

# QUESTIONS FOR ALL CHAPTERS: Grades 3 & 4

## Flashback Writing Style

“When writing a work of fiction, an author can take the reader out of the present story and jump into an earlier time period in a character’s life. This narrative tool is called a flashback.”

“In fiction, a flashback is a scene that takes place before a story begins. Flashbacks interrupt the chronological order of the main narrative to take a reader back in time to the past events in a character’s life.” Flashbacks may be used by the writer to add drama, to foreshadow coming events, or to learn more about a character.

## Protagonist and Antagonist

Basic literary elements include a protagonist and an antagonist. A few chapter questions will necessitate a reader’s understanding of these literary elements. Definitions are provided below as well as expanded definitions of an antagonist, which will be important for the reader’s understanding in this particular story.

**Protagonist:** The main character or leading figure in the story. Personality traits generally include curiosity, self-preservation, duty, empathy, and leadership.

**Antagonist:**

“Not every antagonist is human. Sometimes Nature can be the antagonist. Society, a supernatural force, an animal, or a machine can be the antagonist.

Even a human antagonist doesn't have to be an evil person. He or she could oppose the protagonist with all the best intentions, or simply have a different agenda that is incompatible with the protagonist's aim. Sometimes too, different characters can take on the role of antagonist at different points in a novel.”

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

### *Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride*

#### SECTION ONE (Prologue - Chapters 2)

##### PROLOGUE

1. Have you ever listened to an older person, a grandparent or a neighbor for example, tell you a story about his or her life when they were young? If so, how did it impact you?
2. Did Millie say or do anything unusual when she saw the trolley in the restoration shop? Do you think she has a story to tell?

##### CHAPTER ONE

1. In what ways does the colt, Pea Biscuit, show he is frightened by the loud clanging?
2. What did Millie mean by the words, 'a steel road'?
3. Examine the book's cover. Predict what will happen in the story.

##### CHAPTER TWO

1. Why do you think Millie wanted to learn about electricity?
2. Peddlers were fairly common in the early 1900's. Why did they sell their goods from horse-drawn wagons?
3. What made Millie frightened of the fortune-teller?

#### SECTION TWO (Chapters 3 - 5)

##### CHAPTER THREE

1. In works of fiction the main or central character is called a protagonist. Who is the protagonist in this story?
2. South Gray Elementary was a one-room school for grades 1 – 6. What do you think about all those grades being together? How is it different today?
3. What was Millie's big dream?

##### CHAPTER FOUR

1. Who is Mr. Teddy?
2. Why did Millie think Mr. Teddy was a bull moose?
3. What do you think the word 'notable' means?

##### CHAPTER FIVE

1. What did Millie learn about women's rights?
2. Where did Millie want to go on the trolley for her first trolley ride?
3. What is your impression of Millie?

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

### *Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride*

#### SECTION THREE (Chapters 6 - 8)

##### CHAPTER SIX

1. What is a cattle pass?
2. Why did Nathan call Millie a dreamer?

##### CHAPTER SEVEN

1. How did the people from Gray feel about an electric trolley coming to their town? Do you think the people of Gray would like one today? Why or what not?
2. Why did the trolley's interior remind Millie of a church from one of her fairy tales?

##### CHAPTER EIGHT

1. What made the trolley seem so fast to Millie?
2. How did Millie feel about seeing the sea for the first time?
3. Why did Millie say the trolley felt like a magic carpet ride?

#### SECTION FOUR (Chapters 9 - 11)

##### CHAPTER NINE

1. Have you ever raked or picked low-bush blueberries? How was your experience different or similar to Millie's?
2. What made Millie give up her secret about the fortune-teller to her mother?
3. What did you think about Lilian's decision to let Millie run down the hill to meet the trolley?

##### CHAPTER 10

1. Do you think Millie still believes in the fortune-teller? Explain.
2. Why do Henry and Nathan have to cut so much wood?

##### CHAPTER 11

1. Millie missed seeing Mr. Teddy at the Gray station. What did she mean when she told her mother, "this will stay with me forever."?
2. What do you think Lilian means by 'silver lining'?
3. What was the 'silver lining' for Millie?

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

### *Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride*

#### SECTION FIVE (Chapters 12 - 15)

##### **CHAPTER 12**

1. Why were Millie's daydreams of a steel road still important to her after all these years?
2. Why did Millie feel that winter was the season of silence?
3. Why do you think Nathan asked so much about the war?

##### **CHAPTER 13**

1. What country did the United States declare war with?
2. The United States needed men to enlist in the war. What do you think Nathan will do?

##### **CHAPTER 14**

1. Why did Millie want to be a Camp Fire Girl?
2. What was her mother's reaction to this?

##### **CHAPTER 15**

1. Why do you think Millie suddenly felt shy about seeing Sam, her childhood friend?
2. In what ways were Camp Fire Girls going to contribute to the war effort?
3. Who purchased Liberty Bonds?

#### SECTION SIX (Chapters 16 - 18)

##### **CHAPTER 16**

1. What did the gray armbands Millie and Eleanor wore signify?
2. Where were the girls going to sell Liberty Bonds?

##### **CHAPTER 17**

1. Why did Millie want her mother to brush the tangles from her hair?
2. Millie met a special woman on the trolley. What was this woman fighting to achieve?

##### **CHAPTER 18**

1. Why did Millie still try to ignore Sam's attention?
2. Compare the Cumberland Fair in 1917 to the fairs you go to today. Was it similar or very different?
3. Why did Millie refuse to listen to the fortune-teller this time?

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

### *Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride*

#### SECTION SEVEN (Chapters 19 - 21)

##### CHAPTER NINETEEN

1. Why did Millie insist on seeing Theodore Roosevelt in Portland?
2. What was Bill Sewall's reaction to Millie calling him 'Mr. Bill'?
3. Sewall told Millie he liked her grit. Explain.

##### CHAPTER TWENTY

1. Why did the trolley mean so much to Millie?
2. Why did Millie choose the name Teddy for the newborn calf?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

1. Why was the conductor, Joe Happy, sad?
2. What did Millie learn from Sam?
3. In addition to having a protagonist in a story, works of fiction include an antagonist. Using the definitions for antagonists given by your teacher, do you recognize an antagonist in the story thus far?

#### SECTION EIGHT (Chapters 22 - 25)

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

1. What worried the family in Nathan's letter home from Camp Devens?
2. What steps were taken by the State of Maine and the City of Portland to reduce the spread of the 1918 Spanish flu? Compare these steps to the 2020 pandemic.

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

1. Why did Henry have to travel to Portland to learn more about the flu?
2. What did the black wreaths on many doors in the city mean?
3. How did the family learn of Nathan's death?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

1. What were Millie's thoughts when the flock of geese flew overhead? Did she see a special meaning in their flight?
2. What did the doe cause Millie to think about? In what way did it change her feelings?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

1. How did Millie react when she saw Sam helping her father with the wood?
2. Henry said to Sam, "She's like a fish fighting to free itself from the line. Let her come to things on her own." What did Henry mean by this phrase?

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

### *Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride*

#### SECTION NINE (Chapters 27 - Epilogue)

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

1. Why does Millie want to go to Roosevelt's grave?
2. Do you think going to the grave will help Millie close this chapter of her life?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

1. What do you think was the most important thing Millie told Roosevelt at the grave?
2. What did Sewall mean about big dreams and little dreams? How did it help Millie solve her problem?

##### EPILOGUE

1. Did Millie fulfill her dreams? Were they big or little dreams? Or both?