

Touching Spirit Bear

Vocabulary and Chapters 1-6 Questions

Instructions: Use the context clues in the following sentences to determine the meaning of the underlined words.

The probation officer was concerned that Billy would steal a skiff from the harbor.

1. Probation officer means:

- a) person monitoring convicted criminals who are out of custody
- b) guard or night watchman
- c) police officer in plain clothes

2. Skiff

- a) a lamp
- b) a flat-bottomed boat
- c) a small car

The kidnapper's detainees were cowering in the corner of the locked room, afraid of him.

3. Detainees

- a) accomplices
- b) victims
- c) prisoners

4. Cowering

- a) crouching from something frightening
- b) humming
- c) following along

The prosecutor for the court case believed that there should be an immediate sentencing for the crime.

5. Prosecutor

- a) the representative of the government who pursues formal charges against the accused
- b) the lawyer who defends an accused criminal in court
- c) the judge who makes a decision on whether a person is innocent or guilty

6. Sentencing

- a) a hearing to determine if an individual is innocent or guilty
- b) a hearing to determine consequences for a crime
- c) a hearing to determine if an individual should be released from

The tight handcuffs chafed against the wrists of the criminal when he was brought into court to plead to the charges against him.

7. chafed

- a) to cut
- b) to tickle
- c) to rub and irritate

8. plead

- a) to deny any wrongdoing
- b) to claim guilt or innocence in a court
- c) to hire a lawyer

The juvenile delinquent had trouble breathing in the stifling heat of his prison cell.

9. juvenile delinquent

- a) a young person in trouble with the law
- b) a young person who is frequently late
- c) a young person who is short for their age

10. stifling

- a) humid
- b) suffocating
- c) dry

The billowy clouds of smoke from the campfire shrouded the view of the mountains.

13. billowy

- a) rolling wave or mass
- b) light-coloured or clear
- c) slow-moving

14. shrouded

- a) enhanced
- b) revealed
- c) concealed

The over-confident teen stood unflinching when the charges against him were read during his arraignment hearing.

15. unflinching

- a) confused and afraid
- b) timid and shaking
- c) steady and unafraid

Concerned about his friends' fleeting loyalties, the gang member brandished his gun in front of them to try to gain their respect.

19. fleeting

- a) firm or secure
- b) drifting or fading away
- c) quick-running

20. brandished

- a) wave or exhibit in an intimidating manner
- b) polish
- c) hide away .

Chapter 1 -6 Questions – Please answer in complete sentences

2. How does Cole view adults and authority? Cite examples from the book.
2. Spirit Bear is introduced in Chapter Two. Describe this bear.
4. Describe Cole's plan to escape the island. Do you think he will be successful?
5. Describe Cole's first encounter with what appears to be Spirit Bear.
6. Cole reformulates his plans for leaving the island. How will he try his next escape?

Chapter 7 -13 Questions

1. Cole plans on escaping the island, yet still attempts to kill Spirit Bear. What does this say about Cole, and his respect for life?
2. Cole comments that "Nobody else cared about him, so why should he care about himself?" Is it true that nobody else cares about him? Even if nobody cares about Cole, why should he care about himself?
3. What are some of the things Cole does to survive?
4. When Spirit Bear comes back, why do you think Cole chooses not to spit on him, but instead touch him?
5. Why is it significant that Cole whispers "My fault!" when Garvey apologizes for getting Cole into this situation?

Chapter 14 – 24 Questions

1. What news does Cole receive from Edwin and Garvey at the chapter's end? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?

2. When Cole asks “What do we do first” Garvey responds “Everything is up to you now.” Why would he say this?
3. Edwin uses a stick to demonstrate a point to Cole. What is this point?
4. Cole is upset that Edwin and Garvey are not helping with anything. By doing nothing, are they helping Cole?
5. When pushing the rock down the hill, Cole comes to a realization. What is it?
6. Edwin states that “you can never heal completely until you discover one thing” but does not tell Cole what that thing is. What do you think Edwin is referring to?
7. Cole appears to have discovered why Spirit Bear came to visit him, and why the fish and beaver came so close to him. What do you think the reason is?
8. Cole attempts to carve the bottom of the totem pole several times in this chapter, but cannot find an appropriate symbol for him getting over his anger. What do you think Cole should carve?

Chapter 25-28 Questions

1. What does Peter do to Cole’s totem pole at the end of the chapter? What does this say about the change in Peter’s attitude towards Cole?
2. As the book closes, Peter states “What makes you think I forgave you?” Do you think Peter has forgiven Cole? Why or why not?

- Please answer all questions and bring this with you during the first week of school to receive your first grade of the 1st quarter! Make sure you use these questions to prepare for a test over the book in Week 2 of Seventh Grade!