

Vocabulary

Chapters 3 & 4:

Match each vocabulary word listed on the left with its correct definition on the right.

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| 1. ___ sacrilegious | a. revenge, lacking mercy |
| 2. ___ espoused | b. a chest of drawers, dresser |
| 3. ___ truant | c. betrothed, married or engaged |
| 4. ___ bureau | d. various substances from plants used in varnishes or adhesives |
| 5. ___ vengeance | e. misusing or showing irreverence for something sacred |
| 6. ___ resins | f. a person from whom one is descended |
| 7. ___ ancestor | g. absent from work or school without permission |

Use each of the vocabulary words in a sentence.

sacrilegious: _____

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espoused: _____

truant: _____

bureau: _____

vengeance: _____

resins: _____

ancestor: _____

Chapter 3

Questions:

1. Why did the boys start coming up with reasons they couldn't play shepherds in the pageant?
2. Why didn't Alice volunteer to be Mary?
3. How does Alice feel about the Herdmans being in the pageant?
4. How did Mrs. Armstrong react to the news about the Herdmans being in the pageant?

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Thinking About the Story:

5. Usually, no one volunteered to be Mary except Alice. Why do you think Alice always volunteered? Why do you think Imogene wanted to be Mary this time?

6. How did Mrs. Armstrong describe the ideal girl to play Mary in the pageant?

7. Who fits Mrs. Armstrong's description better, Imogene or Alice?

8. Why do you think God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus?

9. Who do you think God would have chosen to play Mary, Imogene or Alice? Why?

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Dig Deeper:

10. What did Mrs. Armstrong mean when she said “There are no small parts, only small actors”?

11. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–26. What general idea is Paul teaching the people of Corinth?

12. How does Mrs. Armstrong’s statement compare to Paul’s statement?

13. Do the verses in 1 Corinthians mean that there are even places for the Herdmans (or people like the Herdmans) in church? Explain your answer.

14. When the people from the church begin complaining about the Herdmans being in the pageant, Reverend Hopkins quotes from Luke 18:16:

But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’

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Similarly, Mark 9:36, 37 reads:

[Jesus] took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

According to these verses, why would it be wrong to, as Alice suggested, "put Imogene out of the pageant, and all the rest of them too"?

15. Maybe you know kids like the Herdmans. Perhaps there are some children in your school or church who act like they do. Write down some things you can do to make them feel welcome when they are with you.