

# THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

JOHN CHRISTOPHER

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY KATHY SAMMIS

*This guide was prepared using the 1988 Collier Books second edition, © 1967. Other editions may differ.*

## SYNOPSIS

**Chap. 1:** The narrator of this tale, set a hundred years or so in the future, is 13-year-old Will Parker. He lives in the small village of Wherton, near Winchester, in a country we recognize as the one formerly called England. As the novel's action begins, Will secretly takes his father's rare and highly prized Watch out of the house to show to his much-admired older cousin and best friend, Jack, while Will's hated cousin Henry tries and fails to take the Watch away. In the course of these scenes, we learn a lot about this future world. People live as they did in medieval times, without technology, seldom venturing far from their home villages or towns. They are ruled by alien beings called Tripods, huge metal hemispheres supported on three incredibly tall metal legs, that, however, seldom interfere in people's everyday lives. One exception is Capping Day, which comes for Jack soon after the Watch incident. Like every other 14-year-old youth in their society, Jack is presented on his Capping Day to a Tripod, which picks him up with its tentacle, takes him inside the hemisphere, and returns him with the Cap he will wear for the rest of his life, a web of metal meshed with the flesh on his skull. Jack is now a man; all childish thoughts and any inclination to question acceptance of the Tripods and his own way of life have forever vanished from his mind. But Jack had voiced some questions to Will before the Capping, wondering what life had been like before the Tripods came, and these questioning thoughts linger in Will's mind.

**Chap. 2:** Will broods over the loss of Jack's companionship and individuality and begins to resist the thought of his own Capping. He becomes interested in the village's Vagrants—people for whom the Capping has failed, who wander through the land, permanently restless and unable to keep a train of thought, acting strangely and having visions. One day, Will meets a newly arrived Vagrant who calls himself Ozymandias. Sensing intelligence behind the man's veneer of bizarre Vagrant behavior, Will meets with Ozymandias secretly. The man tells Will of a society of free men living in the White Mountains (the Alps) across the sea to the south, men who are not Capped and willing to lead a hard life because it is also a free life. Ozymandias comes from this free society to recruit questioning young people like Will before they are Capped. The man also tells Will what free men know about the Tripods—either they were machines created by humans who then revolted against their creators, or they are aliens from another planet, and they control people's minds through the Caps. Will agrees to go on the journey, and Ozymandias gives him a map showing the way to the mountains.

**Chap. 3:** Several weeks later, Will slips away from home

and the village on a moonlit night with a pack of provisions. Unfortunately, his hated cousin Henry sees him leave, follows him, and insists on coming along—Henry too has had doubts about being Capped. Will is not pleased, but after Henry helps him when he sprains his ankle, Will grudgingly lets his cousin in on the plan to journey to the White Mountains.

**Chap. 4:** Following Ozymandias's directions and the map, Will and Henry go to the seaside town of Rumney and seek out Captain Curtis and his boat the Orion. Curtis hides the boys aboard the ship, which transports them across the English Channel, narrowly avoiding being sunk by a roving, harassing band of Tripods along the way. On shore, the captain warns the boys to avoid all contact with the people, because they speak a different language and will catch the boys and hand them over for Capping. Within moments of leaving Curtis, a group of men pours out of a tavern and captures Will and Henry, locking them in the tavern basement. After the tavern closes for the night, a boy who works there stealthily releases Will and Henry. Amazingly, this tall, thin boy speaks English (with a French accent, so we know the boys are now in France), and he joins Will and Henry in their quest to avoid Capping and reach the mountains. He says his name is "Zhan-pole," which Henry immediately turns into Beanpole.

**Chap. 5:** Beanpole has a very inquiring mind and is a great scientific speculator; he has been increasingly uneasy about being Capped and losing his inventiveness. He leads Will and Henry to a nearby "Shmand-Fair" (railroad) on which they hitch a long ride. The next day, they arrive at the ruins of one of the great cities of the ancients, which by various clues we recognize as Paris. As the boys make their way through the ruins, they come across a cache of "metal eggs" in a subway; Beanpole discovers that he can make them explode, and insists that they bring some along in their packs. Will begins to resent what he perceives as a growing alliance between Beanpole and Henry and sullenly resists acknowledging his growing signs of illness as the boys leave Paris and forage for food through the countryside. Finally, Will collapses. Henry and Beanpole drag him to an orchard shed, and he awakens in a luxurious room in a castle.

**Chap. 6:** Will learns that he, Henry, and Beanpole were found by the Comtesse de la Tour Rouge, a gentle and compassionate woman. The Comtesse and her lovely daughter Eloise have been caring for Will, while Henry and Beanpole are living with the esquires, boys at the castle who are being trained for knighthood. The boys decide to stay for several weeks, until the upcoming tournament, while Will recovers his strength. Then they will slip away during the confusion and excitement of the knights' tournament, just before the Capping Day when they would be presented. During these

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weeks, Will develops a close friendship with Eloise, who is about his own age, but when he playfully snatches the turban she always wears on her head, he is horrified to discover that Eloise has been recently Capped. Will is further confused when the Comtesse offers to adopt him and make him a member of the nobility. Will sees that the noble people of the Tour Rouge live a happy, gracious, entertaining life, and he is sorely tempted. Would it really be such a bad thing to be Capped and have all doubts vanish? He wonders what it would be like to live in this rich, lovely country, in the castle, with Eloise. Will lets Henry and Beanpole leave the castle without him on the second day of the tournament, promising he will follow them in a day or two.

**Chap. 7:** Eloise is chosen Queen of the Tournament, which makes Will very happy—until Eloise tells him, with radiant happiness, that being queen means going off immediately afterward to serve the Tripods in their city, forever. Eloise's delight in her fate shocks Will to his senses—he must escape to freedom and keep his free and challenging mind. At dawn, Will rides away from the castle and endures a terrifying episode. The motionless Tripod that had been observing the tournament pursues and captures Will, who blacks out. When he comes to, the Tripod is gone. Will is immensely relieved to find that he has not been Capped, and he rides on and rejoins Henry and Beanpole.

**Chap. 8:** The three boys travel through the countryside, foraging for food, growing increasingly uneasy by the fact that each morning or evening a Tripod appears and stations itself nearby.

**Chap. 9:** The boys learn why the Tripod can follow them without seeing them: they discover a tracking button under Will's right arm, implanted by the Tripod that captured Will. Beanpole cuts the button out of Will's flesh. This alerts the Tripod in some way; voicing its hunting call, it begins to pursue the boys. When it has them cornered in a clump of bushes, the boys pull out their hand grenades. Will, carried aloft in the grip of the Tripod's tentacle, tosses his grenade inside the thing's hemisphere. The Tripod is destroyed.

**Chap. 10:** Now a whole group of Tripods pursues the boys, who desperately seek to elude them in a valley. On the brink of capture, the boys find a small crevice underneath an overhanging ridge of rock by a stream. It gives just enough room to conceal them, lying head to toe. The Tripods continue searching the area for two days, then finally give up. The boys continue their journey toward the White Mountains, which are now in sight. In the closing paragraphs of the novel, Will explains that he, Henry, and Beanpole now live in the mountains among the free men, who are "even now preparing to carry the war to the enemy"—an invitation to read the following two books in this trilogy.

### TIME LINE

<b>Novel opens</b>	Capping day for Jack, who has expressed doubts about it.
<b>A month later</b>	Ozymandias arrives in the village, tells Will about the free people in the White Mountains, gives him a map.
<b>Two weeks later</b>	Will and Henry leave Wherton.
<b>Later</b>	Will and Henry arrive in Rumney; Captain Curtis takes them by boat to France.

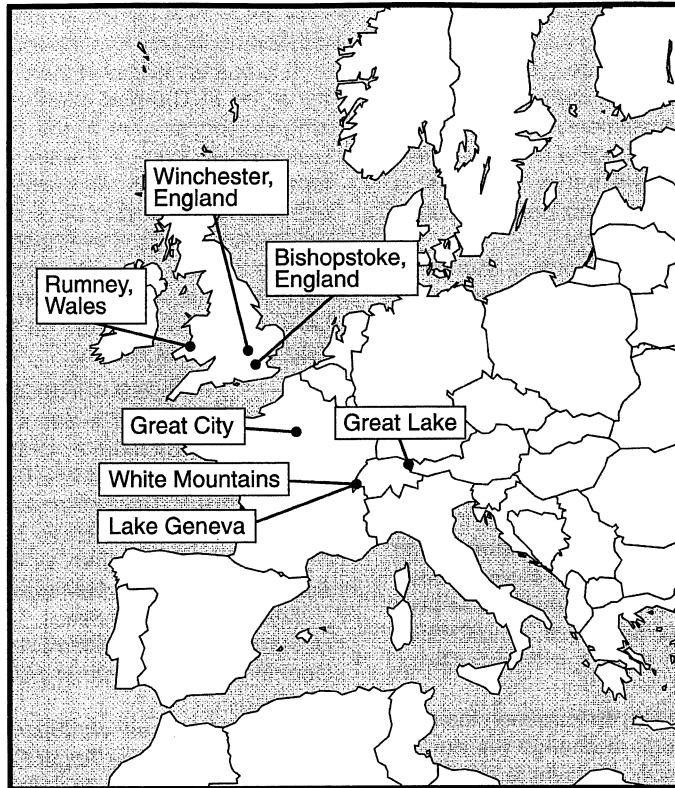
<b>That night</b>	Beanpole frees Will and Henry from capture, joins them on the trip.
<b>Next day</b>	The boys journey through the ruins of Paris.
<b>A few days later</b>	The boys are taken to live at the Chateau de la Tour Rouge.
<b>Several weeks later</b>	The tournament begins.
<b>Tournament, day two</b>	Henry and Beanpole leave the castle.
<b>Tournament, day three</b>	Will leaves the castle, is temporarily captured by a Tripod.
<b>Next six days</b>	Tripod follows boys; Will finally destroys it.
<b>Next two days, nights</b>	Tripods search for the hidden boys.
<b>Next day</b>	Tripods give up search, boys continue on to White Mountains.
<b>Many days later</b>	Boys arrive at White Mountains.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Christopher is one of the pseudonyms of C. S. (Christopher Samuel) Youd, who has had a long and varied writing career producing around seventy novels under a number of different names. He was born in Lancashire, England, in 1922, and moved to Hampshire in 1932 with his family. As a boy, he developed a great passion for science fiction. He left school at the age of sixteen to work in local government and then served in the Royal Signal Corps during World War II. After demobilization, he got a Rockefeller Foundation grant that allowed him to write full-time for a year. Economics then forced him to go to work in the industrial diamond business in order to support his wife and growing brood of children, which soon numbered five. In his spare time, though, he kept on writing, in many different genres, choosing a different pen name for each genre—science fiction, comedy, historical romance, detective thriller, even cricketing. John Christopher was the name Youd selected for his science fiction and children's adventure/sci-fi works. Publication of his adult science fiction novel *The Death of Grass* in 1956 established Youd critically and commercially as a successful author. He became a full-time professional writer in 1958.

In 1966, a publisher suggested that Youd write a science fiction novel for young readers. He rejected the idea at first, but then gave it a try. The result was *The White Mountains*, published in 1967 (after a great deal of rewriting insisted upon by Youd's American publisher, a novel experience for this normally "one-draft" author). Youd followed this successful novel with two others to complete the Tripods trilogy. The success of these books and the stimulation Youd discovered in writing for young readers led him to concentrate almost exclusively on this type of writing from the late 1960s on. He has written two other trilogies involving future human societies and parallel worlds as well as individual novels. In 1988, he published a Tripod prequel, *When the Tripods Came*. His books for children are widely read and praised, but Youd does not speak at conferences and rarely gives interviews. He now has grandchildren and lives in the small coastal town of Rye, where portions of the BBC version of *Tripods* was filmed.

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### CRITIC'S CORNER

Youd himself does not consider his young readers' books to be science fiction, strictly speaking. He calls them "adventure stories involving a study of human reactions to severe environmental stresses," including, in the case of the *Tripods* trilogy, the stress of extraterrestrial entities controlling the minds of human beings. However the books are labeled, they transformed science fiction for children from hack writing to respected genre. Critics admire Youd/Christopher's polished writing style, his development of character, and the thoughtful questions that his novels raise for his readers. The dominant theme of *The White Mountains*, the importance and value of free will, is a recurring one in Christopher novels. Critics and readers alike appreciate this author's storytelling skill. As *Children's Books and Their Creators* sums up, "In a straightforward narrative style, he recounts fantastic yet strangely plausible adventures that always leave his readers spellbound from start to finish." Commenting on *The White Mountains* specifically, *Booklist* found the novel "gripping, provocative science fiction," *Library Journal* called it "strong in action and suspense," and *Horn Book* admired it as a "swift-moving story, which engrosses with its originality and depth."

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To explore characteristics of science fiction novels
2. To consider the possible future characteristics of present-day society
3. To think about the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe and alien life arriving on earth
4. To discuss the value of free will and the ability to think and act for oneself
5. To review aspects of life in medieval times

6. To consider the ways in which life today would be different without modern technologies
7. To identify characteristics of the scientific method and of a scientific mind
8. To discuss ways in which tyrannical rulers can gain control over a submissive population

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the process and results of Capping and the creation of Vagrants
2. To analyze the reasons why Will, Henry, and Beanpole each decide to undertake the hazardous journey to the White Mountains
3. To speculate on the origins and true nature of the Tripods
4. To identify aspects of medieval society in this future world
5. To understand Will's conflict when he is tempted to stay at the castle and his resolution of that conflict
6. To identify traces of our present-day culture that the boys find as well as aspects of present technology that are lacking in this future world
7. To recognize clues that set the action of the novel in England and France
8. To analyze the relationships among the three boys during their journey

### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

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

**fantasy:** a fictional work that departs radically from a real-

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istic depiction of the world as we know it, or as it may become. In a fantasy, readers are expected to accept the seemingly impossible (for example, talking animals). Science fiction and fantasy are closely related genres; each may contain elements of the other. Novels about the future that contain a mix of plausible and unreal elements can be labeled science fantasy. This novel is science fiction rather than fantasy or science fantasy because the future world that is depicted is plausible and could develop from present realities given the arrival of a powerful alien life-form.

**first-person narration:** the telling of a novel or short story in the voice of one of the characters in the novel, giving that person's personal point of view of events. (Sometimes a novel may have more than one first-person narrator.) In this novel, Will relates the events, so we know how he thinks and feels about what happens. To know what other characters think and feel, we must rely on their spoken words and Will's impression of them. Ask the students to consider how the novel would be different in another voice, especially that of an impersonal narrator.

**prequel:** a work of literature, or a movie, presenting events that occur prior to events that occurred in a previously published book, or a previously released movie; these prior events set the stage for the later work. In 1988, John Christopher published a Tripods prequel, *When the Tripods Came*, in response to readers' requests.

**science fiction:** fictional works that speculate on the possibilities of science and technology to change the human experience and society as we know it, or, more generally, imaginative literature that presents plausible events that might take place in the future. A science fiction tale may be a simple adventure story dealing with interplanetary travel or experiences, or alien beings on earth. Science fiction can also be a means of commenting on human nature and society or speculating on theological and ethical matters. *The White Mountains* functions on all these levels.

**theme:** a controlling idea expressed through a work's events. The dominant theme of *The White Mountains* is the importance of free will, the value of choosing to maintain the ability to think and act freely over choosing to abandon one's free mind in exchange for a life of comfort and ease.

**trilogy:** in literature, a set of three interrelated novels or plays. *The White Mountains* is part of Christopher's Tripods trilogy, with the two subsequent novels (*The City of Gold and Lead* and *The Pool of Fire*) continuing the story of the human fight against the Tripods.

### SETTINGS

The novel's action takes us from Will's peaceful country village of Wherton in England across the English Channel to France and on to the Alps of Switzerland. Wherton is a typical rural English village, where Will's father operates a grain mill. Will and Henry travel on foot across the English countryside to a sea-port called Rumney, filled with much bustle and many boats. In France, the boys travel mostly by foot through the French countryside and farmland, foraging for food and keeping out of sight along ridges and in hedgerows and woods when possible. They spend one day traversing the fantastic ruins of Paris, where they are fascinated by the odd things they see in shops and the puzzling remains of cars and the subway. The boys spend several weeks at the Chateau de la Tour Rouge, a French feudal castle complete

with all the necessary outbuildings and knights' quarters. Will lives in luxury in the family quarters of the castle, while Henry and Bearpole stay with the esquires in the knights' quarters.

It is during his stay at the castle that Will is tempted to opt for a life of Capped comfort. During the very medieval knights' tournament at the castle, the boys slip away to resume their journey. For the next week they travel through farmland and rough hill country, followed by the Tripod. They spend two miserable days and nights hiding in a small crevice under a rock overhang by a valley stream. After the Tripod search ends, the boys continue on a sketchily described final leg of their journey, finally arriving at the Great Lake, beyond which they can see a plain fringed by hills and then the White Mountains.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about John Christopher, science fiction, extraterrestrial life, castles, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

R. Allen Brown, *The Architecture of Castles: A Visual Guide*  
Isaac Asimov, *How Did We Find Out About Outer Space?*  
and *How Did We Find Out About the Universe?*

Franklyn M. Branley, *Mysteries of Life on Earth and Beyond*;  
*Mysteries of Outer Space*

Mike Corbishley, *The Middle Ages*

Dennis B. Fradin, *Planet Hunters: The Search for Other Worlds*

Donald R. Gallo, ed. *No Easy Answers: Short Stories About Teenagers Making Tough Choices*.

Susan Greenfield, ed. *The Human Mind Explained: An Owner's Guide to the Mysteries of the Mind*

Patricia Lauber, *Seeing Earth from Space*

Thomas R. McDonough, *The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*

National Geographic Society, *The Alps*

Frank Rottensteiner, *The Science Fiction Book: An Illustrated History*

Carl Sagan, *The Cosmic Connection: An Extraterrestrial Perspective*

Sheila Sancha, *The Luttrell Village: Country Life in the Middle Ages*

Alvin and Virginia Silverstein, *The World of the Brain*

Janice VanCleave. *Janice VanCleave's Constellations for Every Kid: Easy Activities That Make Learning Science Fun*

Martin Windrow, *The Medieval Knight*

Also, consult these web sites:

"The John Christopher Cavern," <<http://www.starpsl.freemove.co.uk/index.html>>

"Linköping Science Fiction Archive: Christopher, John," <[http://sf.www.lysator.liu.se/sf\\_archive/sf-texts/authors/C/Christopher,John.mbox](http://sf.www.lysator.liu.se/sf_archive/sf-texts/authors/C/Christopher,John.mbox)>

"Post-Apocalyptic Books,"

<<http://www.reed.edu/~karl/postapoc/postapoc.html>>

"US Tripods," <<http://www.voicenet.com/~swyss/tripods.html>>

### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *The White Mountains* should include these aspects.

#### Themes

- the importance of free will
- doubts about impending adulthood

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- alien control of a future world
- the quest to reach a free society
- acceptance of responsibility
- docile, mindless acceptance and obedience

### Motifs

- medieval/feudal life
- foraging
- English village life
- rivalry among companions
- pastoralism
- vanished technologies
- temptation
- scientific speculation

### 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. The body of the Watch was of a steel much superior to anything they could make at the forge in Alton. (Chap. 1, p. 2)

My father was in the mill room, grinding. (Chap. 1, p. 3)  
...the road running alongside the river (this giving power for the mill, of course)...(Chap. 1, p. 5)  
*(These are all details given at the beginning of the novel that alert us to the fact that Will lives in a pre- or post-industrial society. Will's father runs a small mill operation to grind grain, and the mill is powered by water, not fuel or electricity. The steel used in this society is produced in a forge, a shop with a furnace used to heat and form metal, rather than an industrial steel mill; the steel made long ago, presumably in an industrial steel mill, is far superior to the steel turned out by this society's forges.)*

2. ...the great hemisphere of gleaming metal rocking through the air above the three articulate legs... (Chap. 1, p. 16)

*(A hemisphere is a half sphere; on the Tripod, this half sphere sits atop three jointed legs. When the Tripod takes a young person for Capping, a tentacle reaches down, curls around the youth's waist, and carries him or her up to and into a hole that opens in the hemisphere. One of the Art activities in the Across the Curriculum section of this guide invites students to create their own illustrations of a Tripod, which may or may not closely resemble the creature shown on the front cover of the book.)*

3. "My name is Ozymandias. Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair." (Chap. 2, p. 24)

*(This are lines from Shelley's poem "Ozymandias," poetic lines that are intentionally ironic, since the poem tells us that these words are inscribed on a pedestal which along with some ruined fragments is all that remains of what once was a colossal statue of the ruler Ozymandias. As the supremely confident and powerful Ozymandias fell from power and his realm disintegrated, so perhaps will the power and control of the Tripods, colossal entities just as the ruined statue of Ozymandias once was. Ozymandias, the pseudo-Vagrant working to undermine the control of the Tripods, has chosen his Vagrant name shrewdly.)*

4. HOT PIES—SIXPENCE....I handed over my shilling and took the two pies. (Chap. 4, p. 60)

*(These are units of English money; a shilling is equal to twelve pence, so two pies at sixpence apiece cost one shilling. The mention of these coins is another clue that this part of the novel is set in England.)*

5. the Shmand-Fair (Chap. 5, p. 78)

*(Beanpole does not know the English word for railroad, so he speaks the French term for it, chemin de fer, literally "road of iron." Will does not know French, so he gives us his literal spelling of the sound he hears when Beanpole says chemin de fer: Shmand-Fair. This is one of the language clues that tells us Will and Henry are now in France.)*

6. Each doubt set loose a score of others. (Chap. 5, p. 83)

*(Much as yielding to one temptation in the matter of the Watch led to more yielded-to temptations, questioning the authority and rights of the Tripods in one way leads the boys to question many ways in which their society is ordered and ruled. The boys no longer take Capping for granted. Now, at this particular moment, they see no reason to accept wanton destruction and killing by the Tripods as the creatures wander around the countryside. Soon they are questioning every aspect of Tripod control of human life.)*

7. It was a cathedral, I guessed, and it looked bigger even than the great cathedral in Winchester. (Chap. 5, p. 100)

*(The boys are looking at the ruins of Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, a cathedral being a very large and impressive church that is a bishop's seat. Both Notre Dame and Winchester are renowned real-life cathedrals. In Will's formerly restricted world, he never dreamed a cathedral could be bigger than the grand one in Winchester, near his home village.)*

8. The Comtesse de la Tour Rouge...called with her retinue....Nine or ten of her ladies were with her, and three knights....also esquires and grooms. (Chap. 6, pp. 113-114)

*(This description suggests that in this section of France, society is ordered on feudal lines. The Countess from the local castle travels through the district from time to time with a large retinue: a group of attendants, servants, and others attached to her household and owing her service, including ladies in waiting, knights, and young esquires, or knights in training.)*

9. The time of the tournament was fast approaching....From morning till night the air rang with the sound of armorers, the tilt yard with cries as the mock jousts went on. (Chap. 6, p. 137)

*(This is a very medieval scene. Tournaments were popular events among the ruling classes of the middle ages, featuring knightly sports such as jousts and tilts. Jousts and tilts were combat on horseback between two knights using blunted lances or swords and trying to unhorse each other. The winner had the honor of receiving a prize from the lady of the tournament. The excitement and disruption of daily routine caused by the tournament at the Chateau de la Tour Rouge allows the boys to slip away without being missed immediately.)*

10. I thought I knew how David had felt when he saw Goliath topple. (Chap. 10, p. 200)



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*(This refers to a story in the Bible. No one in the Israelite army is willing to challenge the gigantic champion of the opposing Philistine army, Goliath, until David, a simple shepherd lad, takes the field. Goliath is fully armored and well-armed; David wears no armor at all and is armed only with a sling and stones. Goliath scorns his puny opponent, but David is highly skilled at killing sheep predators with his sling. He lets fly with a stone that hits Goliath square in the forehead. The giant topples to the ground and David finishes him off with Goliath's own sword. Will feels he has similarly conquered a huge and seemingly impregnable creature when he destroys the Tripod.)*

### 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 (Questions 1-4)

1. Why does Will leave his home village of Wherton and undertake the long and hazardous journey to the White Mountains? How does Henry come to join him? How does Beanpole become part of the group?

*(Just before he is capped, Will's cousin Jack is troubled by questions about what life was like for human beings when they had free minds and could build cities and ships and watches. Jack no longer questions anything after he is Capped, but the questions still plague un-Capped Will, who does not think he wants to lose his ability to think freely and wonder why things are the way they are. Then Ozymandias explains to Will that the Caps allow the Tripods to control people's minds and offers Will an alternative, telling him about a society of free, un-Capped people living in the White Mountains across the sea and to the south. Will decides to go. Soon after, Henry's mother dies and Henry comes to live with Will's family, his relatives. Henry and Will share a bedroom now, so Henry notices when Will slips out the night he sets off on his journey. Henry, too, has had doubts about the Capping and wants to get away from the village, so he insists on coming with Will. In France, Beanpole frees Will and Henry after they are captured; he too wants to avoid Capping, so he does not lose his inventiveness. Traveling with someone who knows the land and speaks the language is a great advantage for Will and Henry, so they are glad to have Beanpole join them.)*

2. What remaining traces of our present-day culture do the three boys encounter?

*(Will's father has both a clock and a Watch, rare remains of human technology. Jack and Will have a secret den in the ruins of an electric-power substation, although they have no idea what this facility with its sign "Danger 6,000 Volts" was once used for. In France, they hitch a ride on a horse-drawn railroad car that runs on the rails once built for fuel-powered railroads. In the ruins of Paris, they encounter many strange things that they cannot quite figure out, such as the remains of cars [carriages not pulled by horses], a subway, guns ["wooden things ending in iron cylinders"], and hand grenades ["metal eggs"]. Traveling through the countryside, they come across an*

*"oddly straight-sided and uniform" river, which Beanpole recognizes as a canal and lock system.)*

3. What are human life and human character like in the future world ruled by Tripods?

*(Human beings' minds and thoughts are completely controlled by the Tripods, who fuse a Cap to the head of every person at the age of 14. Capped people are passive, content with whatever life they lead, unquestioningly subservient to the Tripods, and mindlessly conformist. Children are taught not to question Capping or the Tripods' rule, although doubts seem to creep in during the year before Capping. All doubts and questions vanish as soon as a child is Capped, though. Human society has reverted to the medieval form, with most people living in small villages which they seldom travel far from, or smallish towns. In France, upper-class people live in feudal style, in castles with ladies and knights, tournaments and hunts, embroidery and servants. In this future medieval world, though, Tripods, not human monarchs, are the supreme ruling authority.)*

4. What hazards do the boys face and overcome on their journey?

*(Almost immediately, Will sprains his ankle and has to rest for several days, while Henry successfully forages for food from nearby farms. The Orion is in danger of foundering when the Tripods harass it on the Channel crossing. In France, the local people immediately take Will and Henry prisoner, to be handed over to the Tripods for Capping. Beanpole rescues and joins them. The three boys escape being blown to bits by a hand grenade in the subway tunnel only by accident, when the grenade rolls under a subway car. The boys are again rescued from captors in the French countryside when the Comtesse takes them to the castle. Henry and Beanpole slip away from the castle unnoticed, but Will, after overcoming the temptation to stay permanently and enjoy a life of comfort, is temporarily captured by a Tripod. The rest of their journey to the White Mountains is physically demanding, and the boys must constantly forage for food, which is very difficult at times. When they discover the tracking device and remove it from Will, the Tripod hunts them down, and they just barely manage to destroy the creature. Then the boys must hide in a narrow crevice for several days while a pack of Tripods searches diligently for them. Finally, as the boys approach the mountains, it seems that two Tripods are about to run them down, but the Tripods are engaged in some sort of ritual with one another and ignore the boys. The way to the mountains is now clear.)*

#### Interpretive Level (Questions 5-8)

5. What part do technology and machinery play in the world of the novel?

*(The technology and machinery that became a part of everyday life from the Industrial Revolution on have disappeared. The cities are ruined, the internal combustion engine and electricity are unknown, canals are no longer used or even understood, and a simple wristwatch is considered rare and a marvel of technology. Will's father operates a mill that runs on water power; vehicles, including old railroad cars, are pulled by horses; farming is done by hand. The only advanced machinery in evi-*

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dence is the Tripod itself, which may be a sort of creature or may be a vehicle that carries alien creatures within it. The Tripods have stripped human beings of their control over technology and machinery, and now this alien form of technology/machinery controls people.)

6. What conclusion does Will come to at the end of his stay at the Chateau de la Tour Rouge, and what leads him to that conclusion?

*(Will decides that the most important thing in life is to have a free and challenging mind. He sees that the noble people of the castle lead a life of comfort and ease and seem quite happy, but for him, the benefits of this life are ultimately far outweighed by the fact that these people are all Capped and have no free will or spark of defiance against the ruling Tripods. Will's thinking on this point is reinforced when he discovers that Eloise has been Capped. He then begins to be tempted to yield and accept the castle way of life, but he is shocked back to his former determination when he sees how eager Eloise is to go off to the Tripods' city and serve her masters there forever. Will does not ever want to lose his urge to fight against the Tripods, so he leaves the castle determined once again to find un-Capped freedom in the mountains.)*

7. In what country is Will's home village located, and what clues tell us this?

*(Will's home village of Wherton is in the country we know as England. Wherton and Rumney are very English-sounding names, and Wherton is near an actual British cathedral city, Winchester. The people of Wherton have English-sounding names, and the description of village life is very familiar to readers of fiction set in an England of earlier times. The local noble is Sir Geoffrey, and he is Lord of the Manor, both titles associated with England. The sea the boys cross on the Orion is the Channel, that is, the English Channel, which separates England and France.)*

8. What country do Will, Henry, and Beanpole travel through together on their way to the White Mountains? What clues tell us this?

*(Readers who recognize England as Will and Henry's native land, and the English Channel as the body of water the boys cross, will realize that the boys have probably landed in France. This is reinforced by the way Beanpole speaks—English with a French accent ["mat-air" for "matter"]—and his actual name, "Zhan-pole," or Jean-Paul. Also, the railroad is the Shmand-Fair, which is the way Will hears Beanpole's French for railroad, chemin de fer. The ruined great-city is recognizable as Paris, with its Metro subway and the cathedral of Notre Dame on the island in the Seine River. The headstone in the cemetery is engraved in French, so by the time the boys arrive at the castle, with its French name and Comte and Comtesse and Eloise teaching French words to Will, we know the boys are in France.)*

### Critical Level (Questions 9-12)

9. How is Will's temptation in the first part of the novel paralleled later in the book?

*(In the opening chapter, Will gives in to the temptation to take his father's Watch out of its drawer and examine it closely. Having given in to this temptation, Will does not*

*want to stop; he winds it...then sets the time...then slips it on his wrist...then takes it outside so Jack can see him wearing it. Later, at the castle, Will at first rejects the notion of being adopted by the Comte and Comtesse and giving up his determination to live as a free person. But then he begins to think about what a pleasant life he would lead as a noble person, a member of the castle family. As Will relates, "From the moment the idea ceased to be unthinkable, I could not let it alone." He is drawn more and more strongly to visions of that life, as he had been drawn into more and more disobedience about the watch. Only the shock of Eloise's impending departure to serve the Tripods snaps Will's yielding to the temptation.)*

10. How does Will's style of narrating the tale match the time setting of the novel?

*(Will speaks, or narrates, in a rather old-fashioned style. He does not use contractions, and he uses a rather formal syntax, as in "This, a miniature clock with...a circlet permitting it to be worn on the wrist...There was no other Watch in the village, nor in any of the villages round about." This gives the flavor of an earlier, nonmodern time, which in fact human society has reverted to in this future world.)*

11. How do the three boys' relationships with one another develop and shift in the course of their journey?

*(Will heartily dislikes Henry and does not want him along at first; after Henry helps him and gets food for him while his ankle is sprained, Will begins to feel more accepting of his cousin. After Beanpole joins the group, he and Will talk more to each other than to Henry. By the time the boys reach the ruins of Paris, Will realizes the alliance has shifted; Beanpole and Henry talk more to one another, and Will is the one who's left a bit out of things. This sense is naturally reinforced when the boys stay at the castle, with Henry and Beanpole living together as esquires and Will living luxuriously in the castle proper as a member of the Comte and Comtesse's family. Henry resents Will's status, Beanpole is skeptical that Will is going to continue their quest for the mountains, and Will resents the alliance between the other two. When the boys do resume their journey, and discover the metal tracking button implanted in Will, Henry immediately decides that Will is a traitor who is now controlled by the Tripods, but Beanpole uses his logic to figure out that Will is still on their side. In fact, Beanpole's thoughtful way of figuring things out makes him the group's natural leader. After the fight with the Tripod and their escape from the searching group of Tripods, the boys seem to have achieved a true sense of camaraderie.)*

12. How would you relate Will's doubts about Capping to the doubts of a modern thirteen-year-old approaching maturity?

*(Will's doubts about Capping can be related to adolescent doubts about becoming a part of the adult world, in the sense that teens see adults as adapting to a conformist way of life, no longer questioning the way things are and will be, accepting society as it is and accepting their place in it.)*

### Creative Level (Questions 13-15)

13. What possibilities does the novel suggest about the ori-

## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

gins and actual nature of the Tripods? Give your own scenario about the coming of the Tripods and their takeover of the earth.

*(Scenarios will vary. Ozymandias suggests two possible origins of the Tripods. Either they were machines created by human beings who then revolted and enslaved their former masters, or they are aliens from another planet or solar system.)*

14. What types of social systems in human history, other than feudalism, might serve the Tripods well as a way to control humans?
15. Write a letter from Eloise to Will describing life in the Tripods' city.

### ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

#### Art

1. Create an architectural drawing of a Gothic cathedral, showing the main features such as flying buttresses and explaining their function.
2. Draw or build a model of a feudal castle like the Chateau de la Tour Rouge.
3. Design clothing that the different characters in the novel might wear.
4. Create an illustration of a Tripod as you imagine it might look.

#### History and Social Studies

1. Create a class display of various landmarks and typical scenes of Paris, including Notre Dame and a Metro station.
2. Trace the boys' journey from Wherton to the White Mountains on a map of western Europe.
3. Review details about life and society in medieval times, and identify elements of medieval life that are characteristic of the novel's future world.

#### Language Arts

1. Read Shelley's poem "Ozymandias of Egypt" and explain how the poem relates to the novel.
2. Read the other two books in the Tripods trilogy and see how the boys continue their fight against the Tripods. What new or continuing character traits do the boys exhibit? What happens to Eloise?
3. Read the Tripods prequel, *When the Tripods Came*. Do the origin and nature of the Tripods in this novel resemble your prediction?
4. Translate the various French words, and Anglicized versions of French words, in the novel into English.
5. Prepare to take part in a class discussion on this topic: In what ways does *The White Mountains* fit and/or not fit into the science fiction genre? Would you classify it as an adventure story rather than a science fiction novel?

#### Mathematics

1. Create a table that reduces currencies of different countries to a common value.
2. Calculate the mileage covered by the boys on the different stages of their journey. Figure the average number of miles they might have covered on foot, by Shmand-Fair, on horseback, and by boat, and use these figures to calculate how long each stage of their journey might have taken.

#### Science

1. Create a display that explains how a watch works.

2. Explain the best ways to treat the injuries and illnesses Will suffers: a sprained ankle, fever, and the excision wound.
3. Explain how a compass works, and demonstrate how to use it to find your way.
4. Create a display of the night sky and the various stars, constellations, planets, and other heavenly bodies for a particular month in your locale. Be sure to show the constellation Orion, and tell the legend behind each constellation.
5. Finish Beanpole's speculations about steam power by creating a class display showing the development of steam power and how steam has been used to power machinery. For a science fair, you might demonstrate generation and use of steam power.
6. Use a model to show how a canal/lock system functions.
7. Research and explain how various forms of establishing mind control work.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. View the video of *War of the Worlds* and describe any similarities you see between the Martian machines in that film and the Tripods in *The White Mountains*.
2. View a video of the BBC television version of the *Tripods* trilogy (look for the PBS broadcast video) and discuss plot, characterization, and settings of the television version as compared with the novel.
3. Remember a time when you broke a rule, as Will does when he opens his father's Watch drawer, or when you let yourself think of doing something that should have been unthinkable. Were you tempted further and further into rule-breaking once you began, as Will was? What can interrupt this process?
4. Using local guidebooks, forage in your locality for edible wild foods. (Do not eat anything until your science teacher or another knowledgeable adult says it's edible!) Would you be able to make a trip across your state on foot if you had to rely mostly on wild foods you found along the way? What items would you pack in a simple backpack to bring with you on your trip besides food?
5. If possible, visit a currently operating wind- or water-powered grain mill to learn how grains can be milled with stones, without electricity or fuel-powered systems.
6. Speculate with classmates about why the Tripods have not simply destroyed all human life.
7. Will experiences the sea-port of Rumney partly through its exotic smells. Describe a place you have been to (for example, an amusement park) by its smells.
8. In a short story or essay, describe the changing dynamics of a three-person friendship or companionship you have been part of.
9. Try taking apart and reassembling an old watch or clock.

### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Draw up a character list for the novel. Next to each name, describe the person, tell whether he or she is Capped, and tell what part the person plays in the novel.
2. Explain what the Tripods are, how they control human society, and why Will, Beanpole, and Henry go on their journey to the mountains.
3. Trace Will's emotional journey from naive, unquestioning



## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

child to freedom fighter in the White Mountains.

4. Assess the novel in terms of science fiction, adventure story, and allegory.

### OTHER WORKS BY JOHN CHRISTOPHER (C. S. YOUD)

#### Fiction for Children

The Tripods Trilogy

*The White Mountains* (1967)

*The City of Gold and Lead* (1967)

*The Pool of Fire* (1968)

*The Lotus Caves* (1969)

*The Guardians* (1970)

The Sword of the Spirits Trilogy (Prince in Waiting Trilogy, U.S.)

*The Prince in Waiting* (1970)

*Beyond the Burning Lands* (1971)

*The Sword of the Spirits* (1972)

*Dom and Va* (1973)

*A Figure in Grey* (1973)

*Wild Jack* (1974)

*Empty World* (1978)

The Fireball Trilogy

*Fireball* (1981)

*New Found Land* (1983)

*Dragon Dance* (1986)

*When the Tripods Came* (1988)

*A Dusk of Demons* (1995)

#### RELATED READING

Mildred Ames, *Is There Life on a Plastic Planet?*

Isaac Asimov, ed. *Tomorrow's Children*

Thomas Baird, *Smart Rats*

Nina Bawden, *Off the Road*

Steven Vincent Benet, "By the Still Waters of Babylon"

Ben Bova, *City of Darkness*

Leigh Brackett, *The Long Tomorrow*

Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Martian Chronicles*

Lois McMaster Bujold, *Falling Free*

Karel Capek, *The War with the Newts*

Arthur Clarke, *Childhood's End*; *Expedition to Earth*; and *2001: A Space Odyssey*

David Guy Compton, *The Unsleping Eye*

Robert Cormier, *Fade* and *I Am the Cheese*

Peter Dickinson, Eva, *The Weathermonger*

Gordon R. Dickson, *The Way of the Pilgrim*

Sylvia Engdahl, *Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains*, and *This Star Shall Abide*

Barry Faville, *The Keeper*

David R. Feintuch, *Midshipman's Hope*

James D. Forman, *Doomsday Plus Twelve*

Michael French, *Circle of Revenge*

Mel Glidden, *Outer Space and All That Junk*

Phyllis Gottlieb, *O Master Caliban!*

Steven Gould, *Jumper* and *Wildside*

Robert Heinlein, *Between Planets*, *The Puppet Masters*, *Red Planet*, and *Starship Troopers*

Frank Herbert, *Dune*

H.M. Hoover, *Another Heaven*, *Another Earth*; *The Bell Tree*; and *Return to Earth*

Monica Hughes, *Beyond the Dark River*, *Devil on My Back*, and *The Dream Catcher*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Paul Samuel Jacobs, *Born into Light*

Ray Kytte, *Fire and Ice*

Ursula LeGuin, *The Dispossessed*, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, and *The Word for World Is Forest*

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*

Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Margaret Mahy, *Aliens in the Family*

John Marsden, *Dead of Night*, *A Killing Frost*, and *Tomorrow When the War Began*

John Neufeld, *Sleep Two, Three, Four!*

Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, *Footfall*

Garth Nix, *Slade's Children*

Andre Norton, *Dread Companion* and *High Sorcery*

Robert O'Brien, *Z for Zachariah*

George Orwell, *1984*

Pamela Sargent, *Alien Child*

Neal Shusterman, *The Dark Side of Nowhere*

Robert Silverberg, ed. *Men and Machines*

William Sleator, *House of Stairs*, *Interstellar Pig*, *Singularity*, and *Strange Attractors*

Walter Tevis, *Mockingbird*

John Rowe Townsend, *The Creatures*, *Noah's Castle*, and *The Visitors*

Jules Verne, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*

Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*

H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*

Robert Westall, *Futuretrack 5* and *Urn Burial*

John Wyndham, *The Chrysalids* and *Day of the Triffids*

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## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

### 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. silly         | f. celebrating      | k. old-fashioned   | p. swerve  |
| b. errors, flaws | g. narrow opening   | l. searched around | q. skilled |
| c. all-powerful  | h. wholly absorbed  | m. holding back    | r. useless |
| d. building      | i. flowing together | n. guard & watcher | s. reduce  |
| e. shaking       | j. fully satisfied  | o. weakness        | t. slopes  |

- \_\_\_ 1. She called a greeting to me, and I called back, having first taken care to veer to the other side of the road.
- \_\_\_ 2. It was, we knew, a great experience for everyone who had been Capped; even the Vagrants came and stood in the same rapt silence.
- \_\_\_ 3. I was shivering in earnest now, unable to halt the tremors that ran through my body.
- \_\_\_ 4. I knew that a man impatient of foolishness in others may yet have fallibilities of his own.
- \_\_\_ 5. Ozymandias was talking naturally and sensibly, with none of the strange words and archaic phrases he had used previously.
- \_\_\_ 6. He thrust his head forward, the contraption on his nose looking even more ludicrous and said, "You wish to go to the boat?"
- \_\_\_ 7. The noise of the revelry in the courtyard had long died away.
- \_\_\_ 8. Henry was sitting on me, pinioning my wrists with his hands.
- \_\_\_ 9. We stayed in the hut, and twice more Henry went down into the valley and foraged for food.
- \_\_\_ 10. In the case of up gradients on the Shmand-Fair, the horses had to pull against the drag.
- \_\_\_ 11. Eventually we more or less gave up looking in the shops, in part because our curiosity was sated.
- \_\_\_ 12. We picked a substantial-looking edifice and went up to the first floor.
- \_\_\_ 13. It had been Beanpole's idea that this would allay suspicion so that, even if they kept us prisoner, they would not put too strong a guard on us.
- \_\_\_ 14. The Chateau de la Tour Rouge stands on high ground, overlooking a confluence of two rivers.
- \_\_\_ 15. I knew how to ride, after a fashion, and I soon became proficient.
- \_\_\_ 16. A line of trees partly shielded this path from the view either of the castle or the metal giant who stood sentinel.
- \_\_\_ 17. In themselves the mountains seemed to challenge the metal monsters who strode, unchecked and omnipotent, over the lower lands.
- \_\_\_ 18. We lost sight of them at once, but that was small consolation, realizing the puniness of the best speed we could manage in comparison with theirs.
- \_\_\_ 19. We snuggled ourselves into the crevice, in line, head to toe.
- \_\_\_ 20. I waited for a tentacle to reach down and seize me, conscious less of fear than of a futile anger.

## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

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

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. The Chateau de la Tour Rouge is a (village, ruined city, castle, mountain).
2. The metal eggs that the boys find are (hand grenades, bowling balls, Tripod eggs, time capsules).
3. Aristide is a (Tripod, horse, boat, knight).
4. The Tripod is able to follow the boys because of a (Cap, scent, tracking button, watch) it has implanted in Will.
5. Will's home village is located in the country formerly known as (Belgium, Switzerland, France, England).
6. Every young person in this future world becomes Capped at the age of (12, 13, 14, 16).
7. Will and Henry fight over possession of Will's father's greatest treasure, a (Watch, Tripod, mill, computer).
8. The goal of Will, Henry, and Beanpole's journey is the (sea, mountains, island, city).
9. Will's home town is named (Rumney, Paris, Winchester, Wherton).
10. In the ruined great city, the boys explore an underground Shmand-Fair, which is an ancient (subway, canal, highway, escalator).
11. The ruined great-city is (London, Winchester, Paris, New York).
12. The boys find their way to the White Mountains guided by (a compass, a map, their instinct, secret signs along the way).
13. The name of Captain Curtis's ship is the (*Orion*, *Black Swan*, *Guillaume*, *Rumney*).
14. A person who turned into a Vagrant is (the carpenter's son, Mr. Parker's older brother, Aunt Lucy, a farmer's wife).
15. The boys finally escape the Tripods by hiding in a (tavern, castle, crevice, mill).

#### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Explain the meaning of each aspect of the novel listed below and the part each plays in the novel's events.

1. Capping
2. Vagrants
3. Tripods
4. Shmand-Fair
5. Tournament

## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

### Part III: 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.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| ___ 1. A perfectly sane man who acts like a Vagrant               | a. Will            |
| ___ 2. A French boy with a very scientific and inquiring mind     | b. Henry           |
| ___ 3. A young person who wears a blue turban at all times        | c. Jack            |
| ___ 4. A cousin who is Will's best friend, until he is Capped     | d. Beanpole        |
| ___ 5. A cousin whom Will has always disliked intensely           | e. Ozymandias      |
| ___ 6. A man who takes Will and Henry to a foreign land           | f. Captain Curtis  |
| ___ 7. The son of a miller who destroys a Tripod                  | g. the Comtesse    |
| ___ 8. A gentle, kind, compassionate adult member of the nobility | h. Eloise          |
| ___ 9. The lord of the manor in which Will lives                  | i. Marianne Louise |
| ___ 10. Dies at the age of 13                                     | j. Sir Geoffrez    |

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What possible origins does the novel suggest for the Tripods? What exactly is a Tripod?
2. Why do Will, Henry, and Beanpole each decide to make the hazardous journey to the White Mountains?
3. What happens at the Chateau de la Tour Rouge?
4. In what ways does this future world resemble human societies of the past?
5. What encounters do Will, Henry, and Beanpole have with Tripods?
6. How are Will, Beanpole, and Henry alike, and in what ways are they different?

## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Read each quotation. In the list below, find the character who speaks the words. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the quotation number. You may use some answers more than once and some not at all.

- |          |             |                   |                 |             |
|----------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| a. Will  | c. Jack     | e. Ozymandias     | g. the Comtesse | i. Romney   |
| b. Henry | d. Beanpole | f. Captain Curtis | h. Eloise       | j. Aunt Ada |

- \_\_\_ 1. "Keep under cover, avoid all contact with the people. They speak a different language, remember."
- \_\_\_ 2. "I'll give you a day to get clear, two perhaps. I'll follow. I'll try to catch up with you."
- \_\_\_ 3. "Steam. It rises. Also it pushes. If one made a lot of steam—like a very big kettle—and pushed the carriages from behind?"
- \_\_\_ 4. "You are not noble, but nobility can be granted. There will be no difficulty about this, Guillaume."
- \_\_\_ 5. "In a way, I almost hope it doesn't work. I'm not sure I wouldn't rather be a Vagrant."
- \_\_\_ 6. "I know you're running away. You must be, with that pack. What I'm saying is, I want to come with you."
- \_\_\_ 7. "This is called a map. The Capped do not need them, so you have not seen one before. It tells you how to reach the White Mountains."
- \_\_\_ 8. "When you are Capped, you will understand....I am so happy. So happy!"
- \_\_\_ 9. "There is a herb which heals wounds. I will look for it on the way."
- \_\_\_ 10. "The *Orion* is owned by one of us."
- \_\_\_ 11. When the tournament is over, the Queen goes to serve the Tripods."
- \_\_\_ 12. "I'll give you a fireman's lift."
- \_\_\_ 13. "You are not a Vagrant!"
- \_\_\_ 14. "The Caps are the means by which the Tripods keep men docile and obedient to them."
- \_\_\_ 15. 'Because of the ..."—what he said sounded like *Shmand-Fair*—"I do not know your name of it."

#### Part II: Settings (20 points)

What part does each of these places play in the events of the novel?

1. the ruins of the great-city
2. the Chateau de la Tour Rouge
3. Wherton
4. the White Mountains
5. the sea-port of Rumney

## THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. Capping causes a person to lose her or his (memory, free will, emotions, sense of family).
2. When Will sets out on his journey, he is (ten, twelve, thirteen, fifteen) years old.
3. Before he leaves home, Will has always lived in the (town, great-city, sea-port, castle) of Wherton.
4. People for whom the Capping has failed are called (Wizards, Tripods, Vagrants, Knights).
5. Eloise is chosen Queen of (France, England, the Tripods, the Tournament).
6. After they cross the sea, the boys travel through the country of (England, France, Switzerland, Spain) to reach the White Mountains.
7. Beanpole's real name is (Jacques, Guillaume, Jean-Paul, Henri).
8. Eloise always wears a blue (turban, cap, scarf, wig) on her head.
9. The boys stay at the castle while Will recovers from a (sprained ankle, fever, broken arm, case of measles).
10. For most of their journey, the three boys travel (on foot, on the Shmand-Fair, on horseback, by boat).

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What is Capping, and what effect does it have on a person?
2. In what ways is Ozymandias not really a Vagrant?
3. What unpleasant encounters do Will, Henry, and Beanpole have with Tripods?
4. How are Will, Beanpole, and Henry alike, and in what ways are they different?



**THE WHITE MOUNTAINS**

**ANSWER KEY**

**VOCABULARY TEST**

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

**COMPREHENSION TEST A**

**Part III: Word Choice (30 points)**

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. castle          | 9. Wherton                     |
| 2. hand grenades   | 10. subway                     |
| 3. horse           | 11. Paris                      |
| 4. tracking button | 12. a map                      |
| 5. England         | 13. <i>Orion</i>               |
| 6. 14              | 14. Mr. Parker's older brother |
| 7. Watch           | 15. crevice                    |
| 8. mountains       |                                |

**Part II: Short Answer (30 points)**

Answers will vary.

**Part I: Matching (20 points)**

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

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Answers will vary.

**COMPREHENSION TEST B**

**Part I: Matching (30 points)**

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

**Part II: Settings (20 points)**

Answers will vary.

**Part III: Word Choice (20 points)**

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. free will      | 6. France    |
| 2. thirteen       | 7. Jean-Paul |
| 3. town           | 8. turban    |
| 4. Vagrants       | 9. fever     |
| 5. the tournament | 10. on foot  |

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Answers will vary.



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