

CHAPTER TWO: THE NEW FRIEND

Vocabulary: Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its antonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
1. vague	a. unusual
2. drab	b. calmly
3. common	c. frequently
4. frantically	d. clear
5. guttural	e. real
6. lucid	f. confusing
7. imaginary	g. melodic
8. rarely	h. colorful

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1. Tan, olive, and gray are considered _____ colors in contrast to red, orange, and yellow.
 2. The butterfly beat its wings _____ as it tried to escape from the spider web.
 3. Even though the teacher did her best to answer our questions, her answers were so _____ as to make us wonder if we would pass the test.
 4. Children of ten prefer to read about _____ characters, such as pixies or elves, rather than real characters.
 5. I am counting on you to give me brief and _____ directions so that I do not get lost.
 6. Cardinals and blue jays are a(n) _____ sight around most bird feeders.
 7. In Northern states, one _____ sees a mosquito during the winter months.
 8. The dog made a(n) _____ sound deep in the back of its throat as the stranger approached the house.

Read to learn about Nobody's new friend.

Chapter Two: The New Friend (cont.)

Questions:

1. Why was Bod confined to the graveyard?
2. How did Bod learn to read and write even though he didn't attend school?
3. How did Scarlett and Bod become friends? Why were Scarlett's parents convinced that Bod must be an imaginary playmate?
4. Why did Bod visit Caius Pompeius? What did he learn about the oldest inhabitant of the graveyard?
5. What discoveries did Bod and Scarlett make in the barrow?
6. Who was the Sleer? How and what did it guard and protect?
7. Why was Silas doubtful that Bod would ever see Scarlett again? What parting thought did Scarlett leave with Bod?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Silas told Bod that "some skills can be attained by education, some by practice and some by time." Give several examples of skills that belong in each category that Bod needed to learn. Then describe how he might acquire these skills.
2. Imagine that you are Bod. How would you explain the Freedom of the Graveyard to Scarlett?
3. How did the author use humor, horror, and fantasy in his description of Bod and Scarlett's encounter with the Indigo Man and the Sleer?
4. In what way did Scarlett's parents give her the freedom of the graveyard? Do you think that they acted responsibly?

Literary Device: Metaphor

What is being compared in the following passage:

The parent would sit on the bench and read while Scarlett would wander off the path, a splash of fluorescent green or orange or pink, and explore.

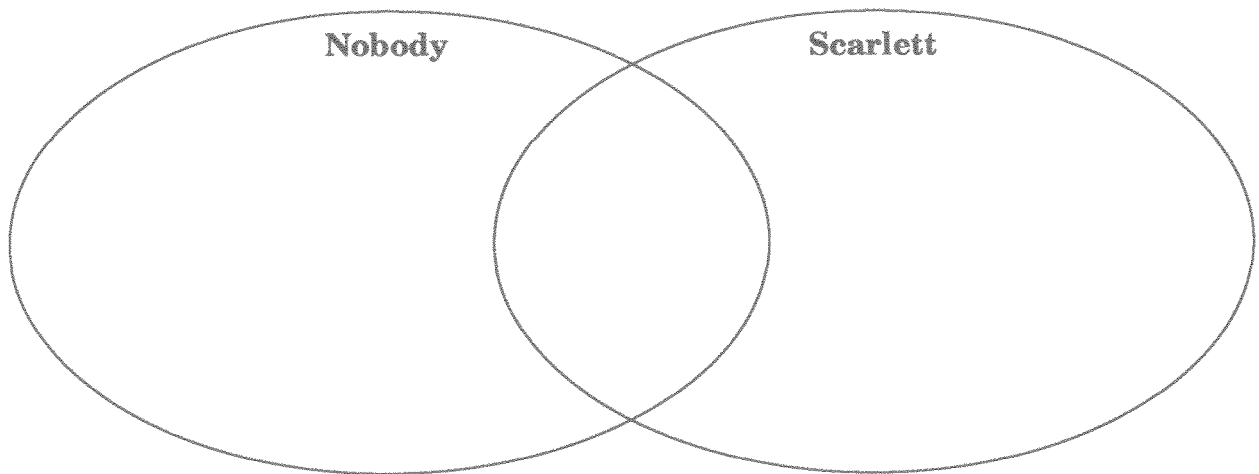
How does this metaphor help you visualize Scarlett?

Bod is described as dowdy and drab in his grey winding sheet and his mop of mousy brown hair. Write a metaphor in which you describe Bod's appearance.

Chapter Two: The New Friend (cont.)

Literary Elements:

- I. *Characterization*—Nobody and Scarlett are very different, but they also have several traits in common. Compare these two characters in a Venn diagram such as the one below. Record the ways the two characters differ in the outer portions of the circles. Then jot down characteristics they have in common in the overlapping part of the circles.



- II. *Setting*—The setting of a novel describes when and where the story takes place. When Bod meets with Silas, it is always after sundown, and the graveyard is described as a dark and shadowy place filled with the tombs, mausoleums, and other markers for the dead. But when Bod first encounters Scarlett, it is midday on a bright, spring day, and the graveyard is filled with colorful wildflowers and the sound of droning bumblebees. With a partner discuss the significance of this change in the novel's setting.

Social Studies Connection:

While talking to the long dead Roman Caius Pompeius, Bod learns that before the Roman invasion of what is now the British Isles, there were even more ancient people living in the vicinity of the graveyard. Use the Internet or other reference materials to find out more about the early history of the British Isles. Then write a brief report that answers these questions:

- Who were the earliest inhabitants of these lands? What evidence do we have of these people?
- Who were the Celts? When and how did they live? How did they and other early people use indigo to decorate their bodies?
- When and why did the Romans invade the British Isles? Whom did they conquer? What evidence of the Roman occupation remains today?

Chapter Two: The New Friend (cont.)

Art Connection: Ice Age Cave Decorations

To see examples of cave paintings found in England, do an Internet search for Creswell Crags. Once you reach this site, click on the icon “Stone Age People” and the links “Culture and Creativity” and “Cave Art.” After studying the photos of cave art, create your own cave painting by crumpling up a large brown paper bag until it is soft. Cut it open and smooth it flat. Then using a piece of charcoal or dark chalk, create your own drawing of a stylized animal or symbol that Bod and Scarlett might have seen deep in the barrow guarded by the Sleer.

Writing Activity:

Write a dialogue between Bod and Caius in which Bod shares information about his adventure in the oldest grave in the graveyard.