

The Dreaded Cliff



Story Questions

1. Where does the first part of the story take place, specifically and generally? (Hint: One of the illustrations has a clue that suggests in what state Flora lives.)

Where does the story take place after Flora and her nest go for a journey?

2. Name the things and places that are familiar to Flora at the beginning of the story.

3. What or who are the “two-legged rodents?” Why does Flora call them that?

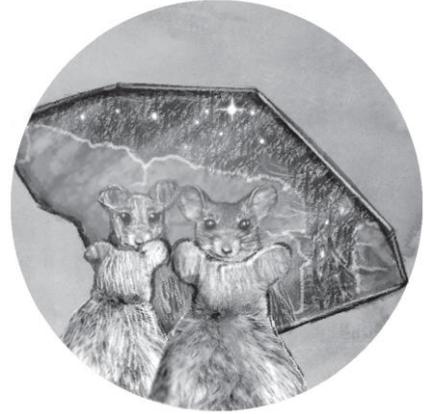
4. Why do packrats call the cliff “dreaded?” What happened there?

5. Why does Grandma Mimi tell Flora that remembering the cliff is important for packrats? Is there a place or something connected to your family history that is important for you to remember?

6. What is the “jangly-crate?” Why does Flora call it that?



7. Where does Gertrude live?
8. What activities do Flora and Gertrude enjoy doing together?
9. What is Grandma Mimi's "gift" to Flora? What role does this gift play in the outcome of the story?



10. What is "packrat etiquette?" How did Flora learn it?
11. Why do you think King Cyrus allows Flora to stay in his burrow?
12. Why do you think Flora goes along with King Cyrus' belief that he is a king?
13. Paco has difficulty understanding the power of his quills. Why? Why does he think others avoid him? When does he understand better how powerful his quills are? Name all of Paco's powers and skills. Which do you like the best?
14. Why is Flora irritated with Dayana when she first encounters her?



15. Why doesn't Flora want Paco to injure the owl further? Why does Flora help the owl?



16. What does King Cyrus' need from others? How does he satisfy that need?

17. How does Flora determine that the snake will not wander around on a cold night? What evidence does she use?

18. What skill, knowledge, or talent does Flora learn from each of her friends? How does she use each skill to prevail with the snake?

19. What do you think is Flora's most useful talent? Why? What is a trait that holds her back, but she learns to overcome? Do you have a talent? Do you have a trait that could be holding you back from achieving something you want?

20. How does Flora change from the beginning to the end of the story?

21. What is Dayana's hope for carrying on an important skill shared in her rabbit family? Does she satisfy her hope?

22. Where does Flora find the red bulldozer? What does she think it is? Who leaves it? Do you think it is an intentional gift for Flora? Why or why not?





23. Why do you think Flora does not hurt the snake? Does she take a risk in doing that? Why?

24. What is the “crazy quilt?” How does Flora use it in her plan to overcome the snake?



25. When Flora runs under the boulder to get away from the snake, why does she think he is right behind her? Do you ever think you’re in big trouble and imagine all kinds of bad things happening even when things are really okay? Why does that happen?

26. Who or what does Flora see in the ancestral home at the end of the story? Do you think what she sees is a comfort for her?