

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl – Session Five

Read Chapter 8 & 9



Word analysis

1. On page 109, the thin man **thrusts** his cane into the umbrella stand. What does this tell you about how he did it?
2. On page 112 the canary is described as being an **unrepairable** mess. Which phrase best describes Mrs Chivers' mechanical bird?
 - a) has lost all its feathers
 - b) unfixable jumble
 - c) would be difficult to mend
 - d) upset and dangerous
3. Look at the paragraph that starts, after a while there was a low sound... on page 114. What word has the same meaning as the word **echoed**?
4. On page 117, the fox is described as lapsing in silent **contemplation**. What word is the best antonym for contemplation?
 - a) forget
 - b) sleep
 - c) search
 - d) chase
5. On page 123, in the paragraph that starts, 'As you prefer,'... Which word is a synonym for lopsided?
6. At the end on the same page, Madame Verdigris tells Lily that she is no longer **a young lady of means**. What does this phrase mean?

Fact retrieval

1. What time was it when Robert lit the lamp because the light was fading on page 109
2. The thin man has entered the clockmaker's shop, what stopped Robert from hearing him? (page 109)
3. On page 113, what reason does Robert give his father to explain the destroyed mechanical canary?
4. What reason does Malkin give Robert on page 117 that explains why he has been so grumpy and rude?
5. On page 121, why were the mechanicals gradually disappearing?
6. On page 124, Madame explains a mistake that Mrs Rust made. What did she do?

Inference

1. When on page 109, Mr Roach enters the clockmaker's shop, why do you think his colleague, Mr Mould stays outside?
2. How is Robert feeling when he swallows the prickly dryness at the back of his throat on page 112?
3. Does the mechanical fox react in the way Robert expects when he winds him up on pages 114 & 115? Use evidence from the text to explain why.
4. Malkin is unsure of the message that John has asked him to give Lily. Can you explain the difference in meaning between the two messages on page 119?
5. On Page 124, Madame Verdigris describes Mrs Rush pouring oil into her soup? Do you believe her? Why?
6. What do you think is in the polished rosewood box? Why do you think this?

Deep thought

Even though Malkin, the mechanical fox, is grumpy and sarcastic, he is still a brilliant friend. If you could have any mechanical animal, what would it be and why?

