

MARTYN GODFREY AUTHOR STUDY

Overview

HIGH INTEREST – LOW VOCABULARY NOVELS

OVERVIEW

A series of five exciting and interesting titles provide a framework for this new approach to reading. Comprehension is the main focus, with multiple choice questions designed to ensure students understand what they are reading. The titles include:

- 1) Here She Is, Ms Teeny-Wonderful
- 2) It Isn't Easy Being Ms Teeny-Wonderful
- 3) Send In Ms Teeny-Wonderful
- 4) The Mystery of Hole's Castle
- 5) The Desperate Escape

The high interest – low vocabulary format of these novels is perfect for reluctant readers and is sure to keep students motivated to read. For the teacher, flexibility is key with students being assigned novels to read individually, in small groups or as a class.

SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES

A number of possible strategies describing how these units might be used in the classroom is given. These include:

- 1) Whole Class Instruction
- 2) Individual Approach
- 3) Small Group Instruction
- 4) Listening Skills Test

A possible reward system to help motivate student reading is also given.

STORY SUMMARIES

A synopsis and bibliographic information for each of the novels has been included for teacher reference.

ANSWER KEY

Answer keys for each novel are provided.

Bibliographic Information

Martyn Godfrey, Scholastic, ©1984

Story Synopsis

The "Teeny-Wonderful" books are humorous, interesting, and very enjoyable. Both of the main characters, Carol and Wally, are very likeable. Carol is a tomboy with a temper. Wally is more intellectual but a good athlete, too. There is also conceited Kurt for comic relief.

Here She Is, Ms Teeny-Wonderful is the story of how Carol, a thirteen year old tomboy, takes part in a talent and beauty contest. Without telling Carol, her mother entered her in the contest, and Carol agreed to take part because, if she won, she would have enough money to buy a really good trail bike. Carol's hobby is jumping garbage cans with her BMX bike.

Carol runs into a number of problems because of the contest. She is terrified of flying in an airplane. The beautiful Campbell twins are determined to sabotage Carol by provoking her with their nasty insults into acting badly in front of the judges. Most seriously, however, the talent part of the contest could reveal her as a cheat because the poem her mother submitted was not written by Carol. It was one she had copied for a Language Arts assignment.

To counter all this, Carol has the support of her friend, Wally, who helps her get through the ordeal of flying. Her own basically direct and honest nature wins the approbation of an important judge in the contest. Instead of reciting the poem, Carol manages to jump six barrels in the talent section of the contest. She and Wally find ways to even the score with the conniving Campbell twins.

Carol came second in the Ms Teeny-Wonderful contest but she is not terribly disappointed. She is satisfied that she can go home having proved herself "the best jumper in St. Albert."

Suggested Grade Levels

This book will be enjoyed by students from grade four to grade eight.



Circle if the statement is TRUE or if it is FALSE.

- T F 1. Carol admitted that there is something stupid about playing Chicken.
T F 2. Playing Chicken with bikes sounds dangerous and you could get badly hurt trying it.
T F 3. Carol thinks Jeeny Carter should have been nominated to be MsTeeny-Wonderful because Jeeny is Carol's best friend.
T F 4. Carol is disgusted by the idea of a Ms Teeny-Wonderful contest.
T F 5. Carol has seen some people get really hurt when they tried to jump cans.
T F 6. Wally said that Carol was sure to win the contest.

Select the correct response to the following chapter questions.

1. What should you do if someone asks you to play Chicken?

- a) You should pretend there is something wrong with your bike.
b) You should ask if the other person is feeling all right.
c) As politely as possible, you should just say no.

2. Which of the prizes does Carol want the most?

- a) a trip to Disneyland
b) a motorboat
c) \$5000.00
d) a year of traveling and having a tutor instead of going to school

3. Where does Carol live?

- a) St. Albert, Alberta
b) St. Albert, Manitoba
c) St. Albert, British Columbia
d) St. Albert, P.E.I.

4. Carol's mother said it was an honor for Carol to be chosen as a finalist. Carol was mocking her mother when she agreed. This means that Carol:

- a) was thanking her mother for entering her in the contest.
b) was making fun of her mother and not really agreeing.



Select the correct response to the following chapter questions.

Chapter 11 – "Sneaky Switch"

1. How did Carol hear what Ralph was saying about her?

- a) She was in the men's change room.
b) She was hiding under the table.
c) He didn't see her standing behind the curtains.

2. Who asked Ralph how he fits into his tight jeans?

- a) Carol
b) Wally
c) Joan
d) Mrs. Weatherspoon

Chapter 12 – "Mummies' Revenge"

1. Who said that some people are always winners while others are always losers?

- a) Carol
b) Jean
c) Joan
d) Dale
e) Wally

2. Why were the twins crying?

- a) They were scared.
b) Carol attacked them.
c) They lost the contest.

Chapter 13 – "Dale's Dirty Deed"

1. What happened to Carol's dress?

- a) The drycleaners weren't able to get the tea stain to come out.
b) When it was cleaned, it shrank and was too small to wear.
c) It was slashed to ribbons.



PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. Did you enjoy this book? _____ Why or why not?

2. Who was your favorite character? _____

Why? _____

HERE SHE IS, MS TEENY-WONDERFUL

Select the correct response to the following chapter questions.

Chapter 12 – “Are You There, Teeny-Wonderful?”

1. What happened when Carol jumped her bike across the canyon?
 - a) Carol's bike smashed into the cliff and dropped into the canyon.
 - b) The bike just managed to sail across the canyon safely.
 - c) The helicopter saved Carol just when her bike was falling.
2. Before throwing the electrical wire down to E.Z., Carol had to tie it to something at the top of the cliff so she wound one end of the wire around:
 - a) a tree.
 - b) the bridge.
 - c) herself.

Chapter 13 – “A Hero”

1. What did you learn about Junior in this chapter?
 - a) Even after Carol saved him, he was still rude to her.
 - b) He was nasty because he was lonely.
 - c) He didn't like Carol because she knew he was scared when he tried to jump across the canyon.
2. Choose the sentence that best describes Carol.
 - a) She was not brave because she was so scared that she almost didn't try to jump.
 - b) She was brave because jumping across the canyon didn't scare her at all.
 - c) She was very brave because she jumped across the canyon even though she was really scared.
3. What did Carol say when Susie thanked her for saving Junior's life?
 - a) "It was nothing."
 - b) "You're welcome."
 - c) "Forget it."

SEND IN MS TEENY-WONDERFUL

Select the correct response to the following chapter questions.

3. What is Wally reading about now?

- a) monsters
- b) aliens in outer space
- c) manners
- d) history
- e) sharks

Chapter 3 – “Those Pictures”

1. What is “Chicken Right”?

- a) a restaurant
- b) a game
- c) a grocery store

2. Who put pepper in someone's drink?

- a) Carol
- b) Kurt
- c) Wally
- d) the Campbell twins

3. Who told Carol's mother she was a good cook?

- a) Carol
- b) Kurt
- c) Wally
- d) Carol's father

Chapter 4 – “Interesting Facts”

1. What career is Carol not interested in having?

- a) a teacher
- b) a doctor
- c) a pilot

2. Who was Robert Borden? He was a Canadian:

- a) Prime Minister.
- b) bike manufacturer.
- c) architect.



THE MYSTERY OF HOLE'S CASTLE

Personal Response

1. Did you like this book? _____ Why or why not? _____

2. Who was your favorite character? _____ Why? _____

3. What was your favorite part of the book?

THE DESPERATE ESCAPE

Select the correct response to the following chapter questions.

4. Who can sound like a toilet flushing?

- a) Delton
- b) Francine
- c) Travis
- d) Butcher

5. Leighla hasn't been in a school since she began modeling. How does she feel about this?

- a) She misses going to school.
- b) She thinks that not going to school is the best thing about modeling.
- c) She is afraid she will not get a good education.

Chapter 10

1. What color is lobster blood?

- a) red
- b) green
- c) blue
- d) black

2. Who collects eyeballs?

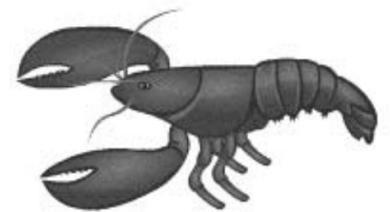
- a) Delton
- b) Hornbeck
- c) Travis
- d) Butcher

3. Who is Leighla going to be pen pals with?

- a) Delton
- b) Garrett
- c) Francine
- d) Butcher

4. What does Butcher want to be when he finishes school?

- a) professional football player
- b) wrestler
- c) doctor
- d) butcher



HERE SHE IS, MS TEENY WONDERFUL
Chapter 3 – “Five-Canners Don’t Go On Dates”

Select the correct response to the following chapter questions.

1. Three airline tickets came in the Ms Teeny-Wonderful package. Two were for Carol and her mother. Who was the third ticket for?

- a) Carol’s father
- b) Carol’s girlfriend
- c) A boy to act as an escort for Carol at the dance during the contest.

2. Why did Carol get upset when she thought about the talent part of the contest?

- a) Singing in front of an audience always made her nervous.
- b) At her last music festival, Carol forgot part of her piano piece.
- c) She had copied the poem and people would know she had cheated.

3. Why did Carol speak sarcastically to her mother when she saw the envelope from *Canada Woman* magazine on the table?

- a) Carol was worried about the talent part of the contest.
- b) Carol was annoyed because her mother had opened an envelope addressed to Carol.
- c) Her mother said she was too busy to sit down and talk about the contest until after supper.

4. What did Carol say when Wally said he wanted to ride her trail bike?

- a) “No way!”
- b) “You’re my best friend, so okay.”
- c) “Okay, but if you wreck it, you’ll have to get me a new one.”

5. Why did Carol say she was still thinking about it when she had already decided she would be in the contest?

- a) She wanted to be able to change her mind at the last minute.
- b) She didn’t want the kids at school to find out what she was doing until after the contest.
- c) She thought her mother would keep buttering her up to get her to go.

6. A character in a book has whatever personality traits an author wants to give the character. Why did Martyn Godfrey make Carol do and say some things we cannot like or admire?

- a) He wants us to hate Carol and like Wally instead.
- b) He wants to make her an interesting and believable character with some problems that real kids might have.

HERE SHE IS, MS TEENY WONDERFUL

(1) b (2) c (3) c (4) d (5) a (6) a (7) b (8) a

(1) T (2) T (3) F (4) T (5) T (6) F (1) c (2) c (3) a (4) b

(1) c (2) c (3) b (4) a (5) c (6) b

(1) c (2) a (3) b (4) a (5) a

(1) b (2) b

(1) c (2) c (3) b

(1) d

(1) b (2) c

(1) c

(1) a

(1) a (2) c

(2) a

(1) c

(1) a

(1) c

(1) b (2) a

(1) c (2) b

(1) d

(1) c

Number of Questions = 52

ANSWER KEY