

3103 English IIC
Edgar Allan
Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1-7

Write a brief description for each of the following characters:

1. Reverend Robert Fickett:

2. Mrs. Fickett:

3. Mary Nell (M.N.):

4. Sally Ann (S.A.):

5. Stephen Paul (S.P.):

6. Edgar Allan (E.A.):

True/False

7. ____ The children were named based on the time of day they were born.
8. ____ Michael has few friends and doesn't participate in many social activities.
9. ____ Edgar Allan was ten years old when he arrived at the Fickett's.
10. ____ Edgar Allan's adoption would take a year to complete.
11. ____ Edgar Allan did not speak much when he first arrived.

Short Answer

12. On page 10, what do you think Michael's father meant by the phrase "sometimes it takes more courage to say no, than to say yes"?

13. Who is the narrator of the story? Describe his/her personality?

14. Do you think that Mr. and Mrs. Fickett knew all about Edgar Allan before he arrived? Why or why not?

15. Describe how Sally Ann and Stephen Paul got along with Edgar Allan?

16. Describe Mary Nell's actions and feelings about Edgar Allan's arrival?

17. Why was Mary Nell so upset with her parents? Do you agree or disagree with her?

18. What do you think Mrs. Fickett meant at the end of Chapter 5 when she told Mary Nell that by keeping Edgar Allan in the family, Mary Nell would receive the gift of "integrity"?

19. Chapter 6 tells about the town in which the Ficketts live. Describe the town, including the size, location and the type of people who live there.

20. Why did Michael feel that Edgar Allan was smart?
21. Describe Edgar Allan's personality?
22. How did Mary Nell and her friends treat Edgar Allan? What do you think of their actions? Give examples?

Chapters 8-18

Short Answer

23. What do you think the four ladies from the church who stopped by the Fickett's for coffee in Chapter 8 were really thinking about Edgar Allan? Why?
24. In Chapter 9 (on page 52), what does Mother mean when she says there's "something in the air"?
25. How did Mr. Fickett respond to the parents who said they were going to take their children out of the church school?
26. Who is Tommy Ditford and what did he do to Michael?

27. What affect did Tommy's actions have on Michael? What do you think of the way Michael reacted to Tommy?

28. Who was Thomas More and what did he do the Michael so respected?

29. In Chapter 11, were Mr. and Mrs. Fickett in agreement over what they should do about Edgar Allan? Give one example to support your answer.

30. How did Mr. Fickett respond on the Sunday following the visit by the men from the church? What do you think of his actions?

31. What did the Ficketts discover in their yard on the Monday morning following Sunday's sermon?

32. What happened to Mrs. Fickett at the grocery store?

33. What did Mary Nell say she would do if Edgar Allan stayed with the Ficketts? What do you think of her actions?

34. What did Michael decide to do about Mary Nell after the family meeting in Chapter 16?
35. Why did Michael want to write about Edgar Allan's story? How did Michael say he would begin the story?
36. How did the parents first explain Edgar Allan's disappearance? Do you think it was right for them to lie to the children? Why or Why not?
37. From Michael's point of view, why was Edgar Allan really sent back to the orphanage so quickly?

Chapters 19-26

38. Did Mary Nell ever really want Edgar Allan sent away? How do you know?
39. How was Mrs. Fickett feeling about Edgar Allan's leaving? Be specific and give details about her feelings?
40. Who was Joe Ryder? Why did he really want to talk to the children? Do you think he was right in telling Stephen Paul and Sally Ann about how Edgar Allan left?

49. How do you think Edgar Allan felt about being sent back?

50. Do you think the Fickett family should have given Edgar Allan away? Would you have made the same decision? Explain your answer.