

City of Ember 6th Grade Summer Reading Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1

1. Describe what “assignment day” is.
2. What job did Lina want? Why did she want this job so badly?
3. What job did Doon want? Why did he want this job so badly?
4. What is your first impression of the mayor?
5. Why did Doon want to trade jobs with Lina?

Chapter 2

1. Describe a day in the life of a messenger?
2. Why are Lina and Doon no longer friends?
3. What is your first impression of Looper?
4. What message did Lina have to deliver to the mayor?
5. What is the “Book of the City of Ember”?
6. What happened when Lina went onto the roof?

Chapter 3

1. Why is Doon frustrated after his first day of work in the Pipeworks?
2. Describe the electrician’s understanding of the generator.
3. What drives Doon’s desire to save the City of Ember?
4. Describe Doon’s bug-observation book.
5. What happened when Doon threw the shoe heel across the room?
6. What is Doon’s father’s advice for him regarding his frustration with what is happening in the Pipeworks?

Chapter 4

1. How is granny behaving at the beginning of the chapter?
2. What is granny looking for?
3. Why was the job of trash sifter added?
4. Why does Lina feel the greenhouses are a “home to her in a way”?
5. Why can’t Clary fulfill the potato order? Why is this news so troubling?
6. Who is Sadge Merrall and why is he so frightened?

Chapters 5 and 6

1. Who is Ms. Murdo, and how is she helping the Mayfleets?
2. Why is Lina willing to pay so much for colored pencils?
3. What dramatic event occurred when Lina and Poppy were at the shop on Night Street?
4. What do you think Lina means when she thinks the colored pencils “were not quite as beautiful as they had been”?
5. The day after the blackout, Lina carried the same message twelve times. What was the message?
6. Why do you think people aren't talking about the blackout?
7. The mayor gave a speech to calm the people of Ember after the blackout. Do you think he accomplished this? Support your answer with evidence from the book.

Chapter 7

1. The printing on the message “sparked Lina’s curiosity”. Based on the description, what kind of printing was it? Why would Lina find this curious?
2. How does Lina know the message is important?
3. Why are certain supply reports kept confidential?
4. Why did Lina decide that Doon might be “the only person” who might be interested in what she found?

Chapter 8

1. Most of the people in the Pipeworks “did their jobs quickly and then gathered in small groups to just talk and sleep” while Doon uses the time to look for solutions. Why do you think the rest of the people of Ember aren’t out looking for solutions like Doon?
2. Why does Doon visit the library?
3. Describe Ember’s library. What reasons might the Builders have for not wanting the people of Ember to have a lot of books?
4. How are the books in the library categorized?

Chapter 9

1. Why is Mrs. Murdo at Lina’s house when she and Doon arrive?
2. How is Doon’s reaction to the instructions different than Captain Fleery’s and Lizzie’s?
3. Based on Lina’s reaction, and Doon’s previous reaction to seeing the river for the first time, what can you infer about the people of Ember in reference to water?
4. Lina and Doon think the mystery person has found a way out of Ember and will announce it to the city soon. Why do they seem disappointed by this prospect?

Chapter 10

1. What happened when Lina went to wake Granny in the morning?
2. How are the supply shortages affecting Dr. Tower and her ability to give adequate medical care?
3. Why does Lina think the blue sky she colored looks so strange?
4. Many times authors use a death in order to propel the story or a character forward. Why do you think the author decided she needed Granny's character to die?

Chapter 11

1. What is "The Singing"?
2. Why was Lizzie trying to avoid Lina when she saw her outside The Supply Depot?
3. At first, Lizzie tells Lina she found the food she has on the back shelves of the market. How does Lina know this isn't true?
4. Why does Lizzie think there is nothing wrong with what Looper is doing?

Chapter 12

1. Describe what Doon saw when he opened the door in Tunnel 351?
2. Why does Lina have "more messages to carry than ever"?
3. What are the people near The Gathering Hall protesting?
4. After Lina told Doon that her grandmother had died, she realized something about him. What was it?

Chapters 13 and 14

1. Look up the word "egress" in the dictionary. What is the complete definition?
2. What does Doon run to tell Lina at the beginning of chapter 14?
3. What all do Lina and Doon find in the room by the riverbank?

Chapter 15

1. What is inside the "tremendous room" behind big sliding door?
2. Why didn't Lina and Doon get in the boat and leave right when they found it? Why did they go home?
3. What did Doon put into his traveling pack?
4. Why are Lina and Doon "wanted"? How do you think this will complicate matters?
5. Why does Lina leave Doon at the school?

Chapters 16 and 17

1. Where do the guards take Lina?
2. What does Lina mean when she thinks that “it was as if the blackout had been arranged especially for her”?
3. How did Doon leave a message for his father?

Chapter 18

1. Describe Lina, Doon, and Poppy’s ride down the river using 5 adjectives?
2. Lina and Doon couldn’t seem to figure out how to use the boat’s paddles. How did they end up using them?
3. Based on the description on pg. 242, what “tipped the boat downward...that seemed they were tumbling down stairs”?
4. Poppy discovers a book on pg. 246 with handwriting that seemed like it was “written in a hurry”. Give two possibilities for what the book might be.
5. How did Lina end up getting Poppy at The Singing?

Chapters 19 and 20

1. List 5 new things Lina and Doon see in their new world.
2. Use 3 adjectives to describe what Lina and Doon might feel as they witness the sunrise for the first time.
3. Based on the entries, who do you think wrote the journal Poppy found?
4. How many people were initially taken to the city of Ember?
5. Do you think you will read the sequel, “The People of Sparks”? Why or why not?