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In Grace Richmond's short story "Their Word of Honor," two young men are tested on their dependability. Keeping a promise to be dependable can feel pointless when you do not understand why you have been asked to do something. Why did the boys' father test his sons the way he did?

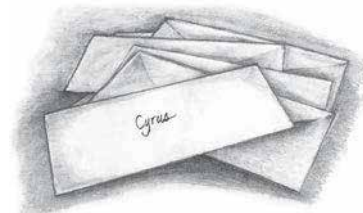


Oral reading class: "Their Word of Honor" (pages 230-238)

Understanding the Content

E Circle the letter of the answer to each question.

11. How was the letter that Grandfather read at the beginning of the story important to the plot?
 - a. The letter revealed his true character.
 - b. The letter revealed the type of office he worked from.
 - c. The letter revealed the reason he wished to test his grandsons.
 - d. The letter revealed that he was a frustrated man at the head of a business.
12. At the beginning of the story, how did Grandfather view Cornelius Woodbridge III?
 - a. He was proud of his namesake already.
 - b. He was confident his grandson would succeed.
 - c. He was not certain that his grandson was a boy of integrity.
 - d. He preferred spending time with Cyrus rather than Cornelius.
13. How does letting readers know about the Woodbridge test add suspense to the story?
 - a. Readers know the test feels insignificant to the boys.
 - b. Readers know the test was used for several generations.
 - c. Readers know what is happening and hope the boys will keep their word.
 - d. Readers know the father is simply following the orders of the grandfather.
14. Cyrus's statements show that he knew his father well. Which statement does *not* show this?
 - a. "He doesn't believe in wasting time."
 - b. "He usually knows exactly why he does things."
 - c. "Wonder if Father can be exactly right in his mind."
 - d. "Father would never joke with a fellow's promise the way he asked it of me."
15. On page 234, how does Richmond describe Cyrus's feelings about Envelope No. 8? See the footnote in the reader.
 - a. She personifies the envelope.
 - b. She alludes to a death message.
 - c. She compares him to a messenger.
 - d. She sarcastically describes his face.



- F** Write the letter of each technique beside the example of Richmond’s style in “Their Word of Honor.”

a. diction b. sentence structure c. tone

16. _____ Richmond uses a variety of sentence lengths to affect the pace of the story.
17. _____ Richmond reveals her feelings about dependability through realistic descriptions.
18. _____ Richmond includes dialogue and uses words that are somewhat formal and proper, matching the characters’ personalities and the time in history.

- G** Paraphrase each statement to clarify its meaning.

19. They were in the habit of dispatching important business with the smallest possible waste of breath (page 231). _____

20. The smallest deviation from the outlined schedule would have resulted in disaster (page 238). _____

Examining the Author’s Craft

Authors sometimes teach practical lessons through their stories. Richmond’s story about a family tradition contains a **moral** that is as relevant today as it was in the early 1900s when she wrote “Their Word of Honor.”

The moral of a story is the practical lesson it teaches about right and wrong behavior. In some stories such as fables or parables, the moral is stated clearly, but in most stories readers must infer the moral from clues in the story.

moral: the main lesson of a story

- H** Answer each question by circling the letter or writing the answer.

21. Which quality seemed to be the most important to Grandfather Cornelius?

a. honesty b. reliability c. speed d. strength

△ 22. Do you think the Hezekiah Woodbridge test had anything to do with the Woodbridge men being prosperous and successful in their work? Explain your answer. _____

△ 23. Think about the details of the story and the verse that helped Cyrus stay on course. What is the moral of the story? _____

Reflection and Response

- △ **I** Compare and contrast the two tests by writing three ways they were alike and three ways they were different. Then write an essay response.

Cyrus's Test	Both Tests	Cornelius's Test
24.	25.	26.

27. Using comparisons from the chart, write a paragraph or two describing the reason for the test and the way it was effective. Give your opinion on why the boys' father tailored the test the way he did for each son. Support your answer with evidence from the story.

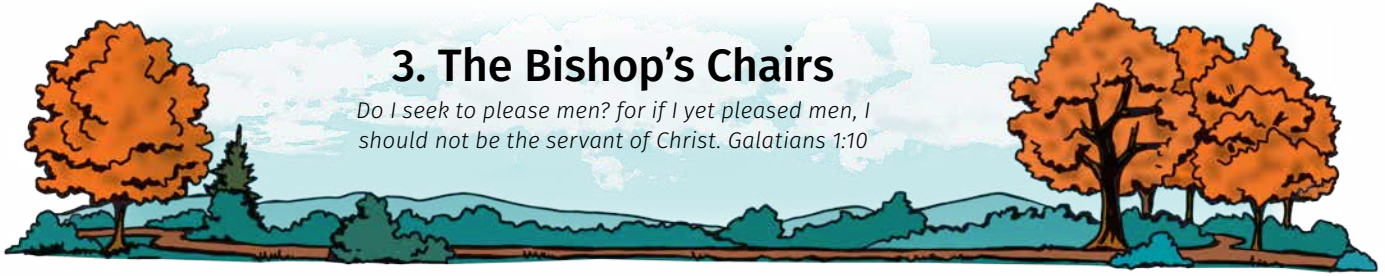
Review

- J** In each word underline the word part *pro-*, *quir*, or *sign*. Write the definition of the root or prefix.

28. signal _____ inquirer _____ proportion _____

- K** Complete the memory verse.

29. The integrity of the _____ shall _____ them: but the perverseness of _____ shall _____ them. Proverbs 11:3



3. The Bishop's Chairs

Do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

△ Vocabulary conviction imposing observance tranquil

A Write each vocabulary word beside its definition.

- _____ free from trouble or worry; peaceful
- _____ a customary practice or ceremony
- _____ a strong belief about something
- _____ impressive in size or bearing

Introducing the Story

“The Bishop’s Chairs” is historical fiction that is set in England and includes two characters who are Friends, or Quakers. In 1647, George Fox founded the Society of Friends. He traveled around England and many other countries, preaching and calling people to follow Christ. Because he told people they should tremble and quake at God’s judgment, the name *Quakers* was given to members of the Society of Friends. At the time, England had a state church, called the Church of England. The state church authorities had many Friends put into prison; many Friends also had their homes taken away.

In 1649, the Puritans forced King Charles I from the throne of England and set up a new religious government. Their leader was Oliver Cromwell, whose title was “Lord Protector.” Cromwell and the Puritans established laws that enforced the Bible’s teachings. However, the Puritans persecuted nonconformist Christian groups like the Quakers.

Oliver Cromwell died in 1658. His son took his place as Lord Protector but did not rule well. Soon Charles I’s son, Charles II, became the new king. The Church of England once again became the state church of England, and Quakers continued to be persecuted for almost thirty more years. Then in 1689, the Toleration Act granted Quakers and other nonconformist groups freedom of worship.

B Circle the letter of the answer to each question.

- In all, approximately how many years were the Quakers persecuted in England?
a. 13 years b. 30 years c. 42 years d. 100 years
- In “The Bishop’s Chairs,” the bishop of the Church of England employed a Quaker. This fact indicates the story takes place closest to which year?
a. 1617 b. 1647 c. 1658 d. 1689