

Three Skeleton Key

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selection "Three Skeleton Key."

- _____ 1. Why does the narrator take the job at Three Skeleton Key?
- He wants to set aside some money before he gets married.
 - He wants to protect the lighthouse.
 - He wants to watch the ships sail in the nighttime.
 - He is sent there to find three escaped convicts.
- _____ 2. What becomes of the three lighthouse attendants?
- One man returns to the key; two refuse to go back to the lighthouse.
 - Two men return to Three Skeleton Key; the third man dies.
 - One man returns to the key; one goes insane; one dies.
 - Two men return to the island; the third man is too frightened to return.
- _____ 3. All of the following strategies are used to rescue the three men from the island *except* —
- the crew tempt the rats onto a barge filled with meat
 - the lighthouse keepers set fire to the island
 - the crew drench the barge with gasoline and then set it on fire
 - the crew shoot any escaping rats and leave the rest to be eaten by the sharks
- _____ 4. How do the rats first get inside the lighthouse?
- They dig a tunnel under the lighthouse.
 - They eat a hole through the door.
 - The metal sheeting that was sealing the window gives way.
 - Crazed by the sight of the rats, Le Gleo opens the door.
- _____ 5. Why is it unusual for the lighthouse keepers to see a ship in their waters?
- Sailors are afraid of the *Flying Dutchman*.
 - Sailors know that there are many rats on the island.
 - The waters are treacherous.
 - The island is off-limits to sailors.
- _____ 6. How does the narrator convince us that the sea rats in this story are of the worst possible sort?
- He tells of the two terrier dogs on a Dutch ship that were eaten by sea rats.
 - He says that sea rats are worse than land rats.
 - He says that the rats are able to scratch and tear through wood, metal, and glass.
 - He says that Dutch sea rats eat dogs, cats, men, sharks, and one another.
- _____ 7. The narrator's descriptions of the window frame in the lantern room imply that the —
- the window frame will keep the rats out
 - skeletons will open the window
 - the window frame will collapse
 - rats will eat the glass
- _____ 8. Why do the officers and crew of the first patrol boat look at the lighthouse with a horrified expression?
- Sharks are circling the island.
 - The light is completely covered by a seething mass of rats.
 - Sharks are hungrily devouring the rats.
 - They see the skeletons of the three lighthouse keepers.

- _____ 9. Why does the narrator watch the *Cornelius de Witt* with tears in his eyes?
- He knows that all the men on board the ship are dead.
 - He knows that the ship is about to be wrecked.
 - He knows that the rats are on board the ship.
 - He had once served on the ship.

Literary Focus

The questions below refer to the selection "Three Skeleton Key."

- _____ 10. In a story filled with suspense, the reader feels —
- sadness about the fate of the characters
 - anxious curiosity
 - overwhelming joy
 - sure about the outcome
- _____ 11. Which of the following details is *not* intended to create suspense?
- The waters around the key swarm with hungry sharks.
 - The framework of one window is eaten away and sags inward.
 - Through their glasses, the men see a barge.
 - The men watch the abandoned Dutch ship sail straight toward them.
- _____ 12. Which of the following details found early in the story enables you to predict that "Three Skeleton Key" will be a frightening tale?
- The history of the rock
 - The narrator wants to get married
 - The work that had to be done at the lighthouse
 - The revolving beam of light

13. Write a SUMMARY of "Three Skeleton Key" using the "SOMEBODY WANTED BUT SO" strategy. Remember to introduce characters, setting, conflict and include title and author!