

Purple Trees and a Will to Believe: Comprehension Questions

Chapters 5-8

Chapter 5

1. Describe the setting in paragraph one.
2. Why wouldn't Dad fit in at wine tastings?
3. What is one thing Sybille worries about when Dad is hungover?
4. How does Sybille describe the physical pain?
5. What does Sybille daydream about?
6. Why was Mom mad at Dad for gifting her a bottle of perfume on her birthday?
7. What is foreclosure?
8. Why is Sybille worried about the house going into foreclosure?
9. If a vineyard were just outside Sybille's bedroom window, what would she do?
10. What fruit grows on the vines at a vineyard?
11. What does Solomon do to help him get through the pain of being hit with the small wrench in the garage?

Chapter 6

1. What happened to Grandma?
2. Why is Sybille rethinking the whole 'God thing'?
3. Why does Sybille worry that she won't be able to see the rest of her family in Texas, Vermont, and Maine?
4. What question does Sybille ask in the darkest of hours?
5. Why does Sybille struggle with body confidence?
6. How does Sybille feel when she prays to God?
7. What idea does Sybille's brain hatch?
8. Explain the 'one-week free trial.'
9. Why is Sybille afraid to get used to the "new" Dad?
10. What does Sybille wish Dad would have done to her and why?

Chapter 7

1. Why does Dr. Sullivan give Sybille the creeps?
2. How does Sybille describe Mom?

3. What do big smiles remind Sybille of?
4. Why is Sybille wearing a scarf around her neck when she goes to visit Grandma in the hospital?
5. Why does Dr. Sullivan look at Sybille funny and how does it lead to Sybille, Sander, and Solomon's rescue from their abusive father?
6. What does the nurse take pictures of?
7. Where do Sybille, Sander, and Solomon spend the night?
8. What happened to Dad?

Chapter 8

1. How does Sybille feel about her brothers after waking up in the hospital?
2. What does Sybille find 'strange' about the hospital?
3. What does Sybille think of fairytales and how does she describe the life her friends lead outside of school?
4. What physical feature does Dad have that Sybille doesn't like being 'genetically stuck with?' (Example: your father has a big nose or ears that stick out and as a result, you also have those same features).
5. What does Sybille think new clothes feel like?
6. What question does Sybille ask at the end of chapter 8?