



The Mouse and the Motorcycle

by Beverly Cleary

Teacher's Guide

Written By Mary Ellen Snodgrass

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Synopsis

On their way from Ohio to California, the Gridley family crosses hot desert territory in Nevada and stops to spend the Fourth of July weekend at the Mountain View Inn, a quaint old hotel twenty-five miles from Highway 40 in the California foothills. They occupy room 216, a corner room; their son Keith takes room 215 next door. Mr. Gridley claims that the hotel was at one time a fashionable place. In answer to Mrs. Gridley's suspicions about mice, the 60-year-old bellboy, Matt, assures Mrs. Gridley that there are none.

Alone in his room, Keith unpacks an apple and four miniature vehicles—a sedan, a sports car, an ambulance, and a red motorcycle. He munches his apple, discards the remains into the wastebasket, and leaves with his parents for dinner in the dining room. While he is gone, Ralph, a curious young mouse who lives beyond the knothole in the baseboard of room 215, inspects Keith's toys and is quite taken with the jaunty red motorcycle. While pushing the toy around Keith's bedside table, Ralph is startled by a half-ring of the telephone and falls over the edge, landing beside the damaged motorcycle in the metal wastebasket from which he cannot escape.

Keith returns and finds Ralph in his metal prison. After Mrs. Gridley tucks Keith into bed for the night, he shines his flashlight on Ralph, tips over the wastebasket, and sets him free. Ralph apologizes for bending the handlebar and rides happily across the threadbare carpet, uttering bursts of motorcycle sounds—"Pb-pb-b-b-b." Promising Keith that he will be careful, ride only at night, and return the motorcycle each day, Ralph ventures into the hall, roaring past the elevator and ducking behind a curtain to avoid detection by people in the hall.

By morning Ralph is ready to return, but he finds the

door to room 215 closed. He falls asleep by the baseboard and awakens to find Matt, who opens the door to allow Ralph back into the room. Mrs. Gridley screams in alarm at the mouse; Keith hides his friend inside the sleeve of his pajamas and ridicules his mother's claim that she saw a mouse on a motorcycle. When they are alone, Keith offers to order food for Ralph's breakfast.

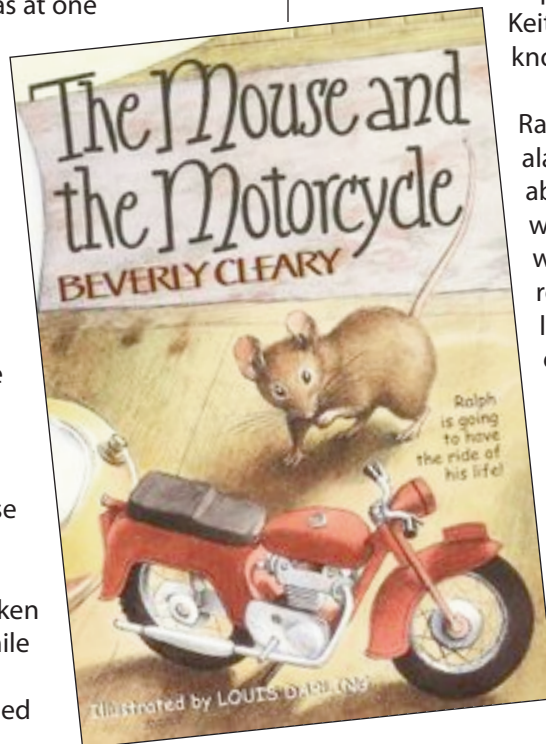
Ralph requests peanut butter, which Keith promises to poke through the knothole in the baseboard.

Ralph's overly protective mother, alarmed at her daring son, warns him about consorting with human beings, wandering about the hotel, and otherwise endangering himself. But when room service arrives, the whole family—aunts, uncles, and cousins included—enjoys a feast of not only peanut butter, but also jelly. After a peaceful nap, Ralph is drawn to the motorcycle hidden under Keith's bed, although he keeps his promise and does not ride it.

Margery, the maid, following instructions from the housekeeper to do an extra-special job of cleaning the Gridley's rooms after Mrs. Gridley complains of seeing a

mouse, hums a pleasant tune and vacuums closer and closer to Ralph in his hiding place under the bed. He clings to the motorcycle to escape the pull of the vacuum and finally saves himself by darting across the floor into a pillowcase, thereby breaking his promise to Keith.

Abandoning the precious motorcycle, his key to freedom, Ralph chews his way out of the laundry, which the maid piles in a hamper in the linen closet. Pricked by pangs of conscience, he apologizes to Keith who accuses the mouse of immaturity. The next morning their friendship is restored. Keith, mindful of his own occasional muddles, promises to bring the mice bacon, toast, and jelly from his breakfast. Upon his return to the mouse nest, Ralph discovers that his chewing through the laundry has caused a panic in the hotel management and that the mouse family is planning to escape



before poison, traps, or exterminators menace their lives. Asserting his authority, Ralph overrules Uncle Lester and makes a new plan—to lay low until the whole controversy blows over.

After a sight-seeing trip to some ghost towns, Keith becomes ill late that day. He eats a little soup, feeds his crackers to the mice, and goes to bed. The mice, dependent upon Keith's generosity while they cower in their hole, fear for his health. Mrs. Gridley discovers that Keith is feverish and searches in vain for an aspirin. Ralph pledges to find aspirin for his new friend and scours the hotel until he finds one in a ground-floor room. He guns the toy ambulance down the hall, follows a man and his terrier onto the elevator, loads the aspirin into the back of his emergency vehicle, and returns to ease Keith's suffering.

On his return to the mouse nest, Ralph narrates his adventures to his cousins, expanding the part about his escape from the owl in the pine tree. Matt, returning the abandoned ambulance to Keith, produces the missing motorcycle, which he found in the linen hamper. Keith, whose health has improved with the aspirin and a good night's sleep, offers to take Ralph to San Francisco and back home to Ohio with him in his pocket. Ralph is tempted, but he prefers his new-found freedom to a cage in Keith's room. In gratitude for Ralph's good deed, Keith gives him the motorcycle, which Ralph plans to store under the television set in the lobby.

Author Sketch

Beverly Bunn Cleary (1916-) recalls growing up in McMinnville, Oregon, as a loner on the eighty-acre farm in Willamette Valley where her father farmed and her mother taught school. Her mother "had unshakable faith in the importance of books, reading, and libraries," and established the first library in Yamhill, Oregon, where Beverly discovered the magical power of books to relieve her isolation and take her to faraway places.

When hard times during the 1920s forced her family to move to the city, Beverly Cleary recalls the elementary school and the grim, unappealing primer which had no pictures. Relegated to the blackbird reading circle, on the opposite side of the room from the windows, she felt the shame and ostracism that accompanies a lack of success in reading. With home tutoring, she began reading by the third grade. Her experience sensitized her to the needs of children who struggle to read the printed word and long for stories about real children.

After graduating from Chaffee Jr. College and the University of California at Berkeley, Beverly Cleary entered the University of Washington to earn a second B.A. degree, this one in library science. The mother of a daughter and twin sons, she worked as a children's librarian in Yakima Washington (1939-40) and as post librarian at the U.S. Army Hospital in Oakland during World War II. Her experiences as a poor reader in childhood, children's librarian, and mother led to the creation of her first character, Henry Huggins, in 1950.

Her string of successful children's stories include *Henry Huggins* (1950), *Ellen Tebbits* (1951), *Henry and Beezus* (1952), *Ribsy* (1964), *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* (1965), *Ramona the Pest* (1968), and *Dear Mr. Henshaw* (1983). In addition, she writes adult stories, many of which have appeared in *Woman's Day*.

Critic's Corner

Beverly Cleary's special brand of kid-pleasing books has won an armload of honoraria, including five Young Readers' Choice Awards, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Memorial Children's Book Award, two William Allen White Awards, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, the Newbery Honor Book Award, the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award*, an American Book Award, a *New York Times* Award, the Christopher Award, and the Hans Christian Anderson Award.

In addition, her work has earned citations from the Pacific Northwest Library Association, and from state societies in California, Iowa, Hawaii, Kansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, New England, Louisiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, Washington, New Mexico, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, New Jersey, and Mississippi. Her stories are available on film-strip, cassette, and record. A ten-part television series based on the three Ramona books is in progress.

General Objectives

1. To explain the importance of responsibility and mature behavior.
2. To note the importance of sacrifice and unselfishness.
3. To describe the way in which families govern themselves.
4. To differentiate between courage and foolhardiness.
5. To outline safety procedures in handling over-the-counter drugs and riding motorcycles.
6. To review the need for cleanliness in food-handling.
7. To spotlight examples of kindness in both people and animals.

8. To define dependability.
9. To explain the importance of keeping promises.

Specific Objectives

1. To account for the Gridley family's long stay at the Mountain View Inn.
2. To justify the worries of both Ralph's and Keith's mothers.
3. To contrast the interests and diversions of Keith and his parents.
4. To characterize Ralph's bravery.
5. To account for the friendship between a mouse and a boy.
6. To enumerate and describe the natural enemies of mice.
7. To explain why Ralph chooses to stay at the hotel.

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. a giant redwood tree, (p. 129)
(a great cypress-like tree native to the Pacific Coast, from Oregon to Monterey County, California. Known as Sequoia sempervirens ["evergreen Sequoia," in honor of the famous Native American chief who lived from 1760 to 1843 and invented the Cherokee Alphabet], the redwood attains a greater height than any other American tree, under ideal conditions reaching 350 feet. The oldest of these trees dates to 531 A.D. The name redwood refers to their reddish-grey, fibrous bark.)
2. one chair with the antimacassar on its back (p. 14)
(Antimacassars or doilies date to the nineteenth century, when macassar hair oil for men came into vogue. To protect upholstered furniture from stains, people crocheted decorative covers for the spot on the back where a man's head would rest.)
3. zwieback crumbs (p.33)
(A sweet, hard toast used for a teething biscuit, zwieback takes its name from the German words for "twice baked," because the baked bread is sliced and toasted in a slow oven to harden the crust all the way through.)
4. Two ant scouts (p. 33)
(Ants are social insects that organize complex societies in which division of labor separates the insects into various classes, each one designated by the name of its job. The scout reconnoiters the territory and announces the location of food to workers, who form long, single-file trains for transport of supplies.)
5. a clutter of things people drop on the floor of a hotel room—bits of Kleenex, hair, ravelings. (p.66)
(Areas of rodent infestation are usually filled with odd combinations of cast-off goods, food scraps, and soft nesting materials. This penchant for storing an assortment of tidbits gave rise to the term "pack rat.")
6. "I'll give to you a paper of pins, for that's the way my love begins." (p. 75)
(While she cleans rooms 215 and 216, Margery entertains herself by singing an old American folk song, "Paper of Pins," which describes an innocent courtship that begins with a simple gift—a card of straight pins.)
7. Motorcycle versus vacuum cleaner (p. 79)
(Ralph, who faces certain death if he loses his grip on the motorcycle and disappears into the bowels of the vacuum cleaner, describes his predicament in terms of the classic one-on-one duel.)
8. a little terrier (p. 53)
(Ralph is confronted by a small yapping dog whose name refers to the fact that it was bred to burrow into the earth [terra] after small game, such as rabbits, ferrets, and woodchucks.)
9. thistledown (p. 92)
(a light, fluffy filament that grows from the head of a wild, prickly plant. When the reproductive cycle of the plant is ended, the down, which provides transportation for the seed, detaches, floats through the air, and reestablishes the thistle plant wherever the wind drops it.)
10. A crash helmet for you (p. 92)
(Keith constructs a makeshift protection for Ralph's head out of half a ping pong ball, thistledown, a rubber band, and Scotch tape. The purpose of a crash helmet is to provide extra protection for the head in a situation where impact could destroy the face and/or brain. In some states, riding a motorcycle without a helmet is against the law.)

Comprehension Study

1. What dangers do mice face every day?
(Mice fear natural predators, such as owls and dogs, and steer clear of manmade dangers, such as vacuum cleaners, washbasins, incinerators, elevators, traps, poison, extermination efforts, and other threats to their lives. The mouse family at the Mountain View Inn has learned through bitter experience to avoid aspirin, open suitcases, metal wastebaskets, linen closets, and the unknown terrors of the busy hotel.)

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2. What are Betty and Mary Lou's responses to Ralph?
(After Betty and Mary Lou trap Ralph in a drinking glass, they admire his "cunning little paws . . . and his little ears," thereby injuring his manly pride. Mary Lou suggests that they take him back to Wichita with them. Betty, eager to keep Ralph in a cage on the ledge of her kindergarten classroom, agrees. After consideration of the long distance to Disneyland and back to Kansas, however, they change their minds. At this point in their conversation, Mary Lou insults Ralph with the comment that "Mice are pests even if they are cute.")

Betty discovers the perfect way to rid the room of the intrusive mouse. Securing him in the glass with a postcard floor, she dangles the glass out the window and removes the postcard, dropping Ralph into the vines on the side of the hotel.)

3. What happens to the aspirin after Ralph delivers it to room 215?
(Ralph soothes his mother's needless worries about aspirin-poisoning by describing Keith's caution with the drug. Keith makes no attempts to swallow the pill and places it on the bedside table for his parents to find. When his mother and father discover the aspirin, they read the letters inscribed on the tablet and assume that the night clerk brought it up while they slept.)

Ralph's mother, proud of her son's heroism, feels relieved about her debt for room service, which they have duly repaid with the aspirin. Keith is also pleased by his return to good health and a normal appetite.)

4. How does the little terrier in room 211 express himself?
(The noisy little dog in room 211 signals his wishes by whimpering, yapping, and barking. When he wants to go out, his owner responds to his insistent barks and carries him down the hall and outside. When the terrier sees Ralph on his motorcycle and hears him deliberately revving the ambulance outside his door, he raises a loud outcry, convincing his owner, who is unaware of Ralph's presence, that the terrier is a "four-footed, hair-covered nuisance.")
5. Describe Ralph's excursions in the halls and lobby at night.
(During his first motorcycle ride and on his errand of mercy the following night, Ralph enjoys relative freedom from human interference. There are snores from

sleeping guests and the noise of the terrier in room 211, but the lobby is quiet, the elevator idle, and the desk clerk asleep on the sofa.

Ralph rides under the grandfather clock and the television set in the lobby, noticing that the cleaning staff does not make any special effort to dust in places where the vacuum hose will not reach. Except for Matt, the bellboy, who claims to keep up with all goings and comings at the Mountain View Inn, no one is aware that Ralph is riding the motorcycle.)

Questions 6-8-Interpretive Level

6. Why do the Gridleys choose the Mountain View Inn?
(After a grueling drive through Nevada "across plains and deserts and over mountains to the old hotel," Mr. Gridley, exhausted with the demands of pre-Fourth of July traffic, refuses to travel another mile on a "California highway on a holiday weekend." He shores up his arguments for a weekend's rest by commenting on the fame of the old hotel, ignoring Mrs. Gridley's rejoinder about guests arriving "by horse and buggy.")
7. How does Matt reveal that he knows mice live in room 215?
(Despite Matt's reassurance to Mrs. Gridley that the hotel management would not tolerate rodents, he teases the second-floor maid, a "college girl who was working for the summer season," about mice. His comment, "If you don't like mice you better stay away from that knothole under the window in room 215," reveals all too well that Matt does know a great deal about the "residents" of the Mountain View Inn.)
8. Why is Ralph's mother so protective?
(Ralph's mother has the "benefit" of unhappy experiences to justify her protection of her children. Aunt Adrienne disappeared in a suitcase while investigating a nylon stocking; Uncle Victor vanished into a metal wastebasket and was possibly incinerated; Uncle Leroy's departure was marked by his bones, which turned up in an owl pellet. Perhaps her most pressing worry—that Ralph will be poisoned by an aspirin tablet—arises from her own widowhood after her husband died while transporting the drug in his cheek.)

Questions 9 and 10-Critical Level

9. Contrast Ralph's and Keith's mothers.
(Whereas Ralph's mother goes overboard with her protection of her growing son, Keith's mother is less frantic, possibly because she has seen fewer

of life's misfortunes. Ralph's mother, speaking from the point of view of a single parent, offers some valid precautionary advice, including the wearing of a crash helmet and the avoidance of poison, traps, and exterminators.

On the other hand, Keith's mother, who does not have to make all the decisions concerning her son's welfare, tries to comfort and protect him from a real and present danger—the fever and internal disturbance that curbs his appetite and makes him cranky and listless.)

10. What does Ralph learn about freedom from his experiences with the motorcycle?
(Overjoyed with his liberty from a hovering parent, Ralph is thrilled by the freedom he experiences while riding the motorcycle. He likes the breeze in his ears, the feel of the handlebars in his paws, the sense of rapid movement in any direction he chooses to go. Yet, he accepts and appreciates Keith's homemade helmet and gives due consideration to the safety of his tail.

However, by daring to leave the safety of his home and test his limits, he also learns that danger lurks in many places—in the vacuum cleaner nozzle, at the elevator door, under a pine tree at night where an owl could snatch him away and devour his tiny body, in the teeth of a snapping terrier. He employs caution as he scouts unknown territory in the hotel in search of an aspirin tablet.

In addition to physical lessons, Ralph learns the emotional lessons associated with adult responsibilities. He comes to value his friendship with Keith and to regret breaking his promise concerning use of the motorcycle during the day. The most important lesson, however, is his awareness that self-sacrifice for the sake of a friend brings deep intrinsic rewards—the satisfaction of knowing that he has met a series of challenges and attained his goal of relieving Keith's pain and, at the same time, proving himself worthy of trust.)

Question 11-Creative Level

11. Write a letter to your legislator expressing your opinion about safety regulations for motorcyclists, including the wearing of helmets and other protective garments, safety inspections, age limits for motorcycle and moped ownership, respect for speed laws, and proper registration and maintenance of vehicles.

Student Involvement Activities

1. Suggest materials which Keith could use to construct more protective clothing for Ralph, such as a jacket, thick boots, gloves, goggles, pants, and a tail guard.
2. Write a report on aspirin in which you explain the properties of the drug that can be dangerous, particularly in large doses. Include information about when the drug was invented, the inventor's name, and its many uses in relief of fever and pain.
3. Draw floor plans of the hotel in which you mark the territory which Ralph explores during his adventures. Note the placement of the elevator, television set, grandfather clock, linen closet, trash containers, parking lot, front desk, dining room, kitchen, staffs quarters, and rooms 215 and 216.
4. Compose an itinerary for the Gridley family as they travel from Ohio to San Francisco. Mark a route which takes them off the main highways to various points of interest. Suggest sights they might want to see and side trips to famous landmarks and amusements, such as Salt Lake City and the Golden Gate Bridge.
5. Describe a visit to a ghost town or deserted mine. Stress the way nature takes over buildings and other structures, such as railroad tracks and water towers, when people no longer use them.
6. Write a list of instructions for the daily cleaning and maintenance of a hotel room. Emphasize the areas that must be scrubbed and disinfected, care of furniture, use of cleaning tools, pest extermination, ventilation, and replacement of linens.
7. Using the names and relationships mentioned in the book, draw Ralph's family tree.
8. Write a table conversation in the hotel dining room between Keith and his parents after they notice the unusual orders Keith places and carries back to his room. Include Keith's explanations for his behavior.
9. Write a paragraph explaining how responsibility reflects maturity in your own life. Give examples that prove you are capable of thinking for yourself.
10. Compose a short thank-you note from Keith to Matt. Name specific examples where Matt's kindness which helped make Keith's stay a pleasant one.

Vocabulary Test

Complete each of the following sentences from the book with a word from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. "You mean I have a choice?" he asked, _____.
- _____ 2. "I'll be back before dawn," said Ralph _____.
- _____ 3. "To _____ a pill," said Ralph. "An aspirin tablet."
- _____ 4. Once more Ralph told the story ... making it sound as if he had narrowly escaped the horny _____ of the owl as he traveled down the vine.
- _____ 5. When Ralph was sure that he was battered but _____ he examined the motorcycle.
- _____ 6. Ralph felt sad and _____ thinking about his Uncle Victor getting dumped out with the trash.
- _____ 7. This time the management might even spend money on an _____.
- _____ 8. Once out in the hall, his courage _____.
- _____ 9. Slowly, paw over paw, he worked his way along the shoots and _____.
- _____ 10. Peeking out, Ralph discovered the night clerk had slept soundly through the _____.
- _____ 11. "If there is anything I can't stand, it's a _____ mouse," remarked Matt good-naturedly.
- _____ 12. His mother smiled, _____.
- _____ 13. Matt, who had seen guests come and go for many years, knew there were two kinds—those who thought the hotel was a dreadful old barn of a place and those who thought it charming and _____, so quiet and restful.
- _____ 14. Ralph threw a leg over the motorcycle and sat _____ on the plastic seat.
- _____ 15. He scabbled his feet on the tabletop to gain _____.

A. cheeky

B. din

C. ebbed

D. exterminator

E. incredulous

F. intact

G. jauntily

H. momentum

I. pilfer

J. quaint

K. relenting

L. remorseful

M. staunchly

N. talons

O. tendrils

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Quotation Identification (30 points)

Match the following quotations from the story with the appropriate speaker from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. Some answers will be used more than once.

- _____ 1. Well—I'll leave it back under the bed like I said, but you promise not to ride it until after dark.
- _____ 2. Mice are pests even if they are cute.
- _____ 3. You are a nuisance, that's what you are. A four-footed, hair-covered nuisance.
- _____ 4. You grow a little bit every day. ...
- _____ 5. I knew the minute we moved into this spooky old place that it had mice.
- _____ 6. We shall have to flee. There is nothing else to do.
- _____ 7. How can we expect room service after you lost that poor boy's motorcycle?
- _____ 8. Oh no, ma'am. The management wouldn't stand for mice.
- _____ 9. I'm not driving another mile on a California highway on a holiday weekend.
- _____ 10. And be sure you vacuum under the beds. You have been getting careless lately.
- _____ 11. He promised to buy me a bunch of blue ribbons...to tie up my bonnie brown hair.
- _____ 12. It's the first motorcycle I have ever had a chance to ride.
- _____ 13. Tell us again how you climbed down the vine and the owl nearly got you...
- _____ 14. There isn't much around this hotel that escapes my attention.
- _____ 15. There must be someplace in a big hotel like this where you could keep a motorcycle.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. housekeeper | E. Mary Lou | I. Ralph |
| B. Keith | F. Matt | J. Ralph's cousin |
| C. man with the terrier | G. Mr. Gridley | K. Ralph's mother |
| D. Margery | H. Mrs. Gridley | L. Uncle Lester |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Keith agrees to hide the motorcycle while his parents pay the hotel bill.
- _____ 2. Betty slides a postcard under Ralph's feet and drops him out the window.
- _____ 3. Ralph's mother warns her son that his father drowned in a washbasin in Room 215.
- _____ 4. The wheels of the ambulance get stuck in the dust under the grandfather clock.
- _____ 5. Uncle Victor disappeared when the maid emptied him into a linen hamper.
- _____ 6. Mrs. Gridley urges her husband to find a motel on the main highway.
- _____ 7. Ralph tucks the tip of his tail under the Scotch tape on his crash helmet.
- _____ 8. Matt is astonished to learn that Keith and Ralph speak the same language.
- _____ 9. Mr. Gridley suspects that the long hike in the sun caused Keith's sudden illness.
- _____ 10. Keith plans to save his allowance and buy another motorcycle when he returns home.

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply the word or phrase which answers the following questions.

- _____ 1. Who causes the holes in the linen?
- _____ 2. What food does Ralph eat while he is trapped in the wastebasket?
- _____ 3. Who first discovers the way to make the motorcycle run?
- _____ 4. Who calls the housekeeper an "old grouch"?
- _____ 5. What state are the Gridleys from?
- _____ 6. Where does Betty plan to keep a mouse in her kindergarten classroom?
- _____ 7. What vehicle does Keith first request after he finds an aspirin?
- _____ 8. What food did the poor family feed their four hungry children?
- _____ 9. Where did hotel mice readily find water to drink?

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_____ 10. In what state is the Mountain View Inn?

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Explain how Ralph's family behaves when there is plenty of food.
2. Describe Ralph's journey to find the aspirin.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Choose an answer to complete each of the following statements. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Ralph's father dies from
A. falling into an incinerator.
B. eating peanut butter.
C. storing an aspirin in his mouth.
D. a motorcycle accident.
- _____ 2. Ralph has difficulty removing the ambulance from
A. the elevator doorway.
B. the narrow space under the television.
C. the grandfather clock.
D. Keith's suitcase.
- _____ 3. The maid pays no attention to the movement of
A. the vacuum cleaner nozzle under the bed.
B. the narrow space under the television.
C. Uncle Victor in the wastebasket.
D. the owl outside the window.
- _____ 4. The terrier barks at
A. the clanging elevator door.
B. Matt when he brings in room service.
C. Ralph on the motorcycle.
D. Aunt Sissy in the pillow case.
- _____ 5. Ralph asserts his manhood by
A. ordering Betty to obey.
B. informing his relatives that he must help Keith.
C. rejecting Uncle Lester's advice about aspirin tablets.
D. climbing the telephone cord to escape the bellhop.
- _____ 6. Ralph's mother regrets that she is unable to
A. control her wayward son.
B. leave a tip for room service.
C. escape from Betty's glass.
D. leave the hotel before the exterminator comes.
- _____ 7. The milkman promises to
A. help the doctor find a way through the heavy traffic.
B. take Ralph back to Wichita.
C. call Matt with news of the highway accident.
D. bring some aspirin on his morning route.
- _____ 8. Keith promises to
A. order a peanut butter sandwich.
B. hide the ping pong ball helmet in the linen closet.
C. ride the motorcycle only at night.
D. reward Matt for saving the ambulance from the elevator door.
- _____ 9. The Gridleys plan to spend the Fourth of July weekend
A. at Disneyland.
B. in San Francisco.
C. at a fashionable hotel.
D. driving through Nevada.
- _____ 10. Ralph's conscience forces him to admit that
A. he lost the aspirin when he fell out of the upstairs window.

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- B. his Uncle Lester is right about the danger of washbasins.
- C. he would do anything for more peanuts.
- D. he lost the motorcycle in the outgoing laundry.

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

Complete each statement by providing a word or phrase to fill the blanks. Place your answer in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Ralph hides behind an _____ which Keith threw into the wastebasket.
- _____ 2. Keith learns a lot by riding a _____ down a steep hill and hitting a tree.
- _____ 3. Keith offers to hide the mouse in his _____ and take him to Ohio.
- _____ 4. Mrs. Gridley allows Keith to keep the motorcycle if he promises to wear the _____ when he rides.
- _____ 5. When he returns from his ride, Ralph promises to park the motorcycle under the _____.
- _____ 6. Keith urges Ralph's _____ to keep quiet before Mrs. Gridley hears the noise.
- _____ 7. The entrance to Ralph's home is a _____ in the baseboard.
- _____ 8. _____ thinks Ralph is too young to give orders.
- _____ 9. Aunt Adrienne disappeared when she climbed into a suitcase to examine a _____.
- _____ 10. Ralph huddles in the shadow of a leaf to hide himself from an _____ in the pine tree.

Part III: Matching (30 points)

Match each action with its location. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| _____ 1. a round white pill gleams in the moonlight | A. behind the curtain |
| _____ 2. the night clerk sleeps on a couch | B. from his pocket |
| _____ 3. the man with the terrier finds a toy ambulance | C. in a pillowcase |
| _____ 4. Keith locates a flashlight | D. in his suitcase |
| _____ 5. the maid observes her hairstyle | E. in Ohio |
| _____ 6. the telephone rings half a ring | F. in old mining towns |
| _____ 7. Uncle Victor disappears | G. in the dining room |
| _____ 8. the smell of bacon drifts in | H. in the lobby |
| _____ 9. Ralph hides his helmet | I. in the mirror |
| _____ 10. the Gridleys enjoy an afternoon of sightseeing | J. into a metal wastebasket |
| _____ 11. Matt produces the lost motorcycle | K. on the bedside table |
| _____ 12. Keith plans to write a composition about Ralph | L. on the elevator |
| _____ 13. Ralph finds himself in a strange ghostly place | M. through the window |
| _____ 14. Ralph enters room 215 | N. under the bureau |
| _____ 15. Keith eats soup | O. under the door |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

- 1. Describe Ralph's attitude toward keeping promises.

- 2. Describe the Gridleys' attempts to comfort Keith during his illness.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. L | 11. A |
| 2. M | 7. D | 12. K |
| 3. I | 8. C | 13. J |
| 4. N | 9. O | 14. G |
| 5. F | 10. B | 15. H |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. L | 11. D |
| 2. E | 7. K | 12. I |
| 3. C | 8. F | 13. J |
| 4. I | 9. G | 14. F |
| 5. H | 10. A | 15. B |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ralph | 6. in a cage on the window sill |
| 2. apple | 7. sports car |
| 3. Keith | 8. peanut butter |
| 4. Margery | 9. drops from wet clothes |
| 5. Ohio | 10. California |

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

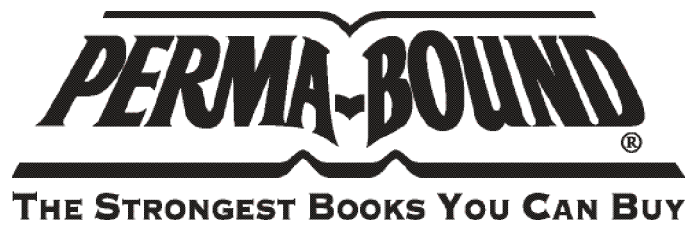
- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. B |
| 2. A | 7. D |
| 3. A | 8. A |
| 4. C | 9. B |
| 5. B | 10. D |

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. apple core | 6. family |
| 2. bicycle | 7. knothole |
| 3. pocket | 8. Uncle Lester |
| 4. crash helmet | 9. nylon stocking |
| 5. bed | 10. owl |

Part III: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. N | 6. K | 11. B |
| 2. H | 7. J | 12. E |
| 3. L | 8. M | 13. C |
| 4. D | 9. A | 14. O |
| 5. I | 10. F | 15. G |



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