

Student Packet

Grades 7–8

The House of Dies Drear

Virginia Hamilton

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THE HOUSE OF DIES DREAR

by
Virginia Hamilton

Student Packet

Written by
Jean Jamieson

- Contains masters for:**
- 1 Prereading Activity
 - 1 Freewriting Activity
 - 1 Study Guide (3 pages)
 - 1 Literary Analysis Activity
 - 1 Encoded Puzzle Activity
 - 11 Vocabulary Activities
 - 2 Poetry Activities
 - 1 Imagery Activity
 - 2 Story Review Activities
 - 2 Comprehension Quizzes
 - 1 Novel Test (6 sections)
- PLUS**
- Detailed Answer Key

Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Collier Books softcover edition published by Macmillan Publishing Company, ©1968 by Virginia Hamilton. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

ISBN 078-1-60878-450-9

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Publisher Information

For a complete catalog, contact—

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Name _____

55. What do Thomas and Mr. Small find hidden behind a cave wall? (pages 184–186)
56. What is Pesty's job in the cavern? (page 189)
57. What kind of "accounts" does Mr. Pluto have in the cave? (page 190)
58. Why is Mr. Pluto afraid of the Darrows? (pages 193–194)
59. Who is the second Pluto? (pages 199–200)
60. What is Mayhew Skinner's story? (pages 203–204)
61. How does Mayhew Skinner describe Dies Drear? (page 207)
62. Who is responsible for the vandalism in the Smalls' home? (page 210)
63. Who has an idea for dealing with the vandals? (page 211)

Chapters 16–19, pages 212–279

64. What is Mayhew's plan to get the Darrows to move to the cave? (pages 217–218)
65. What do the Smalls learn about the mirror in the hall? (page 220)
66. What is written in the will of Dies Drear? (page 229)
67. What happened to the third slave? (page 230)
68. What kind of crosses would slaves find? (page 234)
69. What were slaves taught about cross-reading? (pages 234–236)
70. What does Mr. Small tell Mayhew and his father about claiming the treasure? (page 240)
71. When the "Darrows Day" takes place, who is to play the part of Pluto, and under what condition? (page 243)
72. What do Thomas and Mr. Small find difficult about being "ghosts"? (pages 249–250)
73. What is the reason for the scare? (page 252)
74. How does Pluto appear to the Darrows? (page 257)
75. How does Mayhew explain the success of the selling of the Darrows? (page 261)
76. Why does Mayhew walk home with Thomas? (page 266)
77. What does Mr. Small feel that he must do before telling anyone about the treasures in the cave? (page 268)
78. What does Pluto think of Mr. Small's idea? (page 268)
79. What does Mayhew conclude about the Darrows' association with Mr. Small? (page 270)
80. What do Thomas and Pesty decide about waiting for Mr. Small? (page 279)

Name _____

The House Of Dies Drear
Activity #3: Literary Analysis
Chapters 3–5, Pages 29–72

Similes

Directions: At times authors use figurative language to make descriptions more vivid for readers. Similes are comparisons using such words as: *like, as, than, similar to, resembles, etc.*, to highlight the comparison. For example: *She was as happy as a lark.*

Below are some similes used by Virginia Hamilton in *The House Of Dies Drear*. Analyze each simile by telling what two things are being compared and how they are alike.

1. "Thomas did not wake in time to see the Ohio River... What was visible looked much like a thick mud path, as the sedan crossed over it." (page 29)

_____ is like _____ because _____

2. "On a clear day those springs and colored rock make the hill and house look like a fairyland." (page 32)

_____ is like _____ because _____

3. "Fear rolled in him, he was cold, freezing, as though he had rolled in snow." (page 58)

_____ is like _____ because _____

4. "His hands rose in the air. They began to shape the air, to carve it, as though it were a pretty piece of pine." (page 64)

_____ is like _____ because _____

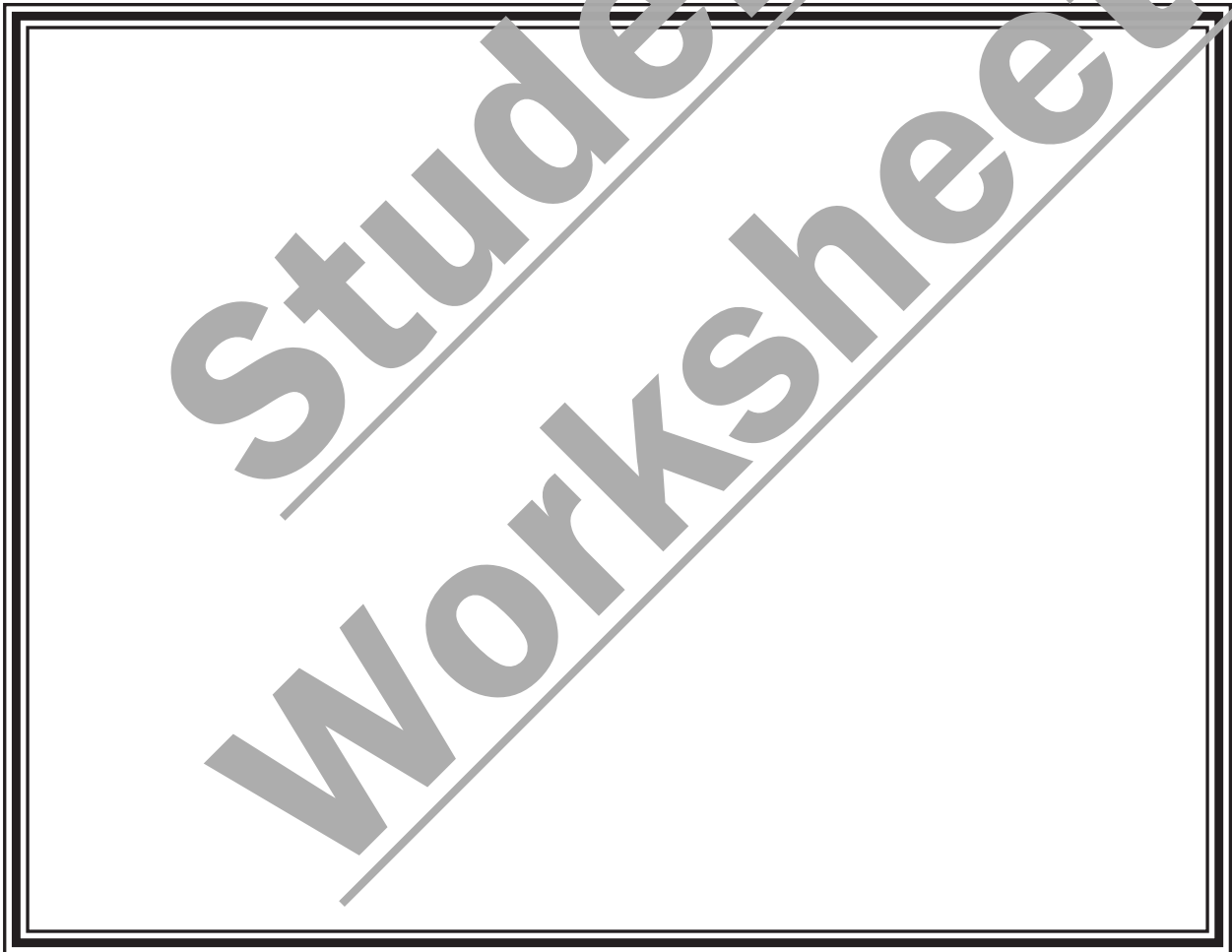
Name _____

The House Of Dies Drear
Activity #13: Imagery
Use After Chapter 14

Imagery

In the writing of prose and poetry, imagery is the art of making images in the minds of the readers, often through the use of figurative language such as: similes, metaphors, and personification. (A metaphor may be a word, phrase or sentence that suggests a similarity between two things. A simile uses intermediary words such as: *like, as, than, similar to, resembles, etc.*, to highlight the comparison being made between two things. Personification attributes human characteristics to things that are clearly not human.)

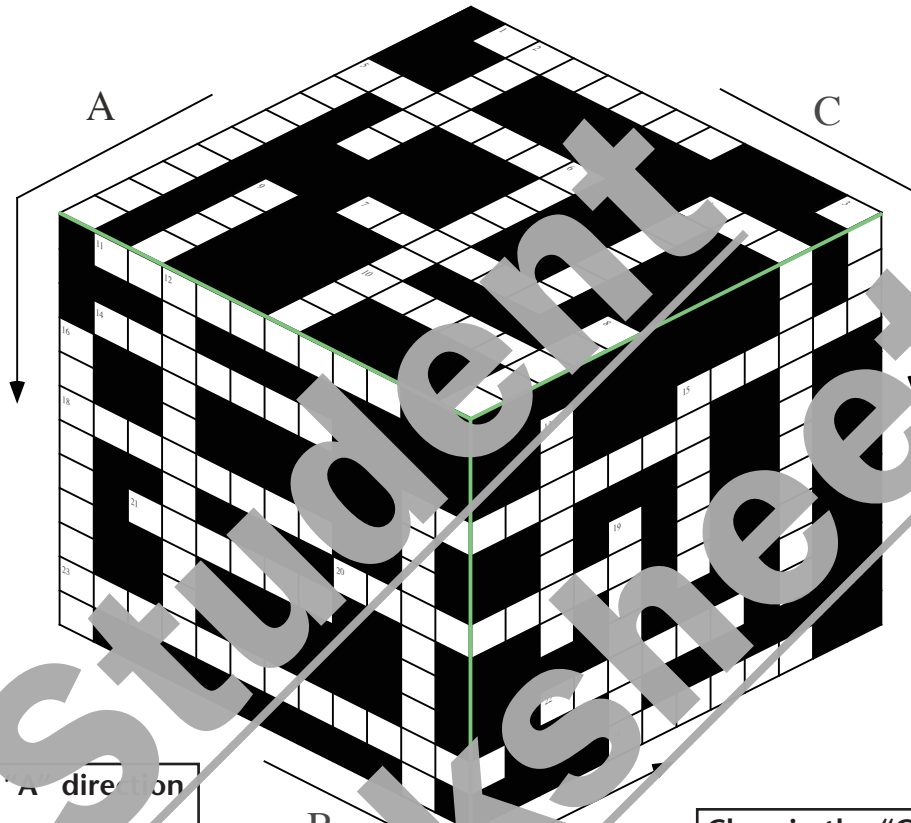
Directions: Reread the description of the treasure in the cavern on pages 186-189. Choose one of the treasures named by the author. Use prose or poetry to describe the image of the treasure that your mind creates.



Name _____

Vocabulary Crossword

Directions: Read the clues given to figure out the vocabulary word placement on the puzzle.



Clues in the "A" direction

- 2) fancy
- 4) clever
- 5) clamor
- 6) barrenness
- 8) cloudy
- 9) active
- 12) cover-up
- 16) nonconformist
- 17) stole, pillaged

B

Clues in the "B" direction

- 1) service
- 14) sassy
- 15) trustworthy
- 17) pierce
- 18) tragedy, disaster
- 20) tiny
- 21) force
- 22) arbitrary
- 23) automatically
- 24) gloomy

Clues in the "C" direction

- 1) sociable
- 3) cautious
- 4) loyalty
- 5) scorched
- 7) embellished
- 10) interfere
- 13) tiredness
- 15) calm
- 19) pretended