

# HELP! I'M A PRISONER IN THE LIBRARY

By Eth Clifford

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### Synopsis

Trapped for the night in a library during a blizzard, Mary Rose and her sister JoBeth must content with a blackout, strange noises, and their frightened imaginations. They try calling the police for help but are mistaken for pranksters. The strange noise they hear upstairs turns out to be the owner Miss Finton, who is injured. During their time together, the girls come up with a plan to save Miss Finton's library, which is being replaced by a newer one. The plan is to turn it into a museum with all the storybook figures she has. After the storm subsides, the girls are found and reunited with their father, who had been looking for them. He is glad they are safe, and the local cameraman records a happy ending to a story day.

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## LESSON 1

### Chapters 1 - 2

1. Where were Mary Rose and JoBeth going in the car with their father?
2. Why did the girls get out of the car even though their father had told them not to?
3. What happened that scared the girls when they were in the library?
4. What is a hack?  
"Only then it was called a kid hack."
5. Why didn't Miss Finton let Mr. Onetree in the library?
6. How do you think Mr. Onetree felt when he got back to the car and his daughters were gone?

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## LESSON 2

### Chapters 3 - 4

1. Why aren't the phones working?
2. Who was speaking to the children and saying, "What's your name?"
3. What kind of food did they find in the librarian's desk?
4. What does the idiom "make you skin feel crawly" mean?
5. Put these events in the correct order:
  - A. Making a sign for the window
  - B. The moaning from upstairs
  - C. Meeting the talking bird
6. Why did the policemen hang up on the girls?
7. Why did Mary Rose want to go upstairs?

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## LESSON 3

### Chapters 5 - 6

1. Climbing the stairs reminded Mary Rose of what?
2. Who was the figure that they could barely make out in the dark, at the landing by the window?
3. What did the girls do to help the librarian?
4. What is a hearth?
5. Is JoBeth a cheerful or a gloomy person? Explain your answer.
6. As Vilmor Finton started to wake up, what made her faint again?

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## LESSON 4

### Chapters 7 - 9

1. Why is Miss Finton's library being closed?
2. What was making the papers on the desk swirl around?
3. There were three things that Miss Finton was angry about. List two of them.
4. What is a mansion?
5. JoBeth's imagination was sparked by the noise which declared was a banshee. What led her to that conclusion?
6. What part of being stranded in the library might have surprised you the most?

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## LESSON 5

Chapters 10 - 13

1. Why did the girls take the rockets to the third floor?
2. What was on the third floor of the library?
3. How did the girls and Miss Finton know the power was back on?
4. What was JoBeth's idea to help Miss Finton, and why did she think it was a good idea?
5. Why were the cameramen filming the reunion of Mr. Onetree and his daughters?
6. Would you go to a museum with story book figures in it? Explain your answer.

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## ANSWER KEY

### LESSON 1

1. Mary Rose and JoBeth were going with their father to their aunt's house.
2. The girls got out of the car because JoBeth had to go to the bathroom.
3. When the girls were first in the library the lights went out and it scared them.
4. A hack is a horseless carriage and in this story it referred to an old school bus.
5. Miss Finton didn't let Mr. Onetree in the library because she was sure no one was in there and she was afraid he might be a mugger.
6. Answers will vary. Mr. Onetree was probably very frightened when he returned to the car and his daughters were gone.

### LESSON 2

1. The phones are not working correctly because they have been damaged by the blizzard.
2. A mina bird was saying, "What's your name?" to the girls.
3. The girls found a candy bar in the librarian's desk.
4. The idiom makes your skin feel crawly means, you are nervous or scared, something feels wrong.
5. The correct order is A, C, B
6. The policeman hung up on the girls because he thought they were making a prank call, not a real one.
7. Mary Rose wanted to go upstairs because she heard some noises and she wanted to find out what they were.

### LESSON 3

1. Climbing the stairs reminded Mary Rose of her nightmare where she just kept climbing.
2. The figure at the top of the stairs was a life sized Pinocchio statue.
3. The girls helped the librarian by putting an ice pack on her head and covering her with a blanket.
4. A hearth is a fireplace.



### LESSON 3 continued

5. JoBeth is a gloomy person. Explanations will vary.
6. Miss Vinton fainted again at the sight of the girls. She thought her dolls had come to life.

### LESSON 4

1. The town is closing Miss Finton's library because they are building a new one.
2. The wind blowing up from the basement where there was an open window was making the papers on the desk swirl around.
3. Miss Finton was angry about the girls being on her floor; being dressed in the doll clothes; and eating her food.
4. A mansion is a large home.
5. Answers will vary. A book she had just read about banshees may have influenced JoBeth.
6. Answers will vary.

### LESSON 5

1. The girls took the rockets to the third floor so they would have a high launching pad.
2. The third floor of the library had scenes from different stories.
3. They knew the power was back on because the lights came on.
4. JoBeth came up with the idea to turn the library into a museum and she thought lots of people would come to visit and it would save Miss Finton's house.
5. Answers will vary. The cameramen were probably filming the reunion because it had a happy ending to the storm.
6. Answers will vary.