THE TOUGH WINTER

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READING RIGHT

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A variety of animals live together on a hill protected by kind people who feed them. The people leave for the winter and the caretaker they hire is not so friendly. The caretaker also has a mean dog that chases and bothers the animals. The weather is the worst it’s been in years and then to add to the problems a fire destroys most of the hill. Without food, most of the animals sadly leave their home on the hill. Eventually winter ends, the kind people return, and the animals return back to the hill.
THE TOUGH WINTER
LESSON 1
Chapters 1 – 2

1. Why doesn’t Porky Woodchuck care if it’s a tough winter?

2. Compare how Georgie and his parents feel about the possibility of a tough winter.

3. In what season of the year does this story take place? Give clues from the story to support your answer.

4. What does “divulge” mean?

5. Describe the ways the animals in this story act like people?

6. Describe two things that might make a winter tough for people.
1. Why is the fox confused about his turkey meat disappearing?

2. Who rescued Muldoon?

3. Circle the characteristics that describe the squirrels in this story.
   Forgetful                 Lonely                Disorganized   Scared

4. What does “eloquence” mean?

5. Check the event, which happened last?
   ___ The dog chasing Uncle Analdas.
   ___ The family leaving.
   ___ The deer letting the cat out of the hole.

6. Why does Uncle Analdas think the caretaker is so important?

7. What do the animals think about the new city dog?
1. Tell about one of the tricks Georgie’s father uses to keep away from the dog.

2. Why was the caretaker told he could not use his gun?

3. How does Georgie get the dog away from Porky’s hole?

4. What does “nonchalantly” mean?

5. Why do you think the animals on the hill were happy to hear the dog howling through the night?

6. If you were one of the animals, how would you feel about leaving the hill?
THE TOUGH WINTER
LESSON 4
Chapters 8 - 10

1. List two reasons the animals are leaving the hill.

2. Who brought food to the hungry animals on Christmas Eve?

3. Why did Georgie lose track of time?

4. What does "frugal" mean?

5. Number the events in the order they happened.
   _____ Ground Hog Day
   _____ Uncle Analdas disappears
   _____ Georgie's mother moves away from the hill
   _____ Tim McGrath brings food

6. Why did Uncle Analdas want Porky to return to his hole quickly?

7. What do you think might have happened to Uncle Analdas?
1. Uncle Analdas thought he had reached the Kentucky bluegrass area, where was he really?

2. Describe two events that made the animals feel happier.

3. How do you think all the animals that left the hill knew to return?

4. What does “ravenously” mean?

5. Uncle Analdas didn’t like the Bluegrass Region at the beginning of the story. What does he think now?

6. What is one lesson that could be learned from the animals in this story? Why is it an important lesson?
THE TOUGH WINTER
Answer Key

LESSON 1
1. Porky doesn’t care if it’s a tough winter because he sleeps through it. He hibernates.
2. Georgie is excited about the idea of a tough winter while his parents are concerned about the problems a tough winter causes.
3. The story starts in the fall. Supporting clues will vary.
4. Divulge means to make known.
5. Answers will vary. The animals talk, have furniture among others.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2
1. The fox is confused about his turkey meet disappearing because he thinks the only animals that would have been small enough to get it were mice and they didn’t eat meat.
2. The deer rescued Muldoon by using his hoof to break through the layers of ice.
3. FORGETFUL and DISORGANIZED should be underlined.
4. Eloquence means the ability to convey the intended meaning well.
5. The event that happened last was the dog chasing Uncle Analdas.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary. The animals think he is a bother and has no sense.

LESSON 3
1. Georgie’s father has many tricks to choose from. He hides in a bush, he hops to one side when the dog charges, he hides in a briar patch.
2. The caretaker was told he couldn’t use his gun because the there was no shooting on posted land, it would be hunting out of season, and the caretaker didn’t have a hunting license.
3. Georgie gets the skunk to come and spray the dog so he would leave Porky’s hole.
4. Nonchalantly means calmly unconcerned, cool or indifferent.
5. Answers may vary. One reason the animals were happy to hear the dog howling was it meant it was locked up and wouldn't be coming to chase them.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4
1. There were several reasons the animals were leaving the hill. The animals were hungry, afraid of the dog, and then there was a fire on the hill.
2. Tim McGrath brought the animals food on Christmas Eve.
3. Georgie lost track of time because he was snowed in and he couldn't tell if it was day or night.
4. Frugal means not wasteful, thrifty.
5. The correct order is 2, 4, 3, and 1.
6. Uncle Analdas wanted Porky to quickly return to his hole so he wouldn't see his shadow which some say means a longer winter.
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5
1. Uncle Analdas was in Tim McGrath's barn a half mile down the road from the hill rather than Kentucky.
2. There were several events, which made the animals happier. The snow was disappearing, the sun was shining, the caretakers were leaving, the folks had returned, and there was a big feast for the animals.
3. Answers may vary. One way the animals knew it was time to return to the hill was the barking the fox had done to alert everyone.
4. Ravenously means very eager for food.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.