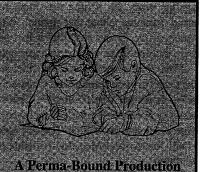
# A Lion To Guard Us

by Clyde Robert Bulla

# Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Lori Lindemann.



This guide was prepared using the Harper Trophy edition © 1981. Other editions may differ.

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Chap. 1 A dirty, bedraggled sailor went to the Trippett house on Fish Street near the end of London Bridge and asked to speak to Mistress Freebold. He was told that Annie Freebold was sick abed, but when he said he was from America, the maid, Ellie, assumed he was Annie's husband and ran off yelling for Amanda to come. Amanda was the daughter of James and Annie Freebold. She was bitterly disappointed when she saw the man at the door and realized that he was not her father. The man had recently been in the colony of Virginia in America and said that her father was well, had built a house in Jamestown, and had asked him to stop and tell his family that he thought of them each day and prayed they would all be together before the year was out. Amanda wanted the man to take a message to her father, but he said he would not be making the long, hard voyage to Virginia again. She asked him to come to the house again, but he declined and left.

Amanda had wanted to ask him a hundred things and to thank the man, but Cook called her back into the house. While Amanda told Cook and Ellie about the man, the door to the back stairs opened and a small boy asked Amanda if it had been their father at the door. Amanda replied no and reminded him he was not allowed in the kitchen. Cook was cynical because James Freebold had been gone for three years. When Cook left the kitchen, Amanda opened the door to the back stairs where the small boy, Jemmy, was sitting on the steps with an even smaller girl beside him. Amanda told them she would tell them all about the man's visit later that night.

Chap 2 After Mistress Trippett and her family had had supper and the servants had been fed, Amanda was cleaning the kitchen alone. She looked in at her brother and sister on the back stairs and found them asleep. She hated to see them there, like two puppies nobody wanted, and was angry that they couldn't come into the kitchen and be warm, but Cook would not allow that. Amanda did not want them to be shut away in a room all day, so they stayed on the stairs next to the kitchen. Amanda woke them and gave them their supper. While they ate Amanda went to check on her mother in what was now the sickroom. Once all four of them had lived in the room, but now the little ones could not stay there. Mistress Trippett had put them into a tiny room at the back of the house, and they slept there at night.

Sometimes Amanda slept with them and sometimes she sat up all night by her mother's bed. Annie Freebold had been in the sickroom since the day before Christmas, when she fell on the stairs, but she had been ill long before that. Amanda talked to her mother even though her mother did not even seem to know she was there. Then Ellie offered to stay with Annie so Amanda could get Jemmy and Meg to bed.

They had a pallet for a bed. Amanda put the candle on the floor and sat in the middle of the pallet with Jemmy and Meg on either side with the covers tucked about them to keep out the cold and told them a story. The children knew the story well and filled in certain parts of it before Amanda could tell it. "Once a man came to London to seek his fortune. His name was James Freebold. He met a beautiful maiden with golden hair and they were married and had three children. James Freebold was a carpenter. He could build houses. Do you remember the house we used to have? He built it for us. There is a land called America. Some call it the New World. It's across the sea, and it's a beautiful land with rivers and trees and birds. Indians live there, and they wear feathers and shoot with bows and arrows. Some men asked Father to go there with them to help build houses. They were going to build houses and towns and live in America in a place called Virginia. Father said even if we were poor in London, we would be rich in Virginia. We would have our own fields and gardens. Remember the song he used to sing? Well, you and Meg and I had to wait with Mother. Virginia was a wild place. It wasn't ready for women and children. Father went ahead, and we moved to Mistress Trippett's because Mother worked there. There was a door knocker on the house where we used to live. Before Father went away, he took it off and gave it to us. It was a lion's head. He said it was a lion to guard us while he was gone." Then Amanda told Jemmy and Meg about the sailor who had visited that day. She said their father wanted them to come live with him but that they must wait until their mother got well.

Chap. 3 Mistress Trippett came down to the kitchen for an unannounced inspection. She examined the pantry and cupboards then opened the door to the back steps and almost smiled at Jemmy and Meg. She asked Amanda how old they were. Amanda replied the Jemmy was eight and Meg only five, then boldly asked if they might come into the kitchen. Mistress Trippett answered that they certainly could. Cook was not happy, but Ellie reminded her that Mistress had given them permission. Cook sent Amanda to fetch water from the pump that was two doors down.

As Amanda was returning, Dr. Crider came up and offered to help her since she was struggling with the weight of the heavy wooden pail filled with water. She refused, afraid that someone might see, and told him that she had replaced her mother and it was her work. Dr. Crider was there to see her mother, and he asked Amanda about her father. When she said he was in America, Dr. Crider said that it had been a dream of his to go there and that if he were a younger man, he would be there.

More than a week later, Dr. Crider was back. Amanda thought she heard his voice and asked Cook and Ellie about it; Cook told her to finish her work. Later Dr. Crider came to the kitchen and asked to speak to Amanda. They went into the hall where they were alone and he told her that her mother had died. He offered to tell Jemmy and Meg, but Amanda said that it was for her to tell them.

Chap. 4 Mistress Trippett told Amanda that time and work would help her forget. Amanda lost patience with Jemmy and Meg. At one point she shouted at Jemmy and shook him. Then she felt remorseful. Ellie told her not to be too hard on herself, that she had to find her own way again. That night Amanda told Jemmy and Meg a story about two sisters and their brother. One of the sisters was a crosspatch because she'd lost her way, but she found it again and wasn't a crosspatch anymore. The brother and sisters lived in the city of London but one day they went away. They left England, got on a big ship, and sailed to America. They saw a town that was Jamestown and they saw a man who had come to meet them. Amanda said that she did not know when, but they were going.

The next morning Amanda asked Cook if she could go to the next street over to the Virginia Company, the company that sent out ships to America. Cook refused. All morning Amanda worked, but when Cook sent her outside to get water, she hid the pail behind a bush and went flying down the alley.

Chap. 5 Amanda went straight to the Virginia Company, chose the man with the kindest face, and asked about ships that were going to sail to Virginia. She told him her father's name and said that they wanted to go on the next ship. When the man found out that there were three children with no adults, he said they could not go. He said Amanda was not big enough to look after them and that finding someone else would cost money. Amanda said she had money but did not know how much. He told her he was busy and went back to work, ignoring her.

When Amanda returned to the kitchen with the pail of water, Cook accused her of going to that place and said she was going to tell Mistress Trippett. Amanda said she would tell Mistress herself; she walked right up the front steps and knocked on Mistress Trippett's door. She told Mistress Trippett that she had been to the Virginia Company and that she, Jemmy, and Meg were going to the New World the next month. Mistress Trippett told her to put that nonsense out of her head because her father did not want them. She said Virginia was a terrible place and tried to frighten Amanda. Then she tried to make Amanda feel indebted to her by saying that she had given them the best home they had ever had and that their father had never done anything for them.

Chap. 6 Ellie told Amanda that Mistress Trippett did not want the children to leave because Amanda worked hard and did not eat much and that Jemmy and Meg would soon be big enough to work too—then they could all work for free. Amanda said she forgot to ask Mistress Trippett for the money she was keeping. When her father went away, he sold their house, and her mother had kept the money in a purse on a string around her neck.

The day she fell downstairs, Mistress Trippett came in and

took the purse and said she was keeping it for them. Ellie advised Amanda to wait a long time before she asked for the money because Mistress Trippett was already upset. Amanda waited a week, then went to ask. Mistress Trippett's oldest son, Randolph, was there. Mistress Trippett became so upset that she fainted. Randolph came downstairs, sent Cook to help his mother, told Ellie to run for the doctor, then started after Amanda. Amanda, Jemmy and Meg ran from the house into the night.

Chap. 7 The children walked along the river and stopped to rest on a pier. Amanda and Jemmy were afraid that Mistress Trippett might die and that someone might try to take Amanda to jail. They decided that they would stay together and just not get caught. An old woman with a lantern walked on to the pier and tried to take Meg; the woman's eyes were hollow and wild and she thought Meg was her little girl. Amanda pulled Meg away and grabbed her and Jemmy and they left the pier. The night people were everywhere, and the children were afraid. They decided to go to Mistress Trippett's house and hide behind the chicken coop during the night. On the way there, they met Dr. Crider.

Chap. 8 Dr. Crider had heard that Randolph Trippett had put the children out, and he had been looking for them. He took them to his home and they sat with him while he had his supper. He asked Amanda what she had done to make poor Mistress Trippett fall in a faint. Amanda told him about asking for the money. He told her she had done nothing wrong but that she would never get the money now. She replied that they needed it to go to America. Dr. Crider asked how her father liked it in the New World. She did not know because her father had never learned to read or write so the family did not hear from him. Dr. Crider gave them a room of their own to sleep in; it had a bed, not just a pallet.

Chap. 9 Dr. Crider left the next morning and told Amanda to fix whatever she could find in the kitchen for breakfast. When Jemmy and Meg sat down for breakfast, something in Jemmy's pocket clanked. He had the brass door knocker in there, and the children were very relieved that Mistress Trippett and Randolph would not get it. After breakfast, the children cleaned the kitchen. Dr. Crider came home and said that there were nine ships sailing to the New World the next month and that they would be on one of them. Dr. Crider said that they needed him in Jamestown and that they were all going together.

Chap. 10 Dr. Crider and the children started making arrangements—selling his house, gathering things they needed for the voyage, and taking the children shopping for clothes. One morning they went to the river and boarded a boat that would take them to Plymouth where the ships were waiting to depart. When they arrived, there were many ships in the harbor. Dr. Crider learned that they would be sailing on the Sea Adventure, the largest and most beautiful of all the ships, with an admiral, Sir George Somers, who was in charge of all the other captains. They set sail on the morning of June 2 with the Sea Adventure leading the other ships. They were glad to be on their way.

Chap. 11 They lived in the crowded hold with more than 150 other people. Some of the people on the voyage were ladies and gentlemen who lived in rooms beyond a curtain at one end of the hold. Jemmy hated the hold and loved being on deck. Dr. Crider loved everything about the voyage—even the food. Almost every night he went to stand by the rail and let the waves break in his face. After a week they sailed into calm waters and warm

days. They spent a lot of time on deck and Dr. Crider pointed out the other ships, which he knew by name, and three important men on the deck of the *Sea Adventure*: Christopher Newport, the captain; Thomas Gates, who would be the governor of Virginia when they landed; and Sir George Somers, the admiral. Later that day Jemmy spoke to Sir George Somers, and Amanda was proud of his daring nature.

Chap. 12 Soon Amanda knew almost everyone on board. The Hopkins family had two children: Anne, age ten, and David, seven, who played with a ball made of a rolled up stocking tied with string. Toward the end of June they sailed into rough waters. John Rolfe's wife was sick and he was looking for Dr. Crider. Several people searched the ship repeatedly and could not find him. One sailor had seen him on deck during the night and warned him of the danger of the waves coming over the ship, but he had not seen Dr. Crider leave. Master Rolfe told Amanda that he could have washed overboard. Amanda denied the possibility, but she felt afraid.

Chap. 13 The minister told Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg that Dr. Crider was in a better place. Amanda could not accept the loss until a sailor came and took the chest with Dr. Crider's medicine in it, then she could no longer deny it. She was afraid; her mother had died, and now Dr. Crider had left them. How could she be sure that Father was waiting in the New World? She tried to pretend everything was fine. She decided to make a doll for Meg and a ball for Jemmy. The doll was horrible—Meg would not even touch it— and the ball was not much better. Jemmy took the brass door knocker up on deck and showed it to Anne and David Hopkins. Amanda threw the doll and the ball overboard and felt better, almost as if she had thrown away some of her sorrow and fear.

Chap. 14 That evening John Rolfe spoke to Amanda about the door knocker. He said that people were saying that it was Dr. Crider's and that it was brass on the outside and gold underneath. He thought someone might try to take it from them if they believed it was valuable. Amanda told him it was not and that it used to be on their house in London. Jemmy had told Anne and David that it was gold because he was jealous that they had a ball to play with. Amanda warned Jemmy that others might try to take the door knocker from them. Robert Waters asked to see it, then offered to keep it safe for them. Amanda replied that it was only brass.

Chap. 15 For days people talked and wondered about the lion's head door knocker. Then there was something more important to worry about, the storm. The children were on deck when the wind sprang up, followed shortly by a long flash of lightning and a rumble of thunder that shook the ship. Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg went to the hold. Robert Waters said it was just another storm that would blow over soon, but one sailor said that in all his days at sea, he had never seen a storm such as this. The waves were higher than the ship, the deck was deep in water, and the wind was tearing the sails to bits. The ship rolled from side to side, and people, boxes, and chests were thrown back and forth. The hold began to leak and the passengers pumped the water out.

For two days the storm raged. Amanda told Jemmy and Meg a story about two sisters and their brother on a ship during a storm. She said that when the storm was over, there was land in the middle of the sea and they got off the ship—and they were safe on land. On the third day of the storm the ship developed new leaks and the pumps could not keep the water out of the hold. The chil-

dren went up on deck and clung to a wooden bar of the broken animal pen. After what seemed like hours, Amanda felt a stillness and some light broke through the clouds. Someone spotted land then they spotted the rocks—just before the *Sea Adventure* rose and fell onto them.

Chap. 16 The ship was caught between two rocks and was in danger of breaking apart. The passengers crowded into small boats and rowed through the rain to the shore. The admiral said the island was Bermuda.

Chap. 17 On the island Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg found their own place to rest. They slept the rest of the day and all that night, and Amanda awoke still tired. The small boats had rowed out to the ship and returned with some of the items people had left. The harbor was full of fish and Amanda helped clean some. Robert Waters found pools of rainwater, eggs from the wild birds along the shore, and wild pigs that did not seem to be afraid of him in the woods. Many people worried about devils because they had heard of the Bermuda devils. They each had a piece of fish and two eggs for breakfast, but they still felt beaten and tired.

Chap. 18 Sir Thomas Gates became their governor. They moved away from the harbor and built a village among the trees. Governor Gates told the children to live with the Hopkins family, but Mrs. Hopkins resented having them there when she had her own children to care for. Amanda went to the governor and told him that they wanted to live by themselves and they could build their own house. They put up a wall of sticks, rocks, and mud that fell over. Some people laughed but others came to help them, and soon their house was built. It was the smallest one in the village, but there was room for them to sleep and a place for their sea chest. The men put a deck on one of the small ships; some of them were going to sail to Virginia and then send a ship back for the rest of the passengers. Master Ravens was to be the captain, and Amanda asked him to tell their father that they were safe in Bermuda. The boat sailed in late August.

Chap. 19 One summer evening Robert Waters and Chris Carter stopped by for a look at the lion's head. Master Carter offered to help clean it, but Jemmy declined. Later Master Waters came back and told Jemmy there were berries a little past where the men dug the water well. The children went to gather berries. Along the way Meg was skipping, something she had never done before. The children did not find any berries but they did find a big smooth rock. Meg wanted to jump. She took off her dress and her shoes and was jumping off the rock pretending to be a bird. She had learned to play. Jemmy joined in but Amanda did not; she was sure she had forgotten how to play. When they returned to their house Jemmy looked in the sea chest and the door knocker was gone; they looked all around but could not find it.

Every night a fire was lighted on the north end of the island to guide the ship coming from Virginia. When November came, Admiral Somers said there was no point continuing that because, if a ship was coming, it would have already been there.

Chap. 20 Winter on the island was fair. The men built a new ship. Admiral Somers wanted to build another one so that if one ship was lost the other could continue to Virginia. Many of the men were angry. Some said they were tired of building ships. They felt they had a good life in Bermuda and did not see why they should go to Virginia. Admiral Somers said they had to go to Virginia because they were sent to help the people there. Robert Waters refused; he and seven others stopped working and went to live on the other side of the island. Anne Hopkins told Amanda,

Jemmy and Meg that she saw Master Waters take the lion's head door knocker when they went to pick berries. Amanda and Jemmy did not want to believe that he had done that but they really were not sure.

Chap. 21 The men came back from the other side of the island, except for Chris Carter and Robert Waters. The second ship was finished and loaded with enough provisions for six weeks. The people were to be ready to sail on May 10. On May 8, Amanda and Meg got up and found that Jemmy was gone. By evening he had not returned and Amanda told Governor Gates. He told her to go home, that Jemmy might be there, but he did not return that night either. People were packing their sea chests and loading the ships and only a few left their work to help look for Jemmy. The girls were afraid that the ships would sail without him. Amanda said that they would hide when the ships left and stay until they found him. It was so dark that Amanda did not think Jemmy could find them even if he was near so she got a candle and held it up. Almost at once, Jemmy came to the house, and he had the door knocker with him.

Chap. 22 On May 10 the two ships sailed. Jemmy told about being lost on the island. Master Waters and Master Carter found him and took him to their camp. He asked for the lion's head back and Master Carter wanted Robert Waters to return it to Jemmy. They began to fight, and in the confusion, Jemmy got the door knocker and ran away. He had hidden until dark, then tried to return home. He did not know where he was until he saw the candle out in front of their house. After less than two weeks the ships sailed into Chesapeake Bay. They learned that all but one of the ships they sailed with from England had reached Virginia. Captain Newport asked about Jamestown and was told that there used to be 500 people in Jamestown but only a handful were left. They decided to go there right away.

Chap. 23 They sailed up the James river to Jamestown. The town was inside a wall made of tall tree trunks. Amanda went from house to house looking for her father. He was ill and did not know her at first. Jemmy and Meg came in behind her. Jemmy held up the lion's head, and Father looked at it and spoke their names. Amanda sent Jemmy and Meg to get help, food, and water. She felt glad they were there to help. Father was looking toward the door at the lion's head that Jemmy had hung there. It caught the light and made a brightness in the room.

#### TIME LINE

ca. 1510	Spanish explorer Juan de Bermudez explores island
	group which is named after him.

1584	Sir Walter Raleigh claims the east coast of North
	America for England. He names the area Virginia.
1606	Minima Communication 1

Virgina Company of London receives a charter to colonize the New World.

1607 May 13 Jamestown colony is established.

June 2 Sea Adventure and other ships sail from Plymouth for Jamestown.

July Sea Adventure is wrecked on the coast of Bermuda.

spring Shipwrecked colonists build ships to take them to Virgina.

May Colonists sail from Bermuda and reach Jamestown.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Clyde Robert Bulla was born on a farm near King City,

Missouri, on Jan. 9, 1914. He was the son of Julian and Sara Bulla and had two older sisters and a brother. He describes himself as being largely self-educated with a passion for opera, music, painting, history, and travel. Even though his family did not encourage his hopes, he knew at a young age that he wanted to be a writer. In A Grain of Wheat, Bulla's autobiography, he tells of his determination to become a writer. "I learned to read and write in a one-room country school. As soon as I discovered words and what they meant and what they could be made to mean, my path was set. I was going to be a writer."

For years, he sent stories to magazines and had them returned with rejection slips. He made his first sale when he was 20, followed by more sales and the welcome checks during the Depression years. Even though he knew he wanted to be a writer, he did not know what kind of writer. He was not happy with the stories he wrote. With the encouragement of Emma Celeste Thibodaux, his best friend who was a teacher in Louisiana, he tried writing a children's book. He sent it to his agent, who promptly sent it back. Years passed and Emma Celeste befriended a famous author and illustrator, Lois Lensky, who wrote to Bulla and asked to see the book, The Donkey Cart, and got it published. Bulla thought it was a mild adventure with mild characters and did not like it-he wanted to write exciting stories with exciting characters. His next book was Riding the Pony Express, and he did not like it either. "It fell short of my hopes and expectations. I began to learn that no book would ever be the wonderful work I planned. But I had found the kind of writing I wanted to do-the kind I was meant to do. Now, more than fifty years and seventy-odd books later, I am as sure of this as ever."

As well as being a prolific writer of children's fiction, Bulla has written nonfiction and composed music for children's songbooks and plays. He has lived in Los Angeles for many years and has been active in the Authors Guild and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Squanto, Friend of the White Man won the George G. Stone Center for Children's Books Award in 1968 and received a Boy's Club of America Gold Medal in 1955. Pocahonatas and the Strangers won a Christopher Award in 1971. Shoeshine Girl garnered many awards, including the Charlie May Simon Award, a 1976 Southern California Council on Children's Literature Award, the Sequoyah Children's Book Award, and the South Carolina Children's Book Award. A Lion to Guard Us was chosen as a 1982 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies. The Chalk Box Kid was an ALA Notable Children's Book.

#### **CRITIC's CORNER**

In 1981, Clyde Robert Bulla added yet another title to his extensive list of children's books, A Lion to Guard Us. Kirkus Reviews said, "This is one of Bulla's variations, in plainer language (which helps), on the sweet old-fashioned story mixing poverty, loss, precocious coping, historical background, and a sentimental happy ending...Bulla explains in an afterword the historical reality of the voyage, shipwreck, and Jamestown conditions. This combination of history and cozy pathos has its audience, and Chessare's perky, expressive pictures extend the appeal."

Booklist commented on the development of peripheral characters. "Secondary characters, including a nasty guardian who

keeps the children's money and a good-hearted doctor who sails with them, strengthen the blend of history, adventure, and human interest." *Childhood Education* called the book an engrossing story.

Horn Book also praised the novel. "The text, with admirable simplicity, clarity, and color, relates the trials of three children from London who aim to reach their father in the new Jamestown colony. The account of their sailing is based on historical records of the 1609 departure from Plymouth of a small fleet carrying help and supplies to the Virginia colony.... Altogether, a vivid historical view of the hardships of the colonists' journey."

#### OTHER WORKS BY CLYDE ROBERT BULLA

The Beast of Lor (1977)

Benito (1961)

The Chalk Box Kid (1987)

Charlie's House (1983)

Conquista! (1978)

Dandelion Hill (1982)

Daniel's Duck (1979)

The Donkey Cart (1946)

Eagle Feather (1953)

The Ghost of Windy Hill (1968)

Ghost Town Treasure (1957)

Last Look (1979)

The Moon Singer (1969)

More Stories from Famous Operas (1965)

My Friend the Monster (1980)

Open the Door and See All the People (1972)

Paint Brush Kid (1999)

Pirate's Promise (1958)

Place for Angels (1995)

Pocahontas and the Strangers (1971)

Poppy Seeds (1955)

Riding the Pony Express (1948)

The Ring and the Fire: Stories from Wagner's Niebelung Operas (1962)

Shoeshine Girl (1975)

Song of St. Francis (1952)

Squanto, Friend of the White Man (1954)

Stories of Favorite Operas (1959)

Stories of Gilbert and Sullivan Operas (1968)

The Sword in the Tree (1956)

Three Dollar Mule (1960)

Viking Adventure (1963)

What Makes a Shadow (1962)

White Bird (1966)

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Online. 19 March 2001. <www.edupaperback.org/authorbios/Bulla\_Clyde Robert.html.>

Sime, Richard and Laura Mongello, eds. *Elements of Literature*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2000. 705-718.

Booklist, Vol. 77, p. 1251.

Childhood Education, Vol. 58, p. 179.

The Horn Book Magazine, Vol. 57, p. 420.

Kirkus Reviews, Vol. 49, p. 432.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To identify and evaluate characters' traits and motivations
- 2. To compare and contrast characters in the work
- 3. To understand how childhood experiences shape our lives
- 4. To research historical events related to the novel
- 5. To evaluate the importance of helping others
- 6. To discuss the merits of persistance
- 7. To examine different forms of conflict in the novel

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To explain the no-win situation in which the Freebold children were trapped in London
- 2. To identify specific ways people in the Trippett household oppressed Amanda, Jemmy and Meg
- To analyze the importance of the lion's head door knocker to the children
- 4. To contrast Mistress Trippett's true motivation in keeping the money with the justification she gave Amanda
- 5. To discuss the history of child labor laws
- 6. To analyze Dr. Crider's desire to go to America
- 7. To identify and analyze the character traits that give Amanda the inner strength to deal with difficult situations
- 8. To identify and analyze events that show Jemmy's daring
- To identify and analyze events that have shaped Meg's personality
- 10. To compare and contrast the events of the novel to the historical events of the *Sea Adventure* that sailed from Plymouth, England, in 1609
- To research the Jamestown settlement and report findings to classmates
- 12. To learn about European immigration to the Americas

#### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

To enhance students' appreciation and understanding of the novel, present them with these terms.

**characterization:** the way a writer reveals the personality of a character. The writer may simply tell the reader that a character is honest or trustworthy or shy or unhappy. This method is called *direct characterization*. Usually writers use *indirect characterization* which reveals a character's personality in one of these ways:

- 1. the words of the character (p. 19) When Dr. Crider offered to tell Jemmy and Meg that their mother had died, Amanda said, "No, sir. It's for me to tell them." This shows her maturity and the sense of responsibility she feels for her younger siblings.
- 2. the actions of the character (p. 24-25) When Amanda wanted to go to the Virginia Company, Cook would not let her, but that did not stop her. At the first available opportunity "...She set the pail behind a currant bush. She picked up her skirts and went flying down the alley. Amanda went straight to the big brick house on Philpot Lane."
- 3. the description of the character's thoughts and feelings (p. 66) "He was gone, and Mother was gone, and she wanted to go away by herself and cry. But where could she go to be alone? Fear came over her. Mother had died, Dr. Crider had left them. How could she be sure that Father was waiting in the New World? She saw Jemmy

- and Meg watching her, almost as if they knew what she was thinking. She tried to pretend that all was well. She sang them a song. She told them a story."
- 4. the comments made about the character by other characters in the story (p. 98) "It doesn't surprise me," said Mistress Hopkins. "Robert Waters was always one to make trouble."

motivation: the reasons a character behaves in a certain way. Among the many reasons for a person's behavior are feelings, experiences, and commands by others. It is sometimes difficult to pinpoint a character's motivation because it is often inferred instead of stated, but there are always clues. For example, on page 28, Mistress Trippett tried to discourage Amanda from going to Virginia. "Your father doesn't want you. He forgot about you long ago....Even if he did want you, you'd be a fool to go. Virginia is a terrible place, full of wild Indians and wild beasts. All those tales about the New World and how wonderful it is—they're lies, all lies!" Mistress Trippett's true motivation is explained by Ellie on page 30, "She wants to keep you here. You work hard, and you don't eat much. And Jemmy and Meg are coming on. She'll put them to work, too, and you'll all be working free."

conflict: a struggle between opposing characters or opposing forces. In an external conflict a character struggles with an outside force, which may be another character, society as a whole, or a natural force. Examples of external conflict are the argument between Amanda and Mistress Trippett and the passengers and crew of the Sea Adventure trying to survive the terrible storm. An internal conflict takes place within a character's own mind; it is a struggle between opposing ideas, needs, or emotions. An example of internal conflict is on page 98-99 when the Freebold children are wondering if Master Waters was the one who stole the brass door knocker from their house. He had shown kindness to them and they did not want to believe that he had taken it. But, on the other hand, they remembered how he used to say that someone might steal it and how he wanted to keep it for them. They were unsure what to believe.

### **CROSS CURRICULAR SOURCES**

## Fiction

Joan Aiken, Bridle the Wind Margaret Jean Anderson, The Journey of the Shadow Judie Angell, One-way to Ansonia Avi, The True Adventures of Charlotte Doyle Allan Baillie, Adrift Carinne Demas, If Ever I Return Again Berlie Doherty, Street Child Michael Dorris, Morning Girl James Heneghan, Wish Me Luck Patricia Hermes, Cheat the Moon Karen Hesse, Letters from Rifka Joan B. Manley, She Flew no Flags Joan Lowery Nixon, A Family Apart Janice Jordan Shefelman, A Paradise Called Texas Patricia Willis, Danger along the Ohio Avi, Lord Kirkle's Money Avi, Beyond the Western Sea Jean Ferris, Across the Grain Jan Siegel Hart, Hanna, the Immigrant Tana Reiff, Little Italy Tana Reiff, O Little Town

#### Non-Fiction

Christopher Collier, A Century of Immigration 1820-1924

#### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central themes and situations in A Lion to Guard Us should include these aspects.

#### **Themes**

- oppression
- courage
- · family love
- selflessness
- persistance
- honesty
- greed
- honor
- · child labor
- protection
- · coping with life's changes

#### **Motifs**

- that we should help those less fortunate than ourselves
- · how courage helps us deal with difficult situations
- the value of love among family members
- the importance of looking out for others
- · how persistance helps people achieve goals
- the importance of honesty
- how greed motivates people to do things they know are wrong
- how honor and integrity can be kept intact
- how children need protection from those who would take advantage of them

#### **MEANING STUDY**

Below are words phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

- 1. "It was a sailor man back from Virginia. He saw my father there. He *talked* to him. Father is well—and he's built a house—and he thinks of us—" (p. 5)
  - (Amanda is thrilled to have news of her father. He left three years earlier to build houses in Jamestown, Virginia, and this is the first news his family has had from him.)
- "Don't be putting blame on yourself. Life is hard for you now. When you lose someone it's like—like having to find your way again." (p. 21)
  - (Amanda puts a lot of responsibility on herself. When she looses patience with Jemmy and Meg she feels she is not taking care of them well enough. This is a turning point; it is when she decides that they are going to Virginia to find their father.)
- 3. "Meg was too quiet, too good. All her life she'd been pushed away into corners. Sit there, Meg. Don't move, Meg. She'd never played like other children. She didn't know how." (p. 37)
  - (The Freebold children had not really been allowed to be children. Amanda had to work in her mother's place and Meg had always been expected to sit still, be quiet, go unnoticed. Later in the novel, when they are on Bermuda, Amanda notices that Meg has learned to play.)
- 4. "They want me in Jamestown. They need me there. They want doctors, and they don't care how old I am. There's

nothing to keep me here, and I'm going. We're all going to the New World together!" (p. 48)

(Dr. Crider had a strong desire to go to the New World. When he found out that he was actually needed there it appealed to him even more. He very much wanted to feel vital and needed.)

- 5. "He was gone, and Mother was gone, and she wanted to go away by herself and cry. But where could she go to be alone? Fear came over her. Mother had died, Dr. Crider had left them. How could she be sure that Father was waiting in the New World?" (p. 66)
  - (Amanda has some very deep fears about what will become of them when they reach Jamestown. Everyone that she has been able to count on has died, and she worries that the realities of their arrival in Jamestown may not match the rosy picture she has painted for herself, Jemmy, and Meg.)
- 6. "We all look funny", said Jemmy, but not one laughed. They couldn't laugh yet, thought Amanda. They felt beaten and tired. The sound of the storm was still in their ears. (p. 86) (The storm was another obstacle to be overcome by the Freebold children. They had had their childhood stolen from them by absent parents and adults that were unwilling to go out of their way to make their lives into what a childhood should actually be.)
- 7. "You made us all worry, Jemmy." Yet she was proud of him. Whatever he did, it seemed she was proud of him. (p. 107) (Amanda's main character trait is responsibility, Meg's, quiet obedience, and Jemmy's, daring. Amanda admires Jemmy's daring. This reaction is almost like a parent's reaction instead of a child's reaction. It's another example of Amanda's maturity and responsibility.)

### **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.

#### **Questions 1-6 (Literal Level)**

- 1. Why was Amanda required to work in the Trippett household?
  - (Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg lived in the Trippett household because their mother worked there. When she became ill and fell down the stairs, she was no longer able to work so Amanda had to assume her duties).
- 2. Why were Jemmy and Meg not allowed in the kitchen? (Jemmy and Meg were not allowed in the kitchen because Cook felt they would be in the way. She did not want them there.)
- 3. Why did the Freebold children have to run from the Trippett house?
  - (The Freebold children had to run from the Trippett house because, when Amanda asked Mistress Trippett for the money that was rightfully theirs, Mistress Trippett became so upset that she fainted. Her son, Randolph, called Amanda a pig and told her to get out of the house and to "take those brats" with her).
- 4. How did the passengers of the Sea Adventure end up in Bermuda?
  - (During the voyage from Plymouth to Jamestown, the Sea Adventure sailed into a storm and was blown off course.

- She landed on some rocks just off the island of Bermuda, and the passengers and crew rowed to the shore in small boats).
- 5. Why were the passengers afraid when they learned they had landed on Bermuda?
  - (The passengers were afraid when they learned they had landed on Bermuda because many of them had heard of the Bermuda devils).
- 6. Why was the settlement in Jamestown in danger of becoming a failed venture?

(The settlement in Jamestown was in danger because many of its inhabitants had died or were ill and starving. There had been a war between the English and the Indians. That was followed by the winter of 1609-10 which was called the Starving Time. The colony, which had once had 500 people, was left with only a handful of survivors.)

# **Questions 7-9 (Interpretative Level)**

- 7. Why did Mistress Trippett fall into a faint?

  (Mistress Trippett had fallen into a faint because she was so upset at the prospect of having to give back the money to the Freebold children that she had taken from their mother. She was a greedy person because she was already very wealthy, living in a big house with servants, yet she wanted to keep their money instead of trying to help them.)
- 8. Explain what led Dr. Crider to decide they would all go to the New World together.
  - Dr. Crider decided they would all to to the New World together for two reasons. The first is that he wanted to help the Freebold children; the second is that he had a strong desire to go to America. He felt he would be needed there, and he wanted to help and to have an adventure.
- 9. How do you know Jemmy was jealous of the Hopkins children's ball?

Jemmy wanted to play with the Hopkins children's ball but they would not let him. That's why he told them the door knocker was made of gold-so they would think he had something better than their ball.

#### **Questions 10-12 (Critical Level)**

- 10. Explain how Amanda used stories to pull the children through difficult times.
  - (Amanda used stories that had happy endings to comfort Jemmy and Meg and to give them hope. The story of their father had obviously been told often because Jemmy and Meg filled in parts of the story as Amanda told it. During the storm she told the story of the brother and the two sisters who made it through the storm and then found land. When they arrived at Bermuda, Meg thought it was the land in Amanda's story.)
- 11. Analyze what the door knocker symbolized to Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg.
  - (To Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg the lion's head door knocker symbolized love and protection. When James Freebold handed it to Jemmy he said it was a lion to guard them while he was gone. At the end of the novel it symbolizes family unity and hope for a bright future.)
- 12. Other than Dr. Crider, the adults in the story seemed unwilling to help the Freebold children. Evaluate the motivations and the justifications for not helping them. Name spe-

cific adults and specific motivations and justifications.

(Cook did not want Jemmy and Meg in the kitchen so they had to sit in the back stairway, shut away from other members of the household. She felt they would inconvenience her in performing her duties. Mistress Trippett gave them a tiny room with a pallet for a bed in her large house, then expected them to be grateful for her "generosity." She was motivated by greed. She wanted Amanda to work and smiled at the prospect of Jemmy and Meg getting big enough to work too. To have three workers whose only pay was the food they ate appealed to her.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins were not cruel to the Freebold children, but when Sir Thomas Gates told them that the Freebold children should live with them during the time on Bermuda, Mrs. Hopkins was resentful. She did not want three more children to care for in addition to her own. Robert Waters showed kindness to them by helping them build their home on Bermuda but he was just trying to gain their trust. What he was really interested in was the door knocker because he thought it was made of gold. His motivation was greed.)

#### **Questions 13-15 (Creative Level)**

- 13. Write a series of letters from Amanda to Ellie telling of life on the ship, on the island, and in the colony of Jamestown. Include personal thoughts.
- 14. Make a chart showing how Amanda's life was similar to and different from yours.
- Research the subject of immigration from European nations to the New World. Write a short paper explaining your findings.

#### ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

## Art and Music

- 1. Draw an illustration of the *Sea Adventure* based on research of ships used during this time. Label the areas mentioned in the novel.
- 2. Create a wall mural of the most important scenes in the book.
- 3. Reread the song Father sang. Try singing it to different tunes until you find one that fits. Teach it to your classmates.
- 4. Draw at least three new pictures for the novel. Explain where they fit in the story.

#### History and Social Studies

- 1. Draw a map of the route traveled by the Sea Adventure.
- 2. Research the number of people who immigrated from Europe to the American colonies. Be sure to separate the numbers into different European countries.
- Create a model of the Sea Adventure based on research of ships used during this time. Explain the uses of different areas of the ship.
- 4. Research the Jamestown settlement. Report your findings to your classmates.
- 5. The United States has child labor laws that prohibit children from working long hours for little or no pay. Research the origins of these laws and explain the need for such laws.

#### Language Arts

1. Write four diary entries from Jemmy's point of view that tell of the four most important days of his life. Include your reasons for placing such importance on the events of each day

- you choose.
- 2. Choose what you see as the major turning point in the lives of the Freebold children. Write a paper explaining why this one event is more important than any other.
- 3. Write another chapter for the novel showing what might have happened after Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg were reunited with their father.
- 4. Write a biographical sketch of Amanda Freebold. Include what you know about her childhood, then use what you know about her personality to make some predictions about her future.

#### Math

- Determine some of the typical routes ships sailed from England to America. Determine the average miles traveled.
- 2. The island where the Sea Adventure landed was approximately six hundred miles from where they had intended to land. If they sailed from the island to the mainland in two weeks, what is the average number of miles they sailed each day?

#### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 1. Write a newspaper article describing the purpose and the fate of the fleet of ships that sailed from Plymouth on June 2, 1609.
- 2. Explain the novel's theme.
- 3. Create a mural that shows the main events of Amanda's life.
- 4. Discuss in small groups the lessons you can take from Amanda's life and apply to your own.

#### ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

- 1. Make a character list and describe each character.
- 2. Retell, in summary, the events of the book in chronological order.
- 3. Compile a list of events that shows Amanda's maturity and responsibility.

# **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.

a. worried b. crying	g. story	R. grabbed forcefully  1. moved unsteadily	p. small bed directly on the floor q. horse drawn carriage
c. pants	h. young lady	m. small pieces	r. lower portion of a ship
d. bucket	i. separated	n. thick cloth	s. bad-tempered person
e. ocean trip	j. crazy idea	o. looked carefully	t. a protected inlet or branch of a sea
1. They h	ad a pallet in their tin	y room.	
2. He met	t a beautiful <u>maiden</u> w	rith golden hair.	
3. She sw	ept through the kitche	on. She peered into the pantry	and the cupboards.
4. Amand	la took up the water pa	ail and ran.	
5. They h	ad come to the house,	and they parted there.	
6. And on	ne of the sisters was a	crosspatch.	
7. It looks	ed as if he were setting	g down figures and adding the	em up.
8. I thoug	tht you'd put that nons	sense out of your head.	
9. Randol	ph seized Amanda an	d pushed her out of the room.	
10. The la	antern <u>bobbed</u> along, l	ighting their way.	
11. There	they bought dresses a	and petticoats, breeches and sl	hirts, shoes and stockings.
12. A <u>coa</u>	ch took them along th	e river to where a boat was w	vaiting.
13. Ships.	, large and small, fille	d the <u>harbor</u> .	
14. People	e on board were weep	ing as they waved to people of	on shore.
15. We ha	eve to live in the <u>hold</u> .		
16. Aman	da had never seen the	se rooms. It was said that the	y had canvas walls and real beds.
17. She d	ug into one of the che	sts and found some scraps of	cloth.
18. We m	ight find someone to	ook after you on the voyage,	but that would take money.
19. They	were only a little anxi	ous.	
20. The E	nglishman shook his l	nead. "Ah, there's a sad tale."	

# **COMPREHENSION TEST A**

# Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each character discription. 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. Use each name only once.

a. Amanda b. Jemmy	c. Meg d. Mrs. Hopkins	e. Sir Thomas Gates f. Randolph Trippett	<ul><li>g. Robert Waters</li><li>h. Mistress Trippett</li></ul>	<ul><li>i. James Freebold</li><li>j. Dr. Crider</li></ul>
1. tol	d Amanda, Jemmy, a	and Meg to leave the Trip	pett household	
		from the Freebold childre		
3. had	d gone to Virginia th	ree years earlier to help s	ettle Jamestown	
		es for Amanda, Jemmy, a	•	yage
		bold children the money		•
6. got	t lost on the island of	Bermuda	-	
7. wa	s too quiet, too good			
8. too	k Annie Freebold's p	place working in the Trip	pett Household	
9. did		onsible for Amanda, Jemi		were on the island of
10. wa	s to become the gove	ernor of the Virginia Colo	ony when the Sea Advent	ture arrived there.
		plank to make each stater	* (	
2. When the	e sailor asked to talk	to Annie Freebold, Ellie	thought he was	•
3	tried	to help Amanda carry the	water pail to the Trippe	ett house.
4. Jemmy a kitchen.	and Meg sat on		each day because the	y were not allowed in the
5. Amanda	told Jemmy and Meg	g they were going to	to	live with their father.
6. Jemmy to	old Anne and David	Hopkins that the lion hea	d door knocker was mad	de of
7. Anne and not let h	l David Hopkins had im.	l	that Jemmy wanted to	play with, but they would
8. The pass they had	engers of the Sea Ad heard stories about	venture were afraid wher the Bermuda	they learned they had l	anded on Bermuda because
9. Robert W	Vaters stole	out	of the Freebold children	's sea chest.
10	skipped	along the path to a large	rock, then wanted to jur	mp off and pretend to be a

## Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each phrase below with a reason or justification.

- 1. Cook did not want Jemmy and Meg in the kitchen because
- 2. A sailor who had recently returned from Virginia went to the Trippett household because
- 3. Amanda worked in the Trippett household because
- 4. Mistress Trippett fainted when Amanda asked for the money from her mother's purse because
- 5. Dr. Crider arranged for himself and the Freebold children to go to the New World together because
- 6. Jemmy told Anne and David Hopkins the door knocker was gold because
- 7. After Dr. Crider washed overboard, Amanda was afraid because
- 8. Mistress Hopkins did not want Amanda, Jemmy and Meg to live with her family because
- 9. Meg had never learned to play because
- 10. The settlement in Jamestown needed help and supplies because

# Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Compare and contrast Randolf Trippett and Dr. Crider.
- 2. Explain why Amanda felt Mistress Trippett owed her money and why Mistress Trippett felt she did not.
- 3. Identify and analyze situations where Amanda showed responsibility for her family.
- 4. Explain how Jemmy's jealousy of Anne and David Hopkins' ball created problems for the Freebold chidren.

# 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. Use each name only once.

a. Amanda b. Jemmy	c. Meg d. Ellie	e. Sir Thomas Gates f. Randolph Trippett	<ul><li>g. Robert Waters</li><li>h. Mistress Trippett</li></ul>	<ul><li>i. James Freebold</li><li>j. Dr. Crider</li></ul>
1. learned h	ow to play on	Bermuda		
2. chased A	manda, Jemm	y, and Meg out of the Trippe	ett household	
3. was swep	ot overboard fr	om the deck of the Sea Adv	enture	
4. was in ch	arge of the pa	ssengers while they were or	Bermuda	
5. wanted th	ne Freebold ch	ildren to stay in the Trippet	t house and work for no pa	ny
6. lied abou	t the door kno	cker being made of gold		
7. made a de	oll for Meg th	at was so ugly that Meg wo	uld not touch it	•
8. the maid	who was kind	to Amanda at the Trippett l	ousehold	
9. went to the	ne Virginia col	lony to build houses	• .	
10. refused to	help work or	the ships the passengers bu	ilt to sail from Bermuda to	o Virginia
	words in each	20 points) blank to make each stateme's job		
		ne sickroom since the day sl did not want Jemmy and M		•
		anted to go to Virginia to		
		bought Amanda, J		
6. Amanda made _ overboard.		for Jemm	y to play with, but she end	led up throwing it
7. At the end of the	e storm, the Se	ea Adventure was caught be	tween	•
8		had given Amanda, Je	mmy, and Meg the lion's l	nead door knocker.
9	O got lost on the island of Bermuda.			
10. When Amanda	found their fat	her in Jamestown he was		

	the following statements either <b>T</b> for true or <b>F</b> if any part is false.
•	1. Cook was very kind to Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg.
<del>Old Market States</del>	2. Amanda got a letter from her father every three months.
	3. Mistress Trippett wanted Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg all to work for her.
	4. James Freebold had gone to Virginia to find gold.
<u> </u>	5. Dr. Crider took Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg to his house after Randolph Trippett forced them out of his mother's house.
	6. Dr. Crider loved being on deck during the ocean voyage.
	7. Dr. Crider became very ill during the voyage on the Sea Adventure.
	8. After the storm, the Sea Adventure's passengers landed on Bermuda.
	9. Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg had to live with the Hopkins family while they were on Bermuda.
	10. The passengers built new ships and sailed from Bermuda to Jamestown.

# Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Compare and contrast Amanda and Meg.
- 2. Identify and analyze Dr. Crider's motives for going to the New World.
- 3. Explain why Mistress Trippett tried to talk Amanda out of going to Jamestown to find her father.
- 4. Analyze why the lion's head door knocker was so important to Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg.

#### ANSWER KEY

# **VOCABULARY TEST**

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

#### **COMPREHENSION TEST A**

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

#### **Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)**

1. maid	6. gold
2. James Freebold (Amanda's father)	7. a ball
3. Dr. Crider	8. devils
4. the back stairs	9. the door knocker
5. Virginia (Jamestown)	10. Meg

### Part III: Motivation (20 points)

- 1. she thought they would be in her way
- 2. James Freebold had asked him to take a message to his family
- 3. she had taken over her mother's work when her mother fell down the stairs
- 4. she was so greedy she could not stand the thought of having to give that money to Amanda
- 5. he had always wanted to go there, and he wanted to help them
- 6. he was jealous of the ball they had, and he wanted them to think he had something better
- 7. her mother had died, Dr. Crider was gone, and she could not be sure that her father would really be waiting for them in Jamestown
- 8. she did not want to be responsible for three more children when she had her own children to care for
- 9. she had always had to sit still, be quiet, and not call any attention to herself
- 10. there had been a war with the Indians, the winter was a time of starvation, and only a few people were left there

# Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

#### **COMPREHENSION TEST B**

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

### Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

	( 1
1. her mother	6. a ball
2. fell down the stairs	7. two rocks
3. Cook	8. Their father
4. live with their father	9. Jemmy
5. Dr. Crider	10. very ill

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

1. F	6. T
2. F	7. F
3. T	8. T
4. F	9. F
5. T	10. T

#### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

# TEACHER'S NOTES



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