

Summer Reading Practice Questions – Four Perfect Pebbles

1. What's the setting?
2. Where is the family originally from?
3. How did Marion injure her leg?
4. Why couldn't the Blumenthal family escape?
5. Why did the prisoners have to wear yellow stars?
6. Who freed the prisoners?
7. What major character died in the book?
8. Why was lice so common at the camps?
9. What did the four perfect pebbles represent?
10. Where did Marion get treatment for her leg?
11. How many pebbles did Marian find?
12. In what year was Bergen-Belsen liberated?
13. What is "Jew" in Dutch?
14. In what year did the Blumenthals get their visas?
15. What did Marion collect at Bergen-Belson?
16. What is the name of Marion's brother?
17. What was the name of the Blumenthal's neighbors at Westerbork?
18. Who are Marion's parents?
19. What did Walter dispose of in the pond?
20. How long were the Blumenthals on the death train?
21. What did Papa trade for extra food rations?
22. What was the name of the lice disease?
23. Where did the family settle down?
24. What did the Jews need to put on their clothing?
25. Name one country the family stayed in.
26. How did Marion get a leg infection?
27. How does Marion's father die?
28. What did the soldier do to Marion's father after the names were called?
29. Why is Albert's knapsack so important to them?
30. Where does the family think they are going after Westerbork?
31. What made the Nazis discriminate against the family?
32. What camp did Anne and Margot die at?
33. Why were the prisoners scared of going into the showers?
34. What was the name of the camp in Holland?
35. What city did Walter die in?
36. Why did Marion wear glasses?
37. What is Marion's husband's name?
38. What happens when Marion tries to hide the stew?
39. What was the ship to America called?
40. What did Marion do after she was at the doctors to get her eyes fixed?
41. What did Albert do after his father died?
42. Why did they shave their heads?
43. Why did Walter have to hide his service pistol?
44. What is the English name for the night the Germans took Walter away?
45. What building in Hannover did the Germans blow up?
46. What does father do with the cigarettes?
47. What does a Nazi guard give Albert?
48. How old is Marion when they arrive at Bergen-Belson?
49. How many kids does Marion have?
50. How many pounds did Marion gain?

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. What would have happened if Marion had reacted to the pot of soup?
2. If the Russians hadn't freed the Blumenthals, what do you think would have happened to them?
3. If you were Marion, would you visit Germany after the Holocaust?
4. How would you have reacted if your name wasn't on the list to go to Palestine?
5. Why did the Blumenthals not escape when the train stopped?
6. If Oma and Opa had lived, how would the life of the Blumenthal change? Why would their lives be different?
7. What did the four perfect pebbles represent? Why were they so important to Marion?
8. If Mama and Albert had died, what would have happened to the rest of the family?
9. What do you think they did to Walter at Buchenwald? Why do you think this?
10. If the Blumenthals didn't go to America, would their life in Germany have been as good after? Why or why not?
11. Do you think the Blumenthals would have had a better chance at escaping if they had left without their grandparents? Why or why not?
12. What do you think might have happened if the Russians hadn't liberated the train they were riding on? Why?
13. What do you think might have happened to Walter if they were not forced to stay in Trobitz for an extra two months? Do you think he might have survived? Why or why not?
14. What do you think would have happened if they had stuck to their belief and not eaten meat they found at the farmhouse in Trobitz? Why?
15. Why do you think the Blumenthals refused to leave Germany without their parents/grandparents?
16. How would the ending have changed if Papa was let on the train and how?
17. Which character changed the most by the end of the book? Why?
18. Do you think the Jews had a chance against Hitler? If so, what could they have done?
19. What would have happened to Marion and Albert if their parents died of Typhus?
20. How do you think Marion felt when she left for home?
21. How did the family's experience in Nazi Germany affect their new life in America?
22. What do you think would have happened if they could go to Palestine in 1944?
23. Did Marion find all four pebbles? Was her superstition correct? Why?
24. How was Papa's death a turning point for the Blumenthals?
25. How did Marion's quest to find four perfect pebbles contribute to the plot?
26. What would have happened if Marion screamed when the soup poured on her leg?
27. How was Westerbork better than Bergen-Belsen?