“Lord, What Fools!” Reading Comprehension Self-Assessment

After reading each scene, **answer** the corresponding self-assessment questions. **Check** your answers with the keys at the end of the self-assessment.

Scene 2: Questions

1. How are the sound effects for the car created?

A. a pre-recorded soundtrack

B. an actual car on the stage

C. The kids in the car make the sounds.

D. There are no stage directions regarding sound effects.

2. Meal Worm shows his humourous side in scene 2. Which line does NOT show his sense of humour?

A. “I have trouble seeing over the dash.”

B. “Ah yes, but if you put together enough drips you get a new wave.   
 Get it? New Wave!”

C. “His folks are rich, they’ll never miss it.”

D. “Yes, sir, I’m sure everyone hopes I do it soon.”

3. Jason continues to pick on others in this scene. Identify two insults he directs at Kootie while they drive to the dance.

4. How does Megan react to Jason’s comments?

5. What does the stage direction “Punk freezes them” mean?

Scene 3 Questions

1. What causes the car to break down?

A. Punk gestures and the car sputters.

B. It needs an oil change.

C. Meal Worm ran over something.

D. Jason cannot fix it.

2. Whose idea is it to walk to the dance and leave the car behind?

A. Meal Worm

B. Jason

C. Kootie

D. Megan

3. What line suggests that there is something magical about the forest?

A. “there’s a full moon”

B. “That’s a Peaseblossom and that’s Mustardseed.”

C. “Cobwebs, look out.”

D. “I mean alive”

4. Re-write Punk’s speech that closes the scene.

**Scene 4 Questions**

1. How does Punk separate the group?

2. Re-read Punk’s opening speech in this scene. His statement that “there’s courage in that face” is humourous because

A. Jason is a hero

B. Meal Worm has a terrified expression

C. the girls cannot see courage in Meal Worm

D. he is laughing when he says the line

3. What spell does Punk cast in this speech?

A. Jason disappears.

B. Megan falls asleep and leaves Meal Worm and Kootie alone.

C. Megan falls in love with Meal Worm.

D. Meal Worm loves Megan.

4. How does Megan describe Meal Worm?

5. How does this scene affect the relationships in the play?

Scene 5 Questions

1. How can the audience tell that Jason is feeling less confident about his situation?

A. “Where did everybody go?”

B. “Mommy?”

C. “Where’s Meg?”

D. “Kootie, have you been eating the mushrooms?”

1. A hyperbole is an obvious exaggeration, often used for comic effect. How is Kootie’s statement that “She’s in love with Meal Worm” a hyperbole (p. 171)?

3. To whom is Punk referring when he says, “But luckily the teacher’s here”?

A. Himself

B. Jason

C. Kootie

D. Mr. Kosnowski

4. How does Punk complicate the characters’ relationships even more?

A. He makes Kootie love Jason.

B. He makes Meg love Jason.

C. He makes Jason love Kootie.

D. He makes Kootie love Meal Worm.

5. Re-read Punk’s closing speech in this scene. In context, what does “*respite*” mean?

A. More action

B. Anger

C. A time out

D. Jealousy

Scene 6 Questions

1. At the start of the scene, Meal Worm calls “Kootie” and Jason calls “Katie”. What does this difference suggest about Jason?

2. At what point is Jason released from Punk’s spell?

A. “Katie?”

B. “She’s mine!”

C. “She’s a nice kid.”

D. “Good thinking, four-eyes.”

1. How does this scene allow for Meal Worm’s character to develop?

Scene 7 Questions

1. Why does Punk put a donkey’s head on Jason?
2. Dramatic irony occurs when the audience knows something that the character(s) does not. Dramatic irony can result in humour or more suspense. How is dramatic irony effective in this scene?

Scene 8 Questions

1. Re-read Punk’s opening speech in this scene. Why does he release Megan from the spell?

A. She can see how she has hurt Kootie.

B. She can see how much she really does love Meal Worm.

C. She can see that Jason has moved on.

D. She can see Jason for who he really is.

2. The stage directions say that Megan’s comments “*mollified*” the upset Kootie. In this context, *mollified* means

A. insulted

B. challenged

C. wounded

D. calmed

1. How does everyone respond to Jason’s appearance?

4. In this scene, dramatic irony occurs when

A. Megan confronts Kootie with the truth

B. Kootie tells Megan how much Megan and the others have hurt her feelings

C. the girls hug and affirm their friendship

D. Jason cannot tell that he has a donkey’s head, even when he says “Hee Haw”

**Scene 9 Questions**

1. Why do Meal Worm, Megan, and Kootie whisper as they look for Jason in the woods?

2. How does this scene contribute to Jason’s character development?

3. To whom is Punk speaking when he says, “I’ll take it off but keep it close/’Cause some of you might need it”?

A. Megan

B. Meal Worm

C. Kootie

D. The audience

1. Rephrase Punk’s lines: “For good advice is heard by all/But fools will fail to heed it”.

5. How will Punk restore order at the end of the scene?

Scene 10 Questions

1. How do nicknames show acceptance in the final scene?

2. An allusion is a reference to people, events, or texts outside the play. In his final speech, Punk alludes to which famous authors?

3. Punk suggests the reason for the title of the play. How do you think the play got its name?

Scene 2: Answers

*1. c 2. a*

*3. Answers may vary. Some answers may include: “Uh no thanks, Kootie, I just took a shower.” “Do you need a pick and a shovel?”*

*4. Answers may vary. For example: “Well, what do you want me to do?”*

1. *Punk makes a gesture that makes them stop moving and speaking.*

Scene 3: Answers

*1. a*

*2. b*

*3. d*

*4. Answers may vary. The original speech reads:*

*“They look so cute all huddled up…*

*A tin full of sardines.*

*Perhaps I ought to break it up*

*And try some other means.”*

*Punk intends to cause conflict between them.*

Scene 4: Answers

*1. He unfreezes Jason only, so Jason walks off on his own.*

*2. b*

*3. c*

*4. Answers may vary. Answers may include “short, pale and handsome” or “cute, flabby body”*

1. *Answers may vary. Answers may include Jason is alone, Megan and Meal Worm are together, and Kootie is alone in the woods. Megan has told Kootie that she can have Jason all to herself.*

Scene 5: Answers

*1. b*

*2. She suggests that Meg loving Meal Worm is worse than Meg being dead.*

*3. a*

*4. c*

*5. c*

Scene 6: Answers

*1. Jason is still under Punk’s spell, for the moment.*

*2. c*

*3. Meal Worm finally stands up to Jason. He says Jason will need more than good looks to get anywhere in life.*

Scene 7 Answers

*1. Jason would not listen to Meal Worm’s advice that there is more than just looks. Maybe if Jason looks hideous, he’ll see how it feels to be ridiculed.*

*2. The boys have their backs to one another when Punk puts the donkey’s head on Jason. They talk to each other without looking at each other. This heightens the humour when they finally do turn around and Meal Worm reacts to Jason’s new look!*

Scene 8 Answers

*1. a*

*2. d*

3. *They babble and run in the opposite direction.*

*4. d*

Scene 9 Answers

*1. They are afraid of the monster they saw, not knowing it was Jason.*

*2. He realizes that looks are not important.*

*3. d*

*4. Anyone can hear good advice, but fools will not follow that advice.*

*5. They will not remember the specific things that happened, but they will remember the lessons they have learned.*

Scene 10 Answers

*1. They stop calling Melvin “Meal Worm”, and he participates in a new nickname “Vinnie”. He also called Kootie “Katie”.*

*2. John Donne, the Bronte sisters, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and William Shakespeare*

*3. It likely came from William Shakespeare’s statement, “Lord, what fools these mortals be.”*