

Of the Wing: The Legend Awakes

Vocabulary and Discussion

Chapter 1: Strange Encounters

Vocabulary

Allegheny Front p.1 — An area of rounded, linear hills (and valleys) that gradually climb in elevation to reach the Allegheny Plateau. (See map):

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/map13/map13.aspx>

obsess p 2 — (verb) to think about something constantly

warbler p 2 — (noun) small songbirds

flora and *fauna* p 2 — (nouns) Latin words for *plants* and *animals* of a given region

taunt p 3 — (verb) to tease in an unkind way

List below any additional words new to your vocabulary:

Discussion

- 1) In what ways is Claire different from other children her age?
- 2) In what ways is Claire similar to other children her age?
- 3) What are Claire's secrets?
- 4) At midnight, outside her bedroom window, Claire saw Jerry by the pond with a beagle. Imagine possible reasons for his being there.

Chapter 2: Twice Named

Vocabulary

enthrall p 18 — (verb) to be irresistibly drawn

intonation p 18 — (noun) rising and falling tones in a voice

adjacent p 21 — (adj) bordering

querulous p 21 — (adjective) a whining quality

phantom p 23 — (noun) ghost

List any additional words new to your vocabulary below:

Discussion

- 1) Explain the chapter title “Twice Named.”
- 2) Is Victor’s reaction to Claire’s news (about seeing Jerry by the pond) reasonable? Why or why not?
- 3) Why does Billy call Claire “Bird Brain”?
- 4) Why was Claire upset to learn that Victor plays video games with Billy? Consider as many reasons as you can.

Chapter 3: The Widow's Warning

Vocabulary

diversion p 27 — (noun) a distraction or entertainment

vexing p 28 — (adj) worrying or bothersome

Narcissus p 30 — (Proper Noun) Claire names the cardinal, who loves to look at himself in her hand mirror, Narcissus after a character in Greek mythology who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water.

infatuation p 30 — (noun) a romantic interest in someone

obligingly p 30 — (adv) helpfully

List any additional words new to your vocabulary below:

Discussion

- 1) Why is Claire angry with her mother?
- 2) After Sammy runs off into the woods, Claire considers an explanation for the Chicken Man's visit to her pond. What is it? Did you consider this explanation as well?
- 3) Why does Claire feel like an imposter when she stares at herself in the bedroom mirror?
- 4) What is the widow's warning? Do you think the widow meant this warning or was she simply being disagreeable?

Chapter 4: Chasing the Chicken Man

Vocabulary

asphalt p 35 — (noun) blacktop surface of a road

interrogate p 36 — (verb) to question someone actively

warily p 40 — (adv) cautiously

marauder p 43 — (noun) a raider; someone who takes what he or she wants, even violently

List any additional words new to your vocabulary below:

Discussion

- 1) Why does Victor ignore his mother's rules?
- 2) Explain Claire's interest in the video game Flight Fever.
- 3) Why does Victor say that crows are "stupid"?
- 4) Why is Big Red, the female Red-tailed Hawk, a local legend?
(There is more than one reason.)
- 5) What part does Claire play in this legend?

Chapter 5: A Horrible Discovery

Vocabulary

momentum p 53 — (noun) a compelling force that moves you forward, physically or mentally

surly p 57 — (adj) rude or ill tempered

manila envelope p 58 — (adj) beige envelope

enticing p 59 — (adj) tempting

List any additional words new to your vocabulary below:

Discussion

- 1) Describe the widow's odd preoccupation with a certain element of appearance.
- 2) Identify a scene where first Billy and then Claire are terribly angry. Compare and comment on how they handle that anger.
- 3) What is the "horrible discovery"?
- 4) Claire sees Wild Turkeys on the way home from the widow's. What detail in the scene tells you that she expected this encounter?
- 5) Why doesn't Victor tell Claire his Cochiti name? Consider many different reasons.

Chapter 6: Midnight Rescue

Vocabulary

waning moon p 61 — (adj) after the full moon when the illuminated surface area begins to decrease

macadam p 62 — (noun) a kind of hard road surface

ramshackle p 62 — (adj) broken down

immobilized p 64 — (adj) not mobile; not moving

complacent p 66 — (adj) comfortable with the status quo

imperceptible p 66 — (adj) too faint for the senses to perceive

antics p 68 — (noun) playful, careless behavior

List any additional words new to your vocabulary below:

Discussion

- 1) What is Claire trying to prove by walking Moon Doggy at midnight?
- 2) After freeing Big Red from the trap, Claire is led deeper into the woods by Moon Doggy. Why didn't she simply turn around and go home?
- 3) At the campfire, Claire tells Jerry that Clyde Hollow probably set the trap for Big Red. Do you agree with her? If so, why?
- 4) About her yellow-gold eyes, Jerry tells Claire, "So you're different. Thank God and stop being silly." Do you think this comment from Jerry was helpful or hurtful to Claire? Why?