

MARYBETH  
SLOCUMB

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RIC  
COLEGROVE

THE  
JOURNEY  
OF ROL

BOOK 1



BIE

COMPANION GUIDE – FULL VERSION

## WHEN USING THIS COMPANION GUIDE:



- Regarding the lists of vocabulary words, we DO NOT recommend having your students look up every word for each chapter. Choose words from the list depending on the age and ability of the student. *Note:* Many of the words in this guide are the root forms of the words used in the actual book. They may not be exactly what is seen in *Be: The Journey of Rol*.
- The Comprehension and Discussion questions are written as though the instructor is asking them of the students. The answers may be a short word or phrase, or a complete sentence. Feel free to require full sentences from students if desired.
- There are questions included that are for discussion and do not necessarily have any right or wrong answers. In this guide they are shown without a specific answer, as it is highly encouraged to have these conversations with your students. Reading comprehension is valuable, but understanding the lessons this book contains and being able to apply them to their life is invaluable!
- The enrichment activities (Art, Nature Study, and Writing as Rol) are optional. Use at your own discretion.
- As a student reads the book, he/she will be asked to keep a journal as if he/she were the main character, Rol. This is a good way for students to express their creativity and use their imagination while really connecting with the main character. Ask the students to be specific and as detailed as possible. e.g., “What did you think? Hear? Smell? Feel? See? Were you excited? Happy? Scared?”
- Also, have students keep a “Literary Devices and Allusions” journal for *Be: The Journey of Rol* and other books they read. Using a notebook, make the first half of the book for Literary Devices, and the second half for Allusions. For the first section, the student can write the name of the literary device, e.g., onomatopoeia, allusion, metaphor, etc., on the top line of the page in large print and then the examples the student finds on the page below, along with the book and chapter or page number where the example was found. In the second half of the notebook, the student can write the word “Allusions” in large print at the top of the page. On the remaining pages of the journal, any time they encounter an allusion in any book they are reading, they can write down the thing alluded to, and where the allusion was found. If they read news articles, magazines, blogs, tweets, or books, they are sure to come across allusions rather frequently.
- There are many parts of this book that take place in the outdoors. Take whatever opportunity you can to get your students outside, enjoying the weather, scenery, and environment. There are several books and published studies showing that exposure to the natural world is very good for kids, and our children today are not getting nearly enough outdoor time.

# BE

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THE JOURNEY OF ROL

**Companion Guide - Full Version**

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## Chapter 1: **SERIOUS BUFFOONERY**



### VOCABULARY

impetuous	glimmer	imbue	boisterous	clamorous
subsequent	deadpan	satisfactory	contemplate	reprimand
inconvenient	array	wistful	sarcastic	absorb
eloquent	inadequate	menacing	tentative	highfalutin



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- When Rol was waiting for his uncle to reprimand him for his actions, how did he wait? [*Quietly, without fidgeting*] Did he explain or make excuses for his actions? [*No*]
- Think about a time recently when you were reprimanded. How did you handle the reprimand, and what can you learn from your experience and Rol's?
- What advice did DaTerrin give Rol about trust? [*He said that all people—those you just meet or those you have known for a long time—deserve your trust, so have faith and believe in them. If a person wants you to feel or act otherwise, that is up to them.*] Do you agree with DaTerrin?
- In the marketplace, why did Rol hesitate during his encounter with Darkor? [*Rol was afraid and unsure of himself.*]
- What was threatening about Darkor? [*He claimed to be a wizard, and he was convincing.*]
- Describe what happened. [*DaTerrin had fun with Darkor and proved that the "wand" was not magic.*]
- What is DaTerrin's attitude about magic? [*Magic is not real.*]
- How did DaTerrin explain the multitude of stories and legends that have magic in them? [*People get bored and "magic" makes for great stories. Dishonest storytellers can take advantage of others.*]
- **Digging Deeper**—God gifted some saints with supernatural abilities, but those saints NEVER went looking for them, and those abilities were almost always considered to be crosses that they bore for the glory of God, and not for tricks or their own personal glory. Padre Pio was one such person. Read about him and find out what gifts/abilities he had. How did he use them? Did he use them for his own benefit and personal glory? What personal hardships did he suffer as a result? Knowing the burdens associated with these types of gifts, would you prefer to have them, or not? Why?

## Chapter 1: Continued



### LITERARY DEVICES IN CHAPTER 1



An **Oxymoron** is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. For example, “jumbo shrimp” or “dry ice.” Find three examples of oxymorons in this chapter.

*[Serious buffoonery, predictably unpredictable, organized chaos]*

A **Polyptoton** is repetition of words of the same root with different endings. An example of a polyptoton is “dark darkness” or “brave bravery.” Can you find an example of a polyptoton in this chapter?

*[wise wisdom, seriously serious]*

### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** This chapter describes what DaTerrin and Rol look like. Draw a picture of DaTerrin or Rol.

**Nature Study:** In this chapter we hear about “magic duck eggs.” Learn about the life-cycle of ducks. How does a duck grow inside the egg? How long does it usually take for the egg to hatch?

**Writing as Rol:** As Rol, write a journal entry about going into town, buying supplies from the market, and coming up with an idea to play a prank on DaTerrin. **OR** Journal what happened and how you felt when the loaf of bread was gone. **OR** Describe your thoughts/feelings about what happened at the market with Darkor.



## Chapter 2: STICKS AND STONES



### VOCABULARY

instigate

defend

hinged

swift

solemn

abrupt

mesmerize

abnormal

apprentice

humble

abode

beck (as in *beck and call*)



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What did Rol wish he had taken with him to the market? [*His Battlestick*] Why? [*To teach the man in black a lesson*]
- Do you think Rol would have been more confident with a weapon in his hand? Why or why not?
- Do you think this is a wise attitude? Why or why not?
- Rol wanted more experience and practice in real battle situations. What message did DaTerrin give Rol about fighting? [*No one should go looking for a fight. Training is not for beginning or instigating a fight, but for defending.*]
- Name something that you think would be worth fighting to defend, and explain why.
- If you had great fighting skill, how would you use it? Why?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw what you think the room looked like where Rol and DaTerrin were sitting by the fire, possibly including both characters in the scene.

**Nature Study:** Research the three kinds of wood it takes to build a fire, and at least one type of structure for building a fire. What does fire enable us to do that may otherwise be extremely difficult?

**Writing as Rol:** As Rol, write about an incident in your life when you were younger that involved fighting—that you either witnessed or participated in. Be very detailed and specific. How did that event lead you to initially wanting more opportunities to fight and wishing you had a weapon in the Darkor encounter?



## Chapter 3: "WHEN YOU ARE READY"



### VOCABULARY

uneasy	distraught	vague	enigmatic	appropriate
unique	knick-knack	doohickey	thingamabob	spacious
inquisitive	pesky	manicured	orb	fragrant
vermin	significant	ponder	devour	cryptic



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- How long was Rol with his uncle? *[3 years]* How old was Rol when he arrived at his uncle's house? *[Rol was 11 when he arrived to stay with his uncle—in the first chapter it mentions that Rol was currently 14.]*
- Why was Rol taken to stay his uncle? *[For training]* Was it to be a permanent arrangement? *[It was to be a temporary stay, although "temporary" was not defined for Rol.]*
- How did Rol first respond to his new situation? *[He complained often]*
- Did that change? *[Yes]* Why? *[Rol discovered that he and his uncle were a good student/teacher combination.]*
- Have you ever been in a situation where you were tempted to complain constantly? What did you do about it?
- Give an example from your experience when complaining improved a situation. **OR** Give an example from your experience when complaining made a situation worse.
- What do you think is the best way to handle something that is not pleasing to you?
- What were the reasons for prayer, according to Rol? *[To ask for something, to get help, for guidance]*
- What was another reason for prayer, according to DaTerrin? *[To give thanks]*
- **Digging Deeper**—Rol's uncle's name is A. Loysius DaTerrin, named after Aloysius Gonzaga, a holy man.
  - **Research Saint Aloysius Gonzaga's life.** He is considered a patron of students and all Christian youth. Why do you think he is someone for students and youth to have as a role model? What hardships did he face/overcome? When Aloysius was growing up, society was filled with dishonest, brutal, violent, and immoral behavior. He relied on God to help him make a difference to the people God put on his path. Do you think our world today is different? How, and are we better off, or worse off? What things did Aloysius do to be holy (e.g., to be more like Christ to others)? What can you do to make a difference? Do you find his life inspiring? Why or why not?



## Chapter 3: Continued

- **Digging Deeper**—There are four types of prayer. Read about them below, and then take a moment and pray to God using each of the four types of prayer statements:
  - **Adoration:** Praising and glorifying God in all His greatness, telling Him how much we love and depend on Him.
  - **Contrition:** Acknowledging our sinfulness and asking God for His forgiveness and mercy.
  - **Thanksgiving:** Giving thanks to God for His great love and mercy He has for us, as well as thanking Him for every good in our life.
  - **Supplication:** Asking God for something, always keeping in mind that God’s will, not ours, is most important.



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw what you imagine a rainfruit tree or orchard looks like.

**Nature Study:** Research: What is the difference between a fruit and a vegetable? What kind of fruit trees grow in your area of the country? When are the fruit ready to be harvested? Are there any orchards near you that offer “pick your own” fruit for sale?

**Writing as Rol:** As Rol, write about one or more of the following:

- The day your parents left you with DaTerrin.
- What you thought the first time you tasted a rainfruit.
- What you think about praying, considering the conversation with DaTerrin about prayer.
- Ponder what DaTerrin meant by his comment about you possibly being ready to make a big decision about your own future in three weeks. Will it really be three weeks? Was DaTerrin serious? How do you feel about that?
- Write a single prayer that uses all four types of prayer within it (Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication).



## Chapter 4: THE NIGHT



### VOCABULARY

endure	verge	refuge	doze	dexterous
rustle	brace	feeble	elixir	trek
arduous	fidget	haphazard		



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What was the advice that DaTerrin gave to Rol before The Night? *[Don't lose hope or all will be lost—and don't lose your socks, either.]*
- How did Rol feel about his night? *[He was disappointed in himself.]* Why do you think he felt that way?
- What was DaTerrin's response to the way Rol felt? *[Don't ever feel let down by yourself. And this is not the time to wallow in sorrowful thoughts, but to gather your strength for the next time you need it.]*
- Do you agree with this response? Why or why not?
- Think of a time when you did something that left you feeling “down on yourself.” What did you learn from that experience?
- **Digging Deeper**—Losing hope is a situation that people may experience in their lifetime as a result of facing large obstacles, or even just small ones. Helen Keller is an example of someone who struggled with obstacles beyond what most of us can imagine—loss of sight and hearing, and the inability to communicate in a manner that we take for granted. Basically, being in the dark and alone. But, throughout her life she persevered, and with the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan, and others, she was a powerful example of determination and hard work overcoming adversity. Research Helen Keller's life to understand her many challenges and successes. What happened to Helen at an early age and how did she act as a child? What could be seen as a true turning point in her life? How did she receive help along the way? What were some of her accomplishments, and how did she provide hope to others?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw the lizard that attacked Rol.

**Nature Study:** Research venomous lizards and write a short essay about their characteristics—where they live, what they eat, how they survive.

**Writing as Rol:** DaTerrin just left to go to town to “discuss local matters with the elders.” Write about your experiences on your ordeal, and what you are thinking or feeling now.



## Chapter 5: THE OTHER NIGHT



### VOCABULARY

orchard	nonexistent	panoramic	serenity	immeasurable
magnificent	awe-inspiring	remnant	berate	engulf
camouflage	ferocious	jaundiced	scraggly	unkempt
monstrosity	delusional			



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- When Rol and DaTerrin were going on a day hike, they packed food and had their walking sticks. What would you bring if you were going on a day hike?
- According to DaTerrin, what did “finding calm” start with? *[Prayer]*
- Why did DaTerrin have to keep the time on his mind? *[They did not bring materials to light their way in the dark or to build a fire.]*
- Have you ever considered your place in all of Creation? How did it make you feel—“small” like Rol did, or something different?
- What was DaTerrin’s advice for Rol regarding his smallness? *["You may be small, but you have a large friend. And he’s a good listener. He will help you be anything you want, if you just ask.... throughout your life, no matter what, you should never be afraid, and you should never feel alone."]*
- How does this advice make you feel? Why?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw a grumblegoblin. **OR** Draw the view from atop the hill-mountain on which DaTerrin and Rol ate their lunch.

**Nature Study:** If possible, take a family trip to a nearby mountain or hilltop from which you can see the land stretching out into the horizon. Looking around you, consider DaTerrin’s words to Rol—“The one who is larger than you created this for you. For you. He can do anything and is always there for you.”

**Writing as Rol:** Write about your thoughts and feelings as you were atop the hill-mountain, watching the sun set.



## Chapter 6: PEANUT SHELLS AND PUDDING



### VOCABULARY

obvious	understatement	uncanny	whopper	painstaking
venerable	nimble	slur	tremendous	indecipherable
delicacy	familiar	ordeal	extent	inquire



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- After his experience with the grumblegoblins, Rol woke up in a strange place. Where was he? *[At the home of Mrs. Crumblepockets, a neighbor of Rol's uncle, DaTerrin.]*
- What was unusual about Mrs. Crumblepockets' home? *[EVERYTHING—the exterior and interior walls were made of peanut shells and the ceilings were made of salted eel innards.]*
- Was Mrs. Crumblepockets herself unusual? How so? *[She made very unusual food.]*
- What was Rol's reaction to the first food he was offered? *[He was—at the same time—horrified and hungry. He attempted to taste it and decided it was not too bad.]*
- Many different cultures and civilizations in our world include insects on their menus. What would you do if you were in a foreign place and were offered bugs for dinner? Would you try the dish, or refuse? What if refusing was considered very rude and would possibly offend the person offering it to you?
- Describe what Rol's thoughts would be about Mrs. Crumblepockets if he had not had the experience with her.
- Have you ever judged a person by their appearance, or rumors about them? Think of a time when you may have missed an opportunity to get to know someone because you prejudged them. What do you think is the best way to judge a person and decide whether to be friends with them?
- In this chapter, the author tells us that Rol "clung to the hope he had inside, fighting the urge to feel sorry for himself." Was this a good thing for Rol to do? What do you think you would have done in his situation?
- Has there been a time in your life when you experienced something difficult and let grief and sorrow overcome you?
- Why is it bad to lose hope? How do you manage to hold on to hope when you are going through difficult times?
- What did Rol do to thank Mrs. Crumblepockets? *[He gave her flowers, along with a hug.]* Did Mrs. Crumblepockets appreciate his gesture? *[Yes]* How can you tell? *[The author tells us the hug "meant everything to her," and that the knowledge that she helped Rol through his difficult time "would sustain her the rest of her life."]*



## Chapter 6: Continued

- Why do you think Rol’s gesture was so important to her? *[Answers will vary, but given her peculiarities, it could be that the majority of people did not want to get to know her. The relationship she built with Rol, and his appreciation of her, were enough to truly make her happy.]*
- What lesson(s) can be learned from Rol and Mrs. Crumblepockets’ interaction in this chapter? *[Answers will vary, but may include: help can come from unexpected places, and we should be kind to everyone because sometimes the people we need or depend on are not people we are already friends with.]*
- In this chapter, the author tells us that deep down, Rol felt he needed to go find his parents. Does he decide right away that is what he is going to do, and why do you think that was a difficult decision?
- **Digging Deeper**—There are times when we all need the help of someone—a family member, friend, neighbor, or even a stranger. In most cases, those helpers are willing and available to assist in any way they can without expecting any payment or words of gratitude. Mother Teresa is an example of altruistic outpouring of kindness and generosity from one’s heart, without expecting anything in return. She is known as one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century. Learn about the life and charitable works of Mother Teresa—her unwavering commitment to humbly helping those in need and making a difference to one person at a time. How did events in her life shape her philosophy? What obstacles did she face? How was she recognized for her work, even though she did not seek praise or acknowledgment?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw Mrs. Crumblepockets’ home.

**Nature Study:** 80% of the world’s population eats insects as a regular part of their diet. Research bugs in your region of the world that are edible.

**Writing as Rol:** You wake up in the odd house and Mrs. Crumblepockets is nowhere to be seen. Write a journal entry detailing how you feel now. **OR** Write an entry detailing how you feel going through DaTerrin’s belongings.





## Chapter 7: A COLLECTION OF FOOTWEAR



### VOCABULARY

miscellaneous

cliché

jostle

restrain

wayward

scrawl

beloved

fulfilling

triumphant

blare



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- In the beginning of the chapter, Rol had to go through the expansive collection of DaTerrin’s shoes and boots to see if one contained what he was looking for. Have you ever had a situation where you needed to know something, or find something, and you weren’t quite sure where to begin? How did you start? Do you think it is better to wait, or to just get started and move from one thing to the next? Why?
- “Again and again, Rol reached into the shoes in the long line. Each time, nothing.” Think of a time you had to do something over and over again in order to achieve a desired goal. What was the goal? How many times did you have to repeat your actions until you achieved your goal? What would have happened if you had given up?
- If you are trying to find something or learn something, how many times should you try before you quit? What do you consider failure? *[Hopefully, the teacher and student will come to a discussion here about the only real failure is not trying...]*
- What was the first thing that Rol found? *[Money]*
- Did he stop looking after he found the map? *[No, he made sure there was nothing else left for him.]*
- Did Rol find anything in the shoes after he found the map? *[No]* Do you think it was good for him to check, or do you think it was a waste of time? Why?
- The author tells us that over the next few days, Rol was “organizing and preparing.” He also tells us that there were two routes from DaTerrin’s house to Rol’s familial home. Describe the two routes. *[One is fairly straightforward and the other was more winding with places that one might not want to visit.]*
- Which route do you think Rol should take, and why?



### ACTIVITIES

**Nature Study:** Learn about map making and create a map of your favorite park using your imagination to name areas of the park creatively—e.g. the slides can be “Slippery Slopes of Doom.” **OR** The truly ambitious can research leather moccasins and make a pair for themselves.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry about your thoughts and feelings as you plan and prepare. What feelings does the map evoke? What is going through your mind? **OR** Use your imagination and describe one thing you find as you are going through DaTerrin’s belongings. How does this discovery make you feel?



## Chapter 8: FIFTY FEET (NO MORE, NO LESS)



### VOCABULARY

hasty	agile	precarious	perch	inordinate
bombard	haggard	etch	tinged	anxious
inquiry	intimidating	disconcerting	rustling	efficient
unsavory	crude	pique	bewildered	



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- Rol finally decided it was time to go on his journey home. Why did he decide that moment was a good time? *[He decided to go before the weather turned worse in the upcoming seasons.]*
- How did he organize his supplies for the trip? *[Rol laid out what he had on the floor or against the wall to take inventory. Then he made a list of the things that he felt he needed.]*
- What supplies do you think you would need to take on a long journey in which you would be walking and carrying everything you chose to take along?
- How did Rol feel at first inside the shop? *[Dumbfounded, possibly overwhelmed.]* Why do you think he felt this way, and do you think you would have felt the same way?
- Describe the shop owner. *[He appeared to have traveled before, but not lately. Haggard, but friendly. Dark hair, sun-darkened skin. Scars on face and hands, uneven yellow-tinged teeth.]*
- How did he treat Rol at first? *[He asked questions in a rush. He tried to sell his best products, but also get rid of older products. It was questionable whether he was being 100% honest and helpful.]*
- What made the shop owner change his attitude? *[Rol was obviously not experienced and looked like he really needed help. The shop owner had compassion for him.]*
- Do you think things might have turned out differently if Rol had been too embarrassed for anyone to know that he wasn't sure what he was doing? Why?
- What was the shop owner's name? *[Anthononsense the Adventure Seeker, or Anthon for short]*
- How much rope did Rol get? *[50 feet]* How did he know that was the amount he needed? *[The shop owner told him.]*
- Do you think Rol was wise to trust the shop owner? Why or why not?
- How does Rol trusting the shop owner relate to the advice DaTerrin had given him previously? *[DaTerrin said in Chapter 1 to give people your trust and it is up to them to decide how to respond. Rol did exactly what DaTerrin advised by giving the shop owner his trust.]*



## Chapter 8: Continued

- On his way home, Rol ran into a peer who invited Rol to a nightclub. The author tells us that DaTerrin consistently tried to distract Rol from really noticing the place, or the people who frequented it. Why do you think that is? *[Answers will vary. The author tells us they were “unsavory.” Likely not a good place for a young man who is learning to “Be.”]*
- What happened in The Mace? *[Rol was mistaken for a performer. The club’s promoter suggested a new, fresh stage name, so people could relate to him better. Rol refused, and when the opportunity to leave presented itself, he took it. It was a confusing place and it was better that Rol did not stay.]*
- Have you ever wished you could have a stage name, or be “someone else” even if it were only for a little while? If so, why?

### LITERARY DEVICES IN CHAPTER 8



**Alliterations** are repeated consonant sounds at the beginning of words. Generally, alliterations help set the mood or rhythm of the story. Typically, it is considered a “true” alliteration if there are three or more words. Pairs of words beginning with the same consonant sounds are called alliterative. Find three examples of alliterations or alliterative pairs in this chapter: *[precariously perched piles, surprised at someone standing, (newly) found friends, (yellow) tinged teeth, particular products, truly trusted]*



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw Anthon the shop owner as you imagine him to be. **OR** Draw a pile of gear that Rol would have likely assembled for his journey. **OR** Draw a picture of Rol with his pack on his back, full of the gear he just bought. **OR** Draw a picture of Rol talking to Fh inside The Mace.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry about your experience at one of the places you recently visited in town—either the Local Adventure-Seeking Shop or The Mace. **OR** Write an entry about the entire day.



## Chapter 9: ON THE RIGHT PATH?



### VOCABULARY

determine	meander	arc	dire	celestial
solicit	Godspeed	afford	resume	ominous
innate	avalanche	monotony	gibberish	



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What big decision did Rol face at the beginning of the chapter? *[Which path to take on his journey.]*
- Who stopped by for a visit? *[Anthon, the shop owner]* Why did he come to visit? *[To give Rol a hat, for his travels, as a gift—no charge to Rol for making such a large purchase at his store.]*
- What did Rol ask Anthon? *[How did Anthon make it through difficult travels?]*
- What was the answer? *[When a situation arises, you have a choice: move forward or stop, maybe retreat. You must consider your options carefully, but don't wait too long to make a decision. Don't talk yourself out of something just because it may be challenging. And, as a side note, don't talk to yourself too much, unless you are certain you are alone.]*
- As Rol was leaving, whom did he pass? *[Mrs. Crumblepockets]* What was she doing? *[Shaking out a rug made of fish scales.]*
- What was Rol's attitude as he began his adventure? *[Positive, great weather, great day for an adventure, he loved being outdoors.]* Did his attitude change? *[Yes, to—I don't like being outside, this is a misadventure, I want to go back!]*
- Did he return home? *[No, he kept going]* Why do you think he made that decision?
- When Rol came to the fork in the road, which path did he take? *[The path to the north, presumably the more difficult path.]*
- Did Rol's path choice surprise you? Why?
- At one point, Rol began to lose himself in the monotony of walking and he stopped paying attention to where the journey was taking him. What happened as a result? *[He found himself in a swamp, unsure of how he got there.]*
- Have you ever found yourself stuck in an uncomfortable position and not really sure how you got there? What happened? How did you get out of the situation?



### LITERARY DEVICES IN CHAPTER 9



An **Allusion** is a literary device in which a reference to a well-known tale, character, event or place is found in a story. An example of this would be “All the wisdom of Solomon could not keep my sister out of trouble.” In that example, there is an allusion made to the story of Solomon in the Bible. This chapter contains an allusion, describing what could have happened if Rol let his imagination run wild about the map. What does that refer to? [*The ancient map in J.R.R. Tolkien’s book, “The Hobbit”*]



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** The author tells us that Rol “stopped occasionally when he came across a wondrous sight that invited him to remain for a few moments. Mountains, hills, valleys, streams, tame and wild animals, clouds, and sunsets were all glorious reminders of a blessed life.” Photography is an art form. Spend a morning (near sunrise) or an evening (near sunset) photographing nature. Find something that is beautiful to you and capture the image. If you want to try something more challenging, try to recreate the image using pastels or watercolors.

**Nature Study:** Go for a day hike of at least 6 hours and including eating one meal. Be sure to prepare and bring the gear you need to have on hand—food, water, a first aid kit, etc. It is a good idea to go with at least one other person—for safety reasons, but also to enjoy the experience even more.

**Writing as Rol:** Write an entry for your journal titled, “The Lesson I Learned, or, How I Ended Up in the Swamp.”



## Chapter 10: UNIQUELY SPECIAL



### VOCABULARY

unscathed

confounded

pancreas

muster

instill

enlightening

humility



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- The title of this Chapter is “Uniquely Special.” What does that mean to you?
- Once Rol got out of the swamp, the author tells us that when you are on “the path of life” you realize how alone you are on that path. Why do you think the author says this? Do you agree? Why?
- Rol then goes through several days of walking. Just walking. Uneventful, boring walking. How does Rol’s journey on the “Pancreas” relate to your own life journey? Is the journey always exciting and eventful? What did Rol do during this quiet time? *[Rol’s mind wandered, and he reflected on the past—times with DaTerrin, as well as times prior.]*
- Recall what you do during uneventful or boring times. Compare how you feel during quiet times to moments filled with activity, and explain which you like better.
- As Rol was reflecting, what did he recall about the way people in his own village treated him—or said about him? *[People said he was unique or that there was something special about him, and they seemed to have a hard time explaining it.]* Did these compliments affect Rol’s ego, or make him prideful? *[No]*
- Did Rol have any feeling or opinion about what others said about him? *[He tried, at first, to tell himself that he did not care, but he realized that he did care.]* Why do you think this is?
- How does it affect you when others pay you a compliment? What about when others say something that is a criticism?
- The chapter ends with, “And just when he began to think he was too weary to take even one more step, he walked out of a forest and into a clearing.” And then, he got excited about something. Compare that with a time that you had to do something and were glad that you took that extra step.
- Do you think it is worth the work, the tiredness, or the boredom in order to move onto something better, or do you think it is better to save your energy and just stay as you are? Why?
- Read Proverbs 10:4, 12:27, and 13:4. What do these verses say about being diligent in labors?
- Can you think of a character in another story you have read that showed diligence and perseverance?



### ACTIVITIES

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry about how you are feeling during the days of walking. The day you write the entry is on day eight of the “uneventful” walking.

## Chapter 11: **CONFUSION, ENLIGHTENMENT—AND TASTY, TOO**



### **VOCABULARY**

convincing	compel	vacant	encampment	faux
sullen	comprehend	ambition	lush	discernible
lurch	tentacle	plummet	outcropping	retort
assess	predicament			

### **COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION**

- What did Rol see in the clearing and what did he do? *[Rol saw tents and walked up to investigate.]*
- What did he discover? *[The place was deserted. There was one tent that had signs saying it was a psychic fair and it was "Guaranteed or Your Money Back." It also said to pay three silver pieces.]*
- What did Rol do after reading the signs on the tent? *[He paid the three silver pieces, before he had a chance to think about it. After thinking about it, he wanted to get his money back.]*
- Rol was convinced to pay by the convincingly matter-of-factness with which the signs were made. Rol realized that the signs were wrong, but only after he did what they wanted him to do. Do you think Rol deserved to get his money back? Why?
- Have you ever experienced a situation in which something or someone convinced you of something incorrect or untrue? How did you feel after you took time to think about it and realized you were misled?
- Has there ever been a time when you were misled by someone who believed what they were saying, but they were misled by someone else?
- What can be learned from these types of experiences? *[This is a very good opportunity to get the students to realize that hearsay is never a reliable source of information. Before believing someone, and especially before acting on a command or information, one should stop and consider if it is logical, if it is good to act, or if the act is in accordance with the truth of the matter at hand. The conversation can also address gossip. Many times when we pass on information that "so and so" tells us, we believe the person who told us, but they could have been wrong. Another way the conversation could go is with regards to media bias. Frequently, we are convincingly told something is true on television that may not be the full truth, or the truth at all.]*
- Re-read the conversation between Rol and DaTerrin that Rol reflects on just after leaving the "psychic fair." What do you believe about God as it relates to that conversation?
- What happened after Rol was finished eating his lunch? *[He leaned on a tree, which fell over and tiny blood-thirsty creatures called the Torg began to pursue him. Then, he ran right into a plant that wanted to eat him. Then he fell over cliffs.]*

## Chapter 11: Continued



- What was Rol’s attitude at first in the pit? *[Rol had an internal argument about how bad his situation was, and lost hope—or hope was “hiding” from him. Then he became silly, and then angry at his situation.]*
- Rol encountered the Torg, then a man-eating plant, then ended up in a deep pit without his pack, without food, and without a change of clothes. Do you think any of these situations could have been avoided? Why? How important is being aware of your surroundings? Why?
- **Digging Deeper**—During the complex and confusing times at the beginning of the establishment of the United States of America, Thomas Jefferson worked to make sense of it all. A man of principles and courage, he was called upon to author the first draft of the Declaration of Independence—a powerful testament to liberty and equality. It was a pivotal point in U.S. history that provided clarity to address the many issues faced by citizens of the day. At the same time, it exposed him to the possible consequences of being tried and killed for treason. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Research Thomas Jefferson’s life. Why do you think he included the words “endowed by their Creator”? How do you think that relates to one of his proudest life accomplishments—writing the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which established freedom of religion and the separation of church and state? Would you be willing to stand up for your beliefs the way he did?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Using watercolors, paint a picture of Rol enjoying his lunch on the downed tree in the forest.

**Nature Study:** Research carnivorous plants.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry after you have eaten your lunch on the bench in the forest where everything seems peaceful and calm. **OR** Write after falling into the pit, realizing that you should have been impaled on at least one or two of the spikes. How does that make you feel?



## Chapter 12: I'M ON AN ADVENTURE (AND SO AM I)



### VOCABULARY

agenda	mimicked	outdated	minuscule	narwhal
intent	recent	redirect	trod	hubbub
idle	denizens	akin	contradict	hamlet
flustered	punctuate			



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- Chapter 11 was the final Chapter in the first part of the book in which Rol was without a traveling companion. What were some of the lessons you think Rol may have learned so far? *[Trust others. Help comes from unexpected people. Be aware of your surroundings. Think before you act. Any other the student comes up with based on the adventure so far...]*
- What is the first thing that happens in Chapter 12? *[Rol gets rescued!]*
- Describe Rol's rescuer. *[Kearth is a boy about the same age as Rol. He used a gesture that was different from a handshake, one that was considered outdated. He seems to believe in magic and dragons and sorcery. He has wavy, light brown hair, doesn't smile much, and when walking, he is focused on the ground a few paces in front of him, rather than the broader surroundings.]*
- How did Kearth react when Rol said he wanted to check his pack and see if anything is left? *[He was offended, taking the comment personally.]*
- Was this resolved amicably? *[Rol explained that his comment was not to disparage Kearth, but since he had been in the pit for days, he figured the wildlife likely ate all his food.]*
- Have you ever had miscommunication with someone where either you or they took something said personally? What can we learn from this exchange?
- Rol and Kearth discussed Rol's journey so far, and Rol told Kearth about the tiny creatures, the plant, and the cliff. Kearth then said that Rol's journey is not adventurous so far. Do you agree with him? Why?
- How do you define adventure? What makes something exciting for you?
- Do you prefer things to go smoothly, or do you prefer a little excitement? Explain.
- What kinds of things did Kearth think made for an adventure? *[Magic, sorcery, wizards, talking animals, dragons, magic beans or pebbles]*
- What was Rol's response to what Kearth was hoping for? *[Those things do not exist.]*
- Re-read what Rol says to Kearth about "magic" things that are made up. What does that mean to you?

## Chapter 12: Continued



- Do you know of anyone who likes to use fantasy to distract them from reality? Is this good or bad? Why? Is it ALWAYS so? *[Hopefully the students will realize that imaginary places and creatures are OK in moderation, but not when they interfere with responsibilities or are used as a means to escape reality, and NEVER if it is trying to use occult/magic to manipulate the world around them.]*
- Do you think Rol and Kearth are likely travel companions? Why?
- How were Rol and Kearth alike? *[Both were approximately the same age, both were on their own, both were on an adventure.]*
- How were they different? *[Kearth was on an adventure-seeking trip, just to see the countryside, with no real plan. He was looking for “something other than home.” Rol had a plan, and a destination—home.]*
- Rol and Kearth entered a village called Tisbetterhere and a hamlet called Betterthanthem. Why do you think the names of these places are significant?
- It seems that the identity of these places are more about “other places” than about what they have to offer. What do you think about this?
- If you were Rol or Kearth, and you had to choose to live in either of those places, or keep moving, which would you choose? Why?
- Who else was in the hamlet of Betterthanthem? *[A man claiming to be a dragon hunter.]*
- How did Rol react to the “Dragonhunter?” *[He asked questions that challenged the man.]*
- What was the man’s response? *[His answers to Rol’s questions seemed rehearsed, and he told the crowd they would find out more at his show that night. He also mentioned the things he had for sale, and then he left—possibly to prepare for his show, or possibly because he was challenged in front of the crowd.]*
- How did the townsfolk react to Rol’s action? *[They all turned to scowl at him.]*
- **Digging Deeper**—It can be difficult to stand up for something you believe in, especially when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges and those who strongly oppose your beliefs. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a 20th century figure who stood against society’s hurtful racial opinions during his day. He was considered by many to be a visionary—a leader who was deeply committed to achieving social justice through nonviolent means. Research the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the impact he had on civil rights in the United States. What were some nonviolent methods he used to confront the increasing criticism and public challenges he faced? Considering the tension in those times, do you think you could have kept clashes from erupting?

### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw a picture of Tisbetterhere or Betterthanthem, with at least one person standingling.

**Writing as Rol:** Write an entry about your new traveling companion. What are your thoughts about him? Why did you decide to travel with him?



## Chapter 13: I LOVE A CHALLENGE



### VOCABULARY

intrigued	astound	ungainly	eon	probe
quip	rickety	nefarious	traverse	escapade
initiate	strenuous	survey	vantage	precautionary
wisp	inhabitant			



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What kind of place did Rol and Kearth come upon as they were leaving Betterthanthem? *[A “magic shoppe.”]*
- Describe how it looked inside and out. *[It was very run down on the outside, and even worse on the inside, which was dusty, dirty, cobwebby, and musty.]*
- Describe the encounter they had inside the shoppe. *[The shoppekeeper showed them several “magic” items. When Rol or Kearth asked questions, they were not really answered, and when specifically asked if any of the magic items actually had magic, the shoppekeeper said that they did not.]*
- Rol and Kearth had to make their way across the deepest chasm they had ever seen, and the only way across was a rickety bridge made of wood and rope. Do you think you could/would have crossed that bridge? Why?
- Do you think Rol and Kearth, seeing the challenges ahead of them—the bridge, then the two crazy-high-and-difficult-to-traverse mountaintops—should have turned back and found an easier path? Why?
- What did Rol and Kearth notice in the valley? *[A hidden house]* How did they approach it? *[Very cautiously]*



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw the view the journeyers saw, standing on top of the small mountain.

**Nature Study:** Learn about mountains and valleys. How were mountains formed? Are mountains still being made today? How? What kinds of animals live on mountains?

**Writing as Rol:** On your travels, you and Kearth have been through the Straits of Straight-up Pain, the Cave of We’ll Have None of That, and over the River of Aaaaaaaaaaagh...Splash...Ohnooooo. Write a journal entry about any one of those adventures, what happened, and how you both survived.



## Chapter 14: FLOWING TEARS AND NOISY NOSES



### VOCABULARY

hospitable	awry	cacophony	formulate	reluctant
nonsensical	infer	nifty	diplomacy	diversion
tactic	ploy	gnarled	hilarity	gusto



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- Who lived in the cottage? *[A farmer]* What did he do for food in the valley? *[He fished in the river and tended a dunfapple orchard.]*
- Why didn't he have any meat to eat or furs for warmth? *[He did not hunt.]*
- Who did Rol and Kearth meet next? *[The Eye Lenders tribe]*
- What did the leader of the tribe do to Rol and Kearth? *[He had them tied them to a tree overnight while the tribe slept.]*
- How did Rol feel about the situation? *[He was angry and frustrated.]* What was the most difficult emotion for Rol to deal with? *[Guilt]*
- What is the most difficult emotion that you have had to deal with? Why do you think you struggle with that emotion over others?
- What did Rol end up doing for the Eye Lenders? *[He established a trade agreement between them and the farmer so the farmer would give dunfapples and fish in return for meat and furs.]*
- After the negotiations between the farmer and the tribe, what realization did Rol and Kearth come to? *[Quick thinking beats a sharp spear point.]*
- Can you think of a time in your life when quick thinking was better than having strength or fighting skill? Is fighting always avoidable? Why or why not?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw the Eye Lender leader.

**Nature Study:** In our world, a dunfapple is not a real fruit. Research different types of fruit—through websites, books, magazines, or a trip to the grocery store—with the goal of discovering 2-3 types of fruit that you have not previously seen, or tasted.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry describing your first experience with a dunfapple. What does it look like, smell like, taste like?



## Chapter 15: TAGGING ALONG



### VOCABULARY

rugged	jagged	ragged	inflection	monotonous
raucous	trustworthy	lyre	dumbfounded	dismay
behemoth	proclamation	nonplussed	commotion	respite



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What is the setting in the beginning of Chapter 15? *[The Battering Ram—a local eatery in a small village Rol and Kearth entered in the last chapter]*
- What happened there? *[Rol and Kearth were approached by a stranger who introduced himself.]*
- What was the stranger-soon-to-be-acquaintance’s name? *[Fhfyrd, pronounced “Feared”]* Describe him. *[He was not much older—likely just a few seasons—than Rol and Kearth. A rugged, outdoorsy, “manly” type with a sword and scabbard.]*
- What did Fhfyrd want to do? *[Join Rol and Kearth on their journey]*
- How did Rol and Kearth react? *[Rol was nonchalant, but Kearth did not want to travel with Fhfyrd, and did not trust him.]*
- Are you more like Rol, or Kearth? Why?
- After more traveling, what was Kearth’s disposition? *[He was grumpy.]*
- What did Rol do the second morning? *[He prayed.]*
- What was the question that Fhfyrd asked Rol? *[Why he is always happy.]* What was Rol’s response? *[He said he figured he could either be hungry and happy or hungry and miserable, and that happiness is a choice. It is not always an easy choice, but he tries to be happy.]*
- Do you know someone who always seems happy? Do you believe that happiness is a choice? Why?
- Kearth also asked Rol if he ever worried about what would happen to him in the future. What was Rol’s response? *[Rol said he tries to prepare for things, and learn from past experiences, but worrying about things that may never happen is a waste of time.]*
- Do you agree with Rol’s perspective on happiness and worrying? Why?
- The author tells us that the time playing in the water was a nice break from the day-to-day. Rol had a journey he was on, with a destination he was hoping to reach. Do you think you would have been able to stop and play in the water, or are you more of a “get it done” type? Based on your answer, do you think that is a strength or a weakness?

## Chapter 15: Continued



### LITERARY DEVICES IN CHAPTER 15



**Foreshadowing** is a literary device an author uses to give clues to events that will come later to add suspense. The last paragraph of this chapter has foreshadowing in it. Try to guess what it may be foreshadowing. *[The chapter ends with “Enjoying a breath of fresh air was more important for the travelers than they could have possibly imagined as they approached the day and night ahead.” Unknown at the time of reading, the sentence foreshadows the fact that they will hike through the Breathtaking Mountains, which have an unpleasantly accurate name.]*

Special Words: **Homonyms** are words that sound alike but have different meanings. What homonyms led to a little confusion when Rol and Kearth were discussing whether to travel with Fhfyrd or avoid him? *[Liars & lyres]*



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw a murphhht.

**Nature Study:** Research at least one creature that you might find under a rock in a stream or riverbed.

**Writing as Rol:** Fhfyrd asked why you always seem happy. As Rol, write about an experience in your life when you allowed a negative emotion to get you down, what you learned from it, and how you came to the conclusion that happiness is a choice.



## Chapter 16: **WARTY AND MELODRAMATIC**



### VOCABULARY

optimal	breathtaking	procure	misshapen	argumentative
overbearing	meek	superfluous	treacherous	disingenuous
duplicitous	insidious	melodramatic	sycophantic	chasm
irate	perseverance	oasis		



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What was the mountain range called that the travelers happened upon? *[Breathtaking Mountains]*
- Why was this name a fitting one? *[This name was fitting because the companions awoke in the middle of the night unable to breathe.]*
- Who figured out what was going on and saved all their lives? *[Fhfyrd]*
- What came after the rain? *[Bears]*



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** The travelers came upon the Breathtaking Mountains, then a valley, and another mountain range. Using Play-Doh, clay, or paper mâché, make a diorama of the terrain they covered.

**Nature Study:** Bears are a common animal found in many parts of the United States. Research bears and what to do if you are out on a hike and encounter them.

**Writing as Rol:** Write an entry describing exactly what it felt like when you were having your breath taken away, so future travelers will understand your ordeal.



## Chapter 17: **HOLD ON**



### VOCABULARY

scale	steel (verb)	barrel (verb)	jolt	grasp
swipe	breadth	pry	yelp	crush
incessant	instinct	rapid		



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- How many bears were advancing on the trio? *[There appeared to be 15 bears.]* Was there an easy way to escape the bears or get to safety and avoid a confrontation? Why? *[No. The cliffs were straight up and smooth, with nowhere for them to go except in the direction of the bears.]*
- If there had been a cave for the travelers to run into, would it have been wise to enter it? Why?
- How did the three travelers escape certain death? *[Ropes were thrown over the side of the cliff.]*
- At first, were all three able to escape? *[No]* Why? *[There were only two ropes.]*
- Why did the companions fight over the ropes? *[Rol felt responsible for Fhfyrd and Kearth and told them to grab the ropes, but they did not want to leave Rol behind.]* How did they resolve the conflict? *[A “voice from above” said to stop arguing and Rol told the other two to “Go. Now. Live.” They obeyed.]*
- What happened next? *[Another rope was lowered for Rol, but there was an intense game of Tug of War between the those holding the ropes from above and the bears below, and Rol was the prize.]*
- Who won the game of Tug of War? *[We don’t find out this chapter. As the bears were hit by rocks from above, the one that was on Rol’s backpack fell, but at the end of the chapter, Rol loses consciousness.]*



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Make a clay model of a bear.

**Nature Study:** Research cliffs and how they are formed.

**Field Trip Idea:** Learn about rock climbing and rappelling. Take a trip to climb rocks—either outdoors or in an indoor rock climbing facility.





## Chapter 18: A PROPER BURIAL



### VOCABULARY

unknowing	interject	inflict	makeshift	conscious
roundabout	rebut	frayed	destiny	



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- Who was buried in a solemn ceremony as the chapter opens? *[The bear that held on to Rol's pack]*
- Why did Fhfyrd and Kearth decide to bury the bear? *[The bear was what Rol landed on when he fell and probably saved his life by providing a softer landing place than the ground.]*
- Who was at the top of the cliff and saved Rol and his companions? *[The tribe of Eye Lenders they met previously]*
- Fhfyrd figured out what the Eye Lenders were really calling themselves. What was it? *["Highlanders," but their accents made it sound like "Eye Lenders"]*
- What question did Kearth ask Rol when he was recovering? *[Kearth asked why Rol was following the less-than-direct path when there was another route on the map that looked easier and more direct.]*
- What was Rol's response? *[He said that he just felt it was what he was meant to do.]*
- What did Rol say when Kearth asked about just going straightforward and not wandering so much? *[Rol told Kearth that their path might not be the most direct, but it is what he feels he is supposed to do, and he cannot change that.]*
- Kearth suggested that he may have to part ways with Rol. How did Rol take it? *[Rol said that Kearth and Fhfyrd should make their own decisions, which he would accept. Rol did not argue, whine, or try to guilt his companions to stay with him. He recognized that not everyone follows the same path in life.]*
- Have you ever had to part ways with a friend? How did you feel? Do you try to keep in touch?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw a picture of Rol as he is recovering.

**Nature Study:** Learn basic first aid for cuts, scrapes, and bee stings. More severe cuts may need to be stitched or cauterized—especially if professional medical help is far away. If possible, practice “stitching” with a needle and threading two pieces of fabric together. A visit from a certified First Aid instructor may be appropriate to help with the activities.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry, as you are going to sleep for the night, about your thoughts on whether or not Kearth will continue traveling with you.



## Chapter 19: VOICES AND HORSES



### VOCABULARY

carnivorous	venture	fantastic	indicate	tortuous
unbearable	trudge	crescendo	species	beckon
noncommittal	forelegs	dispute	dubious	beneficiary



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What did Kearth decide about the journey? *[He decided to keep traveling with Rol and Fhfyrd.]*
- What did the townsfolk of Grubbyfingerston warn the travelers against doing? *[Taking the East road.]*
- What did Rol, Kearth, and Fhfyrd do? *[They took the East road.]*
- Why did they do that? *[They were curious. No one in the town really knew what would happen on the East road, and no one really knew what was even ahead on the East road.]*
- Do you think they were foolish to take the road they took? Why?
- What did they see on the road on the way to the ruins? *[They saw signs warning them against death and dire circumstances, sponsored by businesses, calling them back to the town they were just in.]*
- How did they know they reached the Ruins of Definite Despair? *[There was a sign that told them so.]*
- What did Skinny the Ruins Hermit tell the group about the Ruins? *[He said he could hear the voices of the dead.]*
- Did anything happen while they were at the ruins? *[Not really. Skinny fell asleep, then heard Rol speak and assumed it was a voice from the dead communicating with him. Then he ran off to tell others he heard it.]*
- What do you think about Skinny hearing voices? Was he mistaken...confused...lying?
- Do you think bad or untrue rumors begin with a "grain of truth?" Why?
- Think about a time you repeated something you heard without verifying it was 100% true and accurate. Could you have been wrong? What are some consequences of passing on misinformation?
- What did the travelers happen upon in the forest? *[They found three horses and signs saying they were free.]*
- Did they take what they had found? *[Not without thinking about it and discussing the possible reasons why they were free and what strings may be attached.]*



## Chapter 19: Continued

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- What did Fhfyrd yell as they began riding? [*"Honor and glory!"*] Why do you think he yelled that?
- Would you yell something dramatic and motivating in a situation like that, or would you be quiet? Why?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Sculpt Rol's horse out of clay.

**Nature Study:** Research horses. Were there always horses in North America or other continents? What are some different types of horses?

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry about finding the horses and how you befriended MoonBlack.



## Chapter 20: A GIANT PREDICAMENT



### VOCABULARY

superior	exasperation	retro	chagrin	diabolical
stereotype	foliage	minimal	comical	tilt
tense	potential			



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- Why did Kearth want Fhfyrd to wait? *[Kearth wanted to know why Fhfyrd called out what he did.]*
- What was Fhfyrd’s reaction? *[Fhfyrd was frustrated at having his epic moment spoiled and discussed.]*
- Have you ever had an “epic moment” in your own life that was over too soon? What happened?
- Were the horses that the companions found really free? *[Not really. There were bandits nearby, waiting for someone to take the horses, but they fell asleep and missed the travelers.]*
- Where did Rol, Kearth, and Fhfyrd stop to spend the night? *[They stopped by a beautiful pond.]*
- What was the mistake they made during the night? *[No one stayed awake to keep watch.]*
- Why was that a mistake? *[Two “small giants” came out of the woods to fetch water.]*
- Why was their mistake less catastrophic than it could have been? *[The giants were young and inexperienced in battle. They had no idea how to take the horses, and they were easily scared off by Fhfyrd, Kearth, and Rol.]*
- **Digging Deeper**—George Washington stood tall against the giants of his day—the British army. He was appointed the role of military leader at a very young age and eventually was considered a military hero, chasing away the opposing armies and bringing an end to the Revolutionary War. He was strong in his moral conviction with great personal integrity and a deep sense of honor and duty. George Washington also had a strong sense of humility. He believed that the larger cause of liberty was more important than an individual, and proved that by humbly accepting the office of President as a citizen, when he could have been an all-powerful monarch. Learn about the life of George Washington and imagine what you would have done in his role. What challenges did he face? How did he overcome them? What was his role in the birth of the nation? Did he accomplish what he did with the help of others, or by working alone?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Make a clay version of a “small giant” (to go with your clay horse).

**Writing as Rol:** At first, you and your companions did not know what to do about the “small giant” that was wrestling Kearth’s horse. Write a journal entry about your initial thoughts when seeing what was happening, as well as your overall encounter with the giants.



## Chapter 21: "DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY..."



### VOCABULARY

grandiose                      theretofore                      optimism                      downtrodden                      stale  
undaunted                      deflect                      damper



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What did Kearth tell Rol and Fhfyrd he once had? *[Kearth said he once had a horse.]*
- Why did he say that he no longer had it? *[He did not want to feed the horse, so it ran away.]*
- What did the travelers decide to do to avoid running into more giants? *[They planned to sleep/rest during the day and ride at night.]*
- What did Rol ask Kearth about as they sat by the fire? *[His parents]* What was Kearth's reply? *[He said he could not remember his mother, and his father was a "great adventurer" who never left the house except to do chores.]*
- Does Kearth's description of his father make sense? Why?
- How were everyone's spirits that night as they rode? *[They were all pretty miserable because they were very wet—in fact, everything was wet.]* Why? *[It was raining.]*
- Who tried to lighten the mood, and how? *[Rol tried talking about the happier points of their adventures to distract his companions from thinking about the present misery.]*
- What was thrown at Rol? *[Kearth's boot]* Why? *[Presumably because Kearth was in one of his moods.]*
- What happened that made the travelers decide to stop for the night? *[Kearth "lost" his boot and asked if anyone had seen it—really, he threw it at Rol when Rol was talking about the better times of the journey. Fhfyrd decided it was a good time to stop.]*
- Have you ever been so miserable or felt so hopeless that someone else's attempt to be cheery made you angry? How did you handle it? What did you learn from that experience?



### ACTIVITIES

**Nature Study:** Research why a person gets colder when they are wet.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry about how you feel as it is raining and everything is wet, and you just had a boot tossed at you for trying to be cheery. (In case you were wondering, the journal you are carrying is waterproof...)



## Chapter 22: **SMELLS GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT**



### VOCABULARY

pungent                      odoriferous                      induce                      reel                      encrusted  
putrid                      rotund                      orifice                      thwart                      imbibe  
synchronous



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What was the first indication of the town the travelers were approaching? *[They could smell the town.]*
- Describe the smell based on the description. *[Answers will vary, but it was nasty, awful, pungent and unpleasant.]*
- What did the town look like when they first saw it? *[A complete mess]*
- Why did the travelers stop in such a place? *[They had to get off their horses to avoid them collapsing from the smell. Then the horses left them there.]*
- Describe the inside of the town. *[It was clean, and looked and smelled nice.]*
- What was the name of the town? *[Smelton]* Why was the day of their arrival special? *[Smelton was having a banquet to celebrate its anniversary.]*
- How did the anniversary celebration end? *[The mayor asked Kearth to say a prayer of thanksgiving, but Kearth "lost his voice" and Rol said the prayer instead.]*
- Rol "prayed aloud from his heart." Do you think it was "the perfect end to the celebration?" Why?
- What lesson about appearances can be learned from the Smelton experience? *[Don't judge something based on the way it looks (or smells).]*



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** There are many forms of art—visual arts, performing arts, etc.—and within those categories, there are many variations. Another type of "art" is culinary art—that which has to do with cooking and/or preparation of food. Plan a three course feast for your class or family. Think not only of the food you would serve, but also of ways to decorate the plates or arrange the food to make the meal look more appealing.

**Nature Study:** Study decomposition. Why is decomposition important? How do things decompose?

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry after your feast, reflecting on the day's events.



## Chapter 23: BREAKFAST IS INCLUDED



### VOCABULARY

gracious	abuzz	witty	terrain	empathy
adverse	insightful	contraption	suspicious	unfounded
debacle	sanguine	melancholy	ecru	umber
portent	lugubrious	tchotchke		



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- On the first page of this chapter, Fhfyrd, Kearth and Rol discuss whether or not the town is “too good to be true.” Do you think they were being paranoid, or were they wise to feel a need for caution? Why?
- Did the townsfolk do anything harmful to the travelers? *[No]* In light of that, do you think Rol and companions were wrong to be wary? Why?
- How many nights did they stay in Smelton? *[Two]* Why did Rol want to stay a second night? *[Rol believed that he and his companions needed the rest, the good food, and comforting surroundings.]*
- What did Kearth buy in Smelton? *[A wooden wagon that could be used to transport their belongings]* Was Kearth happy he made the purchase? *[At first he was very pleased. Then he had to leave it behind due to the terrain and he regretted having bought it—and whined about it for a long time.]*
- What lesson(s) about people can be learned from the Smelton experience? *[There are people who are genuinely concerned with the well-being of others. Each person in society has value and is able to contribute—no matter their age or social standing.]*
- What can we learn from the “wagon episode?” *[Some students may point out that the wagon salesman was not trustworthy. Some may point out that the wagon was useful for two days and Kearth should have had a better attitude about the help the wagon did provide for as long as they had it. The conversation can be steered a little to help the students realize that impulse purchases are frequently regretted.]*
- Have you ever bought something that seemed like a great idea, and an even better deal at the time, only to regret it later? How did you feel about that and what did you learn from it?



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Draw a picture of Kearth pulling his WonderWagon with the three packs in it.

**Nature Study:** When going on a hike, what kind of terrain might you encounter? What are the challenges or hazards to each type of terrain?

**Writing as Rol:** Write a journal entry about the pleasantness with which Kearth awoke, and how his cheerfulness impacted your thoughts/attitude for the day. Include in your writing your thoughts on how one person’s attitude/behavior can affect others around him/her.



## Chapter 24: EPIC SALAD



### VOCABULARY

ballad

previous

cantankerous

perplex

proactive

prompt

startle

trance

stupor

odyssey



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What is an “Epic Salad?” *[Rol said that what the group needed was an adventure song or ballad. Song + Ballad = “Salad”]*
- Were Kearth and Fhfyrd as excited about the idea of a Salad as Rol was? *[Kearth liked the idea, but could not think of anything to contribute. Fhfyrd didn’t really seem to care about it.]*
- What finally prompted Fhfyrd to join the Salad conversation? *[He was hungry, therefore he was also grumpy.]*
- Why was Fhfyrd upset? *[Kearth had agreed to buy food for the three travelers in the last town, and he failed to do so. Therefore they did not have food to eat, and he was hungry and cantankerous about it.]*
- What was hurled at Rol as they were traveling? *[A couple of spears, by the Eye Lenders]* Why? *[The tribe mistakenly thought Rol and his companions were someone else.]*
- What happened next? *[The tribe helped the trio to their feet and continued on their own adventure.]*
- The travelers seems to not hold any grudge or anger against the Eye Lender tribe that almost killed them, why do you think this is? How do you think you would have reacted?
- Who finally came up with the Salad? *[Kearth]* How long did it take him? *[A couple of days]*
- What do you think of the Salad?



### ACTIVITIES

**Nature Study:** There was no life—no creatures—to be found in the stream the travelers crossed. What could be some reasons why? Research the safety of drinking water from outdoors sources, and what might need to be done to make water drinkable.

**Writing as Rol:** Write a poem, song, or Salad about your adventures so far. **OR** Pick one specific thing that has happened to you on your adventure and write a poem, song, or Salad of at least three verses.



## Chapter 25: DAISIES AND OTHER DISTRACTIONS



### VOCABULARY

accursed	weary	passive	loom (verb)	utterly
herculean	bothersome	shaft	absentminded	millennium
waft	condescending	frank	heartily	preposterous
accusatory	switch (multiple meanings)			



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What kind of animal did Kearth say he once had? *[A rabbit]* Why did he not have it any longer? *[The rabbit didn't like Kearth because he called it names. It ran away.]*
- What lesson did Kearth say he finally learned from his rabbit? *[He learned not to speak out of anger and call anyone names.]*
- Has anyone ever called you hurtful names? How did that make you feel? Have you ever called someone names out of anger?
- How long did Kearth's resolution to not say words of anger last? *[Until that afternoon]* Is it easy to keep silent and not speak out when you are angry? Why?
- What can you do to vent your feelings instead of giving into anger in a way that might be hurtful to others?
- What bad habit did the author tell us Kearth had picked up? *[Spitting]*
- Why was Kearth angry and in a foul mood in the afternoon? *[The path was so monotonous.]*
- What happened to provide a change in circumstance and scenery? *[First they found a stream, then they were attacked by a tribe of 10,000 tiny (bug sized) little warriors.]*
- How severely were they injured in the attack of the tiny people? *[Not very, as it was more of an annoyance, like a bug bite. It covered only the area of a fingernail or so on their skin.]*
- Why did Kearth and Fhfyrd quarrel in the morning? *[Fhfyrd woke up and said he was "fresh as a daisy." Kearth had no idea what that meant and was upset at his lack of understanding.]*
- Have you ever been in an argument with someone, or had angry feelings toward someone who you had a difficult time communicating with? What happened, and how did you resolve the situation?



### LITERARY DEVICES IN CHAPTER 25



An **idiom** is a phrase people use in which the meaning of the phrase is different than the literal meanings of the words in the phrase. For example: “slipped my mind” means that I forgot, not that my brain somehow slipped inside my head, and “costs an arm and a leg” means that something is very expensive, not that you must actually give someone a real arm and leg to get it. The phrase “fresh as a daisy” is an idiom. Find out its meaning. What other idioms can you think of? List at least three.



### ACTIVITIES

**Art:** Make a rabbit out of Play-Doh or clay.

**Nature Study:** Plant and grow a daisy seed. Better yet, plant several in a nice pot to give to someone special. Be sure to research the type of daisy you are planting for optimal soil and water requirements.

**Writing as Rol:** Write an entry about your attack by the “little warriors.”



## Chapter 26: **IN THE END, FAMILIAR FACES**



### VOCABULARY

sopping

havoc

memento

bickering

transfiguration

fringe

embark



### COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- What was the weather like for the first part of this chapter? *[It rained for 3 days straight, hard.]*
- What was Rol doing while it was raining? *[Whistling tunes that DaTerrin had taught him]*
- What were Kearth and Fhfyrd doing when Rol awoke on the final morning of the journey? *[Praying]*
- How did Rol feel about this? *[Rol felt happy, thankful. The author tells us “Rol had no words. His eyes filled with tears, and a quivering smile came to his lips. His heart felt as though it would burst.”]*
- The author tells us that in the future, Rol would recount that moment as the most inspiring and fulfilling moment of the entire journey. Why do you think that is?
- In your opinion, what influence did Rol have on his companions’ decision to pray? Why?
- In the story, Rol never shamed his friends for not praying, or insisted that they pray—yet there they were, praying. St Francis of Assisi is quoted as having said “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.” How does that relate to this event in the story? How can you “preach without words?”
- Who was the first person to welcome Rol home? *[His father]*
- After Rol was reunited with his family, who did Rol see? *[Rol saw DaTerrin, his uncle.]*
- What did Rol’s father call Rol, that Rol did not understand? *[Our hope]* Why did Rol undergo the training and preparation he had gone through? *[To be a leader of his people]*
- Making the journey that Rol made was the only way for him to acquire what? *[The practical wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, and awe and respect for God that Rol would need to lead his people.]*
- Are these qualities or traits familiar to you? *[They are the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit.]*
- **Digging Deeper**—Research the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pick one of the gifts and tell how you think it perfects a certain virtue that you feel you need to work on in your own life. What can you do to develop that gift and therefore develop the related virtue?



### ACTIVITIES

**Writing as Rol:** Write one final journal entry on how it feels to be home—your thoughts about your journey, what you learned, any experiences you wish did not happen, and any questions you may still have.



# EPILOGUE



## VOCABULARY

guardian

attire

demeanor

uncivilized

accompany



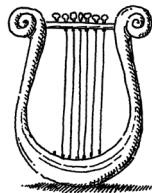
## COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION

- In Rol’s conversation with his uncle, DaTerrin remarked that it may take time for Rol to forgive him for allowing him to believe that Rol was the cause of his uncle’s disappearance and possibly death. Did Rol forgive him right away, or did it take a couple days? [*Rol forgave him right away.*] Do you think you would have forgiven DaTerrin right away? Why?
- What were the qualities that DaTerrin said Rol possessed that made him different or special? [*DaTerrin said that Rol was compassionate, positive, insightful, courageous, and humble.*]
- DaTerrin suggested that these qualities would make Rol a “true leader.” What do you think it means to be a “true leader?”
- Are there any other qualities that you think a true leader must possess?
- How is a leader different than a dictator or a boss?
- Do you know anyone who you feel is a true leader? If so, what traits does he/she possess to make you think that way?
- Did Kearth and Fhfyrd stay in the village or leave right away for their next adventure? [*As of the end of the book, they were still in town.*]
- Did they feel that the difficult journey was worth the effort? [*Yes, not that they would do it all over again, though*]
- *Be: The Journey of Rol* contains positive messages of hope, perseverance, trust, being thankful, and having a positive attitude, among others. Give an example of each of those positive messages in the book from memory and discuss with others. Did they recall the same situations?



## ACTIVITIES

**Writing as Rol:** Your adventure chronicles are not over. Write a short story about an adventure that you, Kearth, and Fhfyrd get into in your village—or in the surrounding area—that takes place over at least two days. Perhaps you hike or go fishing and get lost for a day, or run into new creatures, or just have some bad luck and lose your lunch, and find the tasty bugs that Mrs. Crumblepockets fed to you during your recovery.





## END OF BOOK PROJECT IDEAS

### A Journey of Your Own

Invite someone into your class who has hiked/camped extensively. Possibly someone who has hiked the Appalachian Trail or some other long distance trail. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-distance\\_trails\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-distance_trails_in_the_United_States) for any long distance trips that may be in your area. Generally, if you are not sure of where to find a resource for this, the Boy Scouts of America or a sports outfitter such as REI or Bass Pro Shops would be a good place to start. If you have a smaller class, and it is feasible, take your students to a store that specializes in hiking and camping gear. Let the students walk around and discuss what they would pack for a trip that could take a couple weeks, and price out their selections. If possible, go on a weekend backpacking hike.

### MAKE "WORM PUDDING"

#### Ingredients

1 package Oreo® cookies, crushed  
2 cups cold milk  
1 package chocolate instant pudding mix, small pkg. (4-serving size)  
8 ounces Cool Whip® topping, thawed  
1 package gummy worms (optional)  
8 plastic cups (to serve the pudding in)

#### Directions

- Put cookies into a sealable bag and close tightly.
- Using a rolling pin, roll and crush the cookies until crumbly. Set aside.
- Pour the milk and chocolate instant pudding mix into a large bowl.
- Whisk well until all of the pudding mix is dissolved.
- Let stand 5 minutes.
- Add the Cool Whip and 1/2 of the crushed cookies.
- Stir until well blended.
- Place a large spoonful of crushed cookies into the bottoms of the plastic cups.
- Add the pudding mixture on top of that until the cups are 3/4 full.
- (Optional) Put one gummy worm on top of mixture, half in and half out of the pudding. Spoon in more crushed cookies around the worm to hold it in place. If you do not add the worm, top the pudding with a little more of the "dirt." (Oreo cookies)

## Reviews for *Be: The Journey of Rol...*

“Spiritual and moral lessons feature prominently in Colegrove’s debut fantasy, a playful coming-of-age adventure.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

“*Be: The Journey of Rol* is a terrific tale of friendship, survival, and discovery that is sure to be a favorite of boys and girls. As a teacher of grades 4 through 6, I very much appreciate a story that promotes values such as perseverance and courage. Children will relate to the main character of Rol who shows us curiosity, passion, and ingenuity throughout the story. A wonderful surprise for the reader is the author’s use of clever word play and humor throughout the story. I look forward to future episodes of this series!”

— *Advanced Language Arts teacher*

“What a journey! Young readers are treated to an extraordinarily well-written, wholesome and captivating story. Finally, a book with good moral characters and uplifting messages! Ric Colegrove has a wonderful style—infused with wit and excitement. It’s a fabulous adventure! I can’t wait for the next book in the series! I am a middle school teacher and would love to see this on the library shelves and in the hands of every middle school student.”

— *Middle school Language Arts teacher*



[thejourneyofrol.com](http://thejourneyofrol.com)

Visit the website for more information on *Be: The Journey of Rol* including character blogs, educational games for children, reviews from children and adults, background information on the series and characters, and more.