

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

A Little Princess

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

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1905

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Harper Trophy Publisher

The original story by Frances Hodgson Burnett began as a serialized novel published in 1888 in *St. Nicholas Magazine*. Its title at that time was *Sara Crewe: or, What happened at Miss Minchin's boarding school*. The novel was revised and expanded by the author under the new title, *A Little Princess*, in 1905. The novel is still read and loved now as it was then.

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Teacher's Guide

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*.)

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.

Chapter 1 Sara Pp. 1-17

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

ayah (, 3) a nurse or maid native to India

obliged (5,4) forced or compelled; to bind by a favor

resigned (6, 5) to give oneself over to despair without resistance

quaint little comrade (6, 14) odd or strange companion or associate

solicitors (, 15) lawyers

Comprehension Questions

1. **Where was Captain Crewe taking his daughter, Sara?** to a boarding school for young ladies
2. **Where had Sara been born?** She was born in India. Her mother had died at Sara's birth. Sara's father adored her.
3. **Why was Captain Crewe in India?** He was a soldier in the English army, and he was very wealthy.
4. **Why did Captain Crewe take Sara to a boarding school in England when she was only 7 years of age?** He felt she was learning so fast he was afraid he was holding her back. He said that "she gobbles up books like she is a little wolf instead of a little girl."
5. **What was one of the last things Captain Crewe purchased for Sara before he returned to India?** He purchased, Emily, her doll with a complete custom-made wardrobe which matched Sara's clothes.
6. **What did Miss Minchin think of Sara?** She thought Sara was spoiled little girl who wore clothing that was ridiculous for a child her age. Her sister, Miss Amelia, said Sara was a funny, old-fashioned child.
7. **What did Sara think of Miss Minchin?** Sara thought Miss Minchin dull, ugly, and cold. Sara thought she had a cold smile as well.
8. **How did Sara act as her father left to return to India?** She was resigned to her fate. She locked her door so she could be alone. There was no crying or screaming or kicking.

Chapter 2 A French Lesson Pp. 18-26

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

spitefully (5, 19) ill will with a wish to annoy, anger or frustrate; malevolence

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What was Sara's position in Miss Minchin's school?** She was Miss Minchin's star or "show" pupil, a credit to the establishment.
- 2. Who had been the previous show pupil?** Lavinia was the previous show pupil. She was spiteful toward Sara.
- 3. Who was Mariette?** Sara's personal maid at the school
- 4. What did Sara tell Mariette about dolls?** They were really alive, and they became active when a human left the room.
- 5. What did Sara try to tell Miss Minchin about French lessons?** Sara tried to tell her that she spoke fluent French.
- 6. Who was Monsieur Dufarge?** He was the French tutor Miss Minchin had hired to teach French to her pupils.
- 7. How did Sara make Miss Minchin look the fool to Monsieur Dufarge?** Miss Minchin introduced Sara to the French tutor as a child who is prejudiced against French. But Sara explained her situation to him in perfect French.
- 8. Why was Miss Minchin afraid to scold Sara about the French lesson misunderstanding?** Miss Minchin was anxious to please Sara's father as he was paying an excessive amount of money for the boarding and education of Sara.
- 9. How did this effect Miss Minchin's attitude toward Sara?** This added to the dislike she has felt toward her show pupil.

Student's Guide

Chapter 1 Sara Pp. 1-17

Vocabulary

ayah (3)

obliged (4)

resigned (5)

quaint (14) little comrade

solicitors (15)

Comprehension Questions

1. Where was Captain Crewe taking his daughter, Sara?
2. Where had Sara been born?
3. Why was Captain Crewe in India?
4. Why did Captain Crewe take Sara to a boarding school in England when she was only 7 years of age?
5. What was one of the last things Captain Crewe purchased for Sara before he returned to India?
6. What did Miss Minchin think of Sara?
7. What did Sara think of Miss Minchin?
8. How did Sara act as her father left to return to India?

Chapter 2 A French Lesson Pp. 18-26

Vocabulary

spitefully (19)

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Sara's position in Miss Minchin's school?
2. Who had been the previous show pupil?
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9. How did this effect Miss Minchin's attitude toward Sara?

Student's Workbook

Chapter 1 Sara Pp. 1-17

Vocabulary

obliged (4) _____

resigned (5) _____

quaint (14) little comrade _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Where was Captain Crewe taking his daughter, Sara? _____

2. Where had Sara been born? _____

3. Why was Captain Crewe in India? _____

4. What was one of the last things Captain Crewe purchased for Sara before he returned to India? _____

5. What did Miss Minchin think of Sara? _____

6. What did Sara think of Miss Minchin? _____

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Chapter 2 A French Lesson Pp. 18-26

Vocabulary

spitefully (19) _____

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Workbook Answer Key

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- 9. How did this effect Miss Minchin's attitude toward Sara?** This added to the dislike she has felt toward her show pupil.

Key Questions

Key Questions

Answers these questions in sentences

Name _____

1. Why did Captain Crewe take Sara to a boarding school in England when she was only seven years of age? Ch. 1

2. Who was Ermengarde? Ch. 3

3. What kind of little girl was Lottie before Sara took her under her wing? Ch. 4

4. When Sara felt like boxing Lavinia's ears, what stopped her? Ch. 6

5. What news did Mr. Barrow bring? Ch. 7

6. Where did Sara pretend she was living while she lived in the garret? Ch. 9

7. What was Mr. Carmichael's connection with the Indian gentleman? Ch. 12

8. How was Sara going to repay Ermengarde for the use of her new books? Ch. 15

9. As the "Magic" continued for days, what was happening to Sara and Becky? Ch. 16

10. When Miss Minchin learned that Sara's wealth had been returned to her, what did Miss Minchin demand? Ch. 18

Key Questions Answer key

Answers these questions in sentences

Name _____

1. Why did Captain Crewe takw her to a boarding school in England when she was only seven years of age? Ch. 1

He felt she was learning so fast he was afraid he was holding her back in her abilities. He wanted her to have a proper education.

2. Who was Ermengarde? Ch. 3

Ermengarde was a fellow student. She had light blue, dull eyes. She was not clever. She had a pouting mouth and was a fat little girl.

3. What kind of little girl was Lottie before Sara takes her under her wing? Ch. 4

She had no mother and a flighty father. She had been treated like a favorite doll, pet monkey or a lap dog.

4. When Sara felt like boxing Lavinia's ears, what stopped her? Ch. 6

Sara thought about how a princess would act, and she held her temper.

5. What news did Mr. Barrow bring? Ch. 7

Captain Crewe was dead. All of his money was gone. Sara was penniless.

6. Where did Sara pretend she was living while she lived in the garret? Ch. 9

She pretended that she was a prisoner in the French Bastille.

7. What was Mr. Carmichael's connection with the Indian gentleman? Ch. 12

He was trying to locate the daughter of a dead friend and business acquaintance of the Indian gentleman. He was Mr. Carrisford's solicitor.

8. How was Sara going to repay Ermengarde for the use of her new books? Ch. 15

Sara planned to read the books and then explain what was in the books so that Ermengarde can tell her father that she knew the material in the books.

9. As the "Magic" continued for days, what was happening to Sara and Becky? Ch. 16

They both looked less thin, and there was color in their cheeks. Sara's face fit her big eyes.

10. When Miss Minchin learned that Sara's wealth had been returned to her, what did Miss Minchin demand? Ch. 18

She said that Sara must return to the seminary to stay with Miss Minchin until Sara was of age.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

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

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

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. _____
