



Study Guide for Sprout

Chapter 1

1. Discuss the meaning of the phrase “a good home is like good growing soil for children.”
2. Why did the parents choose to name the boy “Woodsprout?”
3. What do you think of when you say the boy’s name, “Sprout”?
4. What was the “most wonderful gift”?
5. How old do you think Sprout was when he received his gift?
6. What did Sprout’s father mean when he said to Sprout “it’s time that you begin filling the pages of your life”.
7. What was meant by the phrase “the rest of the story is going to be up to you”?
8. Why was the gift so wonderful to Sprout at first but then bewildering?
9. In referring to the writing of one’s own book, discuss the phrase “each page you write can never be erased”
10. What do YOU do when confronted with a task? What did Sprout do?

Chapter 2

1. What are adjectives?
2. What time of day did Sprout start out on his journey?
3. What made his usual familiar walk to town seem new and different on this day?
4. How does a “voice like gravel kicked from a horses hoof” sound?
5. Was the Miller happy that morning when he came upon Sprout?
6. Discuss the Miller’s view of the world.
7. How did Sprout feel after hearing the Miller’s adjectives?
8. What made the Miller change his view of his life?

9. Discuss the meaning of “A story begun with good adjectives will have a better ending.”

Chapter 3

1. Discuss the statement the Miller made “what a story that is!” when he referred to the knight’s tale as they entered the tavern.
2. How was Sprout feeling as he entered the tavern? (Anticipation, excitement?)
3. Act out the knight sitting at his table. (Snoring, awakening, drinking, hard to move around, clamoring)
4. Why did one arm of the knight move easily while he could hardly move the other?
5. Discuss the author’s meaning “a knight is a knight, and that should account for something” (What is in a name? Should we live up to a name?)
6. Was the knight’s behavior a good example of his rank? (Was he self-involved?)
7. How did the dragon handle things that bothered him? (destructive, make others share the misery)
8. The dragon did not like to be scolded for bad behavior. Discuss in your personal experience
9. Did the children make the best of the dragon’s bad behavior and destructiveness and how?
10. Discuss the dragon’s behavior when the author describes that he “could not stand to have others happy when he was not.”
11. What did the author mean by the statement about the knight falling asleep “that comes from a tale too long and too often told”?
12. What was the difference Sprout noticed between the knight he saw and the knight in the tale?
13. Discuss “the difference between a good story and a good story”. What did the author mean here?
14. What happened that changed the dragon from fierce to afraid? (Bully?)
15. What lesson did Sprout learn from his experience with the knight and his tale? (Be honest)
16. Why was Sprout disappointed after his experience with the knight?

Chapter 4

1. What was Sprout seeking next to add to his book? (truth and knowledge)
2. Where did he go to look for it?
3. Talk about what knowledge means to you?
4. Describe how the library may have looked. (or sketch?)
5. Sketch how the door-keep may have looked.
6. What did the door-keep and Sprout discover that they had in common?
7. When Sprout came upon the librarian, what was she trying to do?
8. Why did the door-keep wink?
9. What did the author mean when the librarian said ” the sooner one gets started, the closer one gets to never having it.”
10. When Sprout started to understand about the search for knowl-edge, what did he compare it to?

11. Where did the librarian say knowledge begins?
12. Give an example of a “true statement”.
13. The librarian taught Sprout an important habit. You _____before you_____ .
14. What are the building blocks of knowledge according to the librarian?
15. Describe some of the attributes Sprout learned about knowledge.
16. “The true answer to living is a_____.
17. Is gaining knowledge easy or hard?
18. “Being quite_____is always_____.”
19. What is meant by the door-keeps statement, “Knowledge needs lots of sunshine to keep it clear and healthy.” (it must be applied)

Chapter 5

1. Compare how Sprout felt when he left the library to when he left the tavern.
2. Why did Sprout take a short cut?
3. What important lesson did Sprout learn about haste?
4. When you come to a Y in the “road” how do you think about it?
5. Explain the idea of making a choice between two unknowns or going back along the familiar.
6. Who did the girl say would be the only type of person who could help her?
7. Relate an experience you had, like the girl, where you suddenly feel lost.
8. Why do you think that the girl had been so trusting of Toad to honestly help her?
9. What knowledge did the girl gain from her experience with Toad and the old woman? (people may not be what they seem).
10. How did the old woman make her living? (at the expenses of others)?
11. What did Sprout gain from Dawn’s story of the Toad and the old woman taking advantage of her? (courage)

Chapter 6

1. How did Sprout present himself to Toad? (assertive)
2. How did that change how Toad responded to Sprout and why was that different from Dawn’s experience?
3. Explain how something has value and why to one person it is very valuable and to another worth nothing.
4. How would you describe Sprouts decision to give up his red book? (unselfish, heroic, caring/) Was it easy or hard? Why?
5. When the owl swooped down and stole the old hag’s shawl, what happened to the old hag? (took away her confidence and showed all who she really was)
6. How would you describe Sprout’s efforts to help Dawn?
7. What did the wizard mean by “lost is just the other end of found”?
8. “Wisdom takes many forms-“ Explain.
9. How did the Wizard differ from the Old Hag when he spoke?
10. What is meant by “good deeds are their own best reward”?
11. How does the wizard describe wisdom?

Chapter 7

1. Describe the wizard's cottage.
2. What happens when you put goodness and wisdom together? Give an example in your own experience.
3. How did Sprout see the forest at first? What did he learn and how did he feel about it after his experiences with the wizard?
4. Does a good deed always need monetary payment?
5. What did the wizard call Dawn's kiss on his cheek? (a generous gift)
6. Describe the song the wizard sang.
7. Sprout was hoping for adventure. Did he find it? When did he realize it? (song of the wizard.)
8. What else did the song sung by the wizard teach?
9. What had Sprout thought he had not found that day to write about in his book? (hero)
10. What did the wizard tell Sprout about finding a hero?
11. What happens when a hero starts to think of oneself as a hero? (risk of becoming the Flagon Slayer)
12. "Always we are free to choose between _____ and _____." (good and evil, honesty and cheating, happiness and dissatisfaction)
13. How much time did Sprout and Dawn spend with the wizard? What did it seem like?
14. Why did the wizard advise Sprout not to be too hasty in his departure?

Chapter 8

1. List some of the lessons Sprout learned and added into his red book-the beginning of the story of his life.
2. What did the author mean when he wrote "All life books end with a happy loving home in sight."?

