

# QUESTIONS FOR ALL CHAPTERS: Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8

## 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. Millie became emotional when she saw the *Narcissus* in the restoration shop. What was she experiencing when she hurried toward the trolley? Do you think she had a story to tell? Did her actions capture your interest, and if so, why?

##### CHAPTER ONE

1. How is an electric trolley different from a train?
2. Why did Millie ask about electricity? What was the family's light source?
3. Examine the book's cover. Predict what will happen in the story.

##### CHAPTER TWO

1. In 1911, the force of water flowing over a dam spun a turbine that powered a generator to produce an electrical current. What are some ways electricity is created today?
2. What do you think will be the impact of the fortune-teller's words on 7 year-old Millie?
3. What is the point of view in the story: narrator, omniscient, or 1<sup>st</sup> person? How do you know? Provide a specific example of each.

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

##### CHAPTER THREE

1. Basic story elements in works of fiction include a protagonist and an antagonist. Who is the protagonist, or main character, in the story?
2. Why were there only 16 nesting boxes for 44 hens?
3. Explain why Millie's secret hide-away was important to her.

##### CHAPTER FOUR

1. What were the three political parties that Nathan talked about? Do these parties exist today?
2. Why did Theodore Roosevelt form the Bull Moose Party?
3. What is your impression of Millie?

##### CHAPTER FIVE

1. Describe Millie's farm chores. Compare them to chores on small farms today.
2. Many early 1900's items are mentioned so far. Make a list.
3. Why did Theodore Roosevelt want to experience the Maine wilderness with William Sewall?
4. 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 right-of-way? Right-of-ways still exist today. Do you know of one?
2. When Henry allowed the rail line to pass through his pastureland, what did he do to protect his cows?

##### CHAPTER SEVEN

1. On page 44, what did Hiram mean when he said, "The trolleys will connect us, not just to the cities, but to a new future."
2. Would an electric trolley benefit some rural communities such as Gray, today? Explain.
3. How does the electrical current power the trolley's motor?

##### CHAPTER EIGHT

1. What did Millie realize about herself when she stood at the end of the long wharf in Portland's harbor and gaze out at the sea?
2. Why did the interurban have to stop at Deering Junction?
3. Describe the ways that Portland was a busy port city.

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

##### CHAPTER NINE

1. Compare low-bush blueberry picking today to picking berries in 1914.
2. Millie's nickname was Spitfire. What does that say about Millie's personality?
3. Why was Millie so determined to meet Theodore Roosevelt?
4. What did you think of Roosevelt's reaction to the young farm girl?

##### CHAPTER 10

1. Why do you think Millie cried after handing Roosevelt the flowers?
2. Why was all the wood cut into 16 inch logs?
3. What do you think will be Millie's actions with regard to Roosevelt going forward? Will she put her interest about Roosevelt behind her now? Why?

##### CHAPTER 11

1. Millie missed seeing Roosevelt at the Gray station. What did she mean when she told her mother, "this will stay with me forever."?
2. Explain the metaphorical meaning of the words silver lining.
3. Although Millie was not at the station to see and hear Roosevelt, what was the silver lining for her?

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

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

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

##### CHAPTER 12

1. As much as Millie loves the farm, why do you think she still dreams of her steel road and faraway places?
2. What does Henry mean that in times of war, countries generally agree to attack only military sites? Explain.
3. If Nathan loved being a farmer, why do you think he asked so much about the war?

##### CHAPTER 13

1. Who declared war against Germany – the President or the Congress?
2. What does conscription mean?
3. What concerned Rufus about the United States suddenly entering war?
4. What do you think Nathan will do, and why?

##### CHAPTER 14

1. Why do you think Millie was interested in becoming a Camp Fire Girl?
2. What did Lilian want Millie to think about when making important decisions?

##### CHAPTER 15

1. Why were Camp Fire Girls originally formed? Name some youth organizations today that are similar.
2. Name two ways Camp Fire Girls contributed to the war effort.
3. Millie felt shy seeing her childhood friend Sam after so many years. Do you think Sam may change the course of Millie's dreams?

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

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

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

##### CHAPTER 16

1. How do you feel about young people selling Liberty Bonds to help finance a war? Do you think that could happen again today?
2. Why does Millie shrug off the comments Eleanor makes about Sam?

##### CHAPTER 17

1. Explain how Liberty Bond Stamps work.
2. What did Millie learn from talking with the woman on the interurban? How do you feel about a woman's right to vote or own property back then? Explain.

##### CHAPTER 18

1. Compare the Cumberland Fair in 1917 to the fairs you go to today. In what way was it similar and in what way was it different? List the ways.
2. Millie struggled with her feelings about Sam. Why do you think that is?
3. Why do you think Millie didn't want Eleanor to talk to the fortune-teller?

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

##### CHAPTER NINETEEN

1. Why was Lilian hesitant to let Millie go to Portland alone to hear Roosevelt speak?
2. How would you describe Roosevelt's feelings for Maine and the Sewall family?
3. How did Sewall react to Millie's regret at missing Roosevelt at the Gray station in 1916?
4. Why did Millie suddenly call Sewall 'Mr. Bill'?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY

1. In her musings, Millie was convinced that meeting three notables was directly related to what? Do you think it makes her dreams of life beyond the farm even more possible now?
2. What did you learn about calving? Do you think it is different on a small farm today?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

1. Joe Happy said every casualty of war was a tragedy. What might this say about Joe Happy's thoughts on war?
2. Why did Sam seek Millie out on her way home?
3. Another basic story element in works of fiction is an antagonist. Using the definitions for antagonists given by your teacher, do you recognize an antagonist in the story thus far? Explain.

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

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

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

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

1. What was the first news source in Gray about the Spanish flu? How would knowledge of that information be different today?
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.
3. How was the 1918 Spanish flu similar to the 2020 flu pandemic? How was it different?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

1. What were the major symptoms of the 1918 Spanish flu described in the Boston papers? Compare these symptoms to the 2020 pandemic.
2. How did Henry explain the Spanish flu and how it can spread to Millie?
3. Have other antagonists or obstacles to Millie fulfilling her dreams emerged in the story thus far? Explain.

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

1. Nature plays a large part in Millie's thinking. What did the flock of geese flying overhead symbolize to her?
2. What was the lesson of the doe and in what way did it change Millie's thinking?
3. In what ways did Millie's laughter about Nathan and the cows affect her father?

##### CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

1. Explain Sam's motivation to help with the Thayer's farm chores.
2. What effect do you think Sam's presence on the farm had on Lilian? How did she show it?
3. Why do you think Millie is still fighting her feelings about Sam?
4. 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. Millie is determined to visit Roosevelt's grave. Why do you think that is?
2. What role did Sam play in helping Millie go to Roosevelt's grave?

#### CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

1. What was the message Millie wanted to share with Roosevelt at his grave?
2. Millie thought she lost her dreams of faraway places. How did Sewall show her a path forward? What lesson can we learn from Sewall's response?
3. What other lesson did Sewall offer Millie to help her move forward?

#### EPILOGUE

1. Did Millie fulfill her dreams? Were they big or little dreams? Or both?
2. Is Sewall's lesson about dreams (or goals) still applicable today?
3. If you had written the story, would you have created a different ending? If so, what would the ending be?