

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

Blood on the River
James Town 1607
by Elisa Carbone
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Blood on the River
Reading For Comprehension Series Bundle
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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 One Pp. 1-5

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

musty (8, 2) having a damp moldy, stale smell

burly (, 4) large and strong, heavily built

magistrate (9, 4) a civil officer who conducts court

Comprehension Questions

1. **What was the prophecy delivered to Chief Powhatan by his trusted priests? P. 1** A tribe would come to the land of Powhatan. Three battles would be waged. After the third battle the Powhatan empire would be no more.
2. **Why was the boy in the pawnshop? Pp. 2-3** He was there to take the locket that had belonged to his mother and should have been given to him when she died.
3. **What did the shopkeeper and his burly son think would happen to the boy? Pp. 4-5** The boy would be hanged.

Chapter Two Pp. 6-13

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

satchel (7, 8) a bag carried over the shoulders by a long strap

commotion (7, 9) confused and noisy disturbance

throng (, 9) a crowd of people

hoards (8, 9) many

apprentice (5, 9) a person who is to learn a trade

scoff (7, 9) mocking way, scornfully

diminish (8, 12) become less

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Instead of the gallows, where was Samuel Collier sent? Pp. 6-7** The judge took pity on him and sent him to an orphanage.
- 2. What was the important reason to go to the New World according to Reverend Hunt? Pp. 8-9** He thought that spreading the good news of Christ was more important than exploring for gold, silver, and jewels and finding a new passageway to the Orient.
- 3. What was to be Samuel's job on the ship? P. 9** He was to be Captain John Smith's page and apprentice.
- 4. What did Captain Smith complain about to Reverend Hunt? Pp. 10-11** He said there were too many gentlemen going on the voyage and not enough workers.
- 5. What did Samuel think about the other boy, Richard, who was going on the voyage? Pp. 12-13** He did not think they would be friends. Samuel had knocked out Richard's tooth. Samuel thought he didn't need a friend.

Chapters Three and Four Pp. 14-25

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

- jostle** (, 16) push elbow or bump up against
- slothfulness** (10, 16) lazy
- decipher** (, 17) succeed in understanding
- inclined** (5, 17) feel willing to do
- discontent** (9, 17) dissatisfaction
- cringe** (, 17) bend one's head or body in fear
- livid** (8, 18) furiously angry
- fragile** (7, 18) easily broken
- scowl** (4, 22) an angry or bad-tempered expression
- loitering** (9, 22) to stand around idly without purpose

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What did Samuel complain of while waiting for the storms to abate on the coast of England? Pp. 14-15** The passengers were seasick and bored. They were only allowed on deck for their meals. It had been that way for weeks.
- 2. When most of the gentlemen wanted to leave the venture, what did Captain Smith call them? Pp. 16-17** John Smith called them liars, cowards and weaklings.
- 3. How did Samuel think Master Wingfield would get back at Captain Smith? Pp. 17-18** He would use his power. And power is worse than fists.
- 4. What did Captain Newport say their route would look like when they traveled to the New World and back? Pp. 19-20** It would be like a big circle following the winds and currents.
- 5. Why did Captain Newport follow Samuel down off the deck into the hold? Pp. 21-22** He came to see Captain John Smith to put him under arrest.
- 6. Why did Master Wingfield bring charges against Captain John Smith? Pp. 23-25** He said Smith wanted to overthrow the government of this mission, murder the council members, and make himself the ruler.

Student's Guide

Chapter One Pp. 1-5

Vocabulary

musty

burly

magistrate

Comprehension Questions

1. What was the prophecy delivered to Chief Powhatan by his trusted priests? P. 1
2. Why was the boy in the pawnshop? Pp. 2-3
3. What did the shopkeeper and his burly son think would happen to the boy? Pp. 4-5

Chapter Two Pp. 6-13

Vocabulary

satchel

commotion

throng

hoards

apprentice

scoff

diminish

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5. What did Samuel think about the other boy, Richard, who was going on the voyage?
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Chapters Three and Four Pp. 14-25

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jostle
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5. Why did Captain Newport follow Samuel down off the deck into the hold? Pp. 21-22
6. Why did Master Wingfield bring charges against Captain John Smith? Pp. 23-25

Chapter Five Pp. 26-34

Vocabulary

shackled

gullible

translucent

grimaces

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Captain Smith gain some kind of freedom? Pp. 26-27
2. What were James and Richard discussing when they came down the ladder with the oatmeal pot? Pp. 28-29
3. Why did Samuel grab the empty oatmeal pot to take it on deck? Pp. 30-31
4. Why was Captain John Smith unshackled? Pp. 32-33
5. What question did Samuel ask Captain Smith about the Indians? P. 34

Student's Workbook

Chapters One and Two Pp. 1-13

Vocabulary

magistrate _____

commotion _____

hoards _____

diminish _____

Comprehension Questions

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Workbook Answer Key

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- 4. What did Captain Smith complain about to Reverend Hunt? Pp. 10-11** He said there were too many gentlemen going on the voyage and not enough workers.
- 5. What did Samuel think about the other boy, Richard, who was going on the voyage? Pp. 12-13** He did not think they would be friends. They had fought.

Chapters Three and Four Pp. 14-25

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

slothfulness (10, 16) lazy

decipher (, 17) succeed in understanding

inclined (5, 17) feel willing to do

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- 6. Why did Master Wingfield bring charges against Captain John Smith? Pp. 23-25** He said Smith wanted to overthrow the government of this mission, murder the council members and make himself the ruler. He wanted Smith out of the way.

Chapter Five Pp. 26-34

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

shackled (, 17) a pair of fetters connected to a chain to connect the wrists and ankles

gullible (11, 30) easily persuaded to believe something

translucent (11, 32) allowing light to pass through

grimaces (9, 33) an ugly twisted expression on a person's face showing disgust or pain

Comprehension Questions

1. **How did Captain Smith gain some kind of freedom? Pp. 26-27** He was still in chains.

However they had freed his wrists, and only his ankles remained shackled.

2. **What were James and Richard discussing when they came down the ladder with the oatmeal pot? Pp. 28-29** They were discussing the natives they would see on some of the

islands they would be visiting.

3. **Why did Samuel grab the empty oatmeal pot to take it on deck? Pp. 30-31** A sailor had
yelled land ho! Samuel wanted to see what it looked like topside.

4. **Why was Captain John Smith unshackled? Pp. 32-33** He seemed to be the only one on
the ship who could speak the language of the Caribbean natives.

5. **What question did Samuel ask Captain Smith about the Indians? P. 34** He wanted to
know whether or not the natives chopped up people for their cookpots.. Smith answered that
happened only if they caught them.

Key Questions

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Name _____

1. What did Captain Smith complain about to Reverend Hunt? Pp. 10-11 _____

2. What did Captain Newport say their route would look like when they traveled to the New World and back? Pp. 19-20 _____

3. Why was Captain John Smith released from his chains? Pp. 49-50 _____

4. Why did President Wingfield change his mind about one decision he had made? Pp. 83-84 _____

5. When Captain John Smith went on an exploring expedition, what happened to the workers in the fort? Pp. 107-108 _____

Key Questions Answer Key

Blood on the River James Town 1607

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Name _____

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- 2. What did Captain Newport say their route would look like when they traveled to the New World and back? Pp. 19-20** It was like a big circle following the winds and currents.
- 3. Why was Captain John Smith released from his chains? Pp. 49-50** Reverend Hunt was able to persuade the gentlemen that Smith was needed as an interpreter in Virginia.
- 4. Why did President Wingfield change his mind about one decision he had made? Pp. 83-84** They had been attacked by the Indians. He changed his mind about the colony building a palisade around the camp.
- 5. When Captain John Smith went on an exploring expedition, what happened to the workers in the fort? Pp. 107-108** The gentleman stopped working, and the common men also shirked their chores. The only workers were the servants.

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. _____
