

Online Quiz

The Great Train Mystery

Pop Quiz

Answer the questions below.

1. What was the name of the train line that linked the East and the West at Promontory Summit?
a. Transatlantic Railroad b. Transamerican Railroad c. Transcontinental Railroad
2. How long did crossing the United States take before train travel?
a. a week at most b. around six months c. about a year
3. What is the name of Mr. Goodfellow's steam locomotive?
a. The General b. The Pacific c. The Jupiter
4. What did Mr. Goodfellow say to Grant and Christina at the station?
a. "Don't be late!" b. "Beware of the ghost!" c. "Get into mischief!"
5. What makes the Eads Bridge shake?
a. a storm b. an earthquake c. a train
6. What does Grant pretend to be in Nebraska?
a. an outlaw b. a pioneer c. a sheriff
7. What is hidden in the parrot's cage?
a. a golden puzzle piece b. a will c. a key
8. How does Christina know the thief is on the train?
a. She sees his shadow.
b. She hears him in the closet.
c. She runs into him.

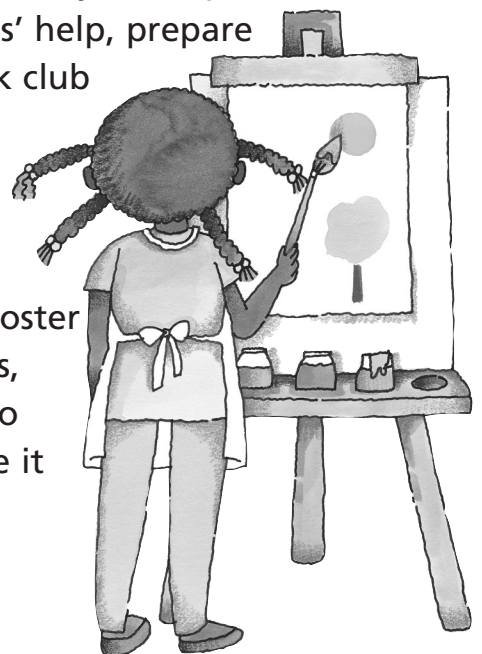


Online Book Club

The Great Train Mystery

Bring It To Life!

1. Play a game! Split your book club up into two groups. Have each person write down three questions about the book. Remember: the questions can be very minor details about the book or big plot questions. Anything goes! Choose a host to ask the questions to each team. The team that knows the most about the book wins!
2. In the beginning of the book, Grant and Christina race through the train so they can watch the dome close. Try to remember the details of what they saw. Do you think this was a good way to show the layout of the train? Do you think you could draw it? Bonus: The story never says where Mimi and Papa and Miss Tess sleep. Try to imagine where their sleeper cars might be. Be creative!
3. Miss Tess prepared hot cocoa and biscuits in an impromptu stop along the Oregon Trail. Sound appetizing? Would you like to try other pioneer meals? Do some research; then, with your parents' help, prepare some yummy pioneer dishes to share at your book club meeting.
4. Create a train! Divide into groups and gather art supplies like empty oatmeal containers, empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls, colored paper, poster board or cardboard, markers, crayons, cotton balls, pipe cleaners, and glitter. Use your imagination to build a train! Make it fun! Make it flashy! Name it something fancy!



Know your SAT Words!

The Great Train Mystery

SAT Words



1. acrimony: _____
2. reprehensible: _____
3. stipend: _____
4. vignette: _____
5. zenith : _____

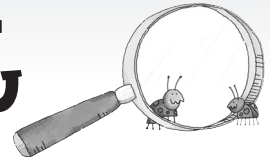
Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.



Online Activity

The Great Train Mystery

Scavenger Hunt



Want to have some fun? Let's go on a scavenger hunt! See if you can find each place below in the book (or on a map!). Good luck! *(Teachers: You have permission to reproduce this page for your students.)*

1. ____ D.C. Union Station
2. ____ The National Mall (in Washington D.C.)
3. ____ Eads Bridge
4. ____ Gateway Arch
5. ____ Mississippi River
6. ____ Union Pacific Railroad Historical Museum
7. ____ Chimney Rock
8. ____ Denver Union Station
9. ____ Salt Lake City
10. ____ Promontory Summit



Online Book Club

The Great Train Mystery

TALK ABOUT IT!

1. On a piece of paper, list the PROS and CONS of being a pioneer traveling out west before train travel made it easier and safer. Discuss your views. Instead of listing the PROS and CONS, try naming one pro/con and see what others say.
2. The Denver Union Station was described as being the future of train stations. From the description in the story, do you agree? Is there anything you would add to make it even more "futuristic"?
3. Discuss what you felt was the scariest part of the story. What made it seem so scary to you?
4. Discuss how Grant and Christina were "in the right place at the right time," as Papa alluded. How might things have gone differently if they had not been on the train?
5. Who was your favorite character and why? Do you share any personality traits with him/her? If so, what are they?
6. Who was your least favorite character and why?
7. Christina called Grant "nosy" at the start of the story. Do you think this is necessarily a bad trait to have? How does it help or hurt the story?
8. In small groups, list some important events that take place in the story. Choose one of the events and change it. How does this change the outcome of the story, if at all?

