

THE THIRTEEN CLOCKS

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THE THIRTEEN CLOCKS

Synopsis

A different twist of a fairy tale. All the needed characters are in this story. The princess who wants to meet her prince, and the mean Duke whose heart is as cold as ice, and a prince to save the princess. The Duke of course wants to marry the Princess. The Duke planned impossible tasks for the princes that wanted to marry the princess and they never succeed. Along comes a man who is a prince but hides himself in rags. The Duke sets the usual hard tasks but this prince in rags is able to perform it and win the hand of the princess. The prince and princess leave for Ever After. The imaginary words, some rhyming - some not add to the enchantment of this tale.

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LESSON 1

Chapters I-II

1. Why does the Duke always wear gloves?
2. List at least three tasks the Duke has given to suitors that came for the princess.
3. Who is the wandering minstrel, Xingu?
4. What is a suitor? "... planning new impossible feats for the suitors of Saralinda."
5. Pick one of the made-up words the author uses and tell what you think it means.
6. What do you think the Golux is?

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LESSON 2

Chapters III

1. What faults did the Golux's father and mother have?

Father -

Mother -

2. How did the Golux find out who the minstrel was?

3. What was the job of the Todal?

4. What does "guile" mean? "I do not like your tricks and guile."

5. How is the minstrel going to trick the Duke into giving him the tasks he wants?

6. Do you like the language the author uses? Why or why not?

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LESSON 3

Chapters IV - V

1. How did the Duke find out who the minstrel really was?
2. The Prince has nine and ninety hours to complete his tasks. How long is that in days and hours?
3. Saralinda always say, "I wish him well." Why does she say that?
4. What does "ludicrous" mean? "...for I am ludicrous and laughable..."
5. How do the prince and the Golux know which way to travel in search of the needed jewels?
6. Why do you think Golux acted as LISTEN to the Duke?
7. Which character in the story would you most like to be? Why?

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LESSON 4

Chapters VI - VII

1. Hagga wasn't 88 or dying. How old did she appear to be?
2. Hagga use to cry jewels. Now what does she do to make jewels?
3. How did Saralinda really come to live at the Duke's castle?
4. Put the following in the correct order.
 - _____ A strange something came trotting down the stairs.
 - _____ Hark and the Duke return to the oak room.
 - _____ A purple ball bounces down the stairs.
 - _____ The guards leave the clocks to go upstairs.
5. What makes the Duke think the Golux and Listen are the same person?
6. Do you think Hark likes the Duke? Explain your answer.

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LESSON 5

Chapters VIII - Epilogue

1. The Duke's guards leave the room of clocks. Where did they go?
2. Who does Hark turn out to really be?
3. Why does Hark stay behind when Zorn and Saralinda leave?
4. What does "tittered" mean? "The Golux who had never tittered, tittered."
5. What do you think happened to the Duke? Explain your answer.
6. Describe the part of the story you liked best. Why did you like it?

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. The Duke always wears gloves because he's cold in every way.
2. A place too high to reach, a thing too far to find, a burden too heavy to lift, to cut a slice of the moon, or change the ocean to wine, finding things that never were, and building things that could not be are named as tasks given to previous suitors. (Only 3 need to be listed.)
3. The wondering minstrel was really Zorn of Zorna the son of a King.
4. A suitor is a man who wants to marry a woman.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. Father - tried spells but lacked concentration
Mother - mediocre witch
2. A traveler told Golux who the minstrel really was.
3. The job of the Todal was to swallow up people who failed at their jobs.
4. Guile means deceitful or crafty.
5. The Duke was tricked into giving the minstrel the task he wants by pretending he doesn't want the task the Duke gives.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 3

1. Hark told the Duke who the minstrel really was.
2. Nine and ninety hours are 4 days and 3 hours.
3. Saralinda always says, "I wish him well," because a witch cast a spell on her.
4. Ludicrous means ridiculous.
5. The prince and Golux know which way to travel because Saralinda gave them a magic rose.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. Hagga appears to be 38 or 39.
2. When Hagga laughs she makes jewels.
3. Saralinda came to Live at the Duke's castle after he stole her.
4. The correct order is 2, 4, 1, and 3.
5. When Hark describes Listen, the Duke thinks the Golux and Listen are the same person.
6. Hark doesn't like the Duke. Explanations will vary.

LESSON 5

1. The Duke's guards are all locked in the tower upstairs.
2. Hark is really a servant of King Gwain of Yarrow. King Gwain is Saralinda's father.
3. Hark stays behind because the witches spell on him says he must stay a fortnight after the couple leaves.
4. Tittered means laughed or giggled.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.