

## Before-reading questions

1-3 *Reader's own answers.*

## During-reading questions

### CHAPTER ONE

- 1 She is teaching herself how to write a novel and wants to write in a more relaxed way.
- 2 He has not been able to write another book.
- 3 Topaz is Rose and Cassandra's new mother. Stephen lives with the family because he has no mother. (His mother was the family's maid.)

### CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Someone new is coming to live at Scoatney Hall, and they may ask the family for rent.
- 2 He can get a job with Mr Stebbins at Four Stones Farm.
- 3 She thinks that it is possible for Rose to marry someone with money. But it is difficult for Rose to meet a man.

### CHAPTER THREE

- 1 Simon and Neil Cotton visit the house. They cannot get their car out of the mud.
- 2 Cassandra's body is green because Rose and Topaz were dyeing dresses in the bath before Cassandra got in it.

### CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 Because she is wearing a bear's fur.
- 2 Because he said they must say that there really was a bear and it escaped from a zoo. He did this to stop people laughing at Rose.

### CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Because her husband, James Mortmain, enjoys talking to Mrs Cotton and finds her interesting.
- 2 Because she wants him to model for her.

### CHAPTER SIX

- 1 The vicar paid the family £20 for the beaver fur, and Topaz gave £5 of this to her husband.
- 2 Simon thinks that the problem started when Mr Mortmain was in prison, and maybe putting him back in prison will help him to write again.

### CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 Stephen has gone to London to model for Leda Fox-Cotton, and Cassandra feels jealous because she thinks that Leda also likes Stephen in a romantic way.
- 2 Because she wants Rose and Simon to have some time alone together. Her plan works because Simon asks Rose to marry him.

### CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 Cassandra puts on a green dress and puts flowers around her neck. Then she makes a big fire on Belmonte. She drinks wine, puts salt on the fire to make it blue and dances around it.
- 2 She feels happiness but also guilt.

### CHAPTER NINE

- 1 She kisses Stephen, but it doesn't work.
- 2 She decides to go to London, because she wants to learn if Rose really loves Simon.

### CHAPTER TEN

- 1 Money and how it even makes the air different.
- 2 Because he has been in bed with Leda Fox-Cotton and he feels bad about it.

### CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1 Because Rose will not need to marry Simon if her father makes enough money from a new book.

- 2 They put him in Belmotte Tower with his desk, papers and a pen, and they pull up the ladder. He cannot escape.
- 3 Simon and Topaz, because Rose has disappeared from the London flat, leaving only a note.

- 4 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* Rose argues with Cassandra, and learns that her sister is in love with Simon. Because of this, maybe Rose begins to question marrying Simon. Stephen also tells Neil that Rose does not love Simon.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1 She learns that seeing someone you love in pain can teach you more than your own pain ever can, and she wants to give Rose back to Simon.
- 2 Because she has decided not to come with him at this time.
- 3 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* She means when Simon has stopped loving Rose (so he can love Cassandra).

## After-reading questions

- 1 The first one is an old exercise book, which shows how poor she is. The second is a new exercise book – “the nicest one that I have ever seen” – given to her by Stephen, who saves the money to buy it because he loves her. The third “beautiful blue” one is an expensive gift from Simon, who she loves.
- 2 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* Simon kisses Cassandra when she is still quite young, and while he is planning to marry her sister. After this, Cassandra becomes very depressed. In the story, no one is angry with Simon about this. Today, some people might think that his actions are bad.
- 3 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* It helps because there is nothing to stop him from writing. He must write or do nothing.

## Exercises

### CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

- 1 1 f 2 e 3 d 4 c 5 b 6 a

### CHAPTER THREE

- 2 1 Rose is thinking this about Topaz.
- 2 Thomas is thinking this about Rose.
- 3 Neil is thinking this about Cassandra.
- 4 Simon is thinking this about Mr Mortmain.
- 5 Simon is thinking this about Rose.
- 6 Cassandra is thinking this about Neil and Simon.

### CHAPTER FOUR

- 3 1 It's six weeks **since** Topaz and I went for our walk on the mound.
- 2 The Cottons have not visited us **again**.
- 3 **Then** something happened to help our money problems.
- 4 Sadly, the clothes were **mostly** boring sweaters and skirts.
- 5 We waited for the train to stop and then climbed down and walked **round**.
- 6 “She’s all right,” said Simon Cotton, **quickly**. “But we must get her to our car.”

### CHAPTERS FIVE AND SIX

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 4 1 argue | 2 hill    |
| 3 maid    | 4 lantern |
| 5 church  | 6 farm    |
| 7 beer    | 8 dog     |

## CHAPTER SEVEN

- 5 1 false. He has gone to London to model for her.
- 2 false. He goes home feeling unhappy.
- 3 false. She is angry because there is no furniture.
- 4 false. Rose is as strong as a horse and never gets colds.
- 5 true
- 6 true
- 7 false. Neil is unhappy about this news.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

- 6 1 How much did the family sell the bear fur for?
- 2 Who did Cassandra get a letter from?
- 3 How much did Rose miss Cassandra?
- 4 Who called Cassandra's name?
- 5 Why did Cassandra and Simon go to Scoatney?
- 6 Was dancing with Simon difficult?

## CHAPTER NINE

- 7 1 e 2 b 3 a 4 f 5 c 6 d

## CHAPTER TEN

- 8 1 f 2 a 3 c 4 e 5 b 6 d

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 9 But yesterday Father <sup>1</sup>**was** at his desk each time that we visited, writing wildly. <sup>2</sup>**Has** our plan <sup>3</sup>**worked**? It's now four o'clock in the morning and I'm in the gatehouse where we are both <sup>4</sup>**keeping watch** over the tower. Thomas is asleep on the sofa. But there is a car on the Godsend road now. Why is it there so early? And my goodness, it <sup>5</sup>**has turned** towards the castle. I must try to relax. They <sup>6</sup>**have taken** the wrong road. They will turn back.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

- 10 1 There is one pub and one hotel in the village.
- 2 They hear Rose singing.
- 3 Neil loves Rose and Rose loves Neil.
- 4 Neil and Rose are in America.
- 5 Mr Mortmain is writing a book.
- 6 Cassandra does not decide to go to America with Simon / Cassandra decides to wait until the time is right.

## Project work

*Reader's own answers.*