

A Lion to Guard Us

Vocabulary - Do you know what these words mean? You may want to discuss them with an adult.

Chapter I–III: plump, bitter, idle, snort, peered, pantry, pallet, brass

Chapter IV–VI: mend, pale, seize, clearing, voyage, tripped

Chapter VII–IX: pier, dock, alley, lantern, hollow

Chapter X– XIII: bound, break, breeches, canvas, chest, coach, daring, galley, heap, weeping

Chapter XIV–XVI: restless, fierce, shallow, safe, afloat, strange, roar, stillness

Chapter XVII–XIX: moss, pools, ached, split, deck

Chapter XX–XXIII: wrecked, anxious

Critical Thinking Questions – Choose and write complete answers for at least 8 questions – be sure to include information from the beginning, the middle, and the end of the book.

1. Why did James Freebold travel to Virginia? Why did the rest of the family have to stay behind in London?
2. Why is the brass lion's head door knocker important to the Freebold children?
3. What happens to the children's mother? What do you think will happen to Amanda, Jemmy, and Meg now?
4. How does Amanda behave responsibly even in her grief?
5. Why does Amanda decide to journey to the New World?
6. According to Ellie, why does Mistress Trippett want to keep the Freebold children in her home?
7. Why does Mistress Trippett feel she is entitled to Amanda's money? Why does Amanda disagree?
8. What did you learn about the life of the poor in London in the 1600's?
9. How does Dr. Crider help the children on the night they are chased out of the Trippett house?
10. Where did the children stay on the ship? What are the living conditions?
11. Why do you think the people on board the ships have mixed emotions about leaving England? Have you ever felt both happy and sad at the same time?
12. Why do you think Dr. Crider did not heed the sailor's warning about the danger of the waves?
13. When does Amanda finally stop pretending that Dr. Crider is still alive?
14. Why do some people aboard the ship think the lion's head door knocker is made of gold?
15. Describe what makes this storm much worse than other storms?
16. Why do you think the composition of the lion's head door knocker is so important to the ship's passengers?
17. What do you think will happen to Amanda, Meg, and Jemmy on the island of Bermuda?

18. Why does Admiral Somers give up lighting the fire on the north tip of the island? Do you think he was right to do this?

19. How is the voyage from Bermuda to Virginia different from the voyage from London to Bermuda? How is it the same?

20. Describe Mr. Freebold's condition. Will he be okay?

Extension Activities Choose and complete any one (1) activity.

Writing

- Make a Postcard and write to the main character, Amanda Freebold
- Write a Daily Log of ship's activity
- Write a journal during Amanda's voyage
- Make a list sequencing events in the story

Math

- It took the *Sea Adventure* seven weeks, or from June 2, 1609 until July 26, 1609 to make the voyage from London to Bermuda. Find out the distance in miles from London to Bermuda. Calculate how many miles the ship traveled each day. Then compare this with the time it would take by boat to go from London to Bermuda today. How long does it take a ship today? By airplane?

Science

- Find a book on tropical trees and plants and read about palmetto trees, whose leaves were used to make the roof of Amanda's house. Bring pictures of the palmetto tress into class.
- Learn about hurricanes and what happens when a hurricane hits. In 1609, there was no way to know that a hurricane was coming, but now we have predictions and hurricane watches.

Social Studies

- Map the voyage from England to Bermuda to Virginia, labeling the continents and oceans
- Since this book is based on real life events and also has real people that traveled on these ships. Foe example John Rolfe - his wife was very sick on the ship on the voyage to Virginia. When they got shipwrecked she seemed to be feeling better. While in Bermuda, his wife and child died. Find out what happened to one of these important people in history when they reached Jamestown, Virginia?
- How were the conditions in Jamestown when they arrived? Learn about Jamestown and how people built their lives there.

Creative Thinking

- Think up and complete your own choice of activity that demonstrates you read and understood the book.