


'Carrie's War' Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. Which simile is used to describe the yew trees?

Like arthritic fingers

2. What does the fact that Carrie was 'always running by the end of the dream' tell you?


That she was probably frightened

3. Why does the author use Sleeping Beauty's castle as a way to describe the ridge?


Most children will know the story of Sleeping Beauty and be able to use this to imagine the scene in this part of the book.

4. Why do the children 'bite their giggles back' on p.3?

The thought of Uncle Nick being 10 years old made them laugh but they could see that their mother was looking strange and had her eyes 'half closed and dreaming'.

 5. Why do you think that Carrie's smile is 'half happy, half sad' on p.4?


Appropriate answers, e.g. She is remembering her childhood with a mixture of emotions. Some of the memories are making her happy, but she is also sad that time has moved on and she isn't there anymore.

 6. Why do you think the oldest boy didn't want to mention his father?

He didn't want to upset his mother, as his father hadn't been dead for very long.

7. What does the word 'crumpled' mean on p.6?


It means that her face looked creased as she was probably frowning, making her face appear wrinkled.

 8. Why do you think the oldest boy 'resented' Carrie's tone on p.7?


She was using a tone that a grown-up would use with children and he probably



felt that he wasn't a child anymore.

 9. How does Carrie's behaviour change by the end of the chapter? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Appropriate answers, e.g. At the beginning of the chapter, Carrie is excited about showing the children where she used to live and is making jokes and laughing. By the end of the chapter her mood has changed and she seem unsettled and not as happy, even though she is trying to be for the sake of the children.

 10. What impression do you get of Carrie's eldest son by the end of the chapter? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Appropriate answers, e.g. Carrie's eldest son have had to become the man of the family since his father died and he is taking on lots of responsibility. He doesn't want to be seen as a child anymore and gets irritated if he's treated like one. He cares about his mother and doesn't like seeing her upset or worried. He is quite mature and sees it as his role to reassure his mother when she becomes upset.

