

## The Railway Children Chapter 14 Answers

1. Why does the author choose not to reveal the old gentleman's name?
  - a. Because it would not make him seem more real to the reader and it keeps one last secret - maintains mystery
2. What changed about life at Three Chimneys after the old gentleman's visit?
  - a. They got a cook and housemaid and they didn't like Mrs Viney so she starts coming only two days a week, and the children don't get tea ready or wash up or dust anymore because they say it's easier for them to just do it themselves, and they have lessons from mother now
3. Why do you think mother writes all the children rhymes about their lessons?
  - a. They all find themselves wishing they could be learning what the others are learning instead of doing their own and to show them that she understands this and that they find things difficult
4. Why do the children make a special trip to the railway to wave to the 9:15?
  - a. Because Phyllis is worried the railway misses them and Bobbie doesn't like that they're not sending their love to Father on it anymore
5. What was out of the ordinary when the children waved to the train?
  - a. Instead of just the old gentleman waving, everyone on the train did, and did so wildly - this was because the old gentleman put them all up to it at the station
6. Why can't Bobbie finish her lessons?
  - a. Because she feels unwell - the funny waving from the train made her think something was going to happen but she didn't know what
7. In what way was everyone acting strangely, or so Bobbie thinks, as she walks to the railway station?
  - a. They're kissing her and shaking her hand and generally being extra kind to her because they know that Father's been released
8. Why do you think Father sends Bobbie in first to tell Mother he's there?
  - a. Probably so as not to shock her too much
9. What do you think some of the overall themes of the book have been? Think about what the author has been trying to really say with this story, or what you have learned from reading it.
  - a. Family and the pain of an absent father, sibling relationships, the importance of kindness and friendship, bravery, moving to a new place, the impact of financial struggles on children
10. Do you think the story is more about any of the siblings in particular or are they all as important as each other?
  - a. It feels to me that we have seen much more of Bobbie's emotional life throughout the book and seen things from her point of view the most, and I think it's very telling that she was the one to meet Father in this chapter, but I think convincing arguments could be made otherwise