

## Frankie and Fawny and the Magnificent Blue Pearl:

### Comprehension Questions for Chapters 1-4

1. Describe the setting of chapter 1.

The chapter is set in New London, Connecticut. The opening paragraphs take place on a fishing trawler named Jersey Flies. It is a 90-foot boat with a stable, 20-foot beam, a steel hull, 1000-horsepower and a diesel V-8 engine. The weather is cold (47 degrees Fahrenheit). Frankie is a deckhand on board.

2. In chapter 2, why does Mrs. Species tell her students not to turn their backs on the ocean?

There are physical dangers of being hit by a wave. It is also customary to show respect for the ocean.

3. Describe Mrs. Species through the eyes of Franny and Felma.

Mrs. Species is nice and polite but Franny and Felma critique her manner of dress — mainly, they think she is too conservative and don't seem to care much for her high-waisted skirt or stiff blouse.

4. In chapter 3, what specific things make the Fly family miss Franny who is in Maui on a school field trip?

Franny is a rock and roll loving princess. The absence of loud rock music in the house is one very specific thing that makes the Fly Family miss her. Also, when Fonzy Fly is looking up information on how to grow a mustache for the school play he is auditioning for, he and his brother Fillmore remember guitarist J.F.N. from Franny's favorite new rock band, Filthy Honey. Based on clues provided in the chapter, the reader can infer that

J.F.N. has a mustache. This makes the twins miss their older sister even more.

5. In chapter 4, what evidence is there that Fawny is nervous?

Fawny fidgets with his hands, his palms are sweaty, and he fumbles when he talks, often forgetting what he needs to teach the students. Occasionally, he stutters at the beginning of a sentence.

6. Based on clues from chapter 4, what can you infer about Fritz Pickin's demeanor (or personality?)

Fritz Pickin is kind, helpful, and forgiving. He wants Fawny to succeed at teaching the students about pearls. He is rooting for him. He even takes a step back after helping him out so that he won't feel embarrassed.