Comprehension Questions - Chapter 5

The children enter the warmth and safety of Hepzibah Green’s kitchen where they see Albert Sandwich. The gobbling noise was made by Mister Johnny Gotobed who has difficulty talking. Nick soon makes friends with him. When they fetch the goose together, Albert tells Carrie what he has learnt about the house and family. He shows her a skull and asks Hepzibah to tell the story of the curse that goes with it. Mister Johnny walks the children part of the way home. Having seen how lovely it was at Druid’s Bottom, the Evans’ house seems much bleaker.

1. Hepzibah is described as having copper hair. What other word could you use to describe this colour? (Page 57/46/63)

2. What did Albert mean when he said, “It’s lucky I was sent here or I’d be pushing up daisies.” (Page 61/49/68)

3. On the second page of chapter 5, the author writes some of the words in italics. Choose one and explain why the author has done this.

4. What three pieces of evidence are there that Albert adores books? (Page 62/49-50/68-69)

5. What evidence is there, in chapter 5, that food is plentiful at Druid’s Bottom?

6. Why does Albert Sandwich think the story of the African boy is untrue? (Page 63/50/70)

7. Why does Carrie refer to Albert as ‘Albert Clever Sandwich’? (Page 68/54/75)

8. At the end of chapter 5, why did Carrie tell Nick to pull himself together?

9. What differences between Carrie and Albert do we learn in this chapter?

Answers

1. Red, auburn or ginger hair.

2. It means that had he not been sent to Hepzibah’s he would be dead.

3. Eg. Slow – to emphasise Carrie’s need for the woman to hurry up and shut the door.

4. He shows Carrie the library and says, “Marvellous isn’t it!”

He tells Carrie that only he uses it.

He says that he likes to read to Mrs Gotobed.

He is surprised that Carrie doesn’t read and asks what she does do.

5. In the dairy, there was lots of food – eggs, butter, milk, goose

When Carrie and Albert went for tea, the table was laden with food – mince pies, milk, ham, bread, butter.

6. He thinks it’s untrue because it had 16 teeth in its top jaw meaning its wisdom teeth must have come through. As you don’t get wisdom teeth till at least 18, it couldn’t be a child’s. Also, the sutures have joined up so couldn’t have been a child.

7. She’s annoyed that he’s clever and using his facts to disprove a lovely story.

8. So Nick wouldn’t get into a state as they were arriving home.

9. Albert is very mature. Carrie probably acts her age. We know that Albert is very knowledgeable. He reads lots of books and likes to be right. He’s not interested in stories that possibly aren’t true. Carrie, on the other hand, likes the story behind the skull. She’s not particularly interested in reading and thinks the library is boring.