Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

The Wanderer
By Sharon Creech
Published by Scholastic – 2000
Newbery Honor Book
Reading level – 5

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The Wanderer
Reading For Comprehension Series Bundle
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The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

Teacher’s Guide

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I. Preparations  
Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

- **dinghies** (8, 1) small boats
- **temptress** (_, 2) a woman who lures one to do something for pleasure or gain
- **impulsive** (9, 3) prone to act on some action that a person has not thought out the results of
- **exotic** lands (10, 4) strikingly, excitingly, or mysteriously different or unusual
- **extensive** list (8+, 6) a list of considerable items on it
- **two masts** of equal size (4, 14) long supporting poles rising from the deck of a ship
- **bilge** (_, 17) part of a ship that lies between the bottom and where the sides go straight up

Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1 and 2  

1. **What three things did the sea say to Sophie?** The sea said come in, come out, sail on.
2. **What were the three sides to Sophie that her father said she had?** He said she had a dreamy side like her mother, a logical side like him, and a mule side. But he didn’t know where that side came from.
3. **Who was Sophie going to sail with?** She was going with her three uncles, Stew, Mo, and Dock. Dock was her favorite uncle. She was also going with two cousins.
4. **How did Sophie describe her two cousins?** Brian was quiet, serious, and studious. Cody was loud, impulsive, and charming.
5. **Which uncle said that Sophie should come on the all-boy, man trip and why?** Uncle Dock said that Sophie knew more about boats than Brian and Cody put together.
6. **Who would they see at the end of the voyage?** They were to see Bompie, who was Sophie’s grandfather. He was like Sophie’s third parent. He was mule-headed like Sophie.
7. **How do we know that Bompie was like a mule?** At the age of 72 he decided to return “home” to England where he had originally come from.
Chapter 3  Slow Time  Pp. 8-11

1. What did Sophie’s father say to her catching the bus to meet up with her uncles and cousins? We will drive you there. We will not dump you on a bus by yourself.

2. Where did Sophie live now? She lived in Kentucky far from the ocean. Her new school friends thought she was crazy to want to go on a ocean sailing adventure.

3. What did her mother get Sophie to get her started on her adventure? She gave Sophie a journal to start writing in now so everyone at home could read it when she got home.

4. How did Sophie’s teachers react to her writing in her journal at this point in time with school not yet being over? They told her to put it away and get busy on her school work.

Chapter 4  The Big Baby  Pp. 12-19

1. Why didn’t Sophie’s mom go with Sophie and her dad to meet up with the uncles and cousins? Mom was afraid she would make a big scene and not let Sophie go on such a dangerous journey.

2. Why didn’t the motley crew and Sophie start on the trip as soon as she got to the ocean? The 45-foot, navy and white boat with two masts needed work done on it.

3. What was the boat’s name? It was The Wanderer, but Sophie called it Dock’s Big Baby.

4. Why was Uncle Stuart called Uncle Stew? He was called that because he worried and stewed about every tiny weeny thing.

5. What were Cousin Brian and Uncle Mo busy doing? Brian was making a list of things that The Wanderer needed done to her before they could get started. Uncle Mo spent a lot of time in a deck chair giving orders, and watching the other work.

6. What kind of attention did Cody get? Girls kept strolling through the boatyard trying to get his attention.

7. What job did the men and boys want Sophie to do? They wanted her clean up things.

8. What job did Sophie want to tackle? She thought she could fix up the bilge. Uncle Dock let her after he realized that she knew more about the bilge than any of the others.

9. What made Brian feel sick? When The Wanderer was put in the water, he realized that the boat looked like a little cork bobbing in the water. He asked if this is all that will keep everyone alive out on the ocean.

10. What did Sophie do before they started out? She sent a postcard to her parents to tell them that she would soon be wandering on The Wanderer.
Student’s Guide
I. Preparations  

Vocabulary List

dinghies (1)
temptress (2)
impulsive (3)
exotic lands (4)
extensive list (6)
two masts of equal size (14)
bilge (17)

Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1 and 2  

1. What three things did the sea say to Sophie?

2. What were the three sides to Sophie that her father said she had?

3. Who was Sophie going to sail with?

4. How did Sophie describe her two cousins?

5. Which uncle said that Sophie should come on the all-boy, man trip and why?

6. Who would they see at the end of the voyage?

7. How do we know that Bompie was like a mule?
Chapter 3  Slow Time  Pp. 8-11

1. What did Sophie’s father say to her catching the bus to meet up with her uncles and cousins?

2. Where did Sophie live now?

3. What did her mother get Sophie to get her started on her adventure?

4. How did Sophie’s teachers react to her writing in her journal at this point in time with school not yet being over?

Chapter 4  The Big Baby  Pp. 12-19

1. Why didn’t Sophie’s mom go with Sophie and her dad to meet up with the uncles and cousins?

2. Why didn’t the motley crew and Sophie start on the trip as soon as she got to the ocean?

3. What was the boat’s name?

4. Why was Uncle Stuart called Uncle Stew?

5. What were Cousin Brian and Uncle Mo busy doing?

6. What kind of attention did Cody get?

7. What job did the men and boys want Sophie to do?

8. What job did Sophie want to tackle?

9. What made Brian feel sick?

10. What did Sophie do before they started out?
II. Shakedown  

Vocabulary List

bosun’s chair (32)
dolt (35)
sextant thingy (37)
sailing terminology (38)
bludgeon (39)
astern (48)
a capricious lady (53)
chaos (54)
were all languishing (52)

Comprehension Questions

Chapter 5  Afloat  Pp. 23-27

1. What was the direction The Wanderer would take on its journey to England?
2. How long would the journey take?
3. What would Cody, Sophie, and Uncle Dock do that was somewhat the same?
4. Why was Cody doing a journal?
5. Why was Uncle Dock keeping a journal?
6. What did all the crew members agree to do?
7. What was Cody to teach?
8. What did Sophie decide to teach the others?
Student’s Workbook
I. Preparations  

Vocabulary List

- dinghies (1)
- impulsive (3)
- exotic lands (4)
- extensive list (6)

Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1 and 2  

1. What three things did the sea say to Sophie?

2. What were the three sides to Sophie that her father said she had?

3. Who was Sophie going to sail with?

4. How did Sophie describe her two cousins?

5. Which uncle said that Sophie should come on the all-boy, man trip and why?

6. Who would they see at the end of the voyage?

7. How do we know that Bompie was like a mule?
Chapter 3  Slow Time  Pp. 8-11

1. What did her mother get Sophie to get her started on her adventure? ____________________________
   ____________________________

2. How did Sophie’s teachers react to her writing in her journal at this point in time with school
   not yet being over? ____________________________
   ____________________________

Chapter 4  The Big Baby  Pp. 12-19

1. Why didn’t the motley crew and Sophie start on the trip as soon as she got to the ocean?
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

2. What was the boat’s name? ____________________________
   ____________________________

3. Why was Uncle Stuart called Uncle Stew? ____________________________
   ____________________________

4. What were Cousin Brian and Uncle Mo busy doing? ____________________________
   ____________________________

5. What job did the men and boys want Sophie to do? ____________________________
   ____________________________

6. What job did Sophie want to tackle? ____________________________
   ____________________________

7. What made Brian feel sick? ____________________________
   ____________________________

8. What did Sophie do before they started out? ____________________________
   ____________________________
Workbook Answer Key

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.)

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And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.
I. Preparations Pp. 1-19

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

dinghies (8, 1) small boats
impulsive (9, 3) prone to act on some action that a person hasn’t thought out the results of
exotic lands (10, 4) strikingly, excitingly, or mysteriously different or unusual
extensive list (8+, 6) a list of considerable items on it

Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1 and 2 Pp. 1-7

1. What three things did the sea say to Sophie? The sea said come in, come out, sail on.

2. What were the three sides to Sophie that her father said she had? He said she had a
dreamy side like her mother, a logical side like him, and a mule side. But he didn’t know
where that side came from.

3. Who was Sophie going to sail with? She was going with her three uncles, Stew, Mo, and Dock. Dock was her favorite uncle. She was also going with two cousins.

4. How did Sophie describe her two cousins? Brian was quiet, serious, and studious. Cody was loud, impulsive, and charming.

5. Which uncle said that Sophie should come on the all-boy, man trip and why? Uncle Dock said that Sophie knew more about boats than Brian and Cody put together.

6. Who would they see at the end of the voyage? They were to see Bompie, who was
Sophie’s grandfather. He was like Sophie’s third parent. He was mule-headed like Sophie.

7. How do we know that Bompie was like a mule? At the age of 72 he decided to return
“home” to England where he had originally come from.
Chapter 3  Slow Time  Pp. 8-11

1. What did her mother get Sophie to get her started on her adventure? She gave Sophie a journal to start writing in now so everyone at home could read it when she got home.

2. How did Sophie’s teachers react to her writing in her journal at this point in time with school not yet being over? They told her to put it away and get busy on her school work.

Chapter 4  The Big Baby  Pp. 12-19

1. Why didn’t the motley crew and Sophie start on the trip as soon as she got to the ocean? The 45-foot, navy and white boat with two masts needed work done on it.

2. What was the boat’s name? It was The Wanderer, but Sophie called it Dock’s Big Baby.

3. Why was Uncle Stuart called Uncle Stew? He was called that because he worried and stewed about every tiny weeny thing.

4. What were Cousin Brian and Uncle Mo busy doing? Brian was making a list of things that The Wanderer needed done to her before they could get started. Uncle Mo spent a lot of time in a deck chair giving orders, and watching the other work.

5. What job did the men and boys want Sophie to do? They wanted her clean up things.

6. What job did Sophie want to tackle? She thought she could fix up the bilge. Uncle Dock let her after he realized that she knew more about the bilge than any of the others.

7. What made Brian feel sick? When The Wanderer was put in the water, he realized that the boat looked like a little cork bobbing in the water.

8. What did Sophie do before they started out? She sent a postcard to her parents to tell them that she would soon be wandering on The Wanderer.
II. Shakedown  Pp. 23-62

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

- **sextant** thingy (13, 37) a navigational instrument for determining latitude
- **sailing terminology** (13, 38) the technical or special terms used in sailing a ship
- **a capricious lady** (13, 53) a person who does things impulsively with a sudden whim or fancy
- **chaos** (5, 54) confusion; jumble; disarray; a complete disorder
- **were all languishing** (12, 52) becoming dispirited; becoming sluggish or listless

Comprehension Questions

Chapters 5 and 6  Pp. 23-29

1. How long would the journey take from Long Island to England? 3 to 4 weeks

2. What would Cody, Sophie, and Uncle Dock do that was somewhat the same? They would each keep a journal.

3. Why was Uncle Dock keeping a journal? It was called a Captain’s log, and it helped to chart the journey.

4. What did all the crew members agree to do? Each of them had to teach something to all the others along the way.

5. What was Cody to teach? He was to teach juggling which Brian said was stupid.

6. What did Sophie decide to teach the others? She would teach them some of Bompie’s stories.

7. What do we find out about Sophie in this chapter from Cody? His aunt and uncle weren’t her real parents. She was adopted and had only been with them 3 years.

8. What did Cody say that Brian liked to do? He liked to make lists and so did his father.
Key Questions
The Wanderer
By Sharon Creech

Name ________________________________

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What were the three sides to Sophie according to her father? Chapter 2 ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

2. How did Sophie’s teachers react to her writing in her journal with school not yet over? Chapter 3
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

3. What would Cody, Sophie, and Uncle Dock all do that was somewhat the same? Chapter 5
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

4. What was Cody’s dad trying to talk Cody out of doing? Chapter 10 ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

5. What happened to the car Bompie was to drive home, and what happened to Bompie when he got home? Chapter 14
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
6. What was Uncle Mo’s real name, and why did he change it? Chapter 17  

7. According to Cody, why didn’t anyone like Brian? Chapter 21  

8. What secret did Sophie overhear Stew tell Dock? Chapter 25  

9. What did Stew finally decide the blips on the radar screen really were? Chapter 29  

10. What question did Brian ask about dolphins that can’t be answered? Chapter 31
Key Questions Answer Key
The Wanderer
By Sharon Creech

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

Name ___________________________

1. What were the three sides to Sophie according to her father? Chapter 2
   
   He said she had a dreamy side like her mother, a logical side like him, and a mule side. But he didn’t know where that side came from.

2. How did Sophie’s teachers react to her writing in her journal with school not yet over? Chapter 3
   
   They told her to put it away and get busy on her school work.

3. What would Cody, Sophie, and Uncle Dock all do that was somewhat the same? Chapter 5
   
   They would each keep a journal.

4. What was Cody’s dad trying to talk Cody out of doing? Chapter 10
   
   He didn’t want Cody to teach juggling. He thought there must be something else Cody could teach. Cody said, “Nope.”

5. What happened to the car Bompie was to drive home, and what happened to Bompie when he got home? Chapter 14
   
   The car turned over in the flooded creek and was lost, Bompie got home to a whipping from his dad and an apple pie from his mother because she was so glad he was alive.
6. What was Uncle Mo’s real name, and why did he change it? Chapter 17

His real name was Moses, but he got beaten up so much when he was a kid so he shortened it to Mo.

7. According to Cody, why didn’t anyone like Brian? Chapter 21

No one liked him because of his lists, the fact that he always told everyone what to do, and how he always had the answers to every single thing.

8. What secret did Sophie overhear Stew tell Dock? Chapter 25

He had just gotten fired from his job and that he should be looking for a job instead of being on the boat crossing the ocean.

9. What did Stew finally decide the blips on the radar screen really were? Chapter 29

It was the radar was picking up rain clouds. They felt stupid to think that they’d been blowing their horn at rain clouds and trying to call them on the radio to tell them not to hit them.

10. What question did Brian ask about dolphins that can’t be answered? Chapter 31

He wanted to know why dolphins trust people so much.
Vocabulary Worksheet

Name ______________________

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. __________________________ Meanings:

2. __________________________ Meanings:

3. __________________________ Meanings:

4. __________________________ Meanings:

5. __________________________ Meanings:

6. __________________________ Meanings:

7. __________________________ Meanings:

8. __________________________ Meanings:

9. __________________________ Meanings:

10. __________________________ Meanings:
Comprehension Worksheet

Name ___________________________

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name ______________________

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. ______________________ Meaning: ______________________

2. ______________________ Meaning: ______________________

3. ______________________ Meaning: ______________________

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. ______________________

2. ______________________

3. ______________________