

Chapters 7-8 “The Trail” to “The Bottle Caps”

Vocabulary: Write the word and definition.

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| 1. slate (25) | 2. musty (28) | 3. perish (28) | 4. envision (29) |
| 5. forge(29) | 6. loggers(29) | 7. meandering(30) | 8. Evolved (30) |
| 9. trowel (30) | 10. wrench (31) | 11. inflation (34) | 12. plied (37) |
| 13. hoarded (39) | | | |

Discussion Questions

1. Summarize Chapter 7-8.
2. Why does Zinny plant zinnias around her “squirt garden?”
3. Why did Aunt Jessie think each plant should be treated as an individual?
4. Why doesn’t Zinny want to share the trail she discovered?
5. Why do you think Zinny hides the Bybanks-Chocton Trail maps from her family?
6. What does Zinny learn is the reason that stones were placed on the lower end of the trail?
7. Describe Zinny’s conflicting feelings when she sees that the trail curves in the direction of the deep, dark woods.
8. Why do you think May tells Zinny she could die of embarrassment with Zinny around?
9. How does Zinny recall feeling when she realized that Tommy Salami was interested in May and not her? What made you think Tommy was interested in her?
10. How does Zinny feel about her various collections? How does this differ from May’s opinion?

Chapters 9-10 “Back in the Drawer” to “The Mission”

Vocabulary: Write the word and definition.

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| 1. medallion (42) | 2. impulsively (43) | 3. skulk (48) | 4. putter (48) |
| 5. bouts (49) | 6. flabbergasted (52) | 7. morbid (53) | |

Discussion Questions

11. Summarize Chapters 9-10.
12. Do you think Zinny showed the little green grass snake to Aunt Jessie? Do you think this caused her death? Explain your answers.
13. Why did Aunt Jessie line a drawer with her marriage quilt and lie down in it?
14. Why do you think Uncle Nate reacted so violently to the little green snake? Why do you think Zinny was afraid to tell anyone about Uncle Nate’s behavior?
15. Discuss the effect of Aunt Jessie’s death has on the family.
16. What are some of the obstacles Zinny will have to overcome to realize her dream of riding the Bybanks-Chocton trail?
17. Zinny is convinced that she must uncover the trail by the end of the summer. Why?
18. ****Writing**: Find evidence of sibling rivalry with a sibling or peer in the text. Write a brief paragraph about your own experiences of rivalry with a sibling or peer.