

The Wreck of the Zanzibar
Michael Morpurgo

Great aunt Laura

1. Where was the funeral of Great Aunt Laura? Find the answer in the text
1 mark

2. Page 1: why do you think he did not recognise the cousins, aunts and uncles? 2 marks

3. 'Standing room only'. What do you think this means? Imagine what the place must have been like. 1 mark

4. Page 2: why do you think the wallpaper was peeling and the curtains faded? Think about when the room must have been used last ... 2 marks

5. What had Aunt Laura left for Michael? Why do you think this is a good thing for Michael to have? 2 marks

6. Page 5. Why do you think Michael would say 'marzipan' instead of 'zanzibar'? 1 mark

January 20th

1. Why do you think Laura wanted to be Lady Eugenia? 3 marks

2. 'Everyone is pleased with me'. Find this phrase. Why is everyone pleased with Laura? 1 mark

3. Page 12. What did Laura use to see the chief climbing up the ladder? 1 mark

4. Page 13. "cry in peace". Why do you think Laura wants to do this? What does this show about her character? 2 marks

5. Why is Billy threatening to go to America? How is he feeling about father at that moment? 2 marks

February 12th

1. Page 15 'missing the hen house by a whisker'. Imagine a whisker. Why do you think the author has used this phrase to describe the wind and the hen house? 2 marks
2. Why did they never hear the pine tree fall? Copy out the part that tells you. 1 mark
3. Page 16. 'Don't worry. Something will turn up'. Mother says this – what does this say about her character? 2 marks
4. Does mother mean these words? How do you know? Copy the part that tells you 1 mark
5. Page 17: top of the page. Why is Billy in trouble again? 1 mark
6. Page 17: 'father buttoned his lip'. What does this mean? What does it look like? 2 marks
7. Copy the phrase at the end of the chapter that tells you that Billy does not usually spend time thinking.

February 14th

1. Page 19. How does Laura know the calf is dead? Copy the sentence that suggests this. 1 mark
2. Page 20. Why did Laura not tell father? Copy out the part. 1 mark
3. Father sat in 'stony silence'. What does this make you think the silence was like? 1 mark
4. Page 22. Why does Billy not manage to be told about Molly? 2 marks
5. What do you think of Billy? Think of 3 words to describe him. Find evidence in the text to back up each of the words you have given.

February 15th

1. How does the author capture our attention in the first line of the chapter? 2 marks
2. Why does the author repeat: 'Billy was gone'? 2 marks
3. Page 25. Billy 'won't hear a word against him'. What does this phrase mean? 2 marks
4. Page 25. 'hold his tongue', Find this phrase. What does it mean? 2 marks
5. Page 26. How does Billy try to make Laura feel better? 2 marks
6. What does mum mean when she says to father ' you drove him away'? 2 marks.

July 21st

1. At the start of the chapter, Laura is feeling very sad. Why is this? 3 marks
2. Why do you think this entry in the diary is so short? 2 marks

July 30th

1. Why does Laura think it is better not to hope for things? 1 mark

July 31st

1. 'Plucked up courage'. What does this phrase mean? 2 marks
2. Page 34. Why is father so cross with Laura? 2 marks

August 23rd

1. Start of the chapter. Copy the two things that prove Rosie is sick. 2 marks
2. What would make everything alright again, according to Laura? 1 mark

September 6th

1. 'The skies full of anger'. Why does the author use personification here? 2 marks
2. Why do you think Granny Mae did not want to leave her home even with the storm brewing? 2 marks
3. 'Mother paid her no heed'. Find this part and read again. What does it mean? 1 mark
4. Why will there be flooding? Find this word in the text and figure out the answer. 1 mark
5. What does Laura think may happen to the island? 2 marks

September 7th

1. 'The meadows are a great lake'. Why has this grass area filled with so much water? 1 mark
2. Page 40. Why did father sob (cry)? 1 mark
3. Page 41 'like a giant had trampled all over it'. What type of writing is this? What impression does it give you of what had happened? 2 marks
4. Why do you think they do not tell Granny about her house? 2 marks
5. Why does Laura realise she still loves father do you think? 2 marks

September 8th

1. Page 41. What was Laura collecting? What do you think this is? (think of the two words in the word). 1 mark
2. Page 44. Copy the words used to describe the face of the turtle and to emphasise how old it looks. 2 marks
3. 'I bombarded the gulls with pebbles'. What does 'bombarded' mean? 1 mark
4. Page 45. What must sea lettuce be like if it can be used to make a pillow? 2 marks
5. Why did Laura not tell father about the turtle? 1 mark

September 9th

1. Page 49. What did Laura want to do with the turtle? 1 mark
2. What did Laura tell the turtle? 3 marks
3. Page 53. Why did Laura shout at the turtle and slap its shell? 1 mark
4. When that did not work, what did Laura do? 1 mark
5. Top page 55. How did Laura work out that the turtle was hungry? 1 mark
6. What was Granny Mae's suggestion? 1 mark
7. Page 58. Copy out the part that shows the turtle liked the jellyfish. 2 marks
8. Why does Laura not like jelly fish? 1 mark
9. Page 59. Find the word 'cavorting'. Read the part it is in. What do you think this word could mean? 2 marks
10. At the end of the chapter, Laura says her wrist aches. Why does her wrist ache? 1 mark

October 25th

1. What does it mean when they are all not speaking?
2. What does it mean when Granny secretly smiles at Laura?

November 1st

1. Why is Laura curled up tight at the start of the chapter? 2 marks
2. Why do the family have to keep eating limpets? 1 mark

November 30th

1. Why is mother worried about leaving? 1 mark
2. Why does father make the decision to leave? 1 mark
3. Page 68: 'faces gaunt with hunger'. What do you think 'gaunt' may mean? 1 mark
4. Why is Laura so angry?
5. What do you think of Granny Mae's character? Why do you say this? 2 marks

December 8th

The family only leave the home for two reasons – what are these?

December 9th

1. Top page 75: "I could scarcely open my eyes'. Why could Laura hardly open her eyes? 2 marks
2. Page 79. Laura took her rowing seriously. Copy out the parts that tell us so. 2 marks
3. 'A thunderous wave reared up above us'. This is a powerful piece of imagery – what does it make you realise about the waters? 2 marks

December 10th

1. Why does Laura go into Billy's room at the start of the chapter? 1 mark
2. Why do you think she feels she has to do this? 1 mark
3. Which animals were on the ship wreck? Why were mother and father happy about this? 2 marks
4. Which food and drink were on the shipwreck? 2 marks
5. Why were they so happy with the shipwreck? Write as if you were father telling the family what can happen now there has been the ship left on the island. 3 marks

December 25th

1. Write the thoughts of Granny when she hears a turtle has been found. 3 marks

2. What is the 'turtle' that has been found?

3. What does Laura do with it for all the children?

Who is your favourite character in this book? Why? Explain fully and use parts of the text to back yourself up.

What did you most like about the island? Write one thing.

Write one thing you did not like about the island?

What was your favourite part in this book?

Find ten words that are new words to you but used a lot in the book. What does each word mean?