

5th Grade Summer Reading

The Castle in the Attic

Elizabeth Winthrop

Answer the following questions about the novel on notebook paper. Answers must:

- Be handwritten
- Be in complete sentences with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- Cover every part of the question
- Use evidence/quotations from the novel to support your answer where possible
- Include page numbers to reference your evidence/quotations
- Turned in for a classwork grade on first day of school, **Friday, August 12th**

In addition to the questions, we will have a comprehension test on this book the first week of school.

Furthermore, students are expected to be fluent with their math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) at the start of the school year as we take weekly timed speed drills throughout the year. If this is a weak area for your student, they would benefit from drilling with flashcards this summer.

Chapters 1 through 4:

1. William tries to convince Mrs. Phillips to stay. What does William do to persuade Mrs. Phillips to stay? Do you think his choice was right or wrong? Explain your opinion.
2. Name 3 things that Mrs. Phillips does or says that show she cares about William. Use information from the story to support your answer.
3. Who is Alastor? What role, if any, did he play in the illness and eventual death of Sir Simon's father? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
4. Castle in the Attic is an example of a fantasy novel, a fictional story that is set in an unreal world, often with superhuman characters and monsters. Give three examples that demonstrate that this novel is a fantasy. Think of another novel that is an example of a fantasy and explain why you feel that it is a fantasy.

Chapters 5 through 8:

1. Do you think that William's plan to keep Mrs. Phillips from leaving shows that he really loves her? Why or why not? (Pick one side of the argument, not BOTH).
2. Find two pieces of evidence from chapters 5 through 8 that suggest that William does not trust his friend Jason.

3. William does not think things through before he acts. Give two examples of times when William does not think before he acts. Then go on to describe a time when you have done something without thinking and describe the consequences of your actions.

Chapters 9 through 12:

1. The author does not tell the readers what has happened to Sir Simon after he ran off into the woods. Why did the author omit (leave out) this information?

2. On page 102, Mrs. Phillips says, "You must find your own way through the forest, William." Other than the actual forest near the castle, what else could Mrs. Phillips be talking about?

3. On page 122 William is 'compassionate to the needy' when he helps the 'apple tree man.' What does William do to help him? Describe a time in your life when you were compassionate to a person in need or someone was compassionate to you.

Chapters 13 through 17:

1. What can you infer (make an educated guess) about the guards after the incident at the gate involving William and his dagger?

2. On page 145, Alastor says "It was rumored that he would return one day with a boy, and so he has." Why is it so important that 'the boy' was turned to lead?

3. What does William see when he looks into Alastor's mirror? Since the mirror shows you 'all of the cowardice, hatred, and greed inside of yourself,' how does this explain what William sees in the mirror?

4. Do you agree with Mrs. Phillips' statement that "a truly courageous person is the one who must first conquer fear within himself"? Explain what she means by that and then go on to describe a time when a real person from the past or present has been courageous and "likely" conquered the fear within themselves.