

# The Dreaded Cliff



## It's All in a Word

1. Flora enjoys creating words. Her word, “snibble,” is a common word, “nibble,” with an extra letter. Adding the extra “-ish” to make the word “lavish-ish” feels more satisfying to her. Combining two words, “sublime” and “glorious,” makes a fun new word, “sublorious”.  
Make up your own word that is meaningful to you. Use it in a sentence or try writing it in a short story. See if another reader can guess its—*your*—meaning.

2. Flora wavers between calling the snake by a name, “Bubba,” and not calling him a name. Why does she call him “Bubba” at first?

Why does she resist calling him that name when she’s thinking about harming him further after she captures him?

She goes back to calling him “Bubba” again. Why? What has changed?

In your life, can you think of times when using someone’s name instead of a label such as “girl,” “boy,” “guy” or “lady” affects your attitude or behavior toward that person?

3. Flora sings a “song” near the end of the story (pg.219) when confronting the snake. What is the song about? Why does the song give her courage to confront the snake? Could the song be coming from past packrats who lived in the ancestral packrat home?