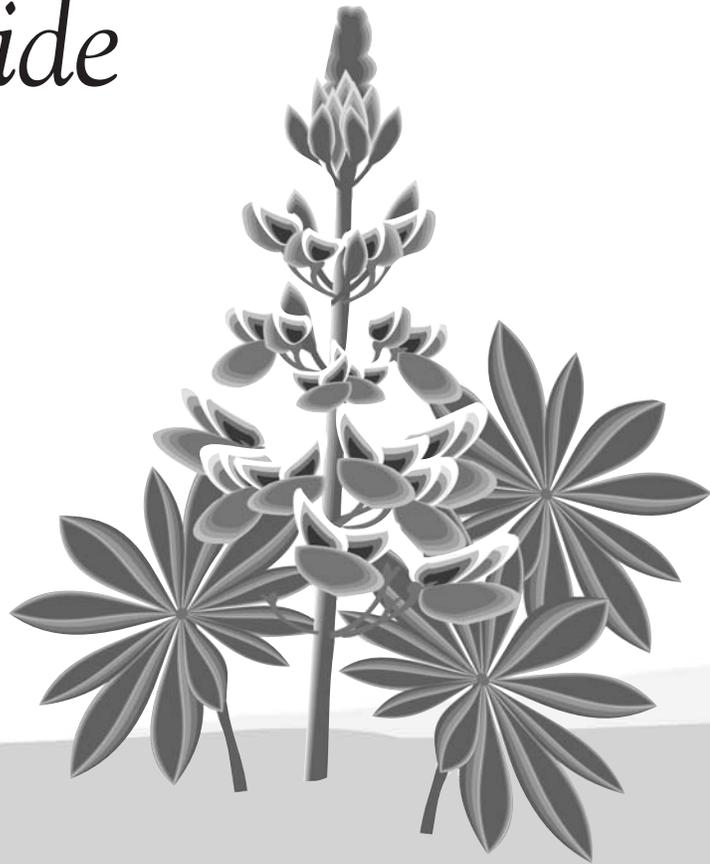


Miss Rumphius

Study Guide

by Dory Zinkand

*For the book by
Barbara Cooney*



CD Version



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Miss Rumphius Study Guide
A Progeny Press Study Guide
by Dory Zinkand
edited by Rebecca Gilleland

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Synopsis

Miss Rumphius is the life story of Miss Alice Rumphius, otherwise known as the Lupine Lady, as told by her young niece, Alice.

When she was a young child, Miss Rumphius set two goals for herself: she would follow in her grandfather's footsteps by traveling to faraway places and then settle down in a home by the sea. Alice's grandfather tells her there is one more thing she must do. She must do something to make the world more beautiful. Alice agrees to honor her grandfather's request, but does not yet know how she will do it.

Alice grows up and accomplishes her goals of traveling the world and finding a home by the sea. Still, Miss Rumphius wonders how she will make the world more beautiful. Then one spring day, after having spent many months in bed with a bad back, Miss Rumphius discovers that the lupines she had planted in her garden had spread to a nearby hill.

Miss Rumphius orders five bushels of lupine seed and begins to sow them wherever she goes that summer. The next spring lupines are growing all over her seaside town and Miss Rumphius, now known as the Lupine Lady, has accomplished her grandfather's request.

Now a very old woman, Miss Rumphius graciously entertains the neighborhood children with stories of faraway places. Her niece Alice says that she will follow in her aunt's footsteps by traveling to faraway places and then settling down in a home by the sea. Aunt Alice tells her that there is one more thing she must do. She must do something to make the world more beautiful. Young Alice agrees to honor her aunt's request, but she does not know yet how she will do it.

Section 3: The Lupine Lady Makes the World More Beautiful

Vocabulary:

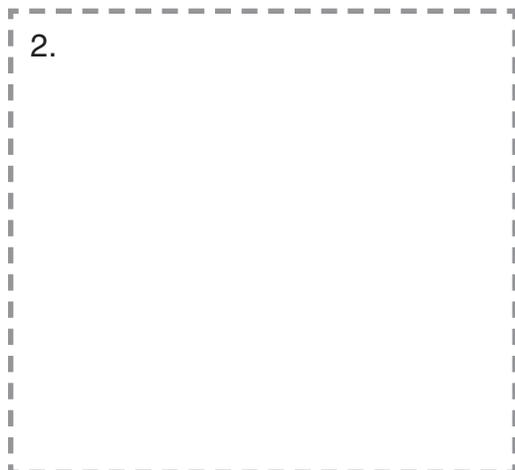
Looking at the picture of Miss Rumphius when she discovers the lupines on the other side of the hill may help you with parts of this activity.

1. Satisfaction is a state of being happy or grateful. Miss Rumphius saw the lupines growing under her window with satisfaction. In box 1, draw the face of someone who feels satisfaction.

1.



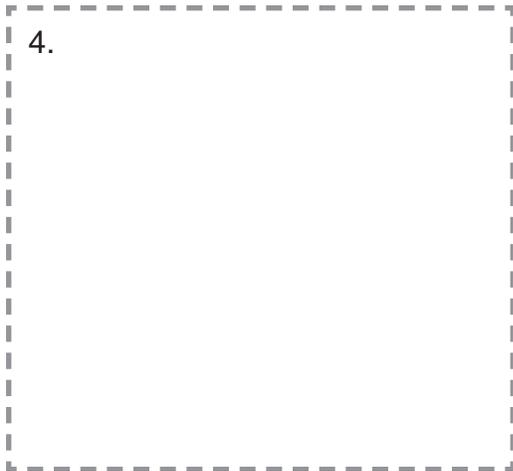
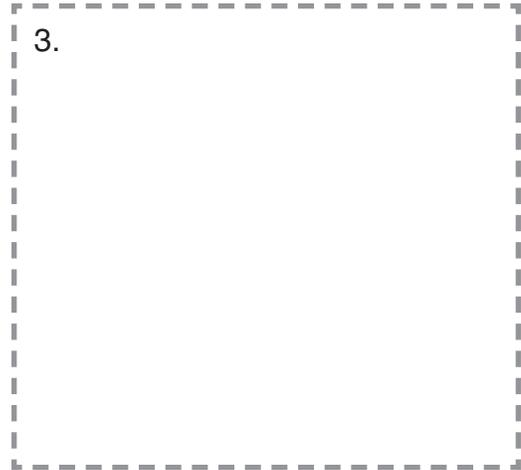
2.



2. Lupines are flowers. Many small lupine flowers grow on one tall stalk. They begin opening at the bottom. The little flowers on the top of the stalk open later. This makes the stalk of flowers look bigger at the bottom than at the top. At the top of the flower stalk are sometimes little green buds. Lupines may be white, blue, purple, or purplish-pink. Draw some lupines in box 2.

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3. Sowing means planting seeds. Miss Rumphius was sowing lupines as she took walks around her home. In box 3, draw a picture of a hand of someone who is sowing seeds.



4. Headlands are cliffs that reach out into the water. Miss Rumphius sowed lupine seeds as she wandered over the headlands. Do you see the headlands behind Miss Rumphius in the picture? Draw some headlands in box 4.

Questions About the Story:

1. Why did Miss Rumphius have to stay in bed for a very long time? _____

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2. What did Miss Rumphius wish when she saw the beautiful lupines outside of her window? _____

3. When Miss Rumphius was well enough to take a walk, what did she find?

4. In what ways did Miss Rumphius think that the seeds may have traveled to the other side of the hill? _____

5. This gave Miss Rumphius an idea on how she could make the world more beautiful. What was it? _____

6. What do people call Miss Rumphius now? _____

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Looking at the Artwork:

Look at the picture of Miss Rumphius sitting in her home with the children.

7. Do you see anything that might remind Miss Rumphius of her travels? _____

8. Do you see anything that might remind Miss Rumphius of her grandfather?

9. What can we learn about Miss Rumphius by looking at this picture? _____

10. Look at the picture of the children picking lupines. Which lupines are further away, those near the top of the page or those near the bottom of the page? How can you tell? _____

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11. Which flowers did she paint darker, those that are close or those that are further away? _____

12. Can we see more details, such as stems and leaves, on the lupines that are close or on those that are far away? _____

Dig Deeper:

13. How does Miss Rumphius show hospitality to the children in her neighborhood?

14. How does young Alice honor her Aunt Alice? _____

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15. Read the following Bible passages about caring for our world and being responsible.

The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man.

Psalm 115:16

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

Genesis 1:28–29

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Luke 12:48

What do you think these verses teach us about caring for the world God gave us?

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16. One way to care for this world is to make it more beautiful. How did Barbara Cooney make the world more beautiful? _____

17. How can you make the world more beautiful? _____



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Answer Key

Before-You-Read Study

Setting Goals:

1. These verses tell us that planning carefully leads to profit, that it is something you must do before beginning a project, and that planning what is good can bring love and faithfulness to the person planning. Yes, planning is a good thing. Answers will vary.
2. God's plans may be different than ours. His plans always prevail.
3. No, even the result of the casting of lots (or throwing of dice) is according to God's plan.
4. Both Paul and James said, "Lord willing," or "If it is the Lord's will," when talking about their plans.

Learn About Seeds:

5. a. The third day. (Gen. 1:13); b. He made them able to produce seeds. (Gen. 1:11–12); c. The fruit. (Gen. 1:11–12); d. No. The seeds of a plant grow into plants of the same kind according to Genesis 1:11–12
6. a. Answers will vary. b. Answers will vary. Encourage students to observe the color, size, shape, and weight of the seeds. c. Answers may vary from these suggestions: The variation and beauty of God's creation display His wisdom, His beauty, and His love for us.

Section 1: The Child Alice Sets Her Goals

Vocabulary:

1. c; 2. d; 3. b; 4. a

Plurals:

5. wives; 6. halves; 7. wharves; 8. leaves; 9. calves; 10. lives

Questions About the Story:

1. Grandfather lives and works in a house near the sea.
2. Grandfather is an artist who carves and paints.
3. Alice likes to help her grandfather by painting skies for him.
4. In the evenings, Alice's grandfather tells her stories of faraway places.
5. Alice says she would like to go to faraway places and then live in a house by the sea.
6. Her grandfather says that Alice should also do something to make the world more beautiful.

Looking at the Artwork:

7. Answers may include seashells, peacock feathers, and/or paintings.
8. The paintings on the walls.
9. Answers may vary. He loves Alice. He has a cat. He has a wife. His home is simple, yet beautiful.

Dig Deeper:

10. Grandchildren
11. She helps him with his work.
12. She listens with interest to his stories.
13. She sets goals that value the things her grandfather values.
14. She listens to the instruction of her grandfather.
15. Answers will vary.
16. Answers will vary. Encourage children to think in terms of the ways Alice honored her grandfather: by helping, by listening, by valuing things he valued, and by listening to instruction.

Section 2: Miss Rumphius Travels and Comes Home to Live by the Sea

Vocabulary:

1. b; 2. c; 3. b

Questions About the Story:

1. People now call her Miss Rumphius.
2. Miss Rumphius is a librarian.