

The Princess Bride

Summer Reading

Grade 9

Name- _____

Note: Please read

- You might wonder why you have to read a book called *The Princess Bride*. Know that it is classic literature, and the content is engaging for any reader. For more insight, read the following Goodreads description:
- “What’s it about? Fencing. Fighting. True Love. Strong Hate. Harsh Revenge. A few giants. Lots of Bad Men. Lots of Good Men. Five or Six Beautiful Women. Beasties, Monstrous and Gentle. Some Swell Escapes and Captures. Death, Lies, Truth, Miracles, and a Little Romance. In short, it's about everything” (goodreads.com).
- Your responses are read and graded based on completeness, accuracy, and content. Please complete the assignment as indicated. Remember, grammar matters. Answer your questions in complete sentences. Beware fragments!

Introduction Summary

The text begins with an introduction by the author and narrator, William Goldman, in which he explains that as a child, he annoyed his school teacher, Miss Roginski, simply because he had no interest in reading. Years pass, and he publishes his first book and sends his old teacher a copy. Miss Roginski writes back, adding the postscript, "Not even the immortal S. Morgenstern could feel more parental as I," and suddenly William Goldman flashes back to his original brush with *The Princess Bride*. He was ten years old and in bed with pneumonia. His father sat by him throughout the illness, reading the good parts of *The Princess Bride*, and suddenly young Billy was captivated by the written word, ultimately astonishing his teacher.

Time passes, and William Goldman, now a father, is away in California the week of his son's tenth birthday. Over the phone, he asks his wife, Helen, to buy a copy of *The Princess Bride* for their son. While sitting by the pool of his fancy hotel and waiting for Helen to call with results, he is approached by a slender blonde starlet, Sandy Sterling, who compliments him on one of his earlier books. Midway through the encounter his wife calls back, unable to find the book, and throughout the next dozen or so pages, William completely blows any chance he had with the starlet as he makes call after hysterical call trying to locate a copy of his favorite book. When he returns home, we see his sad family, consisting of his son, an overweight, spoiled, and unintelligent boy, and Helen, a hotshot child psychiatrist, but cold wife. The ultimate moment of pathos hits when we discover that his son did not like, and moreover, did not even really read, the book.

William leaves the house in a fit of sadness and confusion, and walks alone through Central Park. When he returns home that night, he picks up the book and notes that he has never before handled it—that was always his father's role. He pages through it and soon finds that the book is a verbose, at times tediously dull satire of Florinese history, save the action parts his father plucked out to read. In the middle of that night, he calls his editor, puts all of his current projects on hold, and dives into a publishable abridgment of the original S. Morgenstern text, which he then presents to us. He does this not without his own brief and wry meditations on the fact that high adventure and true love, as personified in *The Princess Bride*, no longer exist. Nobody handles revenge like Inigo Montoya and William has never loved Helen the way Westley loved Buttercup. He says, finally, "Here's the 'good parts' version. S. Morgenstern wrote it. And my father read it to me. And now I give it to you. What you do with it will be of more than passing interest to us all." With this in mind, we turn the page to the story that changed its narrator's life (sparknotes.com).

You will notice that throughout the novel, the narrator periodically interrupts the story to share his personal thoughts, explanations, or snippets of information regarding the "original story" he has abridged.

Now... skip all the pages the Goldman explanation and begin reading at

Chapter One – The Bride

This summary has saved you the reading of about 70-ish pages.

Topic: Chapter 1

Essential Question:

What is the setting, and who are the main characters so far?

Questions:

1. Describe the relationship between Westley and Buttercup.

2. Why are the Count and Countess visiting the farm?

3. Why does Buttercup get angry with the Countess?

4. What does Buttercup finally realize? How does it change things?

5. Where is Westley going? Why?

Answers:

Summary: What do you think of the book so far? (Paragraph - Tell me WHY you think what you do).

Topic: Chapter 2

Essential Question:

What kind of person is Prince Humperdinck?

Questions:

Describe Prince Humperdinck (not just what he looks like).

What is the Zoo?

What are the different levels of the Zoo?

What does Count Rugen come to tell the prince?

What is Humperdinck's reaction to the news?

Answers:

Summary: Based on this chapter what kind of person do you think Humperdinck is? Why do you think that?

Topic: Chapter 3

Essential Question:

Why can't Humperdinck marry Princess Noreena?

Questions:

1. What does Humperdinck call the Queen? Why?

2. Why is Princess Noreena the best choice for Prince Humperdinck to marry?

3. Why does Humperdinck refuse to marry Noreena? Explain his thinking.

4. Why does Buttercup refuse to marry Prince Humperdinck?

5. Why does she eventually agree?

Answers:

Summary: What do you think of the King and Queen's relationship? Explain your thinking.

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Topic: Chapter 4

Essential Question:

Why is this chapter so short (it is)?

Questions:

Summarize the events of chapter 4: (put all events in the correct order!)

How did Goldman's father get through this chapter, originally?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Summary: How would the book be different if Goldman hadn't cut out most of this chapter?

Topic: Chapter 5, part 1

Essential Question:

Why is Buttercup kidnapped?

Questions:

1. What is going to happen in 3 months?
2. How many in the crowd are planning to MURDER Buttercup?
3. Who is waiting in the corner of the Great Square?
4. Describe the trio of men:
5. What word does the Sicilian use? Does he use it correctly? What is the definition of that word?
6. Describe the climb up the Cliffs of Insanity:

Answers:

Summary: How do you feel about the book, now that we've gotten more into the action?

Topic: Chapter 5, part 2

Essential Question:

Who is Inigo?

Questions:

1. Where is Inigo from?
2. Who is Domingo?
3. Describe the sword made for the six-fingered man:
4. What does the six-fingered man do to Domingo?
5. How long has Inigo been looking for the six-fingered man?
6. Why does the Man in Black accept Inigo's offer for help?
7. Why does Inigo think he will beat the Man in Black? Why doesn't he?
8. What is Fezzik's way of defeating the Man in Black? How does he feel about it?

Answers:

Summary: What do you think of Inigo? (4-5 sentences, at least).

Create a cartoon of your favorite battle (Inigo, Fezzik, or Vizzini). You should use colors and add a caption OR word bubbles.

Why was this your favorite battle?

Topic: Chapter 5, part 3

Essential Question:

Who is Fezzik?

Questions:

1. How old is Fezzik when he is ready to shave?

2. What happens when Fezzik's father makes him hit him?

3. What is the National Sport of Turkey?

4. What happens in Sandiki?

5. Why doesn't Fezzik like fighting only one person?

6. Describe the fight between Fezzik and the Man in Black.

7. What happens between Vizzini and the Man in Black?

8. What is locane?

Answers:

Summary:

Why do you think the Man in Black was able to beat Inigo, Fezzik, and Vizzini?

Quote Analysis

Choose two important quotes from chapters 1-5. Explain why you think they are significant in the text and how they are applicable outside of the text.

1. _____

2. _____

Discussion Questions: Pose 3 questions you have about the novel so far. Your questions should NOT have only one correct answer.

1. _____

Why is this important to discuss?

2. _____

Why is this important to discuss?

3. _____

Why is this important to discuss?

Topic: Chapter 5, part 4

Essential Question:

Where has Westley been this whole time? (Or, WHO has he been?)

Questions:

1. What does the Man in Black say when Buttercup tells him, "You can die for all I care!"?
2. Who is the Man in Black?
3. What did Westly shout at Buttercup? Why?
4. What are the four dangerous challenges in the Fire Swamp? Describe them.
5. How did Westley become the Dread Pirate Roberts?
6. Why does Buttercup go with Prince Humperdinck?

Answers:

Summary: What has become of Westley? Did Count Rugen take him to his ship? How do you know?

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Topic: Chapter 6, part 1

Essential Question:

Why do Inigo and Fezzik go back to the beginning, even though Vizzini is dead?

Questions:

1. Where must Inigo go when he wakes up at the Cliffs of Insanity? Why?
2. Why is Inigo scared?
3. How do Fezzik and Inigo meet again?
4. Who does Inigo say they need to go to for help making a plan?
5. Where does Westley wake up? What is the purpose of that place?
6. What bargain does Humperdinck make with Buttercup?
7. Why is Buttercup having problems writing her letter?

Answers:

Summary: Why do you think Prince Humperdinck made the deal with Buttercup?

Draw the Machine. Label all of the parts (it's okay if you make some of them up). Use information from the book as much as you can. Be as detailed as possible. Use multiple colors.

Explain your drawing.

Topic: Chapter 6, part 2

Essential Question:

Is Prince Humperdinck a coward?

Questions:

1. How does Buttercup find out that Prince Humperdinck never sent his ships to look for Westley?

2. Why does Billy's dad stop reading?

3. What does Humperdinck do with Buttercup when she calls him a coward?

4. Who kills Westley? How? Why?

5. What do Inigo and Fezzik follow in hopes they will find the Man in Black?

6. What do Inigo and Fezzik see and ask about where the Man in Black is being kept?

7. Who is given the job of getting rid of Westley's body?

Answers:

Summary: What was your favorite part of this chapter? Why?

Identify seven similes or metaphors (a combination is fine) found in your book. Explain what they mean. Include the page number for each one you find.

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Simile/Metaphor (circle one)

Page # _____

Explanation:

Topic: Chapter 7

Essential Question:

How do Inigo and Fezzik save Westley, even though he's already dead?

Questions:

1. Why is the door to the Zoo unlocked?
2. What happened when Fezzik and Inigo entered the 3rd level?
3. Who is Max?
4. Why does Max hesitate to work on Westley?
5. Why does Max finally take the job?
6. Describe the resurrection pill.
7. What are their liabilities and assets?
8. What assets do they not mention?
9. What causes the men to panic and run away?

Answers:

Summary: What do you think will happen next?

Topic: Chapter 8

Essential Question:

How does the book end?

Questions:

1. Why is Count Rugen anxious/worried?
2. What does the Count do when Inigo introduces himself?
3. What does Buttercup do after the wedding?
4. Explain what "to the pain" means:
5. Describe the fight between the Count and Inigo.
6. How does Goldman's father end the book?
7. How does Morgenstern end the book?

Answers:

Summary: What did you think of the book? Explain.