



Ransom's Mark - Comprehension Questions

Created by Sarah Sumpolec, former teacher and author of the *Becoming Beka* series from Moody Publishers

Chapter 1

- 1) What is a lay-abed?
- 2) How did the Wheelers and the Pounds get to the Oatman homestead?
- 3) Why is the chapter called "Seeing the Elephant"?
- 4) Why was the lilac bush so important to Ma?
- 5) What was out West that made the men want to go there?

Chapter 2

- 1) Why did Pa want to go west?
- 2) Name eight things that were held *inside* their wagon.
- 3) What did Susan, Lucy and Olive talk about when they crept away?
- 4) What two good things did they discover about all the bumps and jostles of the wagon?
- 5) How did Olive feel about the journey in the beginning of the chapter and then at the end?

Chapter 3

- 1) What was "prairie coal" and what was it used for?
- 2) How did Olive know that the boys were trying to scare them?
- 3) What was Olive's morning job?
- 4) Why could the Oatmans not return home?
- 5) What did the girls do to keep themselves busy at Council Grove?

Chapter 4

- 1) What is a ransom?
- 2) What did Olive play the captive game with the little boys?
- 3) What did the Comanche do when they were invited into the camp?
- 4) Why did Olive feel "insignificant and misplaced"?
- 5) Why was the journey becoming more difficult?

Chapter 5

- 1) Why was the wagon train so glad to reach the grove of trees in Chapter 5?
- 2) Why did Olive want to learn about the Indians?
- 3) What story did Olive tell Mary Ann?
- 4) How did Olive know the horses ridden by the Yavapai were stolen?

5) Why did they have to leave things behind on the side of the trail?

Chapter 6

- 1) What did Olive and her Ma talk about?
- 2) Why was Lucy's "Race you to California" comment so funny to the girls?
- 3) Why was it so hard to leave Tucson?
- 4) What made Pa decide to press on to Yuma?
- 5) What did the band of Yavapai do to the Oatmans?

Chapter 7

- 1) What did Olive tell Mary Ann about their family?
- 2) How did Olive keep from panicking on the captive journey?
- 3) Why were Olive and Mary Ann captured and not the rest of the family?
- 4) Why did Olive feel her talk about escaping had been foolish?
- 5) Why do you think the Yavapai made Olive a sandal?
- 6) How were Olive and Mary Ann treated when they reached the village?
- 7) Why was Olive shot at with a bow and arrow?

Chapter 8

- 1) What are *onatas*?
- 2) What kind of work did Olive and Mary Ann have to do?
- 3) How were the women and girls treated by the tribe?
- 4) Why was Olive worried about Mary Ann?
- 5) What did Olive notice about Topeka when they met?
- 6) Why did some of the Yavapai want to keep Mary Ann and Olive?

Chapter 9

- 1) Why was Olive surprised at the way Topeka was treated?
- 2) Why did Topeka make the journey to come ransom Olive and Mary Ann?
- 3) Why did the Mohave way of planting frustrate Olive?
- 4) Why did Olive not want the ki-e-chook?
- 5) What does the ki-e-chook mean to the Mohave?

Chapter 10

- 1) What did the drought do to the food supply?
- 2) Why did Mary Ann remain in the village while Olive traveled with the other women?
- 3) Why did people die on the berry journey?
- 4) Why did the little plot of land mean so much to Olive?
- 5) Why do you think Mary Ann died?

Chapter 11

- 1) Why did Olive sense God when she was able to bury her sister?
- 2) Why did the talk of war alarm Olive?
- 3) Why did Topeka urge Olive to remember God's deeds?

Chapter 12

- 1) What does Olive's ki-e-chook now remind her of?
- 2) What emotions came to the tribe and Olive as a result of the letter from Fort Yuma?
- 3) Why did Olive believe that she didn't belong in the white man's world?
- 4) What did Topeka tell Olive to think about when she saw the ki-e-chook?

End Questions

- 1) What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- 2) How did Olive change over the course of the story?
- 3) What did you learn from reading this story?

