

MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE

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Synopsis

Paul and his sister Maureen want to have a horse of their own. They believe that at the next Pony Penning Day when the wild horses are rounded up, they will catch the Phantom. They don't worry that the Phantom has escaped the men for the last two round-ups. Young Paul still believes he can capture the horse. Paul and Maureen work numerous odd jobs to earn enough money to be able to buy the Phantom after the it's capture. Paul is sent after a straggler on round-up day and it turns out to be the Phantom and her new colt. Much to everyone's surprise Paul beings Phantom and her baby in.

Paul and his sister are able to train the colt and even Phantom a little. Paul is able to ride Phantom and enter the race the following year on Pony Penning Day. The horse wins a prize of twelve dollars. But the pride Paul and his family and the townspeople feel is the true reward. Shortly thereafter The Pied Piper, the leader of the wild horses, comes for Phantom. Although it's a hard decision the children let her go where she will be happy. The young horse Misty happily stayed with the children.

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LESSON 1

Chapters 1 - 3

1. How is the time period in Part 1 different from the time period in Part 2?
2. In what time of the year does Part 2 begin? Give examples from the story that support your answer.
3. What does "scoffed" mean?
"Her? Scoffed Paul, his eyes never leaving the herd."
4. Why do you think the author included the story in Part 1?
5. People kept trying to catch the Phantom. What do you think made them want to catch her?
6. If you were in this story would you want to catch and buy the Phantom? Explain why or why not.

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LESSON 2

Chapters 4 - 6

1. What does Grandpa say about the Spanish galleon story being true?
2. Describe three jobs Paul and Maureen do to raise the money.
3. What does "mirage" mean? "They were chasing a mirage."
4. What does it mean to gentle a horse?
5. Paul tells Grandpa that he is going to catch the Phantom. Grandpa doesn't laugh at Paul even though other grown men have tried to catch the horse and failed. Why do you think Grandpa didn't laugh at Paul?
6. How did Paul happen to be the one who caught Phantom?

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LESSON 3

Chapters 7 - 10

1. Why don't the horseback riders take the ponies across the channel after they have rounded them up?
2. What is the reason one man is announcing what is happening to the horses in the channel?
3. The Phantom wanted to protect her baby when the horses got to land. What did she do?
4. How did the colt get the name of Misty?
5. How do you think the men felt when the young boy brought in Phantom? Explain why you think that.

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LESSON 4

Chapters 11 - 14

1. Who is Black Comet?
2. Misty and Phantom are missing at the beginning of the storm. Where does Paul find them?
3. A family bought Phantom and Misty. Then they change their minds and no longer want the horses. Why don't they want them any more?
4. What happens to the wild horses that are not sold?
5. How do you think Paul and Maureen felt when they found out Phantom and Misty had been sold? Using examples from the story explain why you think that.
6. What part of training a wild horse do you think would be the hardest? Why do you think that?

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LESSON 5

Chapters 15 - 18

1. What is a pully bone?
2. How much money did Phantom win for winning the race?
3. Who came to look for Phantom?
4. Do you think Phantom was happy living on the ranch? Explain why you think that using examples from the story?
5. Describe how you would feel if you were Maureen and you just found out you weren't riding the horse in the race.
6. If you were Paul, would you have let Phantom go? Explain your answer.

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. Part 1 is history from a long time ago when there were Spanish galleons (ships) bringing items to the new world. Part 2 is more recent. People live in houses, have trucks, and go children go to school.
2. This story begins in spring - they go over to the island to check out how the animals had done over the winter. The children were still in school.
3. Scoffed means an expression of scorn, to mock or jeer.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. Grandpa said the story was true. That legends had parts of the truth in them.
2. The children had a variety of jobs. They tame horse, caught and sold crabs, gathered and sold oysters, and raked and gathered clams.
3. A mirage is something that seems to be real but is not.
4. To gentle a horse is to tame it so it can be ridden.
5. Answers will vary.
6. The other riders were trying to get rid of Paul so they sent him after a straggler. The straggler happened to be Phantom and her colt.

LESSON 3

1. The horseback riders don't bring the horses back across the channel for several reasons. The horses are already tired and it's tradition for the boatmen to herd them across the channel.
2. The reason one man is doing all the announcing is because he is the only one with binoculars who can see what is going on.
3. The Phantom protects her baby by carefully standing over it so the running horses won't step on the baby.
4. Colt got her name from Paul who thought she looked like mist with the sun shining on it.
5. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. Black Comet is a horse from Pocomoke that has won the Pony Penning race for the last three years.
2. Grandpa had moved Misty and Phantom to his truck before the storm broke out, and that is where Paul found them.
3. The family that bought Misty and Phantom no longer want the two horses because they won a different horse that day and the boy liked the horse that was won better.
4. The horses that are not sold are allowed to swim back over to the island of Assateague.
5. Paul and Maureen would have been sad to learn of the sale of Misty and Phantom. Explanations will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. A pully bone is the wishbone from a hen.
2. The winner of the horse race received twelve dollars.
3. The Pied Piper, who was the leader of the wild horses, came to look for Phantom.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.