Where the Lilies Bloom by Vera And Bill Cleaver

Vocabulary

pail
paltry
languishing
sharecropper
tariff
poultice
profaning	
tamarack
quinine
quietus
solemn
ramrod
countenance
yellow-jackets
undulating
translucent
lustrous
destitute
ingrate
Paleozoic era
gouge
burlap
abet
sodden
cowpen
bereaved
teasels
cordwood
staples
traipse
pilfering
acquiescent
convalescing
reprieve
troglodyte
frigid
demean
morsel
vacate
dissipate	
tintinnabulation
vittles
doleful
hoary
warbler
oblong
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Short Answer Questions, page 1

1. What are Sugar Boy and Old Joshua?
2. What did Mary Call's father want her to do with him when he died?
3. Which mountain range did the Luther family live in?
4. Why did Mary Call hope that her father would die in the middle of the night?
5. What was Roy Luther unable to do after he had his seizure?
6. What was wrong with Kiser Pease when Mary Call and Romey found him in his house?
7. What treatment did the Luther children give Kiser Pease to make him healthy again?
8. What idea did Mary Call get for how the land the Luthers lived on could sustain them?
9. What plant did the children sell in the general store for money before their father fell ill?
10. What does the term “wildcrafting” mean?
11. What hardships and dangers were there with wildcrafting?
12. What did the drug companies use flower pollen for?
13. What was one of the most important things for a good wildcrafter to do?
14. Why did the children feel that they had to keep their father's death a secret?
15. Why doesn't Mary Call want Romey to be called a “Happy Pappy”?
16. Why did Kiser Pease come to the Luther children, dressed up and with hams in his saddlebags, when he was healthy again?
17. How did Mary Call get Kiser to leave her the keys to his car?
18. Who turned out to be able to drive Kiser's car in the end?
19. What was Mary Call's biggest fear when Kiser went out with Devola?
20. What did the flatland people think about mountain people like the Luther family?
21. Why was Mary Call so eager to learn how old the Great Smoky Mountains were?

22. Why didn't Mary Call let herself and Romey socialize with friends outside of school?

23. How were the children granted a temporary respite from Kiser Pease's attention?

24. What did the children do when they visited the general store to trick Mrs. Connell into thinking that their father was still alive?

25. What did Romey plan to do with the old black bear skin he had in his closet?

26. What was the name of the valley the Luther children lived in?

27. What arrangement did the children have to make for their cow in the winter?

28. What had happened to Devola one day while Mary Call and Romey were in school?

29. What happened in the middle of the night after the first heavy snow had fallen?

30. What did Mary Call learn about her agreement with Kiser Pease when his sister came to visit them?

31. What stopped Mary Call from taking down the shotgun and going to town to kill Kiser Pease when the children lost their house?

32. Why did Romey go out in the middle of a blizzard to go to town?

33. What did Mary Call think about Devola while Devola was binding up Romey's ankle?

34. What decision did Mary Call make in her plans to secure the roof over her family's heads?

35. What happened between Kiser Pease and Devola while Mary Call was looking for a cave?

36. What made Mary Call change her mind about Devola marrying Kiser Pease in the end?

37. How did the Luther children earn money through the winter?

38. What role did Kiser Pease take on for the children in addition to being their brother-in-law?

39. What did Mary Call do to ease Ima Dean's loneliness when Mary Call and Romey were in school?
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Essay Questions

1. Why do you think Mary Call didn't like Kiser Pease in the beginning of the story?
2. Explain why Mary Call's father thought it was bad to receive charity or help from others, even if you were starving.
3. Explain why Mary Call's father didn't want Devola to marry Kiser Pease.
4. What do you think Mary Call's reasons for saving Kiser Pease were, in spite of not liking him?
5. Why do you think the children found Mrs. Connell so unpleasant?
6. Why do you think Mary Call was proud of her little sister when Mrs. Connell commented on how ragged she looked?
7. Why do you think Romey was so furious at Mary Call when they were going to bury their father's body?
8. Explain why Mary Call compared herself to an old gnarly tree up on the mountain when she buried her father.
9. Why did Mary Call almost desert her siblings after they had quarreled, and what do you think prevented her from doing it in the end?
10. How did Mary Call manipulate Kiser Pease to get what she needed for her family?
11. Why do you think Mary Call wanted to be like her teacher, Miss Breathitt?
12. Explain how Mary Call in many ways was older than her years, in behavior and thinking.
13. Why do you think Romey got angry at Mary Call every time they faced a big problem that needed to be solved?
14. Describe the biggest troubles the Luther children had for the winter.
15. What do you think was the hardest part of working and providing food for her family for Mary Call?
16. What did the event with the fox coming down through the hole in the roof tell you about Mary Call's personality and state of mind?
17. Describe Kiser Pease and his sister. What similarities and differences were there between them?
18. Why do you think Mary Call's effort to make a deal with Kiser Pease at the hospital didn't work?
19. Why do you think Mary Call's siblings didn't oppose her when she said that they were going to live in a cave?
20. In what ways did Kiser Pease change after talking to Mary Call at the hospital?
21. Explain how Kiser Pease and other townspeople such as Mr. Connell helped the Luther children. Why do you think Mary Call allowed help with certain things but not with other ones?
22. What do you think Mary Call meant when she claimed that the mountains had given them a fine education?

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Vocabulary

Possible vocabulary exercises: find definitions in a dictionary; define in original words; locate the words in the text and re-write them; use original sentences to show the meaning in context.

Below are sample definitions.

pail – bucket
paltry – worthless, small, trashy
languishing – pining, losing health or strength
sharecropper - a tenant farmer who pays as rent a share of the crop
tariff – an import tax, or a document with rates and charges on goods
poultice - a soft moist adhesive mass, as of meal or clay, that is usually heated, spread on cloth, and applied to warm, moisten, or stimulate an aching or inflamed part of the body
profaning – abusing, treating with irreverence
tamarack – a North American larch tree of the pine family
quinine - a bitter alkaloid extracted from chinchona bark, used in treatment of malaria
quietus – death, something that serves to suppress something
solemn – serious, dignified, sober, grave
ramrod - a rod used to ram the charge into a muzzle-loading firearm
countenance – appearance, expression
yellow-jackets – a kind of wasp
undulating - to move with a wavelike motion, a rising and falling sound, a wave like surface
translucent – something that permits light to shine through
lustrous – shining, luminous, brilliant, splendid
destitute – impoverished, lacking bare necessities
ingrate – an ungrateful person
Paleozoic era – an era of time, between 544 million and 230 million years ago
gouge – to dig or scoop out, to force something out, to extort
burlap – a strong, coarsely woven cloth made of fibers and used to make bags
abet - to urge, encourage or support something
sodden – heavy, lumpy, soggy, soaked with liquid
cowpen – a small enclosure for cows
bereaved – greatly saddened
teasels - plants of the genus dipsacus, having flower heads surrounded by spiny bracts
cordwood - wood stacked in cords for use as fuel
staples – basic food items such as flour, corn or rice
trapse – to walk or tramp about, a tiring walk
pillering – stealing or pilching
acquiescent - submissive, willing to carry out orders
convalescing - recovering ones health after an illness
reprieve – to temporary relieve, a respite from punishment
troglodyte – a prehistoric cave dweller, a person living in seclusion
frigid – inhibited, unemotional, cold
demean – to humble oneself, to lower someone in dignity and social standing
morsel – a bite, a small portion of food
vacate – to give up possession of, to stop occupying something
dissipate – to waste, to scatter in various directions, spend
tintinnabulation – the ringing sound of bells
vittles – food supplies, provisions
doleful – sorrowful, mournful
hoary – ancient, gray with age, tedious
warbler – brightly colored songbird of the parulidae family
oblong - an object or figure, such as a rectangle, with an elongated shape
“Where the Lilies Bloom” by Vera And Bill Cleaver

ANSWERS

Short Answers
For the short answer questions, students may answer questions briefly on the page or at greater length on their own paper or in writing journals.

1. Sugar Boy and Old Joshua were mountain tops.
2. Mary Call’s father wanted her to give him a simple funeral without any preacher or undertaker.
3. The Luthers lived in the Great Smoky Mountains.
4. Mary Call didn’t want to explain to her younger siblings what had happened or how she felt about her father’s death.
5. Roy Luther was unable to talk after his seizure.
6. Kiser Pease suffered from a very high fever.
7. The children used an old mountain cure and covered Kiser in warm onions.
8. Mary Call’s idea was that the children would sustain themselves through wildcrafting, like their mother once had done.
9. The children sold Witch Hazel to the general store.
10. Wildcrafting means finding and harvesting wild medicinal plants.
11. The children had to walk in challenging terrain and face wild animals.
12. Flower pollen was used in allergy medicines.
13. A good wildcrafter must never forget to re-seed the plants.
14. The children feared that the county people would split them up and put them in orphanages.
15. A Happy Pappy is an ignorant mountaineer who sits on his porch, waiting for his charity check.
17. Mary Call said that if Kiser’s car were there for days, she needed to be able to lock it up at night.
18. Devola turned out to be the only driver good enough to handle the car.
19. Mary Call feared that Kiser would take Devola to a judge and marry her.
20. Flatlanders tended to think that mountain people were ignorant and crazy.
21. Mary Call thought that if you lived in a place, you should be able to answer questions about how old the place was.
22. Mary Call was terrified of anyone finding out that Roy Luther was dead.
23. Kiser Pease was hit by a truck and broke his legs and his jaw.
24. The children continued to answer questions about their father, and to buy him razors.
25. Romey planned to stuff the bear and place it by the road, to scare off Mrs. Connell.
26. Trial Valley
27. The children had to bring the cow into the house.
28. Devola was visited by a friend of Kiser Pease’s, who tried to convince her to come with him into town and visit Kiser at the hospital.
29. Part of the roof above the living room collapsed and brought in snow and wild animals.
30. She learned that her agreement with Kiser was worthless and that their land belonged to his sister.
31. Romey told Mary Call that she had told him that only ignorant and crazy people used shotguns.
32. Romey was going to the hospital to beg Kiser Pease to pay off the house and give it to them.
33. Mary Call realized that there was much more to Devola than met the eye, and that Devola was wasted where she was, and should be a nurse.
34. Mary Call decided to marry Kiser Pease herself, so the house would be signed over to her family.
35. Kiser Pease and Devola had decided to get married and Kiser had paid his sister for the land and the Luther house.
36. Mary Call realized that Devola had changed and matured, and probably never really had been simple in the first place.
37. The children earned winter money through Christmas roping.
38. Kiser Pease became the children’s legal guardian.
39. Mary Call taught Ima Dean how to read.

Essay Answers
For the essay questions, we suggest a writing journal where students could record answers as they read. Alternatively, a limited number of questions could be assigned to each student. The essay questions can also be used as discussion questions.

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