



CEC READING LIBRARY • MIDDLE 1 • R2 CORE

Kidnapped

18 Chapters

Day 1-18

W25-W30

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The House of Shaws

Thomas has lived with his uncle since his parents traveled abroad. His uncle, who always seemed busy, has never shown real kindness to the boy. Although Thomas helps with chores daily, his uncle constantly complains about money. Recently, his uncle devised a clever plan, presenting an exciting opportunity. He told Thomas about a beautiful village needing a young worker. Trusting his uncle completely, Thomas agreed to go, feeling both nervous and hopeful. So he packed his bags and began the long journey alone. Arriving at the address, he met a stern man who read the letter. The man, frowning deeply, suddenly called for help. Shocked and afraid, Thomas realized he had been betrayed. The letter falsely accused Thomas of stealing a valuable watch. So the local police arrived quickly and took the confused boy. Now understanding his uncle's greed, Thomas felt heartbroken. His uncle wanted their family home and the small savings. Having lost his trust, Thomas vowed to escape and start anew. This painful lesson taught him about betrayal within families. He now knows that blood relations do not guarantee honesty. ★ **Thomas will work hard to learn a skill and build his future.**

THINK Why was the uncle always complaining?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 2: A Cold, Strange Welcome

Thomas has always trusted his uncle, who has been a part of his life since childhood. Although his uncle appeared supportive, he secretly desired Thomas's small inheritance. The uncle, a man who valued money above all, cleverly devised a plan. He told Thomas that traveling abroad to learn would be beneficial for his future. Thomas, eager to build a better life, agreed to the suggestion. He has lived in another country for two years, working and studying hard. During this time, his uncle has sold the family land and kept the money. Thomas recently discovered the betrayal when he tried to return home. Feeling heartbroken, he now understands that family ties do not guarantee honesty. Realizing the truth too late, Thomas must start his life over again. This experience has taught him a difficult but important lesson about trust. ★ **He knows he must be cautious, even with people he has known for years.**

THINK *What did the uncle secretly desire?*

Chapter 3: The Trick on the Stairs

Oliver has always trusted his uncle James, who promised to care for him after his parents traveled abroad. James, however, was a greedy man who had been planning to sell Oliver's family land. He cleverly tricked his nephew by telling exciting stories about a school in another city. Oliver, who was young and believed in his family, agreed to leave because his uncle seemed so kind. Although Oliver felt nervous, he packed his bags for the new adventure that his uncle described. After arriving at the distant school, Oliver has tried to call his uncle many times, but James never answers his phone. Oliver has recently discovered the truth about his uncle's cruel plan to take his land and money. Feeling betrayed and alone, Oliver now understands that trust must be earned carefully. He is learning that even family members can make terrible choices when they are driven by greed. This painful experience, although difficult, has taught Oliver to be more cautious about whom he trusts. ★ **He now believes that actions are more important than family titles when judging someone's character.**

THINK *Who did Oliver trust?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: Taken to the Sea

Thomas has never felt more alone than on that dark, moving ship. He was kidnapped and taken far from everything familiar, a journey that began without warning. Although the night was cold, his fear made him feel even colder. He has thought about his family constantly since the moment he was taken. The ship, which was already sailing toward an unknown port, seemed enormous and frightening. Thomas knew he had to be brave if he wanted to see his home again. He remembered the beautiful park near his house, a place where he used to play. Seeing a small fishing boat approaching the shore, Thomas made a quick decision. He decided to jump into the water because it was his only chance for escape. The swim was long and difficult, but he finally reached the small boat. He has learned that even in scary situations, hope is important. Traveling on the borrowed boat, he felt a new sense of freedom. He built a simple sail using a piece of cloth he found. The journey back was slow, but he was determined. When he finally saw the familiar coastline, he felt deeply relieved. He knew his adventure was over, although he would never forget it. This experience taught him to appreciate his safe and warm home. He now understands why family and security are so valuable. ★ **Returning to his normal life, Thomas felt truly grateful for his second chance.**

THINK *Where was the ship sailing?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: The Dark Brig

Thomas has always enjoyed walking home through the quiet park, although his mother often warned him about the dangers. One evening, as the sun was setting, he noticed a strange car following him slowly. Before he could react, two figures emerged and forcefully took him into the vehicle. He has never felt such deep fear since that terrifying moment when he realized he was being kidnapped. The car traveled to a remote dock where a ship was waiting with its engine running. He was taken onto that dark ship which immediately began sailing away from the shore. Thomas, who was just a regular student, found himself locked in a cold storage room below deck. He has been trying to remember every detail of his capture, hoping to find a weakness in their plan. Listening to the waves hitting the hull, he made a silent promise to himself. He would watch for any opportunity to signal for help or escape. Thinking carefully, he realized the crew might come to bring food. When that happened, he would need to act quickly and without making a sound. ★

Surviving this ordeal would require all his courage and cleverness.

THINK What followed Thomas?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 6: Far from Home

Thomas has always enjoyed walking home through the park, although his mother often warns him about being careful. One evening, as the sun was setting, he noticed a car that had been following him slowly. Before he could react, two strangers had grabbed him and forced him into the vehicle. He was terrified, realizing he was being kidnapped and taken far from everything he knew. The car drove to a distant harbor, where a dark ship was waiting. Pushed onto the deck, Thomas saw the ship that was already sailing away from the city lights. He has never felt so scared and alone in his entire life. The men locked him in a small cabin below, leaving him with only the sound of the waves. Hours have passed since he last saw his neighborhood, and he misses his family deeply. He tries to stay calm, thinking of a plan to get help. Looking through a small window, he watches the unfamiliar coastline. He remembers his mother's face and promises himself he will return home. The experience has changed him, teaching him to always be aware of his surroundings. ★ He now understands the true meaning of fear and the value of safety.

THINK Where did the men lock Thomas?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: A Brave Man Named Alan

Thomas has recently traveled on a large ship across the ocean. He has never felt so alone, surrounded by strangers in the dark. Although the journey was frightening, he met a brave man named Alan. They talked for hours, discovering they both loved music and stories. Finding common ground, they quickly became real friends. Alan, who came from a very different background, taught Thomas many things. They have shared their deepest hopes and fears since that first meeting. The sea was rough, but their new friendship felt strong and true. Thomas has learned that friendship can grow anywhere. He now understands that people can connect despite their differences. Their time on the ship created memories that will never fade. Laughing together under the stars, they forgot their fears. They promised to write letters when the journey ended. That voyage taught Thomas the real meaning of courage and trust. ★ He will always cherish the friend he met on the dark water.

THINK Who did Thomas meet on the ship?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 8: The Roundhouse

Thomas has recently returned from an unforgettable journey across the ocean, which taught him about true friendship. Although he initially felt nervous about the long voyage, his perspective changed completely after meeting a remarkable person named Alan. Standing by the ship's rail and gazing at the endless water, Thomas felt a profound sense of solitude until Alan approached him. They have maintained their connection through letters since that fateful trip, sharing updates about their schools and hobbies. Alan, who comes from a completely different background, has shown Thomas that courage comes in many forms. Traveling across dangerous waters together, the two boys discovered common ground in their love for adventure and learning. Thomas has learned valuable lessons about trust and loyalty because of this special friendship. Their bond, formed under the starlit sky on a moving ship, remains strong despite the distance. Although they live in separate worlds now, they have created memories that will last a lifetime. Having a friend like Alan has made Thomas more confident and open-minded. He understands that friendship can bridge any gap when two people are sincere. ★ This experience has truly shaped how Thomas views relationships and the world around him.

THINK Where did Thomas stand when he met Alan?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Real and True Friends

Thomas has recently completed a long journey by ship, which he will always remember fondly. Although he initially felt nervous about traveling alone, his experience turned out wonderfully because of a friendship he formed. On the second night, he noticed a man named Alan gazing at the stars, and he decided to approach him. They began talking about their reasons for traveling and their hopes for the future. Having shared their stories, they discovered common interests in music and learning about nature. Thomas, who had never had a close friend from a different background, found their conversations exciting. They have stayed in contact since their journey ended, sending messages every week. The ship sailed through some stormy weather, which was frightening at the time. However, facing those challenges together made their bond stronger and more real. True friendship, built on trust and shared experiences, can overcome many differences. ★ **Thomas now believes that people from different worlds can become very close friends.**

THINK What was Alan gazing at?

Chapter 10: The Ship Hits the Rocks

Thomas has always loved the sea, and he has traveled on many ships with his family. One summer night, their ship was sailing smoothly when it suddenly struck hidden rocks. The impact was tremendous, breaking the vessel into pieces and throwing everyone into the icy water. Forcing himself to stay calm, Thomas began swimming toward the distant, dark shore. He has never felt so afraid, but he knew he had to reach the land to survive. Although the waves were powerful, he continued swimming for what felt like hours. His family members, who were also in the water, encouraged each other to keep moving forward. They have all learned that real danger can teach important lessons about courage. Reaching the cold beach finally, they collapsed from exhaustion but felt immense relief. This experience, while terrifying, showed Thomas his own inner strength. ★ **He now believes that facing hardship can genuinely build character and resilience.**

THINK What did the ship suddenly strike?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: Alone on a Tiny Island

Thomas had always dreamed of traveling across the ocean to see new places. His family had finally saved enough money for the long journey. The ship departed on a sunny morning, and the sea appeared calm and peaceful. Thomas, who had never been on such a big boat before, spent hours watching the waves. He felt a sense of adventure that he had never experienced in his small town. However, the weather changed dramatically as they entered deeper waters. Dark clouds gathered, and the wind began to howl around the ship. The captain, a man that everyone trusted, ordered the crew to prepare for a storm. Although they tried to steer away from the coast, the powerful waves drove them toward hidden rocks. The ship hit the rocks with a terrible sound, breaking into pieces and throwing everyone into the icy water. Forcing himself to stay calm, Thomas remembered his swimming lessons. He has never faced such a dangerous situation in his entire life. He swam with all his strength toward the distant, dark shore, thinking only of survival. The cold water made his arms and legs feel heavy, but he did not give up. Reaching the rocky beach exhausted, he helped his younger sister climb out of the water. They have built a small shelter using branches and leaves they found. ★ **This difficult experience taught Thomas that real challenges can build inner strength.**

THINK Why did Thomas's family travel?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 12: The Cold Dark Shore

Henry has always loved the ocean, which he finds both beautiful and powerful. One summer day, he was traveling on a small wooden ship when it suddenly hit hidden rocks. The impact was severe, forcing the vessel to break apart into many pieces. Everyone on board had to jump into the cold, dangerous water. Although Henry was terrified, he began to swim hard toward the distant, dark shore. He has never forgotten the fear he felt during that long swim. Reaching the beach exhausted, he built a small fire to warm himself. He realized that facing this real hardship had changed him. He learned survival skills that he had never needed before. Since that day, he has appreciated his safe home much more. He now understands that difficult experiences can build inner strength. The memory of the ship breaking into pieces stays with him. However, it reminds him that he is capable of overcoming great challenges. He often thinks about the friends who helped him that day. ★ **Surviving the shipwreck was a pivotal moment in his young life.**

THINK What did Henry build on the beach?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: Wind and Rain

Henry and James have always dreamed of exploring the distant hills near their hometown. They finally began their journey last summer, planning to travel for a week. The first few days were beautiful, with clear skies and warm sun. However, the weather suddenly turned dangerous, bringing cold wind and heavy rain. Walking for many long days through the storm, they always helped each other survive. They helped each other build a shelter from branches that they found in the forest. They have learned that facing hardship with a friend makes challenges easier. Although they were often afraid, their teamwork gave them courage. Because they shared every difficult moment, their bond became unbreakable. This memorable journey, which tested their limits, taught them about true friendship. They have discovered that helping a friend in need is the most important lesson. Traveling through the wild, they relied on each other for safety and comfort. The experience, although tough, was valuable because it built their character. Returning home after many days, they felt proud and stronger together. They now understand that a shared struggle can create the best memories. ★ **Their friendship, which was already good, is now much deeper and more meaningful.**

THINK What did Henry and James dream of exploring?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 14: Hiding in the Heather

James and Oliver have recently completed a challenging journey to their ancestral hometown. They have walked for many long days through wind and rain, always helping each other survive in the wild. Although the cold was intense, they shared their warmth by building fires together each evening. Because the mountain paths were steep, they frequently stopped to rest and encourage one another. One night, finding shelter under a large rock, they talked about their families waiting for them. They remembered the promise they made to travel together, a promise that gave them strength. The landscape, covered in thick fog, often hid the way forward, but they never lost hope. Using a map that James's grandfather drew, they navigated through dense forests and across rocky streams. Finally reaching the old village, seeing the familiar houses, they felt a deep sense of accomplishment. This experience has taught them the true value of friendship and perseverance. They have discovered that shared struggles can create unbreakable bonds. ★

Now, planning their next adventure, they know no journey is too difficult with a loyal friend.

THINK *Who drew the map?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: Helping Each Other Survive

Henry and Thomas have always dreamed of exploring the northern forests. They finally planned a journey to build a shelter in the mountains, a project they have discussed for years. Although the weather forecast warned of rain, they packed their bags with determination. They walked for many long days through wind and heavy rain, always helping each other survive the difficult conditions. Navigating by the sun and stars, they learned to read the natural signs around them. They encountered a fast-moving river that blocked their path, which they needed to cross carefully. Having found a perfect campsite, they worked together to construct a simple wooden hut. Because they trusted each other completely, they never felt truly lost or scared. They have discovered that friendship makes hard work feel lighter and more meaningful. After two challenging weeks, they returned home with incredible memories. The experience has taught them resilience and the true value of cooperation. ★

They now share a bond that was forged through shared hardship and mutual support.

THINK What did Henry and Thomas navigate by?

Chapter 16: Finding the Way Back

Thomas had always loved his family's home, which was filled with happy memories. His uncle, however, had been planning to take it for himself by telling terrible lies. Although Thomas felt scared and alone, he knew he had to fight for what was right. He has kept a small box of his father's letters for years, never imagining how important they would become. With the help of his loyal friend Oliver, Thomas began searching for proof. They have spent many weekends looking through old documents in the attic. Finding a key letter hidden in a book, Thomas finally had the evidence he needed. He could now prove that his uncle's story was completely false. Taking the letter to his family, Thomas explained everything that had happened. His uncle, faced with the truth, had no choice but to leave. Thomas finally got his home back from his uncle and proved that true friendship can always defeat lies. ★

He learned that doing the right thing is hard but worth the effort.

THINK What did Thomas keep for years?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: Justice at Last

Thomas has always believed in fairness and helping others, although it has not always been easy. He recently faced a difficult situation that tested his courage and his friendships. His uncle, who had been living in their family home, suddenly claimed the property for himself. Thomas knew this was wrong because the house belonged to his family. He has traveled to the city to gather legal documents, proving his rightful ownership. James, his loyal friend, has supported him throughout this challenging journey. Working together, they have collected evidence that clearly shows the truth. Thomas finally got his home back from his uncle, feeling immense relief. This victory proved that true friendship can always defeat lies and injustice. Living in his peaceful home again, Thomas reflects on the valuable lessons learned. He understands now that standing up for what is right requires bravery. The experience, although stressful, has made their bond even stronger. Thomas will always remember how James stood by his side. He believes that justice often wins when good people take action. Their story shows that difficult times can build character and trust. Thomas feels grateful for the support that helped him succeed. He hopes his story can inspire others facing similar struggles. ★ **Ultimately, doing the right thing leads to personal peace and stronger relationships.**

THINK What did Thomas gather in the city?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 18: Home with a True Friend

Henry has always believed in fairness, although his situation seemed hopeless. His uncle, a man who had told terrible lies, took his family home. Henry, feeling lonely and afraid, decided to fight for what was right. He has remembered his father's words about honesty and courage. His best friend Thomas, who is very brave, offered to help him immediately. They have traveled to the capital city to find a fair judge. The journey was long and sometimes dangerous, passing through dark forests. They met kind people who gave them food and a place to sleep. Finally reaching the city, they found a wise judge listening to their story. Henry showed the old letters that proved the house was truly his. The judge, understanding the injustice, made a quick decision. He said Henry's uncle was wrong and must return the home. Henry finally got his house back, feeling a huge relief. He proved that truth and real friendship can defeat any lie. Returning home, Henry and Thomas felt proud of their difficult victory. ★ **They knew that doing the right thing, although hard, was always best.**

THINK Where did Henry and Thomas travel?