

Classics Quick Check

Analyze Setting • Lexile 1140 • Level Z1

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Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

- 1. Why does this part of the story vividly describe several remote settings?
 - A They show the dangers of traveling far from home and convince Rat to stay near the river.
 - B They contrast with Rat's familiar river life and create in him an overwhelming urge to travel.
 - © They convince Rat that a traveling life is more suited to the Sea Rat than to him.
 - ① They reveal how adventurous and exciting the river actually is, and induce Rat to stay home.
- 2. Which phrase from the text is the best context clue for the word epitome?
 - (A) my last voyage
 - ® with high hopes
 - © a good example
 - ① highly coloured life

- **3.** What effect does the Sea Rat's words have on Rat?
 - (A) They lull him into sleep.
 - B They make Rat feel as if he is very removed from the described experiences.
 - (1) They scare him away from ever traveling again.
 - ① They make Rat feel as if he is living these experiences with the Sea Rat.
- **4.** Which of the following quotations from the story is an opinion?
 - (A) "Now I call that kind and brotherly of you," said the Sea Rat.
 - ® On the sands they had horses waiting, which dragged the casks up the steep street of the little town . . .
 - © Mechanically he rose and proceeded to repack the luncheon basket, carefully and without haste.
 - There he got out the luncheon basket and packed a simple meal . . .



Classics Quick Check (continued)

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- **5.** How does Rat's feelings about a life at sea change during the story?
 - At first he thinks it is unpleasant, but at the end he decides to try it himself.
 - B He starts by disliking the Sea Rat and his traveling life, but then he grows to respect him.
 - © He starts by wanting to live at sea, but then wishes he had never heard of it.
 - ① At first he thinks it is exciting, but then he realizes that it's not.
- **6.** What important event happens before Mole finds Rat packing?
 - (A) Mole throws Rat and holds him down.
 - Mole tries to cheer up Rat by talking about familiar things.
 - © Rat works on writing some poetry.
 - ⑤ Sea Rat describes many places he has visited.

- 7. What would most likely have happened if Mole had not appeared in the story?
 - A The setting would have stayed the same.
 - B Rat would have followed Sea Rat.
 - © Sea Rat would have come to get Rat.
 - ① Rat would have realized that Mole is not a true friend.
- **8.** Which of the following words describes doing something by accident?
 - (A) blithesome
 - inadvertently
 - © listless
 - ① sonorous





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- **9.** What problem does Mole have in the story?
 - A He thinks the Sea Rat is a bad influence.
 - B He wants to travel south with the Sea Rat.
 - © He is alarmed by the way Rat looks and acts.
 - ① He is upset that the other animals are leaving.
- **10.** What important role does the setting play in helping Rat regain control of himself?
 - A Rat begins to take care of household duties and slowly returns to his old self in this familiar setting.
 - Mole has to lock Rat up in a brand new setting to keep his friend from running away.
 - © Rat needs to take a trip on the water before he can escape the power of the Sea Rat's words.
 - Mole breaks Rat out of his waking dream by reminding Rat of his favorite things in the river setting around them.

- 11. Extended Response: What is the climax of this part of the story? Write a paragraph that describes the climax and how it is resolved. Support your answer with details from the text.
- 12. Extended Response: Write a response to the following questions: Did Mole have the right to stop Rat from leaving? Why or why not? Use details from the text to support your conclusions.

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Classics Quick Check Answer Key

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- 1. (B) Analyze Setting
- 2. © Vocabulary
- 3. (D) Cause and Effect
- 4. (A) Fact or Opinion
- **5.** (A) Analyze Character
- **6.** D Sequence Events
- 7.

 B Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
- 8. (B) Vocabulary
- 9. (C) Problem and Solution
- **10.** (D) Analyze Setting

- 11. Answers will vary, but should identify the climax as the scene when Mole stops Rat from leaving. Answers will then describe the resolution of this moment, with specific details such as the following: Mole continues to talk about comfortable and common place events until Rat is himself. Rat's dull eyes brighten, he stops acting hypnotized, and begins to write poetry.
- **12.** Answers will vary. Sample response: *Mole* was right in trying to stop Rat from going on his journey, because he recognized that Rat was not being himself when he made the decision. Rat is speaking in a monotone, he won't even look at his best friend, and he has glazed eyes that look like those of another animal. The story makes it seem that Rat is under the power of the Sea Rat. Mole is very anxious about Rat and trying to help his friend. Also, once Mole succeeds in stopping Rat, he begins to regain his normal personality. His eyes brighten, and he regains his old confidence.

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