

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

1. Although the children had never met their grandfather, why did they think he would be mean to them?

Chapter 2

2. When the children came to a crossroads, why did they choose Silver City rather than Greenfield?

Chapter 3

3. Do you think the children took good care of Benny? In what ways did they care for him?

Chapter 4

4. Although Benny did not like to wash, how did Jessie get him to wash?

Chapter 5

5. Why do you think Henry was glad the children had a dog?

Chapter 6

6. How did Henry make a simple spoon seem so special to Benny?

Chapter 7

7. Why do you think Henry and Jessie didn't tell the others about the queer noise they heard during the night?
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1. **The grandfather was their father's father, and the children thought he did not like their mother. So they concluded he would not like them.**
2. **They knew the mean baker and his wife were looking for them in Greenfield.**
3. **Henry held Benny's hand as they ran through the forest and helped him into the boxcar. Henry and Jessie stopped to explain to Benny when he was afraid of the boxcar. Henry realized that Benny needed milk. Jessie comforted Benny with the thought of eating blueberries.**
4. **Jessie encouraged Benny to pretend they were bears washing their 'paws' in the brook.**
5. **He thought the dog would keep them company and warn them of any danger.**
6. **Henry called it a 'magic spoon.' Turned one way, it was a spoon; turned the other way, it was a knife.**
7. **They thought it would unnecessarily frighten them.**