

The Great Brain

Chapter 1

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Which U.S. state is the setting for this story? ____

- A. Utah B. Idaho C. Montana

2. Which job does J.D.'s father do? ____

- A. inventor B. sheriff C. publisher

3. Which task was Mr. Harvey doing in the backyard? ____

- A. making a bench B. digging a hole C. building a fence

4. How much did Tom charge each child to watch Mr. Harvey work? ____

- A. a penny B. a nickel C. a dime

5. Who worked as Tom's barker? ____

- A. Sweyn B. John C. Howard

6. What did Papa install in the house? ____

- A. a water bed B. a furnace C. a water closet

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. What is the difference between a backhouse and an outhouse?

2. Why did the family need a cesspool?

3. Why did Mr. Larson open the crates on Main Street?

4. Why did Tom refund all the money to the other children?

The Great Brain

Chapter 1

A. Write the words in the blanks.

awe bonanza ornate skepticism swindle

- _____ 1. not really believing that something is true
- _____ 2. full of decoration
- _____ 3. feeling that something is amazing and wonderful
- _____ 4. situation where someone suddenly gets lots of money
- _____ 5. to trick someone out of their money

B. What did we learn about J.D.'s family?

C. Do you think Tom should refund the money? Why or why not?

D. Matching: Match the characters with the correct information.

Characters

- ___ 1. John D.
- ___ 2. Tom D.
- ___ 3. Sweyn D.
- ___ 4. Mamma
- ___ 5. Papa
- ___ 6. Mr. Harvey
- ___ 7. Mr. Larson

Information

- A. likes to order lots of inventions
- B. helps Papa at the newspaper office
- C. gave one oatmeal cookie to each boy
- D. is the narrator of the story
- E. works at the railroad depot
- F. is known for his great brain
- G. worked with a pick and a shovel

The Great Brain

Chapter 2

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What did Tom use to eavesdrop? ____

- A. a cooking pot B. a hose C. a glass

2. Which birthday gift did J.D. receive from Uncle Mark? ____

- A. a leather wallet B. a beaded belt C. a cowboy hat

3. What was the reason for the yellow sign at the Kays' home? ____

- A. quarantine B. bake sale C. construction

4. Where did J.D. hide from Mrs. Kay? ____

- A. in the bathtub B. under the bed C. behind the stove

5. Which sickness did J.D. catch before Tom and Sweyn? ____

- A. mumps B. measles C. scarlet fever

6. Which method did Tom and Sweyn use to punish J.D.? ____

- A. tickling B. knuckle sandwich C. silent treatment

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did Tom and J.D. get in bed with Sweyn when he had the measles?

2. How did Sweyn rub salt in their wounds?

3. Why did J.D. go to Howard Kay's home?

4. Why did J.D. agree to give Tom his beaded belt?

The Great Brain

Chapter 2

A. Write the words in the blanks.

contagious eavesdrop genuine immune quarantine

_____ 1. to listen secretly when others are talking

_____ 2. a sick person is kept away from others

_____ 3. real, true, not fake

_____ 4. a sickness can spread to other people

_____ 5. someone will not get sick from a disease

B. Can you explain Mamma's system when one son catches a disease?
Do you think this is a good system? Why or why not?

C. What was J.D.'s plan? Do you think his plan worked well?

D. At this point, the reader may be wondering about certain things in the story. Can you write three questions you have about the story?

Question #1: _____

Question #2: _____

Question #3: _____

The Great Brain

Chapter 3

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What did J.D.'s brothers use when they taught him to swim? ____
A. a tire B. a raft C. a plank
2. What did Papa give to J.D. as a reward for learning how to swim? ____
A. a quarter B. a book C. a cookie
3. Which clue showed that the Jensen brothers had gone to a cave? ____
A. a candle B. a rock C. a blanket
4. What did the searchers use when they went in the cave? ____
A. maps B. ropes C. ladders
5. What helped Tom eavesdrop? ____
A. a bowl B. a water pipe C. a chimney
6. What helped Brownie find the Jensen brothers? ____
A. scent B. sound C. taste

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did Tom climb up to the barn loft?

2. Why did they take Brownie in the cave?

3. Why did they take beef liver in the cave?

4. Why did J.D. think that Brownie deserved attention from others?

The Great Brain

Chapter 3

A. Write the words in the blanks.

blacksmith exhausted gorge labyrinth stalactite

- _____ 1. very tired
- _____ 2. a long pointed object hanging from a cave ceiling
- _____ 3. to eat lots of food quickly
- _____ 4. a worker who makes things with metal
- _____ 5. a maze, a place with many different ways to go

B. What happened when J.D. learned how to swim?

C. What happened as they searched for the Jensen brothers?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. Brownie was a purebred Alaskan.
- True False 2. The Jensen brothers helped teach J.D. how to swim.
- True False 3. J.D. jumped off the diving board into the river.
- True False 4. Two skeletons had been found inside Skeleton Cave.
- True False 5. The searchers used ropes and lanterns in the cave.
- True False 6. Tom, J.D., and Sweyn searched in the cave together.
- True False 7. Tom used a map to find the Jensen brothers in the cave.
- True False 8. Lady was a hero when the Jensen brothers were found.

The Great Brain

Chapter 4

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What did the boys use to polish the silverware? ____

- A. ashes B. wax C. mud

2. What was the Traveling Emporium? ____

- A. a circus B. a hotel C. a wagon

3. What did J.D.'s family store beside the barn? ____

- A. butter B. ice C. salt

4. How did Tom signal Seth and Pete? ____

- A. whistling B. waving flags C. winking

5. Who heard Tom's business deal by the woodshed? ____

- A. Sweyn B. Mamma C. J.D.

6. Who owns the Z.C.M.I. stores? ____

- A. Catholics B. Mormons C. Protestants

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did Abie Glassman travel so much?

2. Why did they cover the ice with sawdust?

3. How did ice cream help Tom earn money?

4. Why did Abie Glassman want to open a store?

The Great Brain

Chapter 4

A. Write the words in the blanks.

denounce emporium peddler restrain vacant

- _____ 1. a kind of store that sells many different products
- _____ 2. to hold someone back from doing something harmful
- _____ 3. empty, there is nothing there
- _____ 4. a person who sells products as they travel around
- _____ 5. to say that someone has done something wrong

B. What happened when the family made ice cream?

C. What did we learn about Abie Glassman and his emporium?

D. Choose the correct noun to complete each sentence.

dinner lake porch stains wagon

1. Abie traveled with his peddler's _____
2. We polished all the _____ off the silverware.
3. Papa invited Abie for Sunday _____
4. The ice was brought from a _____ in the mountains.
5. When you hear me whistling, come to the back _____

The Great Brain

Chapter 5

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Where was the Kokovinis family from? ____

A. Greece

B. Brazil

C. Ukraine

2. Where did Mr. Kokovinis earn money to open a cafe? ____

A. sheep farms

B. wheat fields

C. coal mines

3. Where did Basil buy marbles and a slingshot? ____

A. Z.C.M.I. store

B. Tom's room

C. the emporium

4. Who practiced fighting with Basil? ____

A. John

B. Tom

C. Sweyn

5. What did the boys use whenever they started a fight? ____

A. a piece of wood

B. a sharp rock

C. a broken bottle

6. What was Basil able to do well? ____

A. sing

B. punch

C. wrestle

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why do you think Sammy was mean to Basil?

2. Why did Papa say, "We are all immigrants except the Indians." ?

3. Why did Tom want Basil to fight Sammy?

4. How was Basil able to defeat Sammy?

The Great Brain

Chapter 5

A. Write the words in the blanks.

agate belligerent corral immigrant prove

- _____ 1. to show that something is true
- _____ 2. hostile, aggressive, a person likes to fight
- _____ 3. a fenced area where farm animals can move around
- _____ 4. a person who moves to a new country
- _____ 5. a colored toy marble that looks like a gemstone

B. How did Sammy treat Basil? Do you think Sammy's behavior is okay?

C. How did Tom treat Basil? Do you think Tom's behavior is okay?

D. Put the events in the proper order by writing 1 – 7 in the blanks.

- ___ Sammy treated Vassillios unfairly when they played Jackass.
- ___ Basil defeated Sammy in a rough and tumble fight.
- ___ Mr. Kokovinis opened the Palace Cafe in Adenville.
- ___ Mr. Kokovinis gave Tom one dollar for bringing happiness to Basil.
- ___ The boys tied Basil to a tree.
- ___ Vassillios and his mother arrived in Adenville.
- ___ The boys gave three cheers for Basil.

The Great Brain

Chapter 6

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Which place became crowded in August? ____
A. jail B. public park C. swimming hole
2. What made J.D. go to the Z.C.M.I. store instead of Abie's store? ____
A. peppermint candy B. spicy sausage C. fresh cucumbers
3. Which sign did they find on Abie's store? ____
A. gone fishing B. closed C. welcome
4. What did people think was in Abie's strongbox? ____
A. nothing B. candy C. gold
5. What was in Abie's strongbox? ____
A. nothing B. candy C. gold
6. Which problem did Abie have? ____
A. mumps B. malnutrition C. bronchitis

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did Uncle Mark break into Abie's store?

2. Why did J.D.'s family take Abie to their home and give him broth?

3. Why did people in town feel guilty after Abie died?

4. How did Tom know what was inside Abie's strongbox?

The Great Brain

Chapter 6

A. Write the words in the blanks.

accompany charity drifter listless rumor

- _____ 1. a person who moves from place to place
- _____ 2. a story people tell that may or may not be true
- _____ 3. people help others when they need help
- _____ 4. to go together with another person
- _____ 5. lacking energy or enthusiasm, moving very slowly

B. What happened to Abie? Why didn't he ask for help?

C. Which clues showed that Abie needed help? Why didn't people help him?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. People walked a little slower in the month of August.
- True False 2. Abie showed everyone what was inside his strongbox.
- True False 3. Abie fainted sometimes due to the hot weather.
- True False 4. Lady gave birth to eight puppies.
- True False 5. Uncle Mark broke into Abie's store to steal the strongbox.
- True False 6. Abie's store was closed because Abie was not feeling well.
- True False 7. Mamma's broth helped Abie feel much better.
- True False 8. Tom knew that Abie's strongbox was empty.

The Great Brain

Chapter 7

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Where was Sweyn going in Salt Lake City? ____
A. mining camp B. boarding school C. army training
2. What caused Andy Anderson to lose his left leg? ____
A. rusty nail B. broken window C. metal pipe
3. What did Mr. Standish use to punish students? ____
A. a belt B. a textbook C. a paddle
4. What did the boys use when they made an oath in the barn? ____
A. a skull B. a bale of hay C. pig's blood
5. What was part of Tom's plan to get revenge on Mr. Standish? ____
A. milk B. whiskey C. ink
6. What changed after Mr. Standish got his job back? ____
A. class hours B. math class C. punishment

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did Tom want Mr. Standish to lose his job?

2. Why were Mormons left out of Tom's plan?

3. Why did Mr. Standish lose his job?

4. Why did Mr. Standish get his job back?

The Great Brain

Chapter 7

A. Write the words in the blanks.

assemble gangrene glare oath prophet

- _____ 1. someone who tells us about future events
- _____ 2. the decay of human tissue
- _____ 3. to look at someone angrily
- _____ 4. to gather together in a group
- _____ 5. a strong promise to do something important

B. Can you explain Tom's plan to get Mr. Standish fired? Did his plan work?

C. How do you think Mr. Standish felt when he lost his job? Why do you think Mr. Standish decided to stop paddling students?

D. Characters: Which character spoke the following lines in the story?

- _____ 1. "People are staring at us. I'm not a little boy."
- _____ 2. "I am here to educate you children."
- _____ 3. "That Mr. Standish is a holy terror."
- _____ 4. "You can't paddle Basil. He didn't do it."
- _____ 5. "You will tell your father and me exactly what happened."
- _____ 6. "And you are going to be the star witness."

The Great Brain

Chapter 8

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Who built a leg for Andy? ____

A. an artist

B. a doctor

C. a carpenter

2. What did Tom sell to Mr. Monaire for two dollars? ____

A. a horse

B. a pup

C. a belt

3. What did Andy call J.D. when J.D. tried to kill him? ____

A. a real pal

B. an evil monster

C. a scary ogre

4. Who did Andy beat in a wrestling match? ____

A. Sweyn

B. Sammy

C. Basil

5. Who hit a home run to win the ball game? ____

A. J.D.

B. Basil

C. Andy

6. What did Tom give to J.D.? ____

A. a beaded belt

B. a female pup

C. a silver dollar

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did Andy feel like he was plumb useless?

2. Why did J.D. put Andy in a gunnysack?

3. Why did Andy do many chores at Tom's home?

4. Why do you think Tom refused to take Andy's erector set?

The Great Brain

Chapter 8

A. Write the words in the blanks.

fortune kindling lariat mustang reformation

- _____ 1. small pieces of wood that are used to start a fire
- _____ 2. a huge amount of money
- _____ 3. changing so we can do things in a better way
- _____ 4. a rope that can be used to catch or tie animals
- _____ 5. a kind of wild horse that is usually small and light

B. What happened when J.D. tried to kill Andy?

C. Can you discuss how Tom helped Andy?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. A carpenter made a new erector set for Andy.
- True False 2. Tom bought Andy's erector set for six dollars.
- True False 3. J.D. received one male pup from Lady's litter.
- True False 4. Mr. Monaire bought three pups for a total of six dollars.
- True False 5. J.D. tried to help Andy kill himself.
- True False 6. In the river, Andy escaped from the gunnysack.
- True False 7. Andy defeated Basil in a wrestling match.
- True False 8. Andy beat J.D. in a running race.

The Great Brain

Story Review

A. Put the events in the proper order by writing 1 – 7 in the blanks.

- ___ Basil defeated Sammy in a rough and tumble fight.
- ___ J.D. gave his beaded belt to Tom.
- ___ Tom thought of a plan to rescue the Jensen boys in Skeleton Cave.
- ___ Tom thought of a plan to get Mr. Standish fired.
- ___ J.D.'s family installed a water closet in their home.
- ___ Tom gave the beaded belt back to J.D.
- ___ Abie Glassman died from malnutrition.

B. Matching: Match the characters with the correct information.

Characters

Information

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. John Fitzgerald | A. got lost in Skeleton Cave |
| ___ 2. Tom Fitzgerald | B. was very good at wrestling |
| ___ 3. Sweyn Fitzgerald | C. had an empty strongbox in his store |
| ___ 4. Mamma | D. bullied other boys in the town |
| ___ 5. Papa | E. threw Andy in the river in a gunnysack |
| ___ 6. Basil Kokovinis | F. had a new erector set |
| ___ 7. Sammy Leeds | G. made a plan to get Mr. Standish fired |
| ___ 8. Jensen brothers | H. ordered a water closet for their home |
| ___ 9. Andy Anderson | I. attended school in Salt Lake City |
| ___ 10. Abie Glassman | J. tried to feed broth to Abie |

C. Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks.

bank cave dog hero Lady plank ropes swim

J.D. went to the river to learn how to _____. Sweyn threw him off a _____ into the water. J.D. paddled and kicked until he reached the river _____. The Jensen brothers got lost in a deep _____. Searchers used _____ and lanterns to look for them. Tom took his _____ Brownie into Skeleton Cave. Brownie found _____ and the Jensen brothers. People treated Tom like a _____.

