NOVEL STUDY

WAIT TILL HELEN COMES:
A GHOST STORY

By Mary Downing Hahn
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Wait Till Helen Comes

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Before Reading

Title of Book: ________________________________

Author of Book: ________________________________

Have you read anything by this author before? If so, what was it?
__________________________________________________________________________

Look at the front cover. What hints do you think it gives about the story?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Read the back cover. What do you learn about the story from the back cover?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Based on the front and back covers, do you want to read this book? Why or why not?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Wait Till Helen Comes © The Book Umbrella
Who is Mary Downing Hahn?
Use the internet and other resources to research the author of *Wait Till Helen Comes*, Mary Downing Hahn.

Before Researching

1. What do you already know about Mary Downing Hahn?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What do you want to find out about Mary Downing Hahn?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

After Researching

3. What have you learned from your research?

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. Where did you get your information?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
My Character Chart

Draw a picture and record important information about each important character as you read the text.

Character’s Name: ____________________________
Important Facts: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Character’s Name: ____________________________
Important Facts: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Character’s Name: ____________________________
Important Facts: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Character’s Name: ____________________________
Important Facts: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
My Character Chart (Cont’d)

| Character’s Name: ___________________________________________________________________ |
| Important Facts: ____________________________________________________________________ |
|                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |
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|                                                                                       |
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|                                                                                       |

| Character’s Name: ___________________________________________________________________ |
| Important Facts: ____________________________________________________________________ |
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| Character’s Name: ___________________________________________________________________ |
| Important Facts: ____________________________________________________________________ |
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|                                                                                       |
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| Character’s Name: ___________________________________________________________________ |
| Important Facts: ____________________________________________________________________ |
|                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 1 - 3

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>exasperated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ghastly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disdainfully</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mockingly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- exasperated • • shockingly frightful or dreadful
- ghastly • • as though ridiculing or making fun of
- disdainfully • • taken or filled up
- prying • • with great scorn or contempt
- mockingly • • extremely annoyed
- occupied • • moving or separating with difficulty

Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

1. I shook my head _______________________________ when I heard someone had robbed the bank.
2. When Ben asked to join the game, his classmate _______________________________ repeated his request, and Ben was insulted.
3. I was _______________________________ when I saw that my sister had spilled juice on my book.
4. Hannah was _______________________________ the lid off of the peanut butter jar.
5. The bathroom was _______________________________ so I had to wait my turn in line.
6. The _______________________________ horror movie gave me nightmares.

Skim the adjectives below. Circle five that you think describe Heather.

Cheerful  Unhappy  Friendly  Gloomy
Whiny   Accepting  Angry   Manipulative
Silly   Loving   Charming  Grateful
A Little Extra!

Imagine that you move to a place like Molly’s new home. What would you like and dislike about living in such a place? Explain your answers.

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Understanding the Story
Chapters 1 - 3

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 1, Molly’s mother tells Molly and Michael that they will be moving to the country, where they will live in a:

(a) Church.
(b) Hospital.
(c) Library.
(d) School.

2. In Chapter 2, Molly becomes upset when she and Heather discover a _____________ on their property.

(a) Creek.
(b) “No Trespassing” sign.
(c) Graveyard.
(d) Stone cherub.

Short Answer

3. How does Heather feel about her father’s marriage to Molly’s mother? How can you tell?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Long Answer

4. How does Molly feel about her stepsister, Heather? Why is this?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
Chapter Summary
Chapters 1 - 3

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 4 - 6

**embedded**
Definition: ________________________________

**amble**
Definition: ________________________________

**contemplating**
Definition: ________________________________

**scarcely**
Definition: ________________________________

**criticize**
Definition: ________________________________

**inflict**
Definition: ________________________________

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.
Vocabulary Study
Chapters 4 - 6

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>embedded</th>
<th>amble</th>
<th>contemplating</th>
<th>scarcely</th>
<th>criticize</th>
<th>inflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Thinking about; considering thoroughly.  
2. To impose or deliver something unwelcome.  
3. To walk with a slow, easy pace.  
4. Not quite; barely.  
5. Fixed or stuck into something.  
6. To point out or to discuss faults or flaws.

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Embedded: ________________________________________________________________
2. Amble: ______________________________________________________________________
3. Contemplating: _____________________________________________________________
4. Scarcely: _________________________________________________________________
5. Criticize: _________________________________________________________________
6. Inflict: _________________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
Imagine that you are Michael. On the back of this paper, write a short journal entry describing your experiences so far at your new home. Describe how you feel about having moved there. Use at least one vocabulary word in your journal entry.
Understanding the Story
Chapters 4 - 6

Multiple Choice
1. What happened to Heather’s mother?
   (a) She moved out of the country.
   (b) She died in a fire.
   (c) She died because she was very sick.
   (d) She drowned in the ocean.

2. In Chapter 6, what does Molly see Heather wearing which she has never worn before?
   (a) A silver headband.
   (b) A silver hair bow.
   (c) A silver locket.
   (d) A silver bracelet.

Short Answer
3. In Chapter 4, what is strange about the small tombstone that Heather finds under the oak tree?


Long Answer
4. Describe Heather’s strange behavior in this section. Why does Heather’s behavior cause Molly to worry?


A Little Extra!
How do you think that Molly might be feeling at the end of this section? What makes you think this?


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Chapter Summary
Chapters 4 - 6

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
## Dictionary Detective!
### Chapters 7 - 9

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>retort</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tarnished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solemnly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>billowing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illuminated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary Study
Chapters 7 - 9

Match Up
A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. For example, happy and joyful are synonyms. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms!

- retort • • bulging; ballooning
- tarnished • • blackened
- solemnly • • seriously; gravely
- billowing • • lighted
- perception • • answer; reply
- illuminated • • understanding

Best Word
Circle the word which works best in each sentence.

1. The large flag was ( solemnly / billowing ) on its pole as the light breeze passed over it.
2. The light from the streetlamp ( tarnished / illuminated ) the sidewalk beneath it.
3. The old silver jewelry was ( tarnished / billowing ) and in need of a good polish.
4. Lisa’s powers of ( perception / retort ) told her that her parents were angry with her.
5. Each time her brother insulted her, Amelia replied with a clever ( retort / perception ).
6. During the funeral, the minister gazed ( illuminated / solemnly ) at the people gathered in the church.

Write a sentence using at least two vocabulary words from this section.
Understanding the Story
Chapters 7 - 9

Multiple Choice
1. According to Heather, the initials on her locket stand for:
   (a) Heather Elizabeth Hill.
   (b) Heather Ellen Harper.
   (c) Helen Elizabeth Harper.
   (d) Helen Ellen Hill.

2. According to Molly in Chapter 8, Heather and Helen are linked by:
   (a) Their initials.
   (b) Their loneliness.
   (c) Their mothers’ deaths.
   (d) All of the above.

Short Answer
3. Describe what Molly sees when she follows Heather out of the window in the middle of the night in Chapter 9.

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Long Answer
4. In Chapter 8, Molly and Michael visit the library. Explain what they learn there about the house that is in ruins near the pond.

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!

So far in the novel, Molly is convinced that Helen is real, while Michael is not so sure. Do you believe that ghosts are real? Why or why not?
_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

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Chapter Summary
Chapters 7 - 9

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 10 - 12

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vengeance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wearily</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manifesting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recoiled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sifting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harshly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An adjective is a word that describes a person, place, or thing. Make a list of four adjectives that describe Michael.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- vengeance
- wearily
- manifesting
- recoiled
- sifting
- harshly

1. Jenna ________________________________ left home early in the morning to start her paper route.

2. Evan ________________________________ when a spider scurried out of the kitchen cabinet.

3. Josh was ________________________________ through the cafeteria’s garbage, searching for his pencil case that he had accidentally thrown away.

4. Should the enemy attempt to seek ________________________________ on the kingdom, the palace guards will protect the King and Queen.

5. The fire truck’s siren ________________________________ wailed as it raced through town.

6. Gina knew a ghost was ________________________________ when she saw the glowing white figure.

A Little Extra!

An adjective is a word that describes a person, place, or thing. Make a list of four adjectives that describe Michael.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
A Little Extra!

Do you agree with Molly that Helen could be dangerous to Heather? Why or why not?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Chapter Summary
Chapters 10 - 12

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 13 - 15

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>replenish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>desolate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cascaded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resuscitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piteously</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary Study
Chapters 13 - 15

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

replenish  desolate  cascaded  resuscitation  piteously  deception

1. Fell in an arrangement resembling a waterfall.   _____________________________
2. Evoking feelings of sympathy.     _____________________________
3. Having the feeling of being abandoned.    _____________________________
4. Revival from apparent death or unconsciousness.  _____________________________
5. To make full or complete again.     _____________________________
6. The act of misleading.       _____________________________

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Replenish:__________________________________________________________
2. Desolate:__________________________________________________________
3. Cascaded:__________________________________________________________
4. Resuscitation:______________________________________________________
5. Piteously:__________________________________________________________
6. Deception:________________________________________________________

A simile is a comparison of two things that uses the word “like” or “as”. In Chapter 13, Molly uses a simile when she says, “They were thunderheads growing taller and darker, looming over the trees like a fleet of pirate ships.” What objects are being compared in this simile?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 13 - 15

Multiple Choice
1. When Heather and Molly fall into the cellar of Harper House, what do they find there?
   (a) Some of Helen’s belongings.
   (b) Helen’s bones.
   (c) The bones of Helen’s mother and stepfather.
   (d) Pictures of Helen.

2. What does Heather insist be done with what is found in the cellar?
   (a) They should be put in a museum.
   (b) They should be buried near Helen.
   (c) They should be buried at Harper House.
   (d) Michael should keep them to study.

Short Answer
3. Why does Heather believe that Helen is the only person who will truly love her?

Long Answer
4. Describe how Molly rescues Heather from Helen in this section.

A Little Extra!
Which part of this section was the most surprising or interesting to you? Why?
Chapter Summary
Chapters 13 - 15

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Time for a Test!

Wait Till Helen Comes

Part A – Multiple Choice

1. What is Molly disturbed to find on the property of her new home?
   (a) A graveyard.
   (b) A creek.
   (c) A pasture of cows.
   (d) A church.

2. Which of the following adjectives does NOT describe Heather?
   (a) Unhappy.
   (b) Dishonest.
   (c) Cheerful.
   (d) Manipulative.

3. In what way did Heather’s mother die?
   (a) She drowned in a pond.
   (b) She died in a fire.
   (c) She died in a car accident.
   (d) She died from an illness.

4. What is the gift that Heather receives from Helen?
   (a) An engraved stone.
   (b) A golden bracelet.
   (c) A jar of daisies.
   (d) A silver locket.

5. From whom do Molly and Michael learn the history of Harper House?
   (a) From their mother.
   (b) From Dave.
   (c) From a librarian.
   (d) From a policeman.

6. When Molly follows Heather out of the window in the night, where does Heather go?
   (a) To Harper House.
   (b) To Helen’s grave.
   (c) To Harper Pond.
   (d) To the library.

7. Who ruins all of Molly’s and Michael’s belongings?
   (a) Helen.
   (b) Heather.
   (c) Their mother.
   (d) Dave.

8. Helen has power over Heather only when:
   (a) Heather is at Harper House.
   (b) Heather is near Helen’s gravestone.
   (c) Heather is wearing Helen’s locket.
   (d) Heather is feeling anger and unhappiness.

9. At the end of the novel, what gift do Heather and her family give to Helen?
   (a) A new gravestone bearing Helen’s full name.
   (b) A small marble angel to guard Helen’s grave.
   (c) Helen’s parents buried on either side of her.
   (d) All of the above.
Time for a Test!
*Wait Till Helen Comes*

**Part B – Short Answer**

1. Name at least three things that Heather and Helen have in common.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

2. Why is this novel called *Wait Till Helen Comes*?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the real reason why Heather is so unhappy throughout the majority of the novel?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

**Part C – Long Answer**

1. How does Molly’s relationship with Heather change throughout the novel?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

2. Discuss at least two ways in which Molly “saves” Heather in this novel.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

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# Reading Log

Record information about the books you read on this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th># of Pages</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

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- ghastly • as though ridiculing or making fun of
- disdainfully • taken or filled up
- prying • with great scorn or contempt
- mockingly • extremely annoyed
- occupied • moving or separating with difficulty

Fill in the Blank
Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

1. I shook my head **disdainfully** when I heard someone had robbed the bank.

2. When Ben asked to join the game, his classmate **mockingly** repeated his request, and Ben was insulted.

3. I was **exasperated** when I saw that my sister had spilled juice on my book.

4. Hannah was **prying** the lid off of the peanut butter jar.

5. The bathroom was **occupied** so I had to wait my turn in line.

6. The **ghastly** horror movie gave me nightmares.

A Little Extra!
Skim the adjectives below. Circle five that you think describe Heather.

- Cheerful
- Unhappy
- Friendly
- Gloomy
- Whiny
- Accepting
- Angry
- Manipulative
- Silly
- Loving
- Charming
- Grateful

Wait Till Helen Comes
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Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 1 - 3

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 1, Molly’s mother tells Molly and Michael that they will be moving to the country, where they will live in a:

(a) Church.
(b) Hospital.
(c) Library.
(d) School.

2. In Chapter 2, Molly becomes upset when she and Heather discover a _______________ on their property.

(a) Creek.
(b) “No Trespassing” sign.
(c) Graveyard.
(d) Stone cherub.

Short Answer

3. How does Heather feel about her father’s marriage to Molly’s mother? How can you tell?

Example - Heather is not happy about her father’s marriage to Molly’s mother. We know this because Heather has a bad attitude toward Molly and Michael and seems to be jealous that she has to share her father with them. In addition, a flash of hatred crosses Heather’s face whenever she sees her father and Molly’s mother acting affectionate toward one another.

Long Answer

4. How does Molly feel about her stepsister, Heather? Why is this?

Example - Molly feels extremely uncomfortable around her stepsister, Heather. No matter how hard Molly tries, she cannot like Heather, let alone love her. Molly feels this way because when Heather first joined Molly’s family, Molly did everything she could think of to be a good big sister to Heather, but Heather responded by being rude and ungrateful. Heather often tells lies to her father and Molly’s mother about Molly and her brother, making it seem as though they torment her, when in reality, they do not. Molly believes Heather is responsible for the bad feelings in their family.

A Little Extra!

Imagine that you move to a place like Molly’s new home. What would you like and dislike about living in such a place? Explain your answers.

Answers will vary.
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 4 - 6

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>embedded</th>
<th>amble</th>
<th>contemplating</th>
<th>scarcely</th>
<th>criticize</th>
<th>inflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Thinking about; considering thoroughly. **contemplating**
2. To impose or deliver something unwelcome. **inflict**
3. To walk with a slow, easy pace. **amble**
4. Not quite; barely. **scarcely**
5. Fixed or stuck into something. **embedded**
6. To point out or to discuss faults or flaws. **criticize**

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below. - Answers will vary.

1. Embedded: ____________________________________________________________
2. Amble: ______________________________________________________________
3. Contemplating: ________________________________________________________
4. Scarcely: _____________________________________________________________
5. Criticize: _____________________________________________________________
6. Inflict: ______________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
Imagine that you are Michael. On the back of this paper, write a short journal entry describing your experiences so far at your new home. Describe how you feel about having moved there. Use at least one vocabulary word in your journal entry. **Answers will vary**.
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 4 - 6

Multiple Choice
1. What happened to Heather’s mother?  
   (a) She moved out of the country.
   (b) She died in a fire.
   (c) She died because she was very sick.
   (d) She drowned in the ocean.

2. In Chapter 6, what does Molly see Heather wearing which she has never worn before?  
   (a) A silver headband.
   (b) A silver hair bow.
   (c) A silver locket.
   (d) A silver bracelet.

Short Answer
3. In Chapter 4, what is strange about the small tombstone that Heather finds under the oak tree?

Example - The tombstone that Heather finds is strange because the stone marks the grave of a child, yet the stone shows only initials, instead of a name, and the stone says nothing else about who the child was. Also, families are usually buried together in graveyards, and there are no other graves close by this tombstone. Finally, it is strange that the stone displays Heather’s own initials and age.

Long Answer
4. Describe Heather’s strange behavior in this section. Why does Heather’s behavior cause Molly to worry?

Example - In this section, Molly comes upon Heather more than once to find Heather talking to someone she calls Helen. When Molly witnesses this behavior, she feels goosebumps on her arms, and her hair stands up. Molly is convinced that Heather is not alone nor talking to an imaginary friend during these episodes; she believes that Heather is talking to something or someone who is really there. But Molly worries because she is also convinced that whomever Heather is talking to is not really her friend and is dangerous.

A Little Extra!  
How do you think that Molly might be feeling at the end of this section? What makes you think this?  
Answers will vary.
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 7 - 9

Match Up
A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. For example, happy and joyful are synonyms. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms!

- retort
- tarnished
- solemnly
- billowing
- perception
- illuminated

- bulging; ballooning
- blackened
- seriously; gravely
- lighted
- answer; reply
- understanding

Best Word
Circle the word which works best in each sentence.

1. The large flag was (solemnly / billowing) on its pole as the light breeze passed over it.

2. The light from the streetlamp (tarnished / illuminated) the sidewalk beneath it.

3. The old silver jewelry was (tarnished / billowing) and in need of a good polish.

4. Lisa’s powers of (perception / retort) told her that her parents were angry with her.

5. Each time her brother insulted her, Amelia replied with a clever (retort / perception).

6. During the funeral, the minister gazed (illuminated / solemnly) at the people gathered in the church.

A Little Extra!
Write a sentence using at least two vocabulary words from this section. Answers will vary.
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 7 - 9

Multiple Choice

1. According to Heather, the initials on her locket stand for:
   (a) Heather Elizabeth Hill.
   (b) Heather Ellen Harper.
   (c) Helen Elizabeth Harper.
   (d) Helen Ellen Hill.

2. According to Molly in Chapter 8, Heather and Helen are linked by:
   (a) Their initials.
   (b) Their loneliness.
   (c) Their mothers’ deaths.
   (d) All of the above.

Short Answer

3. Describe what Molly sees when she follows Heather out of the window in the middle of the night in Chapter 9.

Example - When Molly follows Heather out of the window, she sees Heather go to Helen’s grave beneath the oak tree. There, a bluish glow takes on the shape of a girl, and Molly knows it is Helen. The ghost tells Heather that she will come soon, to make Molly and Michael sorry and to stay with Heather always so that neither of them will ever be lonely again.

Long Answer

4. In Chapter 8, Molly and Michael visit the library. Explain what they learn there about the house that is in ruins near the pond.

Example - At the library, Molly and Michael learn that the house near the pond is known as Harper House. The house burned down in a terrible fire about one hundred years prior, and the entire family who lived there was killed, but their bodies were never recovered. The girl who lived there, Helen Harper, is said to have run from the burning house into the pond, where she drowned. Harper House is rumored to be haunted by Helen’s ghost, which lures children into the pond to drown.

A Little Extra!
So far in the novel, Molly is convinced that Helen is real, while Michael is not so sure. Do you believe that ghosts are real? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 10 - 12

Match Up
*Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.*

- vengeance
- wearily
- manifesting
- recoiled
- sifting
- harshly

Making visible or evident; showing plainly
As though physically or mentally exhausted
Unpleasantly grating to the ear
Shrank back in alarm, horror, or disgust
Violent revenge
Examining closely and separating

Fill in the Blank
*Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.*

1. Jenna **wearily** left home early in the morning to start her paper route.

2. Evan **recoiled** when a spider scurried out of the kitchen cabinet.

3. Josh was **sifting** through the cafeteria’s garbage, searching for his pencil case that he had accidentally thrown away.

4. Should the enemy attempt to seek **vengeance** on the kingdom, the palace guards will protect the King and Queen.

5. The fire truck’s siren **harshly** wailed as it raced through town.

6. Gina knew a ghost was **manifesting** when she saw the glowing white figure.

A Little Extra!
An adjective is a word that describes a person, place, or thing. Make a list of four adjectives that describe Michael.
*Answers will vary.*
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 10 - 12

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 12, Molly promises herself that she will:
   (a) Seek revenge on Helen.
   (b) Seek revenge on Heather.
   (c) Protect Helen from Heather.
   (d) Protect Heather from Helen.

2. Which of the following people does NOT seem exasperated by Molly’s claims about Helen?
   (a) Michael.
   (b) Her mother.
   (c) Dave.
   (d) Mr. Simmons.

Short Answer

3. According to Molly in Chapter 10, why might Heather be in danger from Helen?

   Example - According to Molly, if Helen really is a ghost, then she is probably very lonely. Molly believes that Heather could be in danger because Helen may want Heather to join her so that she will not be alone for eternity. And in order for Heather to join Helen, Heather would have to be dead.

Long Answer

4. In Chapter 11, why do Molly and Michael believe that someone has broken into their house? Explain what they find when they go inside.

   Example - Molly and Michael believe that someone has broken into their house because as they are returning to the house, they hear a series of crashes coming from inside. Michael believes there are people inside who are destroying the house, but Molly sees a pale figure emerge from the house, and she knows that it is Helen. Inside the house, both Michael’s and Molly’s possessions are completely destroyed, as is their mother’s painting studio. All of Dave’s and Heather’s things remain untouched.

A Little Extra!

Do you agree with Molly that Helen could be dangerous to Heather? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 13 - 15

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>replenish</th>
<th>desolate</th>
<th>cascaded</th>
<th>resuscitation</th>
<th>piteously</th>
<th>deception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Fell in an arrangement resembling a waterfall.  
   cascaded

2. Evoking feelings of sympathy.  
   piteously

3. Having the feeling of being abandoned.  
   desolate

4. Revival from apparent death or unconsciousness.  
   resuscitation

5. To make full or complete again.  
   replenish

6. The act of misleading.  
   deception

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below. - Answers will vary.

1. Replenish: ___________________________________________________________________________________

2. Desolate: ____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Cascaded: ___________________________________________________________________________________

4. Resuscitation: ________________________________________________________________________________

5. Piteously: ___________________________________________________________________________________

6. Deception: ___________________________________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
A simile is a comparison of two things that uses the word “like” or “as”. In Chapter 13, Molly uses a simile when she says, “They were thunderheads growing taller and darker, looming over the trees like a fleet of pirate ships.” What objects are being compared in this simile?

Example - With this simile, Molly compares the thunderhead clouds to a fleet of pirate ships.
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 13 - 15

Multiple Choice
1. When Heather and Molly fall into the cellar of Harper House, what do they find there?
   (a) Some of Helen’s belongings.
   (b) Helen’s bones.
   (c) The bones of Helen’s mother and stepfather.
   (d) Pictures of Helen.

2. What does Heather insist be done with what is found in the cellar?
   (a) They should be put in a museum.
   (b) They should be buried near Helen.
   (c) They should be buried at Harper House.
   (d) Michael should keep them to study.

Short Answer
3. Why does Heather believe that Helen is the only person who will truly love her?

Example - Heather believes that Helen is the only person who will truly love her because she is convinced that if her father and Molly’s family ever learned the truth about the fire in which Heather’s mother died, they would hate her and never forgive her. Helen, however, tells Heather that she knows everything about her and yet will always love her.

Long Answer
4. Describe how Molly rescues Heather from Helen in this section.

Example - In this section, Molly rescues Heather from Helen by finding the girls at Harper House just as Helen is convincing Heather to enter the pond, where she will drown. Molly enters the pond herself and removes Helen’s locket from Heather’s neck, so that Helen can no longer control the little girl. Then, Molly drags an unconscious Heather out of the water, where she resuscitates her and explains that Helen is not her friend. Molly keeps Heather safe from Helen until help arrives.

A Little Extra!
Which part of this section was the most surprising or interesting to you?
Why?
Answers will vary.
Part A – Multiple Choice

1. What is Molly disturbed to find on the property of her new home?
   (a) A graveyard.  
   (b) A creek.  
   (c) A pasture of cows.  
   (d) A church.

2. Which of the following adjectives does NOT describe Heather?
   (a) Unhappy.  
   (b) Dishonest.  
   (c) Cheerful.  
   (d) Manipulative.

3. In what way did Heather’s mother die?
   (a) She drowned in a pond.  
   (b) She died in a fire.  
   (c) She died in a car accident.  
   (d) She died from an illness.

4. What is the gift that Heather receives from Helen?
   (a) An engraved stone.  
   (b) A golden bracelet.  
   (c) A jar of daisies.  
   (d) A silver locket.

5. From whom do Molly and Michael learn the history of Harper House?
   (a) From their mother.  
   (b) From Dave.  
   (c) From a librarian.  
   (d) From a policeman.

6. When Molly follows Heather out of the window in the night, where does Heather go?
   (a) To Harper House.  
   (b) To Helen’s grave.  
   (c) To Harper Pond.  
   (d) To the library.

7. Who ruins all of Molly’s and Michael’s belongings?
   (a) Helen.  
   (b) Heather.  
   (c) Their mother.  
   (d) Dave.

8. Helen has power over Heather only when:
   (a) Heather is at Harper House.  
   (b) Heather is near Helen’s gravestone.  
   (c) Heather is wearing Helen’s locket.  
   (d) Heather is feeling anger and unhappiness.

9. At the end of the novel, what gift do Heather and her family give to Helen?
   (a) A new gravestone bearing Helen’s full name.  
   (b) A small marble angel to guard Helen’s grave.  
   (c) Helen’s parents buried on either side of her.  
   (d) All of the above.
Part B – Short Answer

1. Name at least three things that Heather and Helen have in common.

Example - 

Some things that Heather and Helen have in common are: 1) They have the same initials, 2) They are both lonely and unhappy, 3) Both of their mothers died in fires that each of the girls caused by accident, and 4) They both feel guilty about causing their mothers’ deaths.

2. Why is this novel called *Wait Till Helen Comes*?

Example - This novel is called *Wait Till Helen Comes* because this is the warning that Heather gives Molly and Michael when she is convinced that they dislike her. Heather tells her stepsiblings several times that Helen will be coming to do terrible things to them as revenge from Heather.

3. What is the real reason why Heather is so unhappy throughout the majority of the novel?

Example - The real reason why Heather is so unhappy throughout the majority of the novel is that Heather feels guilt over causing her mother’s death by accidentally starting the fire that killed her, and by hiding when her mother tried to find her during the fire. Heather is afraid that if her family – especially her father – learns the truth, they will hate her and reject her.

Part C – Long Answer

1. How does Molly’s relationship with Heather change throughout the novel?

Example - At the beginning of the novel, Molly and Heather do not get along. Heather says that she hates Molly, and she is constantly making up lies to get Molly in trouble. But after Molly saves Heather from Helen, Heather tells Molly the truth about the fire in which her mother died, and Molly sees Heather and her unhappiness in a new light. The girls bond when they are trapped in the cellar of Harper House, and Heather realizes that Molly has saved her and even cares for her. By the end of the novel, the girls have become true sisters who happily care for one another.

2. Discuss at least two ways in which Molly “saves” Heather in this novel.

Example - The first way Molly saves Heather is by literally rescuing her from Helen’s clutches and saving her life by pulling Heathr from Harper Pond after removing Helen’s locket from her neck, so that Helen could no longer have a hold on her. Second, Molly saves Heather emotionally by explaining to her that her family could never hate her for accidentally causing the fire that killed her mother. Molly convinces Heather to tell her father the truth and receive his forgiveness, which releases a giant burden from Heather’s heart and turns her into a much happier little girl.
Common Core State Standards

This novel study is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (U.S.)

Grade 4
RL4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RL4.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
RL4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
RL4.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).
L4.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L4.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Grade 5
RL5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RL5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
RL5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
RL5.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
L5.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L5.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Grade 6
RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
RL.6.6 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.