

A Teaching Unit For *The Great Gilly Hopkins*

By Katherine Paterson

Sample



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Sample Teaching Unit for The Great Gilly Hopkins

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Chapter 4

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the same or very similar consonant sounds in words that are close together. It usually occurs at the beginning of words, but it can also occur within or at the ends of words. Alliteration can help emphasize words, establish a mood, or serve as a memory aid, along with a few other things.

The title of this chapter is "Sarsaparilla to Sorcery". This is alliteration. What purpose does this alliteration most likely serve?

- It helps emphasize the name of this book because that is where Gilly found the money.
- It establishes a magical mood.
- It allows the reader to remember Gilly's name.
- It creates rhyme.

Turn to page thirty. Find the sentence that contains alliteration on this page, and copy the sentence on the following line.

The alliteration in this line _____.

- emphasizes how much better Gilly plans to become
- emphasizes Gilly's ability to write to her mother
- allows the reader to remember Gilly's name

Use your own name to describe yourself. Make sure you create a sentence containing alliteration like Gilly does on page 30.

Explain

"Well, you find anything you wanted to read to Mr. Randolph?"

"It's a bunch of junk."

***"One man's trash is another man's treasure,"** Trotter said in a maddeningly calm voice, wandering over to a lower shelf as she did so.*

You may have heard the bolded part of this passage before. One man's trash is another man's treasure. Explain what this well-known saying means.

Letter to Mom

In this chapter, Gilly receives a letter from her mother (page 28). Pretend that you are Gilly. Write a letter to Gilly's mother saying what you believe that Gilly would say to her in a letter. Write your letter on a separate sheet of paper.

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Test Chapters 6-10 - This is only a portion of the test.

1. How is Miss Harris different from most teachers that Gilly has had?
 - a. She chooses favorites among her students.
 - b. She is much easier.
 - c. She always gives her class candy and rewards all of the good students.
 - d. She keeps to herself and does not get too personal with students.
2. How does Gilly feel about Agnes?
 - a. Agnes annoys Gilly.
 - b. Gilly thinks Agnes would make a really great friend.
 - c. Gilly feels sorry for Agnes.
 - d. Gilly thinks Agnes is very funny.

... "When can I talk?"

Gilly smiled benignly. "We'll see," she said. "We'll just see how it goes." Agnes opened her mouth like a starved baby bird, but she didn't give a chirp. Good bird. Gilly patted the skinny, freckled arm and swept up the walk into the house, leaving the open-mouthed fledgling outside the gate.

3. What does this passage reveal about Agnes?
 - a. She is willing to do anything to be Gilly's friend.
 - b. She will always stand up for herself at any cost.
 - c. She is as hungry as a starving bird.
 - d. She is only pretending to be a friend to Gilly so she can use her later.
4. Where does Gilly hide the money that she has stolen?
 - a. She hides it under her bed.
 - b. She hides it inside her pillow case.
 - c. She places it under a broken board in the floor.
 - d. She tapes it to the bottom of a drawer.
5. Why does Gilly decide to be nice to William Earnest?
 - a. She realizes he is a fun and loving kid.
 - b. She thinks that she may be able to use him for her own advantage.
 - c. She wants him to spy on Trotter for her.
 - d. She thinks that if she is nice to W.E., she will be able to leave Trotter's house.

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Chapter 14

The letters

Look at the dates on the letters. Record the dates below to see how much time has passed.

Letter to:	Date
To W.E. from Gilly	
To Gilly from Miss Harris	
To Gilly from W.E.	
To Miss Harris from Gilly	
To W.E. from Gilly	
To W.E., Trotter, and Randolph from Gilly	

How much time has passed since Gilly has been at her grandmother's house?

Based on the letters, what can you infer about how Gilly feels at her grandmother's house?

What do you think Gilly is lying about in the letters?

Write a letter

When she finished, she thought briefly of calling Agnes, but what would she say? "Good-bye" when she'd never really said "hello"? Poor Agnes, what would become of her? Would she stomp herself angrily through the floor, or would someone's kiss turn her magically into a princess? Alas, Agnes, the world is woefully short on frog smoochers. No, she wouldn't call, but maybe, someday, she'd write. (page 126)

We do not see a letter written to Agnes in this chapter. Pretend that you are Gilly. On a separate sheet of paper, using Gilly's point of view, write a letter to Agnes. Be sure and tell her what you've learned about life. Try to give her advice that you think Gilly would give her.

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