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Movie Studies:

- The Bee Movie
- The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler
- Defiance
- Fiddler on the Roof
- The Giver
- The Greatest Showman
- Meet the Robinsons
- Mulan
- Newsies
- The Prince of Egypt
- The Pursuit of Happyness
- Secondhand Lions
- The Sound of Music
- And more!

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Sweep

Chapter Reference Guide

PART 1: INNOCENCE

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2. Voices in the Dark
3. The Sweep's Gift
4. The Clean Sweep
5. First Climb
6. Nan's Song
7. What It's Like
8. A Puzzling Question
9. Charity and Folly
10. Stuck
11. Roger
12. The Devil's Nudge
13. *Story Soup*
14. Alive
15. A Name
16. Fruitcake
17. The House of One Hundred Chimneys
18. A Room for Everything
19. Bonfire Night
20. The Bells of St. Florian
21. *Kindness*
22. Perfect
23. Obsolescence
24. A Trip to the Emporium
25. Death and Taxes
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PART 2: EXPERIENCE

34. The Bespoke Man
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39. The Mayhew Mothers Friendly Society
40. Waiting for Spring
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43. Promises
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53. Adrift
54. Nan's Song
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56. Last Climb
57. The Green Man of Pudding Lane
58. The Sweep's Gift
59. The Girl and Her Sweep

The memory/dream chapters of the Sweep are in italics.



Discussion Questions

PRE-READING

1. Look at the cover of *Sweep*. What can you infer the story will be about based on the cover?
2. What do chimney sweeps do?
3. Have you ever had an unlikely friendship?
4. What makes a good friend?
5. How can helping others make you a better person?
6. Has your opinion on something ever changed when you experienced it for yourself?
7. Are miracles real?

POST-READING

1. Despite his cruelty, why does Nan choose to stay with Crudd?
2. Why was the job of a chimney sweep so dangerous?
3. Why do you think most people did not care that the job of a chimney sweep was so dangerous?
4. Would a job like this, especially done by children, be allowed today?
5. Describe instances of jealousy in the story. How does Roger's jealousy hurt Nan? Does it help her in any ways?
6. Charlie's life starts as a piece of char. How does he change physically? How does he change as a creature?
7. What do you think makes Charlie comes to life? How does Charlie grow?
8. Do you think the Sweep knew about Charlie's ability to come to life?
9. When Nan finds out the truth about Roger's parents, he offers a bitter reply. Is his response justified?
10. In what ways does Nan let go of her past? In what ways does Roger hold on to his?
11. Charlie finds a bird, Dent. Compare and contrast Charlie and Dent's relationship with Nan and Charlie's relationship.
12. How was Crudd like the Angel of Death in the Exodus story?
13. How can experiences change a person?

Quiz (Chapters 1-11)

1. What do the boys believe makes them dream about the Sweep?
A. Eating soup
B. Sleeping next to Nan
C. Skipping dinner
D. Working twice as hard as everyone else
2. What does Nan find in the Sweep's hat?
A. A diamond
B. A letter
C. Bread
D. Char
3. Who was The Clean Sweep?
A. Wilkie Crudd
B. Rodger
C. Nan
D. Newt
4. Why does Crudd offer Nan his breakfast?
A. She hadn't eaten in 2 days
B. Mrs. Trundle took her food away
C. Crudd already ate
D. Nan's breakfast looked disgusting
5. What does Roger originally tell Newt the Devil's Nudge is?
A. Roger never says
B. Sleeping next to Nan
C. A beating from Crudd
D. Falling off a cliff
6. What did master sweeps do with the soot they collected?
A. Throw it in the ocean
B. Sold it to farmers as fertilizer
C. Eat it
D. Throw it at misbehaving children
7. Why doesn't Nan like schools?
A. They do not pay well
B. The chimneys are always very dirty
C. The students stare
D. All of these
8. What was the answer to the riddle on the chalkboard?
A. Duck
B. Chicken
C. Rooster
D. Egg
9. What happens to Nan in the school's chimney?
A. She finds an egg
B. She becomes stuck
C. She sees a monster
D. She ruins her dress
10. Who comes to help Nan get out of the chimney?
A. The Clean Sweep
B. Crudd
C. Roger
D. The Sweep
11. What was your favorite part of the story so far?

12. What do you think will happen next?

Quiz (Chapters 12-22)

1. What turns out to be the Devil's Nudge?
A. A street fight B. Falling down a chimney
C. Fire D. Falling off a cliff
2. What is story soup?
A. A storytelling game B. Alphabet soup
C. Chicken noodle soup D. A soup Nan's mom used to make
3. Nan awakes after the fire incident. What strange thing does Nan's char do?
A. It sings B. It disappears
C. It talks D. It moves
4. What does Nan name the piece of char?
A. Charlie B. Ashkin
C. Sootly D. Sweep
5. What food does Nan and her char find underneath the floorboards?
A. Bread with butter B. Fruitcake
C. Apple pie D. Pizza
6. Where do Nan and her char finally find refuge?
A. In Crudd's attic B. In a chimney
C. The schoolhouse D. The House of One Hundred Chimneys
7. What causes Nan's char to grow?
A. Singing B. Sleeping next to Nan
C. Sleeping in a pile of soot D. Eating vegetables
8. How does Nan teach Charlie more words?
A. Reading to him B. Narrating everything she does
C. Singing to him D. Sends him to school
9. What does Charlie name his room?
A. The Reading Room B. The Nothing Room
C. The Sleeping Room D. The Eating Room
10. What is Charlie trying to create for himself?
A. A body B. A rocket
C. An airplane D. A book so he can study
11. What was your favorite scene in this part of the story?

12. If you had a Charlie, what would you do with it?

Quiz (Chapters 23-33)

1. What does Nan figure out Charlie is?
A. Dragon
B. Pegasus
C. Wizard
D. Golem
2. Who does Nan go to to find more information about Charlie?
A. Toby Squall
B. Crudd
C. The Sweep
D. Roger
3. Who is Prospero?
A. Nan's best friend
B. Toby's pet rat
C. Charlie's nickname
D. One of Crudd's climbers
4. Why is the House of One Hundred Chimneys empty?
A. It's haunted
B. The taxes were high
C. It was ugly
D. There's a graveyard buried underneath it
5. What does the Sweep say to Nan when she is learning something new?
A. Hurry up!
B. Is this finished yet?
C. Take your time.
D. Are you done yet?
6. What does Toby give Nan to help Charlie learn the alphabet?
A. Wooden blocks
B. A book
C. Stones
D. A scroll
7. Why can't Miss Bloom read Hebrew very well?
A. She was Catholic
B. She is going blind
C. She dropped out of school
D. Girls in her family were not taught how to read
8. In the flashback what is the name of Nan's doll the Sweep gave her?
A. Barbie
B. Charlotte
C. Esther
D. Samantha
9. What does Toby give Charlie to help Charlie play in the snow?
A. Gloves
B. Snow boots
C. A jacket
D. A sled
10. What does Nan do with the book *Songs of Innocence* that Miss Bloom gave her?
A. Dedicates a room to it
B. Throws it in the fire
C. Gives it back to her
D. Keeps it on a night stand
11. What does Toby tell Nan as the two talk on New Year's Eve?

12. What was your favorite scene in this part of the story?

Quiz (Chapters 34-42)

1. What does Miss Bloom tell Nan about happy endings and golems?
A. She does not tell her
B. There is no happy ending for the golem
C. Golems don't like happy endings
D. Happy endings are only in stories
2. Nan is invited into the house of a woman looking for a sweep. Who does the lady's master turn out to be?
A. Toby
B. Roger
C. Crudd
D. Charlie
3. Who rescues Nan from Crudd?
A. Toby
B. Roger
C. Betsy
D. Charlie
4. Charlie is normally soft and tender, despite his size. What does Charlie become to Nan when Crudd tries to hurt her?
A. Protector
B. The Sweep
C. Angel
D. Hero
5. What book does Miss Bloom give to Nan that went with *Songs of Innocence*?
A. Songs of Hope
B. Songs of Experience
C. Songs of Sorrow
D. Songs of Life
6. Why does Nan send Newt in her place to the women of the friendly society?
A. She was ill
B. She was afraid the ladies would recognize her
C. Charlie didn't want her to go
D. She thought she was not pretty enough to go
7. What animal does Charlie see, that he originally thinks is a fairy?
A. Butterfly
B. Spider
C. Robin
D. Eagle
8. In the flashback, what does the Sweep do for Nan?
A. Sew her coat
B. Teaches her how to sew
C. Steal food for her
D. Helps her comb her hair
9. Where was the Sweep getting the thread?
A. From Crudd's coat
B. From the market
C. From the street
D. From his own coat
10. What happens to the egg after Charlie begins to burn up?
A. A bird appears
B. Charlie almost drops the egg
C. It moves
D. All of these
11. What was your favorite scene in this part of the story?

12. What do you think will happen next?



Quiz (Chapters 43-51)

1. What do Nan and Charlie name their bird?

- A. Dent
- B. Robin
- C. Lola
- D. Charleston

2. What was going to happen to Newt after he spoke to the friendly society?

- A. He was going to run away
- B. Crudd was going to banish him
- C. He was going to live with Nan
- D. He was going to be adopted

3. When does the notice on the captain's front door say?

- A. The house was being tore down
- B. The house was being put up for auction
- C. The house was being evicted
- D. The house had been purchased by Crudd

4. Nan enters the Nothing Room. What has Charlie transformed it into?

- A. A kitchen
- B. A garden
- C. A library
- D. A school

5. When it is Easter, what Jewish holiday is Miss Bloom celebrating?

- A. Hanukkah
- B. Sukkot
- C. Passover
- D. Purim

6. Why can't Newt be adopted?

- A. His parents are still alive
- B. No one wanted him
- C. He isn't Catholic
- D. He is an indentured servant to Crudd

7. Who does Nan go to to help destroy Newt's file?

- A. Toby
- B. Roger
- C. Crudd
- D. Charlie

8. Who does Roger go watch twice a year, on Easter and Christmas?

- A. His brother
- B. His cousins
- C. His parents
- D. His grandmother

9. What queen does Toby take Nan to see?

- A. The Queen of Golems
- B. The Queen of Ices
- C. The Queen of London
- D. The Queen of Fire

10. How does Miss Bloom finally meet Charlie?

- A. At the school
- B. In a hospital
- C. In a church
- D. At the captain's house

11. How do the other climbers and Miss Bloom react to finally seeing Charlie?

12. What do you think will happen during May Day?

Quiz (Chapters 52-59)

1. Who was The Green Man on May Day?

- A. Toby
- B. Roger
- C. Crudd
- D. Charlie

2. Who is the boy that leads Charlie away from the parade?

- A. Toby
- B. Roger
- C. Crudd
- D. Charlie

3. What do the climber's May Day signs say?

- A. RIOT!
- B. The names of climbers who died on the job
- C. No Child Labor
- D. Sweep No More

4. How does most of the crowd initially react?

- A. Sadly
- B. Tearfully
- C. Angrily
- D. Bitterly

5. What makes the crowd go silent?

- A. Nan's song
- B. Charlie takes off his costume
- C. Crudd tries to attack Nan
- D. Crudd and Charlie start a fight

6. When Crudd sees her, Nan runs. What monument do Nan and Crudd climb?

- A. The Torch
- B. The Matchstick
- C. The Eiffel Tower
- D. The London Tower

7. How does Crudd die?

- A. Nan kills him
- B. Charlie kills him
- C. Falling
- D. A heart attack

8. What is the final story that Charlie tells Nan?

- A. Story soup
- B. Charlie's creation
- C. The Sweep's death
- D. How the Sweep found Nan

9. What was the captain's mansion turned into?

- A. A homeless shelter
- B. The friendly society's headquarters
- C. A garden for the poor
- D. A school for the climbers

10. What does Nan do with the piece of char that Toby gives her?

- A. Buries it
- B. Puts it in the Sweep's hat
- C. Destroys it
- D. Gives it to Dent

11. Why does Charlie turn into stone at the end?

12. Did you enjoy the story? Why or why not?

Final Quiz

1. What was the Devil's Nudge?

2. Charlie is a soot golem. What does his life begin as?

3. Where do Nan and Charlie take refuge after temporarily hiding in the attic?

4. How does Nan find out Charlie is a golem?

5. Why is Miss Bloom impressed with Nan's intelligence? What event sparks this?

6. What happens to golems after they fulfill their purpose?

7. Why does Nan throw Miss Bloom's book Songs of Innocence in the fire?

8. Nan and Charlie celebrate New Year's Eve with Toby. Toby tells her the Sweep gave him a mission. What was it?

9. What are some of the things that the Mayhew Mothers Friendly Society offers to do to help the climbers?

10. What kind of animal is Dent?

11. What is May Day?

12. On this May Day, what do the climber's signs say?

13. What lie does Roger tell to lure Charlie away during the parade?

14. How does Nan change throughout the story?

15. Name one thing Nan learns throughout the story.

Character Quiz

Match each description with the correct character. Each character is used only once.

- ___ 1. Always carries a shilling around
- ___ 2. Is a teacher
- ___ 3. A Jewish refugee from Germany who has a pet rat
- ___ 4. Takes away Nan's breakfast since she was late
- ___ 5. A soot golem
- ___ 6. Nan's rival in apprenticeship under Crudd
- ___ 7. Shilling-Tom's best friend
- ___ 8. Nan's master
- ___ 9. The young climber who dies from a factory accident
- ___ 10. Crudd's best and fastest climber

- A. Nan Sparrow
- B. Charlie
- C. Toby Squall
- D. Roger
- E. Shilling-Tom
- F. Newt
- G. Whittles
- H. Mrs. Trundle
- I. Miss Bloom
- J. Wilkie Crudd

Vocabulary (Chapters 1-11)

Below are vocabulary words from chapters 1-11. The chapter is in parenthesis. Using context clues from the story, infer the meaning of the word. Then, write down the definition.

Goad (2)

Context clues:

Definition:

Forage (3)

Context clues:

Definition:

Straggler (4)

Context clues:

Definition:

Imp (4)

Context clues:

Definition:

Commemorate (5)

Context clues:

Definition:

Flue (5)

Context clues:

Definition:

Emporium (6)

Context clues:

Definition:

Astonished (8)

Context clues:

Definition:

Curio (8)

Context clues:

Definition:

Illiterate (9)

Context clues:

Definition:

Wry (9)

Context clues:

Definition:

Folly (9)

Context clues:

Definition:

Vocabulary (Chapters 12-22)

Below are vocabulary words from chapters 12-22. The chapter is in parenthesis. Using context clues from the story, infer the meaning of the word. Then, write down the definition.

Carapace (14)

Context clues:

Definition:

Motes (14)

Context clues:

Definition:

Abscess (14)

Context clues:

Definition:

Mewling (14)

Context clues:

Definition:

Ruse (16)

Context clues:

Definition:

Imploring (16)

Context clues:

Definition:

Mews (17)

Context clues:

Definition:

Decrepit (17)

Context clues:

Definition:

Waft (17)

Context clues:

Definition:

Elated (17)

Context clues:

Definition:

Magnanimous (19)

Context clues:

Definition:

Effigies (20)

Context clues:

Definition:

Vocabulary (Chapters 23-33)

Below are vocabulary words from chapters 22-33. The chapter is in parenthesis. Using context clues from the story, infer the meaning of the word. Then, write down the definition.

Obsolence (23)

Context clues:

Definition:

Immersed (23)

Context clues:

Definition:

Turret (25)

Context clues:

Definition:

Dais (25)

Context clues:

Definition:

Prudence (25)

Context clues:

Definition:

Incredulous (28)

Context clues:

Definition:

Sentimental (28)

Context clues:

Definition:

Tripe (28)

Context clues:

Definition:

Gilded (28)

Context clues:

Definition:

Marred (30)

Context clues:

Definition:

Ire (30)

Context clues:

Definition:

Emanating (32)

Context clues:

Definition:

Vocabulary (Chapters 34-42)

Below are vocabulary words from chapters 34-42. The chapter is in parenthesis. Using context clues from the story, infer the meaning of the word. Then, write down the definition.

Bespoke (34)

Context clues:

Definition:

Rapturous (35)

Context clues:

Definition:

Malpractice (36)

Context clues:

Definition:

Sullied (36)

Context clues:

Definition:

Feral (37)

Context clues:

Definition:

Acrid (37)

Context clues:

Definition:

Defenestrated (37)

Context clues:

Definition:

Perused (38)

Context clues:

Definition:

Vocabulary (Chapters 43-51)

Below are vocabulary words from chapters 43-51. The chapter is in parenthesis. Using context clues from the story, infer the meaning of the word. Then, write down the definition.

Extortionate (44)

Context clues:

Definition:

Disconsolate (44)

Context clues:

Definition:

Scorn (45)

Context clues:

Definition:

Daft (45)

Context clues:

Definition:

Indignation (46)

Context clues:

Definition:

Pursed (46)

Context clues:

Definition:

Maimed (49)

Context clues:

Definition:

Vocabulary (Chapters 52-59)

Below are vocabulary words from chapters 52-59. The chapter is in parenthesis. Using context clues from the story, infer the meaning of the word. Then, write down the definition.

Cordoned (54)

Context clues:

Definition:

Cordoned (54)

Context clues:

Definition:

Jeer (54)

Context clues:

Definition:

Converged (54)

Context clues:

Definition:

Billowing (55)

Context clues:

Definition:

Bulbous (55)

Context clues:

Definition:

Contending (55)

Context clues:

Definition:

Cordoned (55)

Context clues:

Definition:

Incite (56)

Context clues:

Definition:

Discord (56)

Context clues:

Definition:

Fiend (56)

Context clues:

Definition:

Altercation (56)

Context clues:

Definition:



Traits of Nan

Nan is the main character in *Sweep*. Below are six words that describe her. Give examples of when Nan shows each trait. Use specific examples from the text.

Independent

Compassionate

Courageous

Loyal

Patient

Sacrificial



Traits of Charlie

Charlie is a soot golem, made from a piece of char, and Nan's best friend. When does he display each of the following character traits? Use specific examples from the text.

Innocent

Kind

Protective

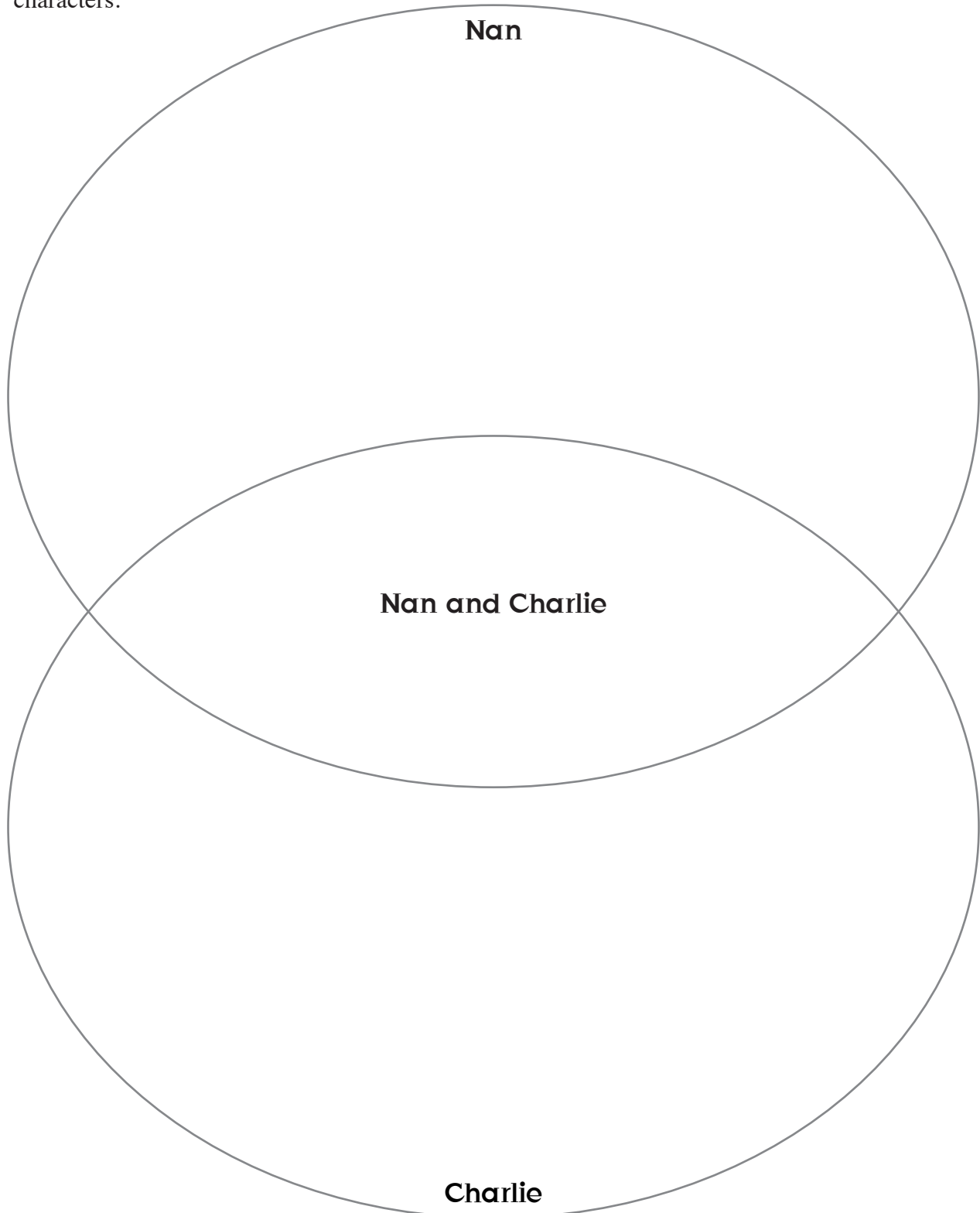
Loyal

Patient

Selfless

Nan and Charlie

One of the reasons Nan and Charlie form a friendship so quickly is because of their similarities. Both misfits, Charlie reminds Nan of herself a few times. Compare and contrast these two characters.



Crudd vs. The Sweep

Compare and contrast Crudd and the Sweep. Use specific examples from the text.

How Crudd treats Nan

How the Sweep treats Nan

Crudd's personality

The Sweep's personality

What Nan thinks of Crudd

What Nan thinks of the Sweep



Quotes

Examine each of the following quotes from the novel. What is their significance? Do you agree or disagree?

1. The real world offered no miracles. No “once upon a time.” No “happily ever after.” And yet, here in this dusty crawl space, she held a miracle in her hands. (15)

2. “Folks ought to look the way on the outside that they are on the inside.” (37)

3. “Just because a book makes you feel bad does not mean it is bad.” (38)

4. “In some ways, accidents feel even worse than if you’d done them on purpose.” (42)

5. “That’s what it is to care for a person. If you’re not afraid, you’re not doing it right.” (46)

6. “Say not in grief ‘He is no more,’ but live in the thankfulness that he was.” (50)

7. “The world is full of wonders that I can scarcely imagine...Like everyday was a miracle.” (50)

8. “Who says I’m never afraid? Of course I’m afraid. You can’t have courage without fear, any more than you can have a ray of light without shadows.” (51)



We Save Ourselves

Nan helps Charlie. Charlie helps Nan. Nan learns that by helping others, we are able to help ourselves. Think about the quote, "We save ourselves by saving others." Answer the following questions.

1. How does Nan save and help Charlie?

2. How does Charlie save and help Nan?

3. How does the Sweep save and help Nan?

4. How does Nan save and help the Sweep?

5. How does Toby save and help Nan?

6. How does Nan save and help Toby?

7. How does Charlie save and help Dent?

Similes

Similes compare two things with the words “like” or “as.” The following are a few similes from *Sweep*.

- In chapter 4, Mrs. Trundle was described, “as mean as a weasel in winter.”
- In chapter 28, Toby was described “as harmless as a hamster.”
- In chapter 45, Crudd was called “ugly as a pail of cat sick.”

Create your own similes to describe the characters below.

1. Mrs. Trundle was disagreeable and was as mean as a weasel in winter. None of the children liked her.

2. Crudd was as cruel _____ . He frequently took advantage of his child chimney sweepers.

3. The burning walls of the chimney begin to close in on Nan. She became as scared as _____ .

4. Rodger was as jealous _____ . He envied how Nan rivaled him for the opportunity to become Crudd’s apprentice.

5. Miss Bloom had tried to come to Nan’s aid before the fire and later showed much kindness to Nan. She is as sweet as _____ .

6. Toby was as mischievous as a _____ and was always thinking of nicknames for Nan and Charlie.

7. During that frigid winter day, the house felt as cold as _____ .

8. Nan felt Crudd’s angry grip tighten on her arm. As she backed up near the fireplace, she felt as _____ .

9. Despite his size, Charlie would not hurt anyone unless they were hurting Nan. Otherwise, he was harmless and as docile as _____ .

10. With Crudd chasing her, Nan ran as _____ .

11. Crudd was as _____ . He frequently took advantage of his child chimney sweepers.

12. The girl’s song was as _____ . Despite her filthy appearance, her song attracted many people.

13. The Sweep was lonely and was as _____ . Suddenly, he found an abandoned baby girl wrapped in cloth.



Foreshadowing

“Chekhov’s Gun “ is a concept that says that every part of a story must be relevant. The principle states, “If a gun is on the wall, it must go off sometime in the story.” Foreshadowing uses clues to tell the reader what will happen in the future. This technique can help build suspense and expectations as it offers subtle hints of what is to come. Foreshadowing can be done through dialogue, plot elements, or descriptions of scenery. Name three examples of the foreshadowing of Charlie’s death and the way Charlie died.

1. Example 1

2. Example 2

3. Example 3

4. Why do you think foreshadowing was used?

5. Would Charlie’s death have been as purposeful or meaningful without foreshadowing?

6. How can foreshadowing help us better understand or appreciate the story?

7. Did you predict the story’s ending based on the foreshadowing? Why or why not?



Themes

Give at least two examples of when each of the following themes are used. Use specific examples from the text.

1. Friendship

2. Hope

3. Ignorance

4. Innocence

5. Experience

6. Injustice

7. Grief

8. Prejudice

9. Sacrifice

10. Wonder

A decorative border of charcoal sketches surrounds the page. The sketches include various patterns of lines, dots, and scribbles, some resembling small figures or abstract shapes. The border is composed of small, repeating elements that create a textured, artistic frame around the central text and writing area.

Charlie the Soot Golem

Reread the chapter *A Name* (15). Describe the original piece of char and Charlie's physical features using details from the text and your imagination. Then, draw a picture of Charlie as a tiny piece of char and as the large golem he becomes.

A decorative border of black scribbles surrounds the page. The scribbles are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with some extending slightly beyond the corners. They vary in density and orientation, creating a textured frame around the central text and drawing area.

Creating Your Own Room

In the House of One Hundred Chimneys, the house is so big Nan and Charlie create their own room for everything, from the Nothing Room to a Banging Pots and Pans Room. Pretend you come across a giant house and you can create your own room to do your favorite things in. Describe your room. What would you do in this room? What would it look like? Then, draw a picture of your room below.



Setting

Sweep is filled with vivid imagery as it describes all of the different places that Nan and Charlie find themselves. In your own words, based on the descriptions from the story, describe each of these places.

1. The attic Nan is in after the chimney fire

2. The House of One Hundred Chimneys

3. The inside of a chimney

4. The streets of London



The Girl and Her Sweep

Compare and contrast the first chapter *The Girl and Her Sweep* (1) with the last chapter, also called *The Girl and Her Sweep* (59). How do these changes fit with the part 1 and part 2 titles, Innocence and Experience respectively?

The Girl and Her Sweep (1)

The Girl and Her Sweep (59)



Sweep's Gift

Compare and contrast the chapter *Sweep's Gift* (3) in part 1 with the chapter in part 2 that is also called *Sweep's Gift* (58). How does Sweep's gift change? How is it the same?

Sweep's Gift (3)

Sweep's Gift (58)



Nan's Song

Compare and contrast the chapter *Nan's Song* (6) in part 1 with the chapter in part 2 that is also called *Nan's Song* (54). How do these changes fit with the part 1 and part 2 titles, Innocence and Experience respectively?

Nan's Song (6)

Nan's Song (54)



The Chimney Sweeper

Compare and contrast the chapter *The Chimney Sweeper* (31) in part 1 with the chapter in part 2 that is also called *The Chimney Sweeper* (38). How do these changes fit with the part 1 and part 2 titles, Innocence and Experience respectively?

The Chimney Sweeper (31)

The Chimney Sweeper (38)



Chimney Sweeps

For around 200 years, children throughout England were used to sweep out people's chimneys.

After the Great Fire of London in September 1666, fireplaces were required to have more narrow chimneys. Because of this, children as young as 4 years old were given the deadly job of sweeping chimneys. They climbed up and down these chimneys while cleaning them with a broom. These climbers frequently died within a few years on the job and few reached adulthood. Children died from inhaling toxic fumes, cancer, getting stuck, suffocation, falling or burning to death. When children became stuck, another would be sent to retrieve the first. This sometimes ended with both children losing their lives.

These children were orphans, sold by their parents, and sometimes kidnapped. Legally, they were indentured servants and were owned and treated like slaves. Although there was an alternative brush in the works to help clean chimneys, people still wanted the climbing boys. People believed climbing boys did a better job of cleaning chimneys than any mechanical object.

On May Day, the first of May, climbers were celebrated in a joyful parade. This holiday has since been turned into International Labor Day, which celebrates the working class.

Because of the outcry of groups like the friendly society, reforms tried to pass. The Chimney Sweepers Act 1788 tried to regulate sweepers, but the rules were not enforced. Other acts followed but were ignored.

The Chimney Sweepers Act in 1875 was one of the first steps that England took to combat child labor. This British Act of Parliament made the public realize how dangerous climbing truly was. The act was created in response to the death of a 12 year old named George Brewster. George was cleaning a hospital chimney when he became stuck. A wall had to be torn down to help George escape, but he died shortly after. George was the last child chimney sweeper in England to die in a chimney.

Today, chimney sweeps use tools such as brushes or vacuums to help clean chimneys. Although chimney sweeping boys don't exist today, forced child labor and child slavery still exist today.

Discussion Questions

1. What made the job of a climbing boy so dangerous?
2. Why do you think the public was indifferent to the suffering of the climbing boys?
3. Why was the idea of a brush instead of a climbing boy rejected by the public?
4. What changed the public opinion about climbing boys?
5. Why do you think the acts before 1875 were not enforced?

Answer Key

Quiz Chap. 1-11

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. D
8. D
9. B
10. C

Quiz Chap. 43-51

- 1.
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

Discussion Questions: Use these questions in a small group discussion or as writing prompts.

Final Quiz

1. Lighting a fire
2. Piece of char
3. The House of One Hundred Chimneys/The captain's mansion
4. Reading it in a story
5. Nan answers the riddle on the board before her students do, during a time when most climbers could not read
6. They die
7. She is angry over the inaccuracy of the way it portrayed chimney sweeps and climbers
8. To look after Nan
9. Adopt Newt, pay for Newt's coffin, bought the captain's mansion and turned it into a schoolhouse
10. A robin/a bird
11. A celebratory day celebrating the sweeps and climbers
12. The names of children who had died on the job
13. There are climbers trapped in the boat
14. Answers may vary
15. Answers may vary

Quiz Chap. 12-22

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. D
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. A

Quiz Chap. 52-59

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. D
10. A
11. He has fulfilled his purpose

Quiz Chap. 23-33

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. B
11. How the Sweep told Toby to watch over Nan

Character Quiz

1. E
2. I
3. C
4. H
5. B
6. D
7. G
8. J
9. F
10. A

Foreshadowing examples: Charlie's arm starting to turn to stone, Miss Bloom's warning about golems, Charlie becoming less of himself when he helps someone

More Resources on Child Labor and Labor Strikes:

Samantha: An American Girl is living in the Victorian era in America. Through her friend Nellie, the story brings light on child labor in factory work in an age-appropriate film.

Newsies is inspired by the real-life Newsboy strike in 1899, *Newsies* is a fun, family musical about New York's paperboys who stood up against injustices.

Quiz Chap. 34-42

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. D
10. D