



Dear Subscriber

Thank you for making an enchanting story experience possible
for a young reader in your life

QUESTION PROMPTS AHEAD

RHENA'S



PATH

FROM THE AUTHOR

You may already enjoy hearing your young reader talk about the story and need no suggestions for extending that interaction. However, I have included these questions to help recall the action of the story as it progresses and prompt discussion. Remember that whatever the reaction of the reader is, it is genuine and worthy of respect no matter how you might view it. We all experience a story from our own perspective and level of observation. Please resist the temptation to steer the answers to a conclusion you wish. Sadly, school curricula have often done damage to both the honest enjoyment of written stories and the gift of curiosity by pushing the reader to a prescribed position. Honest joy in a story for its own sake is the great gift that may deliver a “treasure beyond measure.”

CHAPTER 1

(IN WHICH AN ELF COUNTS HIS DAYS AND RHENA LONGS FOR FREEDOM)

WHY DO YOU THINK RHENA DISLIKES ALL THE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS PLACED ON HER?

CHAPTER 2

(IN WHICH RHENA AND MARTA MAKE A BOLD PLAN AND GAIN PERMISSION TO LEAVE)

WOULD YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH THE PLAN IF YOU WERE RHENA? WHY OR WHY NOT?

CHAPTER 3

(IN WHICH RHENA TRAVELS THROUGH TOWN ON HER WAY TO ARCHERY PRACTICE)

WHY DO YOU THINK RHENA PAYS SO MUCH ATTENTION TO EVERYTHING AROUND HER DURING THE WALK?

CHAPTER 4

(IN WHICH RHENA PRACTICES ARCHERY AND LEARNS PATIENCE FROM JIPPIT)

HAVE YOU EVER PRACTICED SOMETHING THAT FELT IMPOSSIBLE AT FIRST, UNTIL A MOMENT CAME WHEN IT SUDDENLY “CLICKED” AND MADE SENSE?

CHAPTER 5

(IN WHICH A GOLDEN RING STIRS AN OLD MEMORY)

SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST THINGS CAN HOLD THE BIGGEST MEANING. WHAT IS SOMETHING SMALL THAT MEANS A LOT TO YOU?

CHAPTER 6

(IN WHICH RHENA’S SECRET LESSON SPARKS TENSION AT THE KING’S TABLE)

I WONDER HOW RHENA FELT WHEN HER FATHER QUESTIONED SISTER ANGELIQUE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE?

CHAPTER 7

IN WHICH SISTER ANGELIQUE TEACHES RHENA TO SEE IN A NEW WAY

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TAUGHT SOMETHING IN A NEW WAY THAT HELPED YOU UNDERSTAND IT BETTER?

CHAPTER 8

IN WHICH QUESTIONS GROW ABOUT JIPPIT AND THE KING'S JUDGMENT

WHY DO YOU THINK RHENA WANTS SO BADLY TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT JIPPIT, EVEN WHEN IT MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE?

CHAPTER 9

IN WHICH RHENA WAKES FROM TROUBLING DREAMS AND HEARS OF A STRANGE OMEN

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DREAM THAT STAYED WITH YOU LONG AFTER WAKING?

CHAPTER 10

IN WHICH RHENA HELPS PLAN THE FOOL'S DAY FESTIVAL

DO YOU THINK RHENA IS TRYING TO DISTRACT HERSELF FROM HER WORRIES, OR TRULY ENJOYING THE PLANNING?

CHAPTER 11

IN WHICH RHENA RECEIVES A PORTRAIT AND GLIMPSES JIPPIT'S DEEPER HOPES

HOW DO YOU THINK IT FEELS FOR RHENA TO HAVE HER MOTHER'S PORTRAIT SUDDENLY MOVED INTO HER ROOM?

CHAPTER 12

IN WHICH THE KING QUESTIONS JIPPIT'S BELONGINGS AND GIVES WARNINGS

WHY DO YOU THINK THE KING IS SO CAUTIOUS ABOUT JIPPIT AND HIS BELONGINGS?

CHAPTER 13

IN WHICH A BLACK CAT APPEARS AND CHOOSES RHENA

WHAT DO YOU THINK MADE THE BLACK CAT GO STRAIGHT TO RHENA INSTEAD OF ANYONE ELSE?

CHAPTER 14

IN WHICH THE JESTERS PRACTICE AND FESTIVAL WORRIES GROW

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO DO SOMETHING IN FRONT OF OTHERS THAT MADE YOU FEEL NERVOUS?

CHAPTER 15

IN WHICH THE KING ANNOUNCES THE FOOL'S DAY CELEBRATION

WHY DO YOU THINK THE KING CHOSE THIS MOMENT TO ANNOUNCE SUCH A BIG CELEBRATION?

CHAPTER 16

IN WHICH FOOL'S DAY BEGINS WITH MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES

WHAT MOMENT OF THE CELEBRATION DO YOU IMAGINE WOULD FEEL THE MOST MAGICAL IF YOU WERE STANDING IN THE CROWD?

CHAPTER 17

IN WHICH A JOYFUL DAY ENDS WITH DOUBT AND WORRY

DO YOU THINK RHENA REGRETS HER ACTIONS THAT LED TO JIPPIT'S ESCAPE?

CHAPTER 18

IN WHICH THE BLACK CAT BRINGS RHENA A MYSTERIOUS NOTE

DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD FOLLOW THE CAT, OR STAY WHERE YOU ARE? WHY?

CHAPTER 19

IN WHICH RHENA FOLLOWS THE CAT AND MEETS THE DUCHESS

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE DUCHESS AFTER HEARING WHAT SHE TELLS RHENA?

CHAPTER 20

IN WHICH RHENA SEEKS ADVICE AND TRIES TO UNDERSTAND HER CHOICES

WHO DO YOU THINK RHENA SHOULD TRUST MOST RIGHT NOW, AND WHY?

CHAPTER 21

IN WHICH RHENA FOLLOWS THE CAT OUT OF LEORNA

WHAT MAKES RHENA CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THE CAT AGAIN EVEN THOUGH SHE KNOWS IT COULD BE DANGEROUS?

CHAPTER 22

IN WHICH RHENA AWAKENS FAR FROM HOME ON THE NIGHTMARE

IF YOU SUDDENLY WOKE UP FAR FROM HOME LIKE RHENA, WHAT WOULD YOU TRY TO DO FIRST?

CHAPTER 23

IN WHICH RHENA DISCOVERS A WAY TO SEE OUTSIDE THE ENCHANTED TENT

WHAT HELPS YOU STAY CALM OR BRAVE WHEN YOU FEEL TRAPPED OR UNSURE WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

CHAPTER 24

IN WHICH RHENA ESCAPES THE TENT, MEETS THE RIVER LADY, AND LEARNS THE DANGER OF HER LOST RING

WHY DO YOU THINK THE RIVER LADY'S WORDS GIVE RHENA COURAGE, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE MYSTERIOUS AND A LITTLE FRIGHTENING?

CHAPTER 25

IN WHICH RHENA WAKES, WATCHES, AND FORMS HER PLAN TO RECLAIM THE RING

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO PRETEND YOU DIDN'T KNOW SOMETHING—OR HIDE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS—TO STAY SAFE OR FINISH SOMETHING IMPORTANT? HOW DID THAT FEEL?

CHAPTER 26

IN WHICH RHENA PRETENDS TO TRUST THE DUCHESS

WHY DO YOU THINK THE DUCHESS'S STORIES AND KIND WORDS ARE SO TEMPTING FOR RHENA TO BELIEVE, EVEN THOUGH SHE KNOWS THE LADY IS DANGEROUS?

CHAPTER 27

IN WHICH RHENA ENDURES ANOTHER NIGHT FLIGHT AND SEES THE DUCHESS'S TOWER AT LAST

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SCARED OF SOMETHING AT FIRST, BUT THEN NOTICED SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL OR INTERESTING THAT MADE YOU SEE IT DIFFERENTLY?

CHAPTER 28

IN WHICH RHENA REACHES THE TOWER AND MUST KEEP PRETENDING WHILE DANGER GROWS

HAVE YOU EVER GONE SOMEWHERE THAT LOOKED BEAUTIFUL ON THE OUTSIDE BUT STILL FELT A LITTLE FRIGHTENING OR STRANGE TO YOU? WHAT MADE YOU FEEL THAT WAY?

CHAPTER 29

IN WHICH RHENA EXPLORES THE TOWER, MASKS HER FEAR, AND WONDERS WHO THE DUCHESS TRULY IS

HAVE YOU EVER SUDDENLY SEEN YOURSELF IN A NEW WAY? OR NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR OWN ACTIONS THAT SURPRISED YOU?

CHAPTER 30

IN WHICH JIPPIT FOLLOWS FORGOTTEN WAYS, AND DARK SIGNS TROUBLE THOSE IN LEORNA

MARTA AND ANGELIQUE CAREFULLY SORT THROUGH STRANGE CLUES ABOUT BATS AND CATS INSTEAD OF PANICKING. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THEIR WAY OF RESPONDING TO WORRY?

CHAPTER 31

IN WHICH RHENA LEARNS MORE BY WATCHING THAN BY BEING TAUGHT

THE DUCHESS SAYS RHENA MUST “UNLEARN” OLD WAYS BEFORE SHE CAN GAIN NEW POWER. WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS BY THIS?

CHAPTER 32

IN WHICH RHENA FINDS A WAY INTO THE DUCHESS’S CHAMBERS

I WONDER WHICH OF RHENA’S IDEAS YOU WOULD HAVE ALSO COME UP WITH? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE TRIED FIRST?

CHAPTER 33

IN WHICH RHENA SEARCHES THE MYSTERIOUS CHAMBERS

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL EXPLORING THE DUCHESS’S ROOMS, NOT KNOWING WHAT MIGHT BE HIDING BEHIND EACH DOOR OR INSIDE EACH CABINET?

CHAPTER 34

IN WHICH RHENA FACES THE MIRROR AND TAKES BACK HER RING

DO YOU THINK IT WAS HARDER FOR RHENA TO FACE THE DARK, SILENT ROOM—OR TO FACE THE FEELINGS THAT CAME WHEN SHE SAW HER PARENTS IN THE MIRROR?

CHAPTER 35

IN WHICH RHENA TRIES TO ESCAPE THE ISLAND

IF YOU WERE TRAPPED ON THE WITCH'S ISLAND, WHAT WOULD YOU TRY FIRST: BUILDING SOMETHING TO FLOAT, SEARCHING MORE OF THE TOWER, OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY?

CHAPTER 36

IN WHICH RHENA DEFIES THE WITCH AND THROWS THE RING

WHY DO YOU THINK THE WITCH IS SO FURIOUS AND AFRAID OF LOSING THIS ONE SIMPLE RING?

CHAPTER 37

IN WHICH RHENA DECIDES WHO SHE WILL BE

RHENA WRITES DOWN WHO SHE IS AND WHAT SHE BELIEVES SO SHE WON'T FORGET IT WHEN SHE'S AFRAID. **W**HAT WORDS WOULD YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR YOURSELF TO REMEMBER?

CHAPTER 38

IN WHICH RHENA MEETS MAX AND A CHOICE IS MADE

RHENA AND **M**AX ANNOY EACH OTHER AT FIRST. **H**AVE YOU EVER BEEN SURPRISED TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE YOU DIDN'T LIKE AT FIRST?

CHAPTER 39

IN WHICH RHENA AND MAX ESCAPE THE COLLAPSING TOWER

WHAT DO YOU THINK **F**LETCHER MEANS WHEN HE SAYS THERE ARE "MANY, MANY SIDES" TO EVERY MOMENT?

CHAPTER 40

IN WHICH STORIES ARE SHARED AND MAX TELLS OF HIS QUEST

MAX HAS TO KEEP CHOOSING BETWEEN CHASING TREASURE AND HELPING OTHERS. WHICH CHOICE IN HIS STORY STANDS OUT TO YOU THE MOST, AND WHY?

CHAPTER 41

IN WHICH THE FRIENDS REACH GASPAAR AND MAX STANDS BEFORE THE KING

WHY DO YOU THINK KING RANDREW VALUES MAX'S FRIENDSHIPS MORE THAN DRAGONS' GOLD OR POWERFUL MAGIC?

CHAPTER 42

IN WHICH RHENA RETURNS TO LEORNA AND IS WELCOMED HOME AT LAST

HAVE YOU EVER RETURNED FROM AN EXPERIENCE, BIG OR SMALL, AND FELT THAT YOU WEREN'T QUITE THE SAME PERSON ANYMORE? WHAT HELPED YOU NOTICE THE WAYS YOU HAD CHANGED?

MORE ADVENTURE AHEAD

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You can reach the author and The Max Letters team at hello@themaxletters.com

*Your friend and
author -
David Walker*