

CHAPTER EIGHT: LEAVINGS AND PARTINGS

Vocabulary: Use the context to help you figure out the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then compare your definitions with those you find in a dictionary.

1. The king's intelligence service arrested several generals who were conspiring to overthrow the government.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

2. The boy peered at the mysterious beetle through a powerful magnifying glass in order to identify its characteristics.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

3. Before the shopkeeper was willing to accept the hundred dollar bill, he carefully scrutinized it to ensure it was not counterfeit.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

4. The investigative reporter's probing questions about election fraud discomfited the new governor during her first press conference.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

5. We were perplexed by our cat's strange behavior until we discovered a litter of kittens under the front porch.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

6. After the flood, inspectors determined that the homes on the riverbank were no longer habitable.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

7. The fact that an object tossed in the air will eventually fall to Earth is an immutable law of nature.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

Chapter Eight: Leavings and Partings (cont.)

8. Having been warned of pickpockets operating in the market, Louisa kept a wary hand on the latch of her pocketbook while shopping.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

Read to find out what happened to Bod now that the Jacks of All Trades are gone.

Questions:

1. How did Bod's experiences in the graveyard gradually begin to change?
2. How did Mother Slaughter's recollection of Bod's arrival in the graveyard differ from actual events?
3. Why did Bod's adoptive parents feel ill at ease when they met Bod at their tomb?
4. Why did Silas feel that Bod was ready for a change?
5. How did Bod's visits with Alanso Jones help prepare him for the next chapter of his life?
6. How did Bod feel as he walked through the graveyard gate one last time?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think Silas used such a gentle tone when he told Bod that he must not stay in the graveyard?
2. During his last conversation with Bod, Silas reveals that he did worse things than any Jack. What do you think these things might have been? What clues in the novel led you to these conclusions?
3. What do you think Bod meant when he said, "I want to see life I want to leave a footprint on the sand of a desert island"?
4. Why do you think Mistress Owens was the last resident of the graveyard to bid farewell to Bod?
5. Do you think Bod will ever return to the graveyard? If so, what might he experience?

Chapter Eight: Leavings and Partings (cont.)

Literary Element: Theme

The author's message or important ideas conveyed in a book are called its theme. In *The Graveyard Book*, two intertwined themes are the importance of the human experience and the need to live life to the fullest.

- How did Liza's observation that "life is wasted on the living" relate to these themes?
- How did Silas's advice to Bod about why he had to leave the graveyard echo these themes?
- How did the last stanza of Mistress Owens's song pertain to this message?

Writing Activity:

When parting with Silas, Bod offered to come to Silas's aid if ever he were in trouble. Write a short story about a time that Silas needed Bod's help. Describe the problem and tell how Silas and Bod work together to resolve it.