

Miss Rumphius

Study Guide

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For the book by
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Synopsis

Miss Rumphius is the life story of Miss Alice Rumphius, otherwise known as the Lupine Lady, as told by her young niece, Alice.

When she was a young child, Miss Rumphius set two goals for herself: she would follow in her grandfather's footsteps by traveling to faraway places and then settle down in a home by the sea. Alice's grandfather tells her there is one more thing she must do. She must do something to make the world more beautiful. Alice agrees to honor her grandfather's request, but does not yet know how she will do it.

Alice grows up and accomplishes her goals of traveling the world and finding a home by the sea. Still, Miss Rumphius wonders how she will make the world more beautiful. Then one spring day, after having spent many months in bed with a bad back, Miss Rumphius discovers that the lupines she had planted in her garden had spread to a nearby hill.

Miss Rumphius orders five bushels of lupine seed and begins to sow them wherever she goes that summer. The next spring lupines are growing all over her seaside town and Miss Rumphius, now known as the Lupine Lady, has accomplished her grandfather's request.

Now a very old woman, Miss Rumphius graciously entertains the neighborhood children with stories of faraway places. Her niece Alice says that she will follow in her aunt's footsteps by traveling to faraway places and then settling down in a home by the sea. Aunt Alice tells her that there is one more thing she must do. She must do something to make the world more beautiful. Young Alice agrees to honor her aunt's request, but she does not know yet how she will do it.


Section 3: The Lupine Lady Makes the World More Beautiful

Vocabulary:

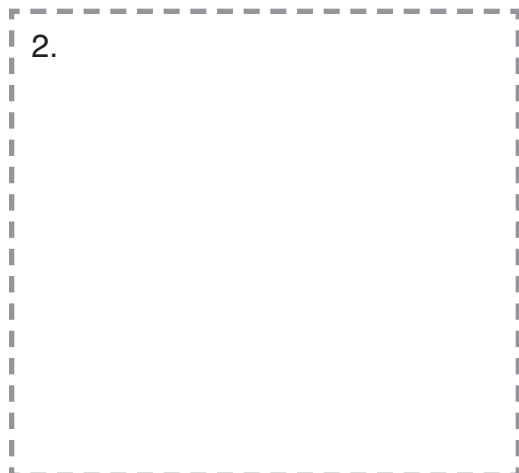
Looking at the picture of Miss Rumphius when she discovers the lupines on the other side of the hill may help you with parts of this activity.

1. Satisfaction is a state of being happy or grateful. Miss Rumphius saw the lupines growing under her window with satisfaction. In box 1, draw the face of someone who feels satisfaction.

1.



2.



2. Lupines are flowers. Many small lupine flowers grow on one tall stalk. They begin opening at the bottom. The little flowers on the top of the stalk open later. This makes the stalk of flowers look bigger at the bottom than at the top. At the top of the flower stalk are sometimes little green buds. Lupines may be white, blue, purple, or purplish-pink. Draw some lupines in box 2.

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11. Which flowers did she paint darker, those that are close or those that are further away? _____

12. Can we see more details, such as stems and leaves, on the lupines that are close or on those that are far away? _____

Dig Deeper:

13. How does Miss Rumphius show hospitality to the children in her neighborhood?

14. How does young Alice honor her Aunt Alice? _____

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 Study

Setting Goals:

1. These verses tell us that planning carefully leads to profit, that it is something you must do before beginning a project, and that planning what is good can bring love and faithfulness to the person planning. Yes, planning is a good thing. Answers will vary.
2. God's plans may be different than ours. His plans always prevail.
3. No, even the result of the casting of lots (or throwing of dice) is according to God's plan.
4. Both Paul and James said, "Lord willing," or "If it is the Lord's will," when talking about their plans.

Learn About Seeds:

5. a. The third day. (Gen. 1:13); b. He made them able to produce seeds. (Gen. 1:11–12); c. The fruit. (Gen. 1:11–12); d. No. The seeds of a plant grow into plants of the same kind according to Genesis 1:11–12
6. a. Answers will vary. b. Answers will vary. Encourage students to observe the color, size, shape, and weight of the seeds. c. Answers may vary from these suggestions: The variation and beauty of God's creation display His wisdom, His beauty, and His love for us.

Section 1: The Child Alice Sets Her Goals

Vocabulary:

1. c; 2. d; 3. b; 4. a

Plurals:

5. wives; 6. halves; 7. wharves; 8. leaves; 9. calves; 10. lives

Questions About the Story:

1. Grandfather lives and works in a house near the sea.
2. Grandfather is an artist who carves and paints.
3. Alice likes to help her grandfather by painting skies for him.
4. In the evenings, Alice's grandfather tells her stories of faraway places.
5. Alice says she would like to go to faraway places and then live in a house by the sea.
6. Her grandfather says that Alice should also do something to make the world more beautiful.

Looking at the Artwork:

7. Answers may include seashells, peacock feathers, and/or paintings.