

'The Girl of Ink and Stars' 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. What does the word 'omen' mean?

An omen is a sign that something bad might happen

2. What happened to the wolves and the deer? How do you think that makes Isabella feel?

They had run away to the sea rather than face what was there. This must make Isabella feel worried about what they were running from and whether they should run too.

3. What does the phrase, 'her mood was black' mean?

This means that she was often in a dark, grumpy mood. She didn't behave in a happy way.

4. Look at this quote:

'Sunrise just starting to brighten the mud walls of my room.' (p.4)

What clues does this give you about Isabella's home? Use other evidence from the text to support your answer.

If she has mud walls, this would suggest that her home is made of the most basic materials. It would also suggest that her family don't have much money. Isabella's room simply has a curtain across it, rather than a door so this would suggest a simpler way of living.

5. What happened to Isabella's twin? How do you know?

Isabella's twin, Gabo, died 3 years ago. I know this because the text said that he 'faded in the night'.

💡 6. What does the word 'conjure' mean? How do you think this helps Isabella?

The word 'conjure' means to make an image or memory appear in her mind. It might bring her comfort to use her memories of him and picture him clearly.

💡 7. What impression do you get of the Governor? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



Acceptable answers, e.g. I think the Governor is the villain of the story because so many bad and mysterious things have happened since he arrived, e.g. all the animals leaving and the fact that he won't let anyone communicate with the people in Isabella's village.

8. What is a cartographer?

Someone who draws maps

9. On the map, what does Incognito mean?

It means 'unknown'

💡 10. What might Da be thinking about when Isabella leaves for school?

Acceptable answers, e.g. I think Da is thinking about Ma and how much he misses her. The text says that the first day of school is always hard and I think that's because Ma isn't there to share it with the family, and it reminds Da of how lonely he is without her.

