

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

A Unit Study by Alina Coryell

Chapter 2 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. Copy the quote at the beginning of the chapter. Why do you think the author put it there and how does it relate to what happens in this chapter?
2. What is Calpurnia referring to when she says "Isn't that what naturalists do?"
3. What is Calpurnia's grandfather planning to do at the river when he invites her to come along?
4. What does Calpurnia find interesting about how her grandfather observes small things in nature? What does this tell you about him and how he thinks of nature? Invent a motto that describes his attitude towards nature.
5. What creatures do Calpurnia and her grandfather observe down at the river? List all of them.
6. What is Calpurnia's worst "subject" in school? What in particular does she not do very well?
7. The first time Calpurnia and Granddaddy go to the riverbank together, Calpurnia learns that she shares her name with "Pliny the Younger's fourth wife, the one he married for love. ... There's also the natal acacia tree, *genus Calpurnia*, a useful laburnum mainly confined to the African continent. Then there's Julius Caesar's wife, mentioned in Shakespeare" (p. 27). Do you think the name "Calpurnia" suits this character? Why or why not?
8. At the river, Calpurnia's grandfather teaches her the steps of the scientific method. Can you list and briefly describe them?
9. What organization does grandfather join in 1888 and why does this organization exist?

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10. When they decide to take home a specimen and place it in a jar, what does grandfather tell Calpurnia to write down? How would you write down a similar geographic orientation for where you are sitting right now?

Vocabulary

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

dilapidated (p.18)

consternation (p.19)

malacca (p. 24)

stupefying (p. 29)