The Mystery at Black Rock Beach:

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 1-4

ANSWER KEY

1. Describe the setting of chapter 1.

   Chapter 1 takes place at Black Rock Beach. It has been several hours since Franny and her family landed on the island of Maui and they have since checked into their hotel and headed out to have a fun and relaxing afternoon at the beach. The flies enjoy watching insects dive off the steep rock. It is warm and windy outside and the water is clear.

2. What do pierced ears represent for Franny?

   Pierced ears represent growth and maturity for Franny. They are also symbolic of her love for rebellious blues rock music.

3. Describe Ferry Town Resort and Spa.

   Ferry Town Resort and Spa is a popular and upscale hotel located on the island of Maui. The hotel is within walking distance of Black Rock Beach. It has gorgeous views of the tropical island, lush, green grass, and a large swimming pool. Hawaiian lizards and plumeria plants are seen on the property.

4. In chapter 2, why do you think Franny gave a name to each one of the 5 palm trees on the resort property?

   One possible answer is that Franny is making a memory to help her remember her stay at Ferry Town Resort and Spa.

5. In chapter 2, Franny 'embraces the innocence of the island.' What is it about the island of Maui that has innocence? Use your knowledge from descriptions about the island in chapters 1 and 2. (Hint: Draw a parallel to children who are innocent.)

One possible answer is that children who are innocent, usually have lots of space for personal growth. They haven't experienced the same in life as many adults have and are thus open to what life has to offer. There is a beauty to a child's innocence in the same way that there is a beauty to the island of Maui with its spacious beaches, lots of green grass, and palm trees.

6. Based on Franny's mental image provided in chapter 2, what do you know about the town of Lahaina?

   The town of Lahaina has ocean-front views where waves crash against the rocks. General stores are stocked with Hawaiian souvenirs — among them pooka shells, shark tooth necklaces, scented hand soaps, and chocolate-covered macadamia nuts. It also has art galleries, bikini boutiques, and eateries (restaurants).

7. Describe the personality of Freyja, who serves the flies shave ice in chapter 3.

   Freyja is flirtatious and fun. She likes to name each shave ice that she prepares for customers, before giving the tasty treats away.

8. What two examples of foreshadowing are presented in chapter 4? Each of these examples alludes to the fact that something mysterious is brewing, or about to happen on the island.

   The cedar top of the ukulele produces a slightly darker-sounding tone which alludes to the possibility of something mysterious happening on the island. Also, the weather is gloomy and the sky appears as though it is about to rain. The dark sky is another clue that something strange is about to happen.

9. What can you infer about Franny's relationship with her brother Fonzy based on clues from chapters 1-4?

   We already know from chapter 1 that Fillmore is cautious and careful. In chapter 1, we learn that Fonzy splashes water on his sister, sneaks up on her in chapter 2, and has a playful banter with her in chapter 4, the one where we learn that he is an aspiring actor. Actors are usually dramatic people

(musicians like Franny can be too) so Franny clearly shares a tight bond with her brother. Although she loves Fillmore and is very close to him, she probably has more in common with Fonzy.

10. Describe Fillmore's personality.

Fillmore is cautious and careful. He is the protector of the family. He is easily creeped out when he discovers that Franny's ears were pierced with a needle. He is also the one who is most alert and aware. When Franny is caught daydreaming about her big moment on stage and misses the waiter asking to take her order in chapter 4, he reminds her of the waiter's presence.

11. Based on clues throughout chapters 1-4, what is Frederick's favorite flavor?

Frederick's favorite flavor is cherry.