

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

A Unit Study by Alina Coryell

Chapter 1 Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary

Answer the following questions in complete sentences on the reverse of this page. Alternately, discuss them aloud if your democracy so decides. Refer back to your book for answers and quotations.

1. Calpurnia's day began differently from ours back in 1899. What was different back then?
2. What is a corset? What purpose does it serve? Why aren't corsets popular parts of female clothing anymore?
3. How old was Calpurnia that summer? What does she consider to be difficult about her particular circumstances or situation?
4. What was unique about Calpurnia's grandfather? What did he do in his shed?
5. What "sudden surge in insect activity" does Calpurnia describe?
6. How does Calpurnia describe a "naturalist" and why does she decide to become one?
7. What does Calpurnia observe about dogs and their eyebrows?
8. What does Calpurnia observe about the cardinals?
9. Who does Calpurnia fondly refer to as "the dragon"?
10. What book does Calpurnia seek at the library? Why don't they have it?
11. What does Calpurnia notice about the yellow grasshoppers? Why is it interesting to her? How does she relate it to what Mr. Darwin described?
12. What was Chicago's Finest Wind Machine?
13. How does Calpurnia's relationship with her grandfather begin in her words?

Vocabulary

Define each word and then write a paragraph on the back using all these words in a meaningful context.

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quadroon (p.2)-

pestiferous (p.3)-

moldering (p.4)-

accorded (p.11) -

loitered (p.13)-