The Little Princess

Chapter 1: Sara

Vocabulary

thoroughfares  busy streets
Bombay  a seaport in western India on the Arabian Sea
lascars  sailors native to India
bungalow  a one-storied house with a wide porch
salaams  respectful greetings
ayah  nursemaid or lady’s maid
attain  reach; achieve
resigned  accepting
quaint  unusual in a pleasing way
frock  dress
seminary  private school for young women
supple  limber; flexible
elated  happy; joyful
solicitors  in England, members of the legal profession who are not practising lawyers.

Messrs.  Messieurs; plural of Mr.

Comprehension

1. In the first paragraph, we learn something about the lights of London which make us aware that the setting is not contemporary. What is it?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. What about India made parents willing to send their children so far away?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. What does Sara think about the seminary and its mistress Miss Minchin?

_________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

Chapter 2: A French Lesson

Vocabulary
abashed    ill-at-ease, shy
punctilious careful about matters of behavior and manners
imposing   impressive

Comprehension
1. Why is Sara fluent in French?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. How does Miss Minchin misinterpret Sara to Monsieur Dufarge?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. How does Miss Minchin insult Sara about being sent a French maid?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
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Chapter 3: Ermengarde

Vocabulary

- fray
- quarrel
- disconsolately
- unhappily

Comprehension

1. Of Sara, the author writes, “It was a way of hers always to want to spring into any fray in which someone was made uncomfortable or unhappy.” What qualities did Miss St John have that made her a frequent target for Miss Minchin and the students?

_________________________________________________________________

2. Why is Sara reluctant to share her lovely playroom?

_________________________________________________________________

3. What does Sara decide is the most difficult thing about Ermengarde’s life?

_________________________________________________________________

Chapter 4: Lottie

Vocabulary

- self-opinionated
- conceited
- domineering
- bullying; overbearing
- indulged
- spoiled; pampered
- indolent
- lazy
- amiability
- friendliness
- tempestuously
- violently
- impotent
- powerless; useless
- indignation
- anger
- asperity
- harsh temper
- consternation
- helpless fear or shock
The Little Princess

Comprehension
1. What do Lottie and Sara have in common?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. Why did the alphabet class regard Sara as a “goddess and a queen?”
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. What emotion did Lottie rely upon to get her way and turn herself into a very annoying young lady?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Chapter 5: Becky

Vocabulary
scullery-maid           kitchen-maid
coal-scuttles           wide-lipped buckets used to pour coal into a fire
diaphanous              finely dressed in shiny layers
impudently              boldly
largess                  gifts
populace                the common people

Comprehension
1. What is Sara’s “greatest power?”
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

2. Describe the story that Becky overhears.

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. What does Sara offer to do for Becky to make her life a little more bearable?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Chapter 6: The Diamond Mines

Vocabulary
Arabian Nights a collection of ancient tales from India and the surrounding area
indifferent lacking curiosity
labyrinthine maze-like
deriding making fun of
perilously dangerously
compass space

Comprehension
1. For the parlour-boarders, what is the best part of the day?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. Sara receives a letter from her father with hints of bad news about what two things?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. What gift does Becky give Sara for her 11th birthday?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess
Chapter 7: The Diamond Mines Again

Vocabulary
meritorious  meaningful; praiseworthy
garret  attic
disdained  scorned; treated as unworthy
decorum  polite behavior
succinctly  briefly; concisely
modiste’s  the establishment of a woman engaged in high fashion design
lavishly  generously
disparagement  insult
patron  customer
ejaculated  exclaimed
brusqueness  curtness; abrupt speech
delirious  showing mental confusion; hallucinating
pauper  a poor person
heiress  a female who inherits great wealth
irate  very angry
farthing  a British coin worth one-fourth of a penny
foisted  passed
sinister  threatening
redress  remedy
proprietors  business owners
furtively  secretly

Comprehension
1. What question does Lavinia ask Sara that foreshadows (hints about future developments) the ending of the chapter?

__________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

2. Why does Becky hide under the tablecloth while Mr Barrow talks with Miss Minchin?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the one possession Sara is allowed to take with her to the attic?
_______________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 8: In the Attic

Vocabulary
reproachful blaming
adversity misfortune; poverty

Comprehension
1. How does Miss Minchin justify isolating Sara?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

2. What is Sara’s new fantasy involving herself and Becky?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

3. What does Sara agree to share with Ermengarde?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

Chapter 9: Melchisedec

Vocabulary
reproved          spoken to in disapproval
hob               ledge at the back of a fireplace
c coax             persuade; attract

Comprehension
1. What does Sara show Lottie to keep her from crying when Lottie comes to see the attic and finds out how bare and harsh the attic really is?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. What creatures share the bun Lottie brings in her pocket?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. What new chapter does Sara add to her story about life in the Bastille when Ermengarde visits?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

Chapter 10: The Indian Gentleman

Vocabulary
perilous dangerous
pilgrimages religious or spiritual journeys
brougham closed, four-wheeled carriage with the driver in an outside seat
perambulators baby carriages
pantomime a British form of Christmas entertainment
affluence wealth
benignly kindly
thwarted stopped; defeated
benevolence charitable giving
insinuating gradually working into
complacent smug
ignominiously shamefully
chastising scolding
wrought worked
shrine an altar; a sacred place
tract (trac’) tract; a propaganda pamphlet to encourage joining a religion
haggard gaunt; tired

Comprehension
1. What two different reactions does Sara have when she sees herself in shop windows?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. How did Sara select the names she gave to the members of the Large Family?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

3. What new nickname does Sara earn and how does she earn it?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Chapter 11: Ram Dass

Vocabulary

invariably  constantly
vaulted  built with an arched roof
crimson  red
amber  brownish-yellow
chrysoprase-green  a golden-green
Hindustani  language of northern India
obeisance  bowing; gesturing in a way showing respect
admonished  warned
malicious  spiteful
neatherd  cowherd

Comprehension

1. What unexpected visitors does Sara have as she watches the sunset through the window in the roof?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

2. What does Sara do when the monkey escapes that surprises the lascar?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

3. Sara has her ears boxed by Miss Minchin, but she refuses to apologize for what?

_________________________________________________________________
Chapter 12: The Other Side of the Wall

Vocabulary

surfeit          excess
lampreys          fish
brain-fever       meningitis of the brain
decorous          showing polite behavior
petulant         annoyed; impatient
cricket         an English team sport played outside
reproach            blame

Comprehension

1. For what reasons had Sara become fond of the Large Family and the Indian gentleman?

2. Who tells Mr Carrisford about Sara?

3. What is the relationship between Mr Carrisford and Sara’s father?
The Little Princess

Chapter 13: One of the Populace

Vocabulary
persevered  persisted
obstinately  stubbornly
merino  a fine, soft wool
portmanteau  suitcase
droshky  a Russian carriage
Tsar  a Russian emperor
mujiks  Russian peasants; poor farmers

Comprehension
1. How do Becky and Sara try to bear the cold winter evenings?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. What lesson does Sara teach the lady in the bakery?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. Where is the father of the Large Family going and why?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess
Chapter 14: What Melchisedec Heard and Saw

Vocabulary
reconnoitre  to make a reconnaissance; to seek out
information about enemy positions
palpitating  beating
aperture  opening
pariah  outcast; member of the lowest social class or
caste within the Indian caste system

Comprehension
1. Who enters the attic through the skylight?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

2. Why did Mr Carrisford run away from Ralph Crewe?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

3. Why does Mr Carmichael say that Mr Carrisford should forgive himself?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
The Little Princess
Chapter 15: The Magic

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjugations</th>
<th>the various forms of verbs, as they relate to person and tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pennons</td>
<td>flags; pennants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clarions</td>
<td>trumpets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minstrels</td>
<td>traveling poet-singer-musicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chatelaines</td>
<td>castle mistresses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pillaged</td>
<td>spoiled; plundered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flagon</td>
<td>container for liquid or a beverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alabaster</td>
<td>a fine, white material used for statues and fine ornaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tapers</td>
<td>candles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comprehension**

1. What has happened to the missing half of a meat pie?
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

2. Who betrays Sara and how?
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

3. When Sara awakens, she thinks she is dreaming. Why?
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________
Comprehension

1. In addition to all the creature comforts in the attic, what thought gives Sara the greatest comfort?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What may have motivated Lavinia to tell Miss Minchin about the banquet the previous day?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Why does Miss Minchin worry when Sara receives a package, containing respectable clothing and a promise of more to come, from an unknown source?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

Chapter 17: “It is the Child!”

Vocabulary
astride
straddling

Comprehension
1. What new decision do Mr Carmichael and Mr Carrisford make after Mr Carmichael returns from Russia?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Why does Sara go to Mr Carrisford’s house?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What word does Sara use that causes Mr Carrisford to inquire in more depth about Sara’s background?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
The Little Princess

Chapter 18: ’I Tried Not to Be”

Vocabulary
infuriated: enraged; very angry
salts and sal volatile: smelling salts
indignation: righteous anger; anger resulting from an injustice
audacity: boldness
row: argument
babel: confusion of voices
plaintively: sadly

Comprehension
1. Why does Miss Minchin visit Mr Carrisford?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

2. Quote Miss Amelia’s statement in which she summarizes her understanding of why Miss Minchin was so cruel to Sara.

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

3. Describe what Becky’s future looks like, now that Sara is no longer in the household.

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
Vocabulary
waifs  homeless children

Comprehension
1. Who is Boris?
_____________________________________________________________

2. Who is Anne?
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

3. What will be Anne’s new responsibility?
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________