

Chapters 1-2-The Railway Children

1. How would you describe Roberta, Peter, and Phyllis?
2. What do you think their life at home is like?
3. Explain what Peter's coal mining was about. Was it right or wrong? Why?
4. Describe the big adjustment this family had to make.
5. Describe a time when your family had to move.

Chapters 3-4-The Railway Children

1. What do you think about the author's personal comment in parentheses?
2. How did the children gain "the old gentleman's" friendship?
3. Which one of the children would you say is the most mature? Support your answer.
4. Why was Peter reluctant to tell Mother the "whole truth" about the hamper?
5. If you were in a similar situation, would you seek help for your ill parent?
6. Describe how Roberta (Bobbie) tries to help others.
7. What kind of a person is Mother?

Chapters 5-6-The Railway Children

1. What is the difference between teaching and learning?
2. How does the author clue you in to where Father is?
3. Why does Mother befriend the Russian, and seem so “very sorry for him”?
4. Why was Perks so “cross” with the children?
5. How can you tell that Perks was in favor of the Japanese and Mr. Gills was for the Russians during the War?
6. What was the “magic” the children saw on the opposite bank of the railroad line?
7. How does the author show you the tension the children felt when they realized the train was in danger?
8. Why did Bobbie faint when the train stopped?

Chapters 7-8-The Railway Children

1. How does the author help the reader know more about Bobbie?
2. Describe how the children were honored for saving the train.
3. Why didn't Bobbie want the old gentleman to "tell you what I think of you"?
4. Why did Bobbie creep away when the Russian cried when he learned that his wife and children were found?
5. Why didn't Mother want the old gentleman to come and visit again?
6. Why didn't Bobbie continue to hold Mother and, instead, raced Phil to the gate?
7. Who was Latimer?
8. How do Bobbie, Peter, and Phil get along together?
9. Describe the Bargee.
10. Why was the conflict between the children and the Bargee?
11. How did the children save the baby?
12. What does Bobbie mean by, "I think everyone in the world is friends if you can only get them to see you don't want to be un-friends"?
13. How do you feel about Mother calling her children "my darlings" or "Chickies"?

Chapters 9-10-The Railway Children

1. Why doesn't Perks celebrate his own birthday?
2. How does Mother help the children understand "charity"?
3. What sort of presents do the children collect for Perks?
4. Why does Mrs. Perks cry when she sees the gifts?
5. Why do the children offend Perks so much?
6. Were the children right in collecting the birthday gifts from the villagers? Explain.
7. What does Mr. Perks mean when he said, "...it's not so much what you do, as what you mean"?
8. Why does Mother begin to tell stories about games she and Father played as children?
9. Why was Mother so pleased that the children did not quarrel?
10. Where was Father? What was he doing?
11. How did Bobbie find out about Father?
12. When did you ever feel like Bobbie?

Chapters 11-12-The Railway Children

1. Why was Father convicted of a crime and punished?
2. Is Mother asking too much of Bobbie to be happy and enjoy things when she knows the truth? Explain.
3. What would you do if you were Bobbie?
4. Describe the Hare and Hound game (paper-chase).
5. How does the author make you notice the hound in a red jersey?
6. What's it like to go into a tunnel?
7. What would you have done when the red hound didn't come out of the tunnel?
8. What happened to the red-jerseyed hound?
9. How does the author create tension in the tunnel?
10. How is Roberta different from Bobbie? (Chapter 12)
11. Did a man or woman invent the petticoat? Explain.
12. How does Peter encourage Phyllis to keep going to the end of the tunnel?
13. Explain Phyllis' feelings about going in the tunnel.
14. What kind of person is the signalman?
15. Explain how the signalman, Phil, and Peter communicated.
16. Describe Mother's feelings about taking in the "hound."

Chapters 13-14-The Railway Children

1. Why does Bobbie teach Peter a lesson?
2. What do you think of the Doctor's attitude about boys and girls?
3. What "scientific facts" is the Doctor talking about?
4. Who was Jim's guardian?
5. Explain how the author literally "weaves" this story.
6. Why does the old gentleman say that Mother is a "woman in a million"?
7. Describe Bobbie's meeting with Father.
8. Why does the author end the story by closing the door?