

TROUBLE RIVER

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READING RIGHT

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TROUBLE RIVER

Synopsis

This historical fiction novel tells the story of Dewey and his grandmother and their trip down the river. Dewey and his grandmother have stayed behind at the cabin while his parents went to Hunter City so his mother could have her baby. Indians are sneaking around the cabin and Dewey sees them. Afraid for the lives, Dewey convinces his grandmother to get on the raft he has been building and they can head downstream. The two set off, grandma in her rocking chair and Dewey with his pole to guide them down the river and the family dog. A little further down stream they stop at a neighbor's house only to find it burned to the ground. Their only choice is to continue on to Hunter City. Dewey has never traveled down the river so far, but it's the only chance he and grandma have. The river brings its share of trouble but nothing as bad as the rapids. Somehow Dewey's raft even makes it through the rapids and drops them at Hunter City. Dewey and his grandmother arrive safely but the raft has been worn out and drifts apart back to individual logs. Dewey's parents are happily reunited with their family

TROUBLE RIVER

LESSON 1

Sections 1 - 2

1. Why were Dewey and his grandmother alone in the cabin?

2. What was Dewey building?
 - a. a boat
 - b. an oar
 - c. a cabin
 - d. a raft

3. Dewey's pa said Trouble River received its name because:
 - a. Whole wagons had gone down in quicksand trying to go across
 - b. Indians had killed settlers up and down the banks over twenty years ago.
 - c. Some settlers had tried to cross it after a heavy rain and lost their wagons.

4. When she said, "I get these feelings sometimes," what did she mean?

5. How did Dewey find out there was an Indian creeping around outside the cabin?

6. Put these events from the story in the correct order
 - _____ Dewey snuck out of the cabin
 - _____ Grandma went out to look for Dewey
 - _____ The Indian hit Charlie in the leg with a hatchet

7. How do you think Dewey and his grandmother will get away safely?

TROUBLE RIVER

LESSON 2

Sections 3 - 4

1. Match each vocabulary word with its meaning by putting the letter of the correct meaning in the blank by the word.

_____ scanning	a. not deep
_____ tormented	b. without energy or alertness
_____ dully	c. looking over
_____ shallow	d. bothered

2. Dewey saw a glow on the horizon. What probably caused the glow?
3. Why did Dewey turn the cows and pigs loose before he and Grandma left on the raft?
4. What did Dewey get for Grandma to make her trip on the raft more comfortable?
 - a. trunk
 - b. satchel
 - c. rocking chair
 - d. stool
5. Do you think Dewey and Grandma heard a real owl as they set out?
Explain why or why not?
6. Why do you think Dewey didn't always follow his grandma's orders about steering the raft?

TROUBLE RIVER

LESSON 3

Sections 5 - 6

1. What bothered Grandma the most about having to get off the raft and wade in the water?
2. Where did Charlie sleep while on the raft?
3. Why is one of the sections named "An Unexpected Stop"?
4. What was in the small bag the Grandma withdrew from her satchel?
5. How would you describe the grandmother? Give at least two character traits and examples from the book to support your answer.
6. Describe one of the problems Dewey and Grandma faced in the story so far. Tell how it was solved.

TROUBLE RIVER

LESSON 4

Sections 7 - 8

1. What was Grandma's most prized possession?
 - a. Her button bag
 - b. Her glasses
 - c. Her rocking chair
2. What happened to the Dargans?
3. What did Dewey dream about as he slept?
4. After leaving the Dargans, what was the next danger Dewey and his grandmother faced?
5. Tell the meaning of each of the following words:
menacing _____
frenzied _____
urgency _____

TROUBLE RIVER

LESSON 5

Sections 9 - 11

1. Did Grandma like Charlie? How did you know?

2. Describe the trip through the rapids.

3. How did Dewey and Grandma get off the raft?

4. Why was Dewey disappointed in the baby?

5. Put these events in the order they happened in the story:
 - ___ a) Dewey discovers the Dargans cabin was burned.
 - ___ b) The raft was battered by the rapids
 - ___ c) Pa and Ma left Dewey and Grandma alone at the cabin
 - ___ d) The wolves attacked Grandma and Dewey
 - ___ e) Dewey and Grandma reached Hunter city safely
 - ___ f) Dewey and Charlie drove the Indian away from the cabin

6. Dewey was a brave boy. Give 2 examples that show this.

TROUBLE RIVER

ANSWER KEY

LESSON 1

1. Dewey and his grandma were alone in the cabin because his parents had gone to Hunter City where his mother was going to have her baby.
2. D
3. A
4. Answers may vary but the story suggests that sometimes she knows when things are going to happen from the feelings she gets.
5. Dewey was working on his raft at night when he heard the snort of a pony, he worked his way back to the cabin and saw an Indian looking around the cabin.
6. The correct order is 2, 1, and 3.
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. Scanning - c tormented - d
dully - b shallow - a
2. The story suggests it is a fire. The last page of the previous sections noted the glow was in the direction of the Weiceks' cabin.
3. Dewey turned the cows and pigs loose so the Indians wouldn't get them.
4. C
5. Answers may vary. Dewey and Grandma probably heard Indians calling to one another, not real owls.
6. Answers may vary. Sometimes Dewey didn't do what grandma wanted him to do with the raft because he couldn't. He wasn't as strong or as practiced at steering the raft.

LESSON 3

1. Grandma was the most upset about getting off the raft and wading about ruining her shoes.
2. Charlie slept on the food bundle.
3. Dewey accidentally ran the raft into a bank, and so he said that was the spot they were going to stop at.
4. The small bag contained a collection of buttons.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. B
2. The Dargan's place had been burned to the ground and there was no sign of them.
3. When Dewey was dreaming he saw hordes of Indians chasing the raft.
4. A pack of wolves came close to attack and Dewey had to shoot at the wolf leader.
5. Menacing means - threatening
frenzied means - frantic or extremely agitated state
urgency means - needs immediate attention

LESSON 5

1. As the story has continued Grandma seems to like Charlie more. Supporting statements from the story area, she patted him, she did not make the dog move away from her because the warmth of him against her legs felt good.
2. Descriptions will vary.
3. Dewey and grandmother finally get off the raft with the help of two men who threw Dewey a rope and pulled the raft in and then helped the two of them off.
4. Dewey was expecting his new sister to be a plump, golden-haired, sturdy and at, instead she was a tiny little thing.
5. The correct order is 3, 5, 1, 4, 6, and 5.
6. Answers will vary.