

- 3. h                    8. a
- 4. c                    9. f
- 5. b                    10. e

#### Part II True/False (30 points)

- 1. T                    9. T
- 2. T                    10. F
- 3. F                    11. F
- 4. F                    12. F
- 5. T                    13. T
- 6. F                    14. F
- 7. F                    15. T
- 8. T

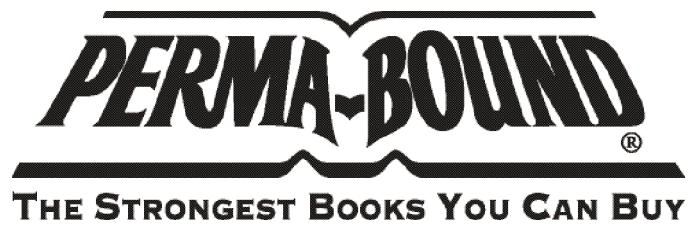
#### Part III Multiple Choice (30 points)

- 1. b                    9. d
- 2. d                    10. b
- 3. a                    11. c
- 4. a                    12. a
- 5. b                    13. d
- 6. c                    14. a
- 7. a                    15. b
- 8. b

#### Part IV Essay (20 points)

Answers will vary.





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