PEPPERMINTS IN THE PARLOR

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Synopsis

Emily is going to live with her Aunt and Uncle at Sugar Hill hall after the death of her parents. The beautiful house and happy family are not as she remembered. The house has become a home for older people and is run by a Mrs. Meeching and Mrs. Plumly. Emily wonders what has happened but the mystery is just beginning for her. Kipper, who brings fresh fish to the house from town become friends with Emily. Emily tries to bring a little happiness to the older people living at Sugar Hill Hall. She buys them supplies with which they can paint and carve. She also shares her kitten, Clarabell. Trouble brews when the projects are found and Emily is locked in the Remembrance Room. The mystery continues to unfold when Emily hears voices under the room she is in. With Kipper’s help they explore a previously unknown tunnel and discover it connects the house to the local tavern. Luck turns their way when a partner to Mrs. Meeching and Mrs. Plumly helps them out. He first identifies that Emily is an heiress and not broke and shows her the papers that say so. Secondly, he clears the name of Emily’s missing uncle. The mystery is solved, Mrs. Meeching and Mrs. Plumly are captured and Emily’s aunt and uncle are reunited.
1. Why is Emily going to live with her Aunt and Uncle Twice?

2. What makes Emily think that her Aunt is playing a joke on her?

3. What would a person have done to get locked up in the Remembrance Room?

4. Emily’s father said she was, “Thin as a thread, strong as a wire.” How does that describe Emily?

5. How would you feel if some cut a huge chunk out of your hair?

6. Why do you think Emily did not want to open her bag in front of Tilly?
1. List 3 of the chores Emily does in a day.

2. What makes Kipper so noticeable?

3. Why was Kipper surprised that it was Mrs. Poovey who had taken peppermints?

4. Emily was beginning to like Kipper, but he did something that made her angry. What was it?

5. Emily sings to cheer herself up while she works. What is something you do or could do to make your work go faster?

6. Do you think Mrs. Loops wants to live at Sugar Hill Hall? What in the story makes you think that?
1. Why does Emily go into Mrs. Meeching’s room?

2. Emily hasn’t been able to eat much of the food. What is Kipper’s solution?

3. What evidence is there that the fish syrup is starting to work?

4. Put the following events in order:
   _____ Kipper brings the kitten
   _____ Mrs. Plumly invites Emily in to her room to have some little cakes
   _____ Emily sees the sea captain on the stairway

5. Do you think Kipper will be a trusted friend or an enemy to Emily? What in the story makes you think that?

6. Why does Kipper say Emily will cause his hair to get gray?
1. Kipper doesn’t want Emily to tell him where her gold coins are. What reason does he give?

2. Why was Emily sent to the Remembrance Room?

3. How did Tilly prove to Emily that she wasn’t the one that told?

4. What does “addled” mean? “…you’ll say I’m addled again.”

5. Why was Emily so surprised to see that Aunty Plum was the real one who was causing all the misery?

6. What would you have found to be the most terrifying if you were walking through the dark tunnel with Emily and Kipper?
1. What did Emily find in the treasure room that made her so happy?

2. What was the secret weapon that Kipper had given everyone in their bags?

3. Why might Kipper have thought the old ones wouldn’t be much help in stopping the mean and dangerous Mrs. Plumly and Mrs. Meeching?

4. What does “staunchly” mean?
   “You don’t know any such thing,” said Kipper staunchly.

5. Kipper was always a good friend to Emily. Describe something that he did in the story that showed he was a good friend.

6. Describe something you have done that showed you were a good friend.
LESSON 1
1. Emily is going to live with her Aunt and Uncle because her parents died.
2. Emily thinks her aunt is playing a joke on her because the aunt is acting so different than Emily remembers. He aunt is not her happy self.
3. Taking peppermints was grounds for being locked in the Remembrance Room.
4. Answers may vary. Thin as a thread – Emily is small, strong as a wire – although small she is strong and tough.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary. Emily may have thought that the valuables in her bag might tempt Tilly to take things or tell Mrs. Meeching she had valuables.

LESSON 2
1. Emily does many chores each day. She washes dishes, mops floors, empties slop jars, makes up the beds, dusts and sweeps, serves food, sets the table, and does the laundry.
2. What makes Kipper so noticeable is his bright curly, red hair and ruddy cheeks.
3. Kipper was surprised that Mrs. Poovey had taken the peppermint because she hadn’t said a word since she had come to Sugar Hill Hall.
4. Emily was beginning to like Kipper until he dropped his newspaper on the floor and made a mess where she had just cleaned.
5. She most likely doesn’t want to be there. Evidence may differ.

LESSON 3
1. Emily goes into Mrs. Meeching’s room to pick up a peppermint that Mr. Bottle dropped.
2. Kipper gives Emily fish syrup to help with her appetite.
3. The fish syrup appears to be working because Emily is eating more and so are the old people.
4. The correct order is 3, 2, and 1.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers may vary. People often say that when something or someone males them worry they will turn gay. Emily often does things that make Kipper worry about her safety.
LESSON 4
1. Kipper says if he doesn’t know and things go wrong, he won’t be blamed.
2. Emily was sent to the Remembrance room for helping the older people.
3. Tilly proved that she wasn’t the one who told by not drowning the kitten.
4. Addled means to be confused.
5. Emily was surprised because Aunty Plum had acted nice towards her.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5
1. Emily was happy because she found her mother’s pearl necklace that was missing.
2. The secret weapon was peppermints.
3. Answers may vary. Kipper might have thought that the old people were not very strong and wouldn’t be able to stop Mrs. Plumly and Mrs. Meeching.
4. Staunchly means in a firm or strong way.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.