

Galahad 1: The Comet's Curse

Part One: Vocabulary

Locate any word that is either unfamiliar or interesting to you. Find the definition of each word from a dictionary, and write the definition in your own words, showing that you understand the meaning. Then write a sentence that uses the word in context, circling the word, and underlining other words that serve as clues to its meaning.

Part Two: Research Activity

Spend some time researching comets, either from books or online. Find out where they come from, what they're made from, and how the sun affects them as they approach. What are the most famous comets? What did comets represent to ancient civilizations? What would happen if a comet collided with Earth?

Part Three: Comprehension

Answer each of the following questions in complete and meaningful sentences.

Chapters 1 – 13

1. What is Triana feeling as Galahad leaves Earth, compared to the mood of the other characters? What kind of pressure does she feel?
2. Why would some people on Earth be reluctant to support the Galahad project? What are the arguments for and against it?
3. How has Bon's relationship with his parents shaped his personality?
4. Why would Peter's encounter in the Storage Sections cause alarm? What else could explain what he saw?
5. In these first 13 chapters, what is the most crucial plot introduced to the story? Also, list a minor plot that involves two or more characters.
6. What element does Roc bring to the story?

Chapters 14 – 28

1. How did the death of Triana's father affect her? How did it play a part in her decision to join the crew of Galahad?
2. The designers of the ship made sure that Galahad experienced days and nights. How did they accomplish that, and why is it important?
3. What two characters on the ship have the strongest points of view in the story? How does their connection with a third character create an atmosphere of tension?
4. Besides the crew, Galahad has a variety of life forms aboard, most of it in the Farm Section. What purposes do these life forms serve on the ship? Be sure to consider more than just the plant life.
5. When we catch a glimpse of Lita's mother in Chapter 26, what two conflicting emotions do you believe she's dealing with? How would you feel in her place?
6. What does the conflict between Dr. Zimmer and Tyler Scofield in Chapter 28 lead you to believe might happen later in the book?

Chapters 29 – 40

1. What are the various forms of exercise (physical and mental) that the crew of Galahad participate in? Why is each important?
2. What technique is the intruder using to create fear among the crew?
3. Why does Triana keep a journal? What does she gain from it?
4. What happened in the intruder's life that made him want to destroy the ship?
5. How would you describe the setting near the Storage Sections? How does that fit into the suspense of the story?
6. During the climax of the story, a brush with death allows two characters to briefly open up and share their feelings. Afterwards, how are their reactions different? How do you think this might affect their relationships with other crew members?
7. An underlying theme to Galahad 1: The Comet's Curse involves loneliness. Describe how several of the characters, on the ship and on Earth, had their own personal bouts of loneliness.
8. What did Triana realize was her father's greatest gift?