****

**Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire: Chapters 5 and 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You can listen to the story on Audible by following this QR code:  |  |

Scan the QR code above to find the free Audiobook of ‘Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire’ written by John August and read by James Patrick Cronin. Download the **Audible App** and then you can listen on a phone or tablet.

Listen to Audible’s ‘Chapter 4’ and ‘Chapter 5’ (which are actually Chapters 5 and 6 of the book, *Chapter 5: The Meeting* and *Chapter 6: The Field Book*. Together, they are approximately 18 minutes long) and answer the following questions.

You will find some sentence starters and definitions below to help you:

1. At the beginning of *Chapter 5: The Meeting*, Arlo’s mum said, ‘That’s sort of growing up, I guess. Forgetting the things you used to love.’ What do you think this tells us about how his mum was feeling about her life as a grown up at this moment?

*I think this tells us that Arlo’s mum felt …… because……*

1. When Arlo arrived at the meeting, he ‘hesitated, with his hand on the door latch. He was suddenly aware of his breathing’. Why do you think he did this? What does the author want us to know about how he was feeling?

*I think Arlo did this because …… . I think the author wants us to know that he was feeling ……*

1. This is the Rangers’ oath that Arlo had to say to become a Ranger. What do you predict this means for what a Ranger has to do in everyday life?: ***Loyal, brave, kind and true-***

***Keeper of the Old and New-***

***I guard the wild,***

***Defend the weak,***

***Mark the path,***

***And virtue seek.***

***Forest spirits hear me now,***

***As I speak my Ranger’s Vow.***

*I think this oath might mean that Rangers have to ……*

1. Do you think that Arlo was glad he had become a Ranger? Use evidence in the text to help you explain your answer.

*I think Arlo was ……… that he had become a Ranger. I think this because ……*

1. *Chapter 6: The Field Book* ends with: ‘When it came to Rangers, the Field Book had all the answers. Except for the questions Arlo hadn’t thought to ask’. Can you think of an important question he might have forgotten to ask here?

*I think he might have forgotten to ask ……*

|  |
| --- |
| **Some helpful vocabulary definitions from the chapter to help you:** |
| **unison** | **recounted** | **devoted** | **comply** | **virtue seek** | **constellation** | **topographic maps** | **words used in America, but not often in the UK** |
| together | retold | very loving or loyal | to do something you have been asked or told to do | to try to encourage and look for high moral standards and good behaviour | a group of stars forming a recognisable pattern | A type of map that shows many different features of the land to give more detail | *jocks:* Older students who love sport*Fall:* Autumn*Pledge of Allegiance:* People pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America to show devotion and respect for their country. They recite it at public events & school |

|  |
| --- |
| **Optional linked writing task:** Imagine you are Arlo. Write a list entitled ‘Things I need to tell dad next time we speak’. |
| *You might want to start like this:* *Life has changed dramatically since I last spoke to dad. I don’t want to forget anything I need to tell him, so here is a list to help me remember:*1. *Uncle Wade’s house is a little creepy (remember to find out if dad has ever been here).*
2. *Mum seems a bit sad (remember to try to tell him this when mum has left the table to get food or visit the toilet).*
 |
| **Challenge:** *Can you include the words ‘devoted’ and ‘constellation’ somewhere in your list?* |

****

**Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire: Chapters 5 and 6**

*Chapter 5: The Meeting* and *Chapter 6: The Field Book* example answers:

1. At the beginning of *Chapter 5: The Meeting*, Arlo’s mum said, ‘That’s sort of growing up, I guess. Forgetting the things you used to love.’ What do you think this tells us about how his mum was feeling about her life as a grown up at this moment?

*I think this tells us that Arlo’s mum felt sad and forlorn about her life at this time, because she didn’t feel that it was filled with all the things that she loved and that made her happy. I think this is probably because she had to say goodbye to Arlo and Jaycee’s dad and probably missed him but couldn’t speak to him. She had also moved back to where she had lived as a child and must have moved away for a reason in the first place, so could have been upset that she had no choice but to come back. She was perhaps questioning some of the choices she had made in her life and Pine Mountain maybe reminded her of memories from her past.*

1. When Arlo arrived at the meeting, he ‘hesitated, with his hand on the door latch. He was suddenly aware of his breathing’. Why do you think he did this? What does the author want us to know about how he was feeling?

*I think Arlo did this because he was nervous about going in and was unsure about what he would find there (or whether he would make any friends there). We sometimes become more aware of our breathing when we are feeling scared or nervous.*

*I think the author wants us to know that he was feeling apprehensive and a little unsure of himself, as we learnt in earlier chapters that he often thought about the dangers he might find before he went somewhere new so he could plan for how he could overcome them. Maybe he was feeling worried about the dangers here and was thinking about how to overcome them.*

1. This is the Rangers’ oath that Arlo had to say to become a Ranger. What do you predict this means for what a Ranger had to do in everyday life?: ***Loyal, brave, kind and true-***

***Keeper of the Old and New-***

***I guard the wild,***

***Defend the weak,***

***Mark the path,***

***And virtue seek.***

***Forest spirits hear me now,***

***As I speak my Ranger’s Vow.***

*For example: I think this oath might mean that Rangers had to try their best to be good people (because it says ‘loyal, brave, kind and true’, and says they need to seek virtue). They maybe needed to look after animals and creatures they found, particularly smaller ones that maybe couldn’t look after themselves very well (because it says ‘I guard the wild’ and ‘defend the weak’). Maybe they also needed to spend time in the forest, as it says they needed to ‘mark the path’. Perhaps there was something magical about what they needed to do too, as it talk about ‘spirits’ and this reminds me of the ghostly dog Arlo kept seeing.*

1. Do you think that Arlo was glad he had become a Ranger? Use evidence in the text to help you explain your answer.

*I think Arlo was very glad that he had become a Ranger. I think this because the book tells me that he couldn’t imagine ever letting the Field Book out of his sight. This tells me that he loved the book and thought it was something very precious that needed protecting. He was also very keen to catch up on what he had missed so far at Rangers (the book tells us he was ‘determined’ to do this). He would not want to do this if he was not pleased he had joined and wanted to carry on going. He was very enthusiastic about camping at the weekend, and we learn that he liked the detail and order he found in the Field Book’s answers. He thought he could learn a lot from being in the Rangers, and liked this.*

1. *Chapter 6: The Field Book* ends with: ‘When it came to Rangers, the Field Book had all the answers. Except for the questions Arlo hadn’t thought to ask’. Can you think of an important question he might have forgotten to ask here?

*For example: I think he might have forgotten to ask what exactly it was that Rangers did, and why there were strange magical goings-on and creatures in Pine Mountain. I think he might also have forgotten to ask what the oath meant about ‘Forest spirits’. This seems like it could have been an important thing to forget about, especially for someone who is so worried about danger.*