The Mosquito Coast

Chapters 1–4

1 Look at the following words to describe Allie Fox: weak, ordinary, full of ideas, intelligent, dull, a dreamer, strong-minded, lazy, practical. Look up in a dictionary any of these you don’t know. Can you think of any other words to describe him?

2 Answer the following questions.
   a How are the Fox children’s lives different from other children’s lives? Write down three ways.
   b What does Allie Fox hate about America? Write down three things.
   c Why doesn’t the Fox family need much money to live? Write down three reasons.

3 Work with another student. Charlie hears his father and Mr Polski shouting at each other. What do you think they say to each other? Imagine their argument and write the dialogue. Then practise it together.

4 Look up Honduras and the Mosquito Coast on the Internet or in books. What can you find out about this part of the world? Can you find any pictures or information about what life is like in this area? What dangers are there? Is life easy or hard there? Do people have the same things in their lives in this part of the world as you do? Find out as much as you can and create an information sheet including facts and pictures.

5 Answer the following questions.
   Who does Charlie learn about life in Honduras from?
   a Emily?
   b the captain of the Unicorn?

6 Are the things Charlie finds out about Honduras similar to what you found out when you did your research? Write a short paragraph about this.

7 Write a page of Charlie’s diary. You are Charlie and you are on the ship travelling to Honduras. In your diary, write about how you feel about leaving America, what you are looking forward to and what you are afraid of. Also write how you feel about your father.

8 Talk to a partner. Imagine you and your family have given up everything and gone to live in the jungle. What things or people will you miss the most? Write a list of ten things you will miss. How does this compare to your partner’s list?

9 Write the following letter. You are Charlie. You have arrived in Honduras. Write to one of your friends back in America and tell him or her about your journey and your first impressions. Describe what you have seen on the beach and what you know about the people. Include how you are feeling about it all.

Chapters 5–9

10 Underline the words that are wrong. Write the correct words.
   a Jeronimo is on the coast.
   b Father tells Mr Haddy that America is a great place to live.
   c Father has thrown Mr Haddy over the side of the boat.
   d Mother and Mr Haddy catch five fat fish.
   e Father doesn’t want to stop at Santa Rosa because it’s not on the map.

11 Work with another student. Imagine you are Mr and Mrs Maywit. Talk about father. Who is he? Why has he come? What does he want? What difference is he going to make to your lives? Have the conversation.

12 Answer the following questions.
   a How are the children’s daily lives different now from when they lived in Hatfield?
   b What do the Maywits do every day now that they didn’t do before?
   c Why doesn’t father want Mr Struss in Jeronimo?
   d Why is father so happy in Jeronimo?
13 Match the two parts of the sentences. Join (a–f) with (1–6).

a People are afraid of Fat Boy …..

b Father says that everything he makes …..

c Charlie thinks the inside of Fat Boy …..

d When the children play …..

e The children have learned …..

f The Maywits’ real surname …..

1) to find food and medicine in the natural world.

2) is like the inside of his father’s head.

3) because they think it is magic.

4) they pretend they are back in America.

5) is Roper.

6) he copies from nature.

14 Write an account of Charlie’s life in the jungle and what you think about it. Describe Charlie’s life. What are the conditions like? Is it hot, cold or wet? What does he do all day? Does he have any time to play? Can he go anywhere? Would you like to live like this? Are there any advantages to living like this? What do you think the disadvantages would be?

15 Match the following words (a–h) with their meanings (1–8).

a missionary …..

b jungle …..

c mosquito …..

d banana …..

e savage …..

f dock …..

g brilliant …..

h clearing …..

1) a long curved fruit with a yellow skin

2) an open area in a forest

3) a small flying insect that bites people and can give you a dangerous disease

4) a place in a port where ships can tie up

5) very clever

6) a thick forest in a hot place

7) someone who goes to a foreign country to teach people about the Christian religion

8) a rude word meaning someone who lives only just above the level of an animal

16 People have lived in the jungle for centuries without ice. Write down reasons why Fat Boy is a good thing for the Indians and the reasons why it is a bad thing. Compare your reasons with another student’s.

Chapters 10–13

17 Write a short paragraph about father’s character. Think about the following questions. What sort of person is he? How does he treat his family? Why does he want to take ice to the Indians? Why does he want to be in control? What does he think about God and the missionaries? Does he have a likeable character?

18 Draw a picture of how you think the family looks now. Use collage, pencil or computer generated images. Include the house boat they are living on.

Chapters 14–16

19 Use these words to write sentences about the events at Guampu.

large clearing church music TV Father lesson opposite bank of the river Father pipanto Jerry and Charlie Emily America lights the sound of a shot the pipanto back down the river

20 Work with a partner. It is five years later. Mother and the children are back in America. Charlie tells his friend about his time in Honduras. Have the conversation.

21 With another student, do the following role play.

Student A: You are Charlie. Tell your father why you need to get away from Honduras. You want to persuade him to leave and go back to America. Give your reasons why things are not working out in Honduras and why America would be better.

Student B: You are Allie. You think America is finished and that you can’t go back. You still want to stay where there is no television, no toys, no ‘poison’. Have the conversation.

22 Write another chapter of the book. You are Charlie. You have been back in America for five years. Think about the following. How has your life changed? Have you gone to school or have you had to work to help your mother support the family? Has your mother married again? What has happened to your brothers and sister? Have you seen Emily or any of the Spellgood family?
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The Mosquito Coast

Chapters 1–3

1 Tick (✓) the sentences that are correct.
   a The person telling the story is Father. □
   b Charlie is thirteen years old. □
   c The family live in Northampton in the United States. □
   d The twins are called April and Clover. □
   e The twins are six years old. □
   f Allie Fox is Charlie’s father’s name. □
   g Allie is a pleasant character. □
   h Allie doesn’t want his son to go to school. □

2 Underline the right word or words in
   a Father lost part of his finger working on the land / making an invention.
   b Father works for himself / for Mr Polski.
   c Charlie doesn’t go to school because he has moved around too much / his father doesn’t believe in school.
   d Little Boy is Charlie’s little brother / one of Father’s inventions.
   e Charlie’s father loves / hates America.
   f The family take the ship from Baltimore / Northampton.
   g The name of the ship is the Hatfield / Unicorn.
   h On the ship, the family meets the Spellgoods / the Maywits.

3 Write the correct word from the box in each sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>delighted</th>
<th>mosquito</th>
<th>bike</th>
<th>dock</th>
<th>brilliant</th>
<th>block</th>
<th>banana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

   a A small flying insect that can give you a dangerous disease is called a …………
   b A piece of hard material with straight sides is a …………
   c Someone who is very clever is …………
   d If you haven’t got a car, you can ride a …………
   e If you are very pleased about something, you are …………
   f If you are hungry in the jungle, you can eat a …………
   g When a ship comes into port, it goes into a …………

Chapters 4–10

4 Match the letters (a–g) with the numbers (1–7).
   a The Zambus ….. 1)
   b Emily Spellgood ….. 2)
   c Mr Struss ….. 3)

Chapters 11–16

5 Choose a verb and put it into the right form to complete the sentences.
   have can never see wash turn bring cannot believe
   a The women ………… clothes but no one is wearing any.
   b Father thinks these people ………… a white man before.
   c Father can’t believe that the ice ………… to water.
   d He tells the Indians that next time he ………… them ice.
   e He tells the ‘prisoners’ to escape if they …………
   f The ‘prisoners’ ask Father if he ………… any guns at Jeronimo.
   g On the way back Father says the Indians ………… the ice he showed them.

6 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   a They travel up the mountain to show the Indians ice. □
   b The men of Seville are pleased to see the group of travellers. □
   c There are white men there who seem to be prisoners. □
   d The people of Seville are excited to see the ice. □
   e When they return to Jeronimo, the Maywits have left with Mr Struss. □
   f The white men with guns arrive at Jeronimo and expect to be looked after. □
   g Father prepares a place for the men to sleep under Fat Boy. □
   h Charlie meets Emily again. □
   i Charlie finds out that America has been destroyed in a war. □
   j Father is quite mad by the end of the book. □