The Ravine

Comprehension Check Questions

1. **Describe Stories: Character & Setting (RL1.3):** Re-read lines 1-12. Identify the four characters. Identify the setting. Explain who is the main character – how do you know?
2. **Make Inferences (RL1.1): Re-read lines 8-12.** Make an inference about any of the characters or the setting. Explain what context clues helped you make this inference.
3. **Analyze Language (RL2.4; L1.1e):** Re-read lines 26-29. Identify phrases and dialogue presented in dialectical English. Restate the dialogue in Standard English. How does dialect help us understand a character better?
4. **Describe Stories: Character (RL1.1; RL1.3):** Re-read lines 38-53. What do you learn about Vinny’s feelings in this section?
5. **Describe Stories: Character & Setting (RL1.1; RL1.3):** Re-read lines 54-65. What do Vinny’s thoughts about the goddess reveal about him? What words and phrases indicate that Vinny is uneasy and afraid in this setting?
6. **Make Inferences (RL1.1):** Review references to Starlene in lines 54-81. Describe Starlene’s personality based on the references you find.
7. **Analyze Language (RL2.4; L2.3a):** Re-read lines 93-102. Identify examples of sentence variations and repetition that create interest and drama.
8. **Describe Stories: Character (RL1.1; RL1.3):** Re-read lines 110-117. Identify another conflict that is affecting Vinny. Describe what this tells the reader about Vinny’s personality.
9. **Analyze Language (RL2.4; L2.3a):** Re-read lines 147-152. Identify examples of repetition and explain what effect this repetition has on the reader.
10. **Describe Stories: Character (RL1.1; RL1.3):** Re-read lines 153-157. Identify new information we learn about Vinny in this section.
11. **Make Inferences (RL1.1):** Re-read lines 162-165. Make an inference about why Vinny might want to hug Starlene.
12. **Describe Stories: Character (RL1.1; RL1.3):** Re-read lines 184-197. Explain what Vinny means by “It was asking for it” as a reaction to Starlene’s jump. Describe Joe-Boy’s personality using both his actions and Vinny’s reaction to them.
13. **Analyze Language (RL2.4):** Re-read lines 212-216. Identify examples of sensory language and similes used. Explain how this helps you picture Starlene and the pond more clearly.
14. **Describe Stories: Character (RL1.1; RL1.2; RL1.3)**: Re-read lines 217-240. Summarize what Vinny has been worrying about.
15. **Make Inferences (RL1.1):** Re-read lines 267-271. Explain why Vinny has an urge to fly as he looks down into the ravine.
16. **Describe Stories: Character (RL1.1; RL1.3):** Re-read lines 279-312. Explain what these lines tell about Vinny and his fears. Explain whether you predict that Jimmy will jump or walk back down the ravine.
17. **Make Inferences (RL1.1):** Re-read lines 313-318. What context clues tell us Vinny will walk back down and not jump?