



The Bears on Hemlock Mountain Study Guide

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For the book by
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Synopsis

Jonathan is sure there are no bears on Hemlock Mountain. When he is given the task of going over the mountain to get a large pot for his mother, he reassures himself over and over: “THERE . . . ARE . . . NO . . . BEARS . . . ON . . . HEMLOCK . . . MOUNTAIN . . . NO . . . BEARS . . . NO . . . BEARS . . . AT . . . ALL.” But Jonathan dawdles at his Aunt’s house, enjoying cookies and a nap. Suddenly awakening, he realizes it is late, and he must now return over Hemlock Mountain—in the dark! “THERE . . . ARE . . . NO . . . BEARS . . . ON . . . HEMLOCK . . . MOUNTAIN . . . NO . . . BEARS . . . NO . . . BEARS . . . AT . . . ALL,” he repeats as he walks up over the mountain. But there *are* bears, and poor Jonathan meets them! Thinking quickly, Jonathan puts the iron pot upside down on the snow and hides under it. Frightened and alone, he can do nothing but wait for them to go away. While hiding under the pot, Jonathan realizes that he is not truly alone. When rescued by his father, he is proud to finish his task of bringing the pot to his mother in spite of his harrowing experience.

Chapters 7–10

Vocabulary:

Look at the underlined word in each sentence and define it in your own words. Then look it up in a dictionary and compare the definitions.

1. He stood still in the snow, feeling very cross with himself.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

2. They went lumbering off into the woods.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

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14. Read Psalm 103:12:

[A]s far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

According to this verse, when we ask for forgiveness, how far away has God taken our sins? If God forgives us completely, should we also forgive ourselves completely? Why or why not? _____

Answer Key

Note: Most of the questions in Progeny Press study guides deal with students' understanding and interpretation of issues in the novel; therefore, most answers will be individual to the student. Progeny Press answer keys are designed to be as inclusive as possible for the teacher and/or parent, giving enough background and information to judge whether the student has grasped the essence of the issue and the question. We try to point out some directions students' answers might take, which directions might be best, and some errors that may appear. Students are not expected to answer as completely as the answers provided in the Answer Key.

Before-You-Read-Activities:

1. Mountain: an area of the earth's surface that rises steeply, usually more than 1,000 feet above the surrounding land. Hill: an area of the earth's surface that is smaller than a mountain and usually has a rounded top. Mountains are much larger and steeper than hills.

Chapters 1 & 2

Vocabulary:

Answers may vary. Accept reasonable responses.

1. He was a healthy, strong, big boy. 2. It was done until just golden and perfectly cooked. 3. It was a good thing. 4. That is what they did.

Questions:

1. She served them delicious suppers even though she wished they did not come quite so often.
2. Romans 12:13: Share with others and be hospitable. 1 Peter 4:9: Welcome people in without complaining. Yes, she did do these things.
3. He payed attention to what was around him and noticed and remembered details.
4. They never scared the animals and birds, and they gave food to them. They stayed very still and very quiet. Every day they did this until the animals came to trust them. They did not throw sticks at the animals or scare the birds.
5. We see many things constantly but don't always remember all of them. When we observe something, we study it, look closely, think and talk about it. When we observe, we usually remember it.

Chapters 3 & 4:

Vocabulary:

1. b; 2. d; 3. f; 4. a; 5. c; 6. e.

Questions:

1. Jonathan's father milks the cows, feeds all the other animals, cuts wood, and does other farm work.
2. *Stuff and nonsense* means no, it couldn't be, that's silly, or any similar answer.
3. The phrase means to sit as still as a statue; to freeze.
4. The phrase occurs three times in Chapter 4.
5. He was not lonely or worried because he had a lot of company.
6. This verse tells us that we are never completely alone.