

UNIT OVERVIEW

Mouse and the Motorcycle *A Novel Study*

OVERVIEW

This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts as students develop a love for reading longer materials like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections:

1) Chapter Questions

For each chapter, students answer a thorough set of questions usually requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is key as students must read and understand the *entire* book in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students *must understand* the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments)

2) Vocabulary and Language

Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary, spelling, parts of speech, antonyms/synonyms, syllables, punctuation and grammar.

3) Writing and Creativity

In this section, students apply what they have learned about language and grammar skills to write more effectively. Creative writing is the focus of this less-structured segment allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills.

EVALUATION

Teachers can use the marking format provided or devise their own. Certain assignments, especially in the Vocabulary and Language section are well suited to marking by students. However, it is important teachers mark assignments requiring answers in complete sentences to monitor student progress in this crucial area.

READING STRATEGIES

A variety of reading approaches seems to work best. One proven method is for the teacher to read the book out loud to the entire class the first time through stopping after a chapter or two. In answering the questions, students will essentially be required to reread the chapter on their own. Not only does this "out loud" method insure that students are read to daily, but it also helps all students to understand the book regardless of reading level.

Having students read sections silently by themselves, out loud with partners or in small groups are all possible variations that will help keep student interest high.

***** Note *****

One way to gain a measure of the effectiveness of the novel study and to gauge student interest is to instruct students *not* to read ahead on their own. Basic reverse psychology dictates that students will invariably be slouching down into their desks to sneak in a chapter while the teacher knowingly turns a blind eye.

ASSIGNMENTS

With the assignments, teachers can photocopy entire booklets for each student or only the portions that the teacher wishes to use. One possible method of reducing this large amount of photocopying is to have students write down chapter questions and answers in their notebooks.

Teachers are free to pick and choose assignments as they see fit as well as adding in any optional lessons they develop. (The main difficulty with this is that it alters the marking totals)



CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3, 4
Questions



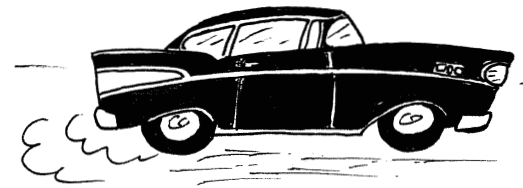
Chapter 1 - THE NEW GUESTS

- On their way to California, what three types of country had Keith's family driven over?
1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
- List three jobs Matt, the bellboy, had.
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
- Why didn't Mrs. Gridley want to stay in the hotel?

- Why did Keith like it?

- How far had the family driven?

- What vehicles were Keith's favorite toys?
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____



3. Find the adverbs that describe these verbs.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|-------|-----|--------|---------|
| CH5 | sitting | _____ | CH6 | walked | _____ |
| CH6 | asked | _____ | CH7 | see | _____ |
| CH6 | spoke | _____ | CH8 | _____ | alarmed |

**4. Put T if the statement is TRUE.
Put F if the statement is FALSE.**

- There were many housekeepers.
- Keith wished he was all grown up.
- Keith's mother dreamed she saw Ralph on the motorcycle.
- Ralph did not like bright lights.
- Keith was excited to see his friend Ralph ride the motorcycle.
- Ralph was no longer envious of the bats and owls outside.
- The dog could speak mouse language.
- The maid had a boyfriend.
- Ralph's mom hoped he'd get to see the downstairs someday.
- Ralph had tasted peanut butter many times.

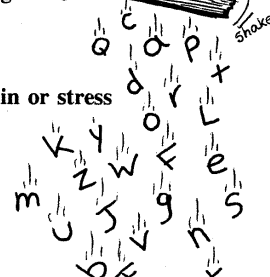


CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7, 8
Vocabulary and Language



1. Match the words and their correct meanings.
You may use your dictionary.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|---|
| hesitated | _____ | 1. | words, looks, or acts intended to make fun of something |
| venture | _____ | 2. | unwilling |
| executed | _____ | 3. | to cry in a low, whining voice |
| exhilarated | _____ | 4. | to carry into effect; to do |
| tense | _____ | 5. | to be uncertain or undecided |
| whimper | _____ | 6. | indicating lack of belief |
| dismount | _____ | 7. | a dangerous or daring undertaking |
| chasten | _____ | 8. | to make joyous or to be glad |
| ridicule | _____ | 9. | stretched taut; rigid, showing strain or stress |
| reluctant | _____ | 10. | to get down from |
| incredulous | _____ | 11. | to punish |
| astound | _____ | 12. | to cause amazement or shock |

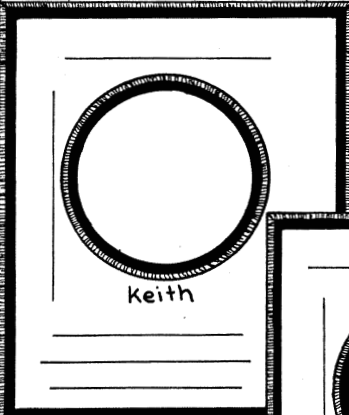


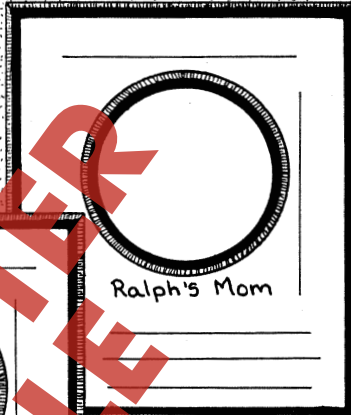
2. In the following chapters and paragraphs, there are examples of possessive nouns. List the possessive nouns and what belongs to each one.


	<u>WHAT</u> <u>NOUN</u>	<u>WHAT</u> <u>BELONGS</u>	<u>NOUN</u>	<u>WHAT</u> <u>BELONGS</u>
CH5 par. 17	_____	_____	CH5 par. 27	_____
CH5 par. 20	_____	_____	CH5 par. 55	_____
CH5 par. 28	_____	_____	CH5 par. 3	_____
CH5 par. 45	_____	_____	CH5 par. 12	_____

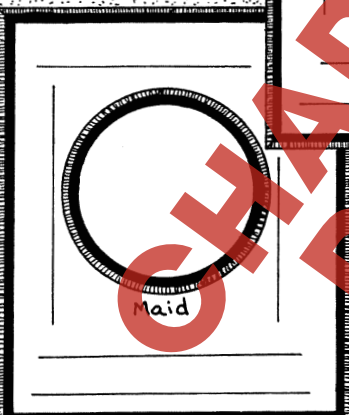
6. **CHARACTER PROFILE**

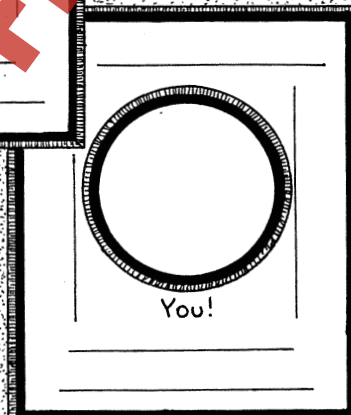
Draw an outline of each character in the circle inside each box. Using the words from the bottom box, place the correct adjectives on the lines around the picture. There will be 5 adjectives for each.

a)  Keith

b)  Ralph's Mom

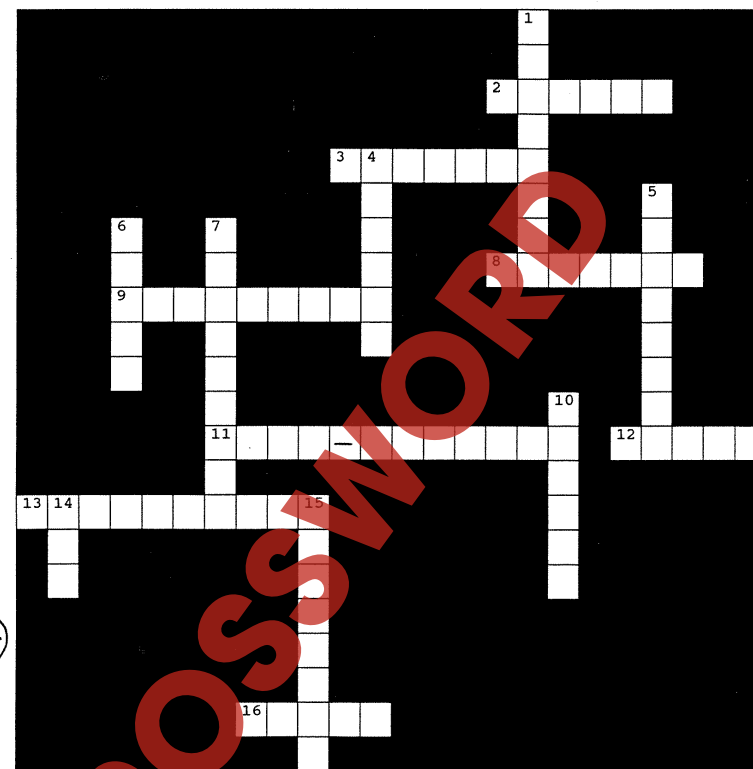
c)  Ralph

d)  Maid

e)  You!

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| attractive | musical | student | worried | racist |
| courageous | brave | patient | lazy | generous |
| daring | kind | employed | untidy | excitable |
| sharing | afraid | reckless | bilingual | timid |

5. Use the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2. The greatest horror of Ralph's Mom. | 1. The occupation of Mary Lou and Betty |
| 3. Where Keith's illness began. | 4. The form an aspirin comes in. |
| 8. The pill Ralph searched for. | 5. Where Aunt Adrienne vanished. |
| 9. The vehicle that saved the day. | 6. The cage Ralph got caught in. |
| 11. When food is brought to your room. | 7. The kind of muffin the mice had. |
| 12. The illness Keith had. | 10. Protective gear for heads. |
| 13. The vehicle Ralph loved. | 14. The bird who loves to eat mice. |
| 16. The sound of this deafened Ralph. | 15. The moveable room in the hotel. |



CHAPTERS 9, 10, 11, 12
Writing and Creativity 25



1. Write an **acrostic poem** to tell what the characters are like, using the first letter in their names as the first letter in your character word.

Make a poem for **Ralph, Keith, and for you!**

R _____

A _____

L _____

P _____

H _____

K _____

E _____

I _____

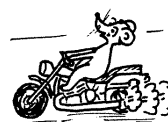
T _____

H _____

YOUR NAME

EVALUATION

Mouse and the Motorcycle
By Beverly Cleary



Chapters	Questions	Vocabulary and Language	Writing and Creativity	TOTAL
1, 2, 3, 4	31	84	35	150 = %
5, 6, 7, 8	19	68	98	185 = %
9, 10, 11, 12	27	87	25	139 = %
13	12	48	39	99 = %

TOTAL: 573 = %

COMMENTS

3. a) Ralph and Keith talked about similar feelings they had about parents. 4
 There are two problems both of them have.
 What are they?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

b) What are two problems you are always being reminded about by your parents?

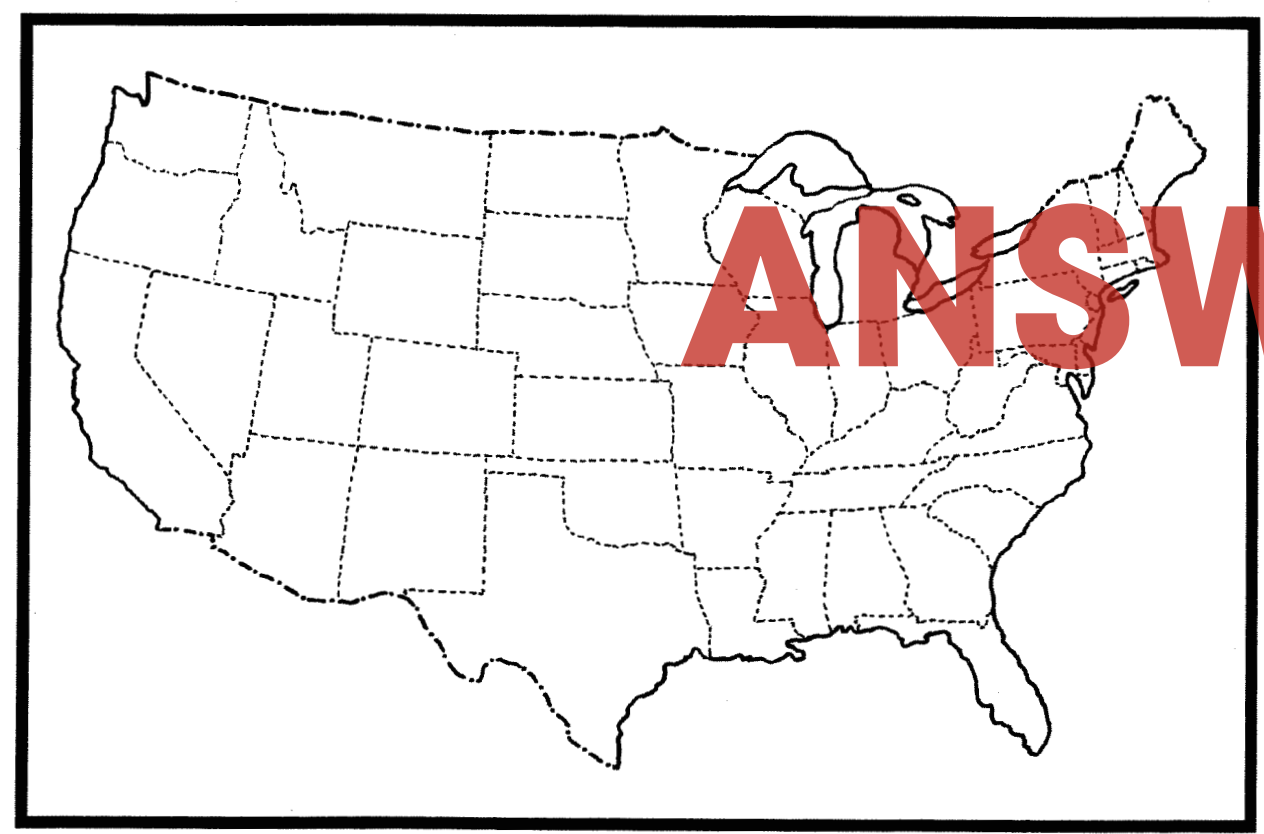
- 1) _____
- 2) _____

4. Several places in the U.S.A. are mentioned in this story 5
 about Ralph and his motorcycle.

- Label these states:
- 1) Ohio - Keith's home
 - 2) Kansas - where the teachers live
 - 3) California - Ralph's home
 - 4) Nevada - the hot place Dad drove through



Hint: You will have to use an atlas to find these states.



9, 10, 11, 12 Writing & Creativity:

1. The clerk had found it and brought it up. 2. To the ground floor. 3. The part about being caught in the glass by the teacher. 4. 1) Keith put his own safety aside to help Keith. 6. He would miss his family and had permission to visit the ground floor. 7. Behind the ground floor.

13 Questions:

1) wear his crash helmet 9. A place to park the motorcycle. 10. Write an essay about his adventure with Ralph.

13 Vocabulary & Language:

degraded	degrading	incomplete
disobey	disobey	overactive
forehead	forehead	midpoint
illegal	illegal	imperfect
counterattack	counterattack	relieve
television	television	superman
preview	preview	bisect
impound	impound	depart
missing	partnership	broken
staunch	staunchly	straighten
adventure	adventure	childhood
lovable	lovable	runner
tightest	tightest	sadly
allowance	allowance	beautiful
dramatic	dramatic	jumped
charging	charging	zooming

13 Writing & Creativity:

1. cent forest tree. b) West coast of the United States, mostly in California. c) They like foggy weather. The park is close to the Pacific very foggy. d) They are used for siding and inside walls of buildings. e) Redwood National Park

13 Writing & Creativity:

Answers will vary.



13 Writing & Creativity:

y.

ANSWER KEY