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# Philomena

A Sample Literature Guide  
for Grades 3–4



A Guide to  
Vocabulary, Reading  
Comprehension, and  
Literary Techniques  
in 21 Lessons

Includes Complete  
Answer Key and  
Guide to Discussion  
Questions!

Esther Moon • RoseMary C. Johnson

# About the Authors

**Esther Moon** was homeschooled and could usually be found reading a book when she wasn't building tree forts. On some of her adventures, she explored ancient Egyptian tombs; earned a B.A. in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics; taught Shakespeare in Italy; and completed a Ph.D. in Literature at the University of Dallas in 2022.

**RoseMary C. Johnson** was homeschooled with CHC materials from preschool through high school. She graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Dallas with a Bachelor's degree in English and a concentration in Greek. She completed a Ph.D. in Literature at the University of Dallas in 2021. RoseMary is now the General Editor of CHC's publications, including *The Treasure Trove of Literature* and *Ever Ancient, Ever New: Art History, Appreciation, Theory, and Practice*.

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# Philomena

This free study guide to Kate Seredy's *Philomena* introduces children to literature through reading review questions, discussions, hands-on activities, and in-depth studies of literary techniques. This inviting, approachable guide will develop a child's reading and critical thinking skills, challenge him to think more deeply about virtuous character qualities, and build the foundation for a fruitful, lifelong relationship with good literature. *Philomena* is currently out of print, but it is still available used. You can compare the lowest prices at [bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com). It doesn't matter which edition of the book you use, because they all have the same page numbers.



## Vocabulary

Vocabulary words and definitions are provided for each reading assignment. It is important for the student to review the vocabulary words to ensure that he fully understands the story.



## Reading Review Questions

The Reading Review Questions will help the student recall what he has read and will also ensure that he has comprehended the reading. **The student may answer the questions orally or in writing.**



## Discussion Questions

The Discussion Questions provided in every third lesson should be discussed orally with a parent or in a group setting. The questions go beyond recall and comprehension and require the student to think critically and interpretively. They also prompt the student to make connections and apply concepts to his own life. **A parent's guide to the discussion questions is included in the answer key.**



## Literary Studies

Once a week, the student will explore the literary craft the author has used to write the book. Over the course of the four books, the student will learn about setting, characters, plot, literary genres,

and figures of speech such as simile, allusion, and onomatopoeia.



## Character Quality Study

Character Quality Studies focus on virtuous character traits exemplified in the reading and explore what the Bible says about the character trait, how the saints practiced it, and how the student can practice the trait in his own life. Character Quality Studies are designed to be read and discussed with a parent or in a group setting.



## Games, Projects, and Activities

A wide variety of optional activities—including games, crafts, and art activities—are suggested each week. **Instead of trying to complete all these activities, let the student select one or two that interest him the most.** The hands-on activities expand on what was read and are meant to bring the book to life for the student through memorable experiences.

**Philomena** by Kate Seredy—21 lessons

A heart-warming tale about family, providence, and listening to God, set in Bohemia before World War I.

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Main Literary Devices:** Setting, Visualizing, Summarizing, Suspense



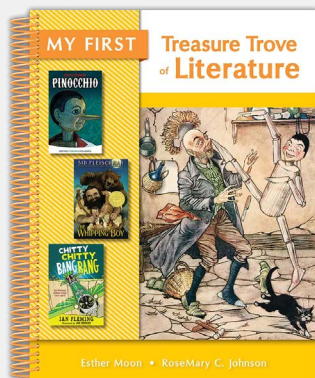
# Want to see more?

Like what you see in this study guide? Then you'll also love The Treasure Trove of Literature series, available from CHC at [chcweb.com](http://chcweb.com).

The series begins with *My First Treasure Trove of Literature*, at the same difficulty level as the Philomena literature guide.

## ***My First Treasure Trove of Literature***

Literature, Grade 3

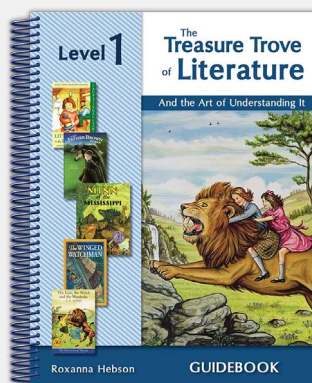


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## ***The Treasure Trove of Literature and the Art of Understanding It, Level 1***

Literature, Grade 4

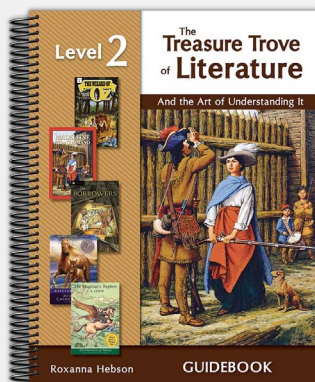


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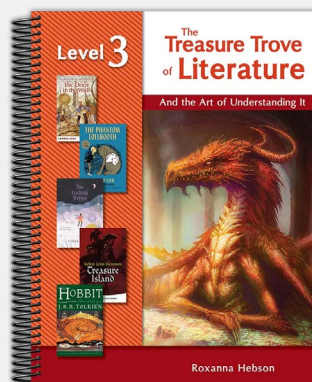


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Literature, Grade 6

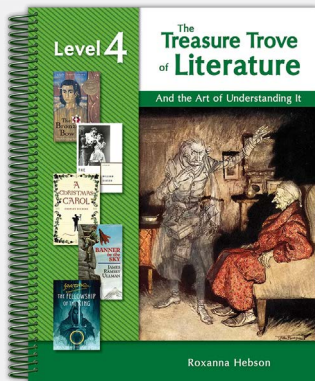


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## ***The Treasure Trove of Literature and the Art of Understanding It, Level 4***

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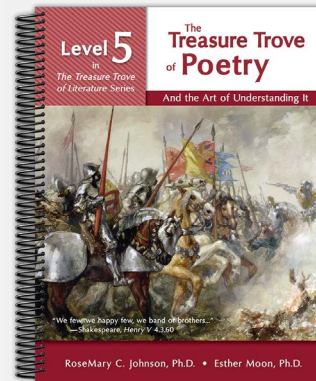


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## ***The Treasure Trove of Poetry and the Art of Understanding It***

Literature, Grade 8



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**“W**E absolutely love the *Treasure Trove* series. As a parent I was worried about how to teach literature to my children and I can truly say this is a lifesaver. It includes a great variety of the classic books, review questions, and projects and I love how it is separated into very easy and non-overwhelming workload for both parents and students. It has made my stress about teaching this subject nonexistent!”

**—Kerri, OK**



“My daughters completed their forts after reading *Madeleine Takes Command* from *Treasure Trove of Literature 2*.”

—Andrea, GA



“My daughter was a late and reluctant reader. We started using CHC’s Literature program and now she is finally enjoying the journey.”

— Pamela, TX

# Lesson 1

## About *Philomena*

*Philomena* is a fictional (made-up) story of a girl in Bohemia, a land in Eastern Europe. Bohemia has many wonderful traditions that are still loved today, such as dancing to beautiful music, dying colorful Easter eggs, eating lots of dumplings, and storytelling. Philomena lives with her grandmother and loves her life in the village. But many things are about to change in Philomena's life. Get ready to go on an amazing adventure with Philomena!



## Meet the Author

*Philomena* was written and illustrated by Kate Seredy. She grew up in Hungary, a country not far from Bohemia, in the early 1900s. She attended art school in Hungary and began doing what she loved best—illustrating stories with drawings. During World War I, she worked as a nurse, traveling with the army to care for soldiers during battle. Then, she moved to New York to write and illustrate books. Some of her most popular books are *The Good Master*, *The White Stag*, and *The Singing Tree*. She wrote *Philomena* in 1955, many years after moving to New York. She died in 1975.



## Reading and Reading Preparation

You are about to meet Philomena, a girl who meets adventure with courage and common sense. Find out what her life is like living in a small town in Bohemia. Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read Chapter 1, pages 7–18.



## Vocabulary

**Rousing:** exciting

*...they sang some rousing good songs.*

**Go into service:** take a job as a servant

*So Babushka had been sent to Prague to go into service.*

**Knowing:** wise, clever

*...all the things that made her so knowing about fine food and clean houses.*

**Courted:** tried to get her affection

**Frugal:** careful in spending or using things that cost money

*...they all courted her because such girls made very fine wives. They were frugal...*

**Mentioned:** talked about

*From then on she never mentioned her daughter in Prague.*

**Curtsy:** the woman's version of a bow, made by putting one foot behind the other and bending the knees

*"Thank you, Babushka," Philomena said with a polite curtsy.*

**Coverlet:** bedspread or blanket

*Her hand smoothed the coverlet...*

# Lesson 2



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 7–18

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.



1. What seems to be wrong with Philomena's aunt in Prague?

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2. What is Philomena's reason for asking Babushka to wait until spring to visit Philomena's mother in Heaven?

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3. Why does Babushka think Philomena should ask her for help instead of writing to Father Matthias?

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# Lesson 3 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 7–18

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. Philomena calls her grandmother “Babushka.” What do you call your grandmothers? How are your grandmothers similar to Babushka? How are your grandmothers different from Babushka?
2. We read that the “heart of the village” is the church. How is the church the heart of Philomena’s village? Think about where the church might be located in the village, what happens on Sundays, and how the villagers feel about Father Matthias.
3. If you were Philomena and had to leave home to go into service at the age of eleven, do you think you would be as brave and uncomplaining as Philomena is when she agrees to go to the big city by herself? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Babushka says that “the coming home part” of her plan for Philomena is important? What do you like about coming home after a long time away?
5. How does Babushka feel about dying? Remember the way she looks when she is finished talking to Father Matthias, and think of other details that tell us how she feels. Is this a good way to feel at the end of your life?



## Literary Studies: Setting

A book's **setting** is where and when the story takes place. The setting includes the location of the story, the time period, and the customs and traditions of the people in the story.

The setting of *Philomena* is the land of Bohemia in the time period before World War I. Look up World War I in an encyclopedia and find out when it happened. Write the beginning and ending dates here: \_\_\_\_\_

Philomena grew up in a village near the city of Prague (pronounced PRAHG). Now that Babushka has died, Philomena is going to Prague to find her aunt. Find the city of Prague on a map of Europe. Today, Prague is the capital city of what country?

\_\_\_\_\_



## Games, Projects, and Activities

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. Drawing Activity: Draw a scene from Philomena's village, such as the field by the Moldau River with Babushka's sheep, the small white house that Philomena and Babushka live in, or the church at the center of the village.
2. Dance Activity: Philomena and the other villagers dance folk dances on Sunday. Learn a folk dance, such as a contra, line, or square dance, and dance it with your siblings or friends.
3. Craft Activity: Philomena and Father Matthias make a blanket of flowers for Babushka. Do you have any wildflowers nearby that you can pick? If so, make a bouquet or wreath to take to the grave of a family member.
4. Music Activity: The Moldau River runs by Philomena's village and through Prague. Listen to "An der Moldau" (By the Moldau) by Johann Strauss II. "An der Moldau" is music for a type of dance called the polka. The polka was the national dance of Bohemia. Can you imagine Philomena dancing to this song? Give it a try yourself!

# Lesson 4



## Reading and Reading Preparation

Philomena's grandmother has died, but she left Philomena instructions to find her aunt, Liska, in Prague. Will Philomena be able to find her aunt? Will she need to ask Babushka for help from Heaven? Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read Chapter 2, pages 19–30.



## Vocabulary

**Keep... her wits about her:** be alert and careful

*Of course, she must keep her eyes and ears open and her wits about her.*

**Appropriate:** fitting or proper

*...a church might be an appropriate place to talk to Babushka.*

**Scrutiny:** looking

*She decided, after careful scrutiny...*

**Labor and Service:** the title of a newspaper page for offering and finding work

*It had been folded at the page called "Labor and Service."*

**Inexperienced:** not having skill or knowledge

**Wages:** payments in exchange for work

*"Young, inexperienced country girl as kitchenmaid. Low wages, good chance to learn."*

**Immaculate:** perfectly clean

*...the way Babushka would have looked at a small black bug in her immaculate kitchen.*

**Scolded:** found fault with in an angry or loud way  
*If she obeyed the cook, Madame Benesh scolded.*

**The fashion:** popular  
*...it was the fashion to own a canary bird.*

**Parlor:** a room used for talking to guests  
*...then she went upstairs to the parlor.*

**Left service:** left a job as a servant  
*She knew that when one left service, one got paid.*

**Kerchief:** square of cloth worn as a head covering or scarf  
*"...I'll sell it to you for that kerchief you are wearing."*



# Lesson 5



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 19–30

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.



1. Why does Philomena think the man on the bench isn't Babushka's messenger? What makes her decide that he is the messenger?

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2. When Philomena meets the woman who wants a kitchen maid, she realizes this woman is not her aunt. But Philomena didn't really expect that this woman would be her aunt, even before meeting her. Why did she not expect this?

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3. Why does Madame Benesh have a canary bird? Does she like it?

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# Lesson 6 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 19–30

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. The villagers don't expect things to be very easy in life. They believe that people have to work hard and think hard to make things come out right. Do you agree with the villagers? Why or why not?
2. Philomena cries a little when she leaves home, but the author says this is only natural. At what other times is it natural to cry a little?
3. Father Matthias tells Philomena that she must not expect to hear an answer from Babushka in words, but somehow Babushka will manage to let her know what to do next. How does Babushka talk to Philomena without words in Chapter 2?
4. How is Philomena's conversation with Babushka different from prayer in real life? What lessons can we learn about prayer from Philomena's example?
5. What do you think of Philomena's job serving in Madame Benesh's house? What would you like about this job? What would you dislike about this job?
6. Do you think it is fair that Philomena loses her job? Whether or not it is fair, do you think it is a good thing that she will no longer be working for Madame Benesh and her cook?



## Reading Skills: Visualizing

An important skill for readers is being able to imagine the people, places, and events in the story. This is called **visualizing**. Visualizing a story as you read will help you enjoy the story more and understand better what is happening in the story.

It's time to practice visualizing the story! Choose an object, place, person, or event from Chapter 2 of *Philomena* and draw it on a separate piece of paper.



## Games, Projects, and Activities

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. Game: Do you know the card game Old Maid? In Philomena's country, this game is called Černý Petr, which means Black Peter. Play a game of Old Maid, but call the Old Maid card "Černý Petr" (CHAIR-nee PET-ur) instead of the Old Maid.
2. Writing Activity: Philomena learns about her job by reading an advertisement in the newspaper. Make up your own "wanted" advertisement that describes you and a job you would like to have. For example: "Wanted: Young boy to catch slugs in the garden. Paid per slug. Must be quiet, be careful not to step on plants, and enjoy being outdoors."
3. Housekeeping Project: Philomena enjoys scrubbing the pots in the kitchen because they begin to shine, unlike the clay pots in the village. Is there a pot that needs a good scrubbing in your kitchen? Can you make it shine? Ask your parents for the right cleaning products and give the pot a good scrub.
4. Art Project: On a brightly colored card, write these words: "The sun does not shine all the time; one has to have rain." Display the card on your refrigerator or some place the whole family can see.

# Lesson 7



## Reading and Reading Preparation

Philomena is no longer in service at Madame Benesh's house, but that is probably a good thing. What will she do next? Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read Chapter 3, pages 31–42.



## Vocabulary

**Cuffed:** hit with the palm of the hand

**Soundly:** firmly or strongly

*She cuffed one boy's ears soundly.*

**Engraved:** cut or carved

*Philomena saw that some words were engraved on the tag.*

**Salver:** serving tray

*He held out the silver salver for the kitten.*

**Paved:** covered with stone or concrete to form a level floor

*...down two short flights of stairs into a paved stone hall.*

**Damask:** a shiny patterned fabric

**Linen:** smooth cloth made from the flax plant

*...she ironed fine damask and linen from morning till night.*

**Discharged:** let go or fired

*...the butler said, "You are discharged."*



# Lesson 8



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 31–42

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.



1. Philomena saves a kitten from being drowned in the river. How does she find out where the kitten lives?

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2. When Philomena brings back the kitten, the butler divides her reward money into two piles. The big pile, he says, is what Philomena must pay for permission to keep her bird. The small pile is her reward for finding the kitten. When the policeman sees this, how does he help Philomena?

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3. What does Philomena do when Cat Number Eighteen is left to be taken out with the garbage?

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# Lesson 9 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 31–42

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. Philomena saves Cat Number Eighteen from two cruel boys who are trying to drown it. Do you think Philomena does the right thing? What would you do if you were in Philomena's place?
2. Why do you think the policeman comes with Philomena when she applies for her second job?
3. The nice policeman helps Philomena become more experienced. What do you think Philomena learns when the policeman talks to the butler? What would have happened if Philomena had not had help? Would she still have learned the lesson?
4. What makes Philomena accidentally burn the tablecloth? Why does she think Babushka is responsible for the burnt tablecloth? Who do you think is responsible, and why?



## Literary Studies: Who Is Speaking

You probably know that when a character speaks in a book, what he says is marked at the beginning and end by **quotation marks**, like this: "Hello!"

But how do readers tell *who* is speaking? Often, the author will tell us who is speaking by putting a few explaining words at the beginning or end of speech: "he said," "she whispered," "Michael interrupted," or something similar. But sometimes, authors decide that you can tell on your own who is talking. Then you have to look at other clues, like what is being said and who spoke last, to find out who is talking.

In Chapter 3, Philomena has a conversation with two other people at the same time: Madame Sloshek's butler and the kind policeman. How did the author make it easy for readers to know which of these three characters is talking at a time? Look at the following example:

The butler divided the money into two piles—one small pile, one big pile. The small pile he held out to Philomena. “For cat.” He pointed to the big pile. “For permission.”

The policeman shook his head. “The cat is worth more than your permission.”

We know that the butler is speaking the first time because the author is describing the butler's actions at the same time: he holds out a pile of money, then he points to the other pile of money. By describing the butler's actions, the author tells us who to pay attention to for the moment. Just as we usually look at people who are talking, authors often help us “look at” characters who are speaking by describing their actions or appearance.

In the example above, who do you think says, “The cat is worth more than your permission”? If you think it's the policeman, you're right. We know this because the author draws our attention to the policeman by describing him shaking his head just before he speaks. We can also guess that the policeman is talking because what he says disagrees with what the butler just said, so it wouldn't make sense for the butler to say it. Asking yourself, “Which character would be most likely to say this?” is another good way to discover who is speaking in a book.

Now it's your turn to decide who is speaking. Read the following examples from the chapter. In the blank space, tell who is speaking.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The woman pointed to a blue dress and white apron hanging on a hook. “Put your uniform on.”
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Philomena didn't want to be bold, but she had to explain. “I am looking for my aunt. Babushka is helping me find her.”



## Games, Projects, and Activities

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. Game: Play Madame Sloshek's Cats. One player is Philomena ironing the tablecloth, and the others are some of Madame Sloshek's 27 cats. Whoever sneezes first must be put to bed, as Philomena does for Cat Number Eighteen. When a player sneezes, Philomena must chase that player while all the other players count to 20. Can Philomena catch the sick cat before the time is up? If so, Philomena wins! If not, Philomena's tablecloth is burnt and she loses her job. Take turns being Philomena and the sick cat.
2. Snack: Philomena has to share her food with Cat Number Eighteen. Have a snack that you think both Philomena and the cat would like, such as a glass of milk, cheese, some rolled-up sliced meat, or cantaloupe.
3. Game: Philomena has to get permission from the butler to do things. Play a game of Simon Says, but instead of "Simon," say "The Butler."
4. Music Activity: Philomena is happy when she sings and whistles with the canary bird, and she makes the bird happy too. Go out in the backyard and learn how to whistle a cheerful tune (or hum, if you can't whistle)!
5. Drama Activity: With siblings or friends, act out the scene in the park on page 32 where Philomena stops the boys from drowning the kitten.



# Lesson 10



## Reading and Reading Preparation

Philomena has been dismissed from a second job. What will Babushka tell her to do now? Do you think she might find her aunt in the next place she goes? Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read the first half of Chapter 4, pages 43–51.



## Vocabulary

**Preferred:** liked better

*...cats preferred it to any other kind.*

**Concern:** involve or relate to

*"It does not concern me."*

**Prohibit:** forbid

*"I have only one cat and one canary bird. The sign does not prohibit either."*

**Preened:** cleaned with its bill

*The canary bird preened its feathers, then burst into song.*

**Dependents:** people who rely on another person for food. The word usually refers to children, who are their parents' dependents.

*"...I have three dependents—one cat, one dog, one bird."*

**Wages without deductions:** full payment for work with no portion kept back

*"...send me to a place where I can stay for a while for wages without deductions."*

**Nursemaid:** girl or woman employed to look after children, a nanny

*"You seem to have had experience with children. Are you a nursemaid?"*

**Governess:** a woman who teaches and trains children in a private home

*"I am Governess Wilson from London..."*

**Undertaken:** taken on as a task or agreed to

*"I should never have undertaken the care of four young children."*

# Lesson 11



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 43–51

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.



1. Philomena reminds Babushka that on earth, people must not be wasteful. As Philomena sees it, what did Babushka do that was wasteful?

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2. How does Philomena check to make sure that Babushka wants her to go home with Governess Wilson?

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3. Why does Philomena not judge Number 3 Vysherad Avenue by how it looks on the outside?

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# Lesson 12 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 43–51

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. Philomena thinks one doesn't need much experience with children to make them happy. If you have younger brothers and sisters, what kind of activities do you do with them to make them happy?
2. Philomena knows that things should not be judged by the way they look on the outside. For example, both of the houses she has worked in were beautiful from the outside, but like bad apples, they "tasted" bad on the inside. What is an example of a time you judged something to be good or bad from the outside and then, when you knew more about it, learned that it wasn't as you thought?



## Literary Studies: Descriptions

Philomena has collected many pets on her adventures. What are they like? The author tells us about Philomena's bird, cat, and dog through descriptions. A **description** tells us what something is like—what it looks like, what it does, and even how it feels. Here are some descriptions of Philomena's pets:

The canary bird was the only thing that never scolded Philomena... They would sing and whistle together and be very happy... It had been almost dead when she came and she knew that nobody would think of keeping it happy after she left.

It was a medium-sized black-and-white dog with a tail. The tail wagged.



As you can see, there are different ways to give descriptions. The description of the canary bird tells us what the bird likes to do (sing and whistle with someone) and how it feels. The author tells us what the dog looks like and how it behaves, but in a much shorter description.

Do you have any pets? If not, what pet would you like to have? On a separate piece of paper, write at least two sentences to describe your pet or the pet you would like to have. Make sure to give some descriptive details about how it looks and how it acts. Or you can describe how you think it feels when it is doing its favorite activity—maybe going for a walk, sleeping in the sun, or eating dinner.



## **Games, Projects, and Activities**

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. **Snack:** Have a snack of pâté, which is made from nutritious liver like Philomena’s cat and dog eat. Pâté is a special treat in Europe. (Humans don’t usually like their liver snack to taste as strong as cats and dogs like it, though!) Spread some on toast or crackers. What do you think? If you can’t get pâté, have some rolls with “enough cheese to taste,” like Philomena orders for herself at the delicatessen.
2. **Field Trip:** Philomena has lots of pets that she has collected around Prague. Usually, if someone wants a pet, they can find many options at the pet store! Visit a pet store and enjoy looking at all the different kinds of pets they have. Or go to an animal shelter to visit pets that have been rescued or were unwanted, like Philomena’s pets.
3. **Housework Activity:** Do you know how to polish silver, iron tablecloths, wash windows, and do the other tasks that Philomena has learned? If so, good work! These skills will help you throughout your life. Practice your skills to keep them sharp. If you don’t know how to do Philomena’s tasks, pick one and learn to do it yourself.

# Lesson 13



## Reading and Reading Preparation

Philomena knows that inside, houses aren't always as they look on the outside. Will Number 3 Vysherad Avenue be as happy on the inside as it looks on the outside? Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read the second half of Chapter 4, pages 52–67.



## Vocabulary

**Superstitious:** someone who trusts in magic or supernatural things without using reason

*"Mr. Daminski, I am not superstitious."*

**Taken for granted:** assumed, accepted without question

*"That must be taken for granted."*

**Menagerie:** a collection of animals for exhibition (like a zoo)

*"...do you always travel with a menagerie?"*

**Sensible:** having good sense, reasonable

*"You are... a very sensible young woman."*

**Soprano:** someone who has a high singing voice

*"A real soprano!"*

**Satisfactory:** good, what is hoped for

*"...if the answer is... satisfactory."*

**Companion:** someone who accompanies, or is paid to live with  
and take care of, another

**Brood:** family of young animals or children

*“...the new companion to my brood.”*

**Taken the liberty:** done without asking permission

*“...that—we have taken the liberty to name Borish.”*

**Occupational hazard:** a risk one accepts as necessary when doing a certain job

*“You might call it an occupational hazard.”*

**Caved in in the middle:** so hungry his tummy is curving in, not out

*“Borish looks caved in in the middle.”*

**Disengaged:** freed

*Philomena disengaged herself from under the small boy and the cat.*

**Jabbered:** spoke quickly

*She jabbered like a magpie.*

**Bold:** daring, standing out in a noticeable way

*Maybe she had been too bold, but they all clapped and laughed.*

# Lesson 14



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 52–67

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.



1. What did Father Matthias always tell Philomena about the head and the heart?

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2. Why do Philomena and the Daminskis name the dog after Uncle Borish, the butler?

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3. How does Philomena prepare to talk to Babushka at the end of her first day at Number 3 Vyshera Avenue?

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# Lesson 15 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 52–67

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. What do you think Mr. Daminski thinks of Philomena? What do you think of Mr. Daminski? Will he be a good man for Philomena to work for? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Philomena finds the bathroom to be “the most miraculous place anyone could imagine”? Do you think she likes being clean? Give some clues from the book that show whether she likes being clean.
3. When Philomena leaves the children to prepare for dinner, they say, “See you at dinner, Philomena,” but she can't find her voice to answer because she is so happy. Have you ever felt that way? What made you so happy that you couldn't talk?



## Reading Skills: Summarizing

Before she falls asleep, Philomena wants to tell Babushka what happened in her day. First, she puts her thoughts in order, then she plans to tell Babushka about her day. Before Philomena falls asleep, she is about to do something that good readers do: summarize! **Summarizing** is repeating information or events in a short, organized way.

**Summaries** are a good way to share information with others, but you will also find them useful for yourself. When you summarize, your mind works hard to remember the events, put them in the right order, and understand how they are connected to each other.

Now it's your turn to summarize. Take a look through Chapter 4 and notice what events happen and in which order they happen. On the following lines, retell the most important things that happen in the chapter, without going into too much

detail. Imagine you have only three minutes to tell your grandmother what happened in this chapter of the book.

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## Games, Projects, and Activities

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. Game: Uncle Borish looks a little like a dog when he walks because the tails on his coat swish like a dog's tail. Try walking like different animals. Can you look like Borish the dog? What about a cat like Only One? A bird like Jenny? Walk your animal walk for your friends or siblings, and see if they can guess what animal you're pretending to be. Be sure you don't give it away by making animal sounds while you walk. Take turns!
2. Art Activity: Draw or paint a bunch of flowers like the ones painted on Philomena's clothes cupboard (pg. 61). Or draw Borish the dog after dinner: how do you think his tummy looks now?
3. Prayer Activity: This week, try praying the way Philomena talks to Babushka. Find a spot that is quiet (like your bedroom or backyard), put away distractions, collect your thoughts, and tell God what is in your heart. Be with God for a while and thank Him for listening to you.
4. Drama Activity: Entertain your family over dinner with a song or story, as Philomena entertains the Daminskis. Take turns so everyone has a chance to eat!



# Lesson 16



## Reading and Reading Preparation

Philomena has found a wonderful job with a family that seems perfect for her. But her adventures aren't over! Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read the first half of Chapter 5, pages 68–81.



## Vocabulary

**Indicate:** point out, show

*...nothing had happened... to indicate that Babushka was doing her share.*

**Music box:** a box that plays a tune when the handle is turned

*She could make music on the music box in the parlor.*

**Crowns:** coins or bills of Bohemian money

*"Numbers... that tell how many crowns he has hatched."*

**Dowry:** money or property that a woman brings to her marriage

*"...with a knowledge of cooking and sewing... and with a dowry..."*

**Sleep in:** live where you work

*"Wanted, experienced household seamstress, good pay, sleep in."*

**Prompted:** led, caused

*"Prompted by both voices and the certainty within her..."*

**Role:** behavior, part played

**Affairs:** events, concerns

*Daily contact with Babushka's role in affairs on earth...*

**Feeble:** weak, quiet

**Irregular:** not following custom or rule

*The woman... said in her feeble voice, "...It is irregular... on a Sunday..."*

# Lesson 17



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 68–81

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.



1. Why does Philomena expect to have to leave the Daminski family soon?

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2. Why is Philomena sure that the woman and her daughter will receive help at Mr. Daminski's house?

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3. When Philomena tells Uncle Borish, "This time she had to hit me on the head with an apple!" Uncle Borish understands right away. Who hit Philomena with the apple? Why did this person do it?

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# Lesson 18 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 68–81

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. What is it like for Philomena to work for Mr. Daminski compared to working for Madame Benesh and Madame Sloshek? Describe the main differences.
2. Do you think it's a good thing that the Daminski family is getting a new mother? Explain your opinion.
3. Philomena tells Babushka that when she takes a new job, she will have to "learn all over again to be humble" because the Daminskis wouldn't always let her be humble. What do you think this means? Why would it be hard for Philomena to be humble with a family like the Daminskis?
4. Why do you think Philomena wants "a little piece of family?" What would life be like with no family?

## Literary Studies: Suspense

Philomena has been searching for her aunt for a long time. Every time she meets a new lady, she wonders: could this be Aunt Liska?

In Philomena's search for Aunt Liska, the author uses suspense. As you may remember from your study of *Pinocchio*, **suspense** is the excitement or anxiety we feel when waiting for something to happen. The author keeps us wondering whether Philomena will ever find her aunt, and as the story continues, we become more and more curious! One way authors create suspense is by bringing something up several times before it happens or is explained.

Below is a short story about a boy named James. It is suspenseful because unexplained events keep happening. Finish the story yourself by guessing what is causing these strange events and writing it on the last line.

James woke up early one morning to find his socks all over the floor. Some had holes in them. What had happened to his socks? While James ate breakfast, he noticed that there was a bowl sitting on the kitchen floor. “How strange,” he thought. Then he went to the school room to start his work early. As he opened the door, he heard a whine, but it didn’t sound like any of his siblings. It didn’t even sound human. Was there a creature in the house? James sat down and began his math work, but he kept being distracted by a scratching sound coming from the closet. James opened the closet door. Inside, he found \_\_\_\_\_!



### Games, Projects, and Activities

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. Game: Play a traditional game from Philomena’s land called Sugar, Coffee, Lemonade (*Cukr, Káva, Limonáda*). It is similar to Red Light, Green Light. Players line up on one side of the yard while one player, the leader, goes to the other side. He turns around and recites the words “sugar, coffee, lemonade, tea, rum, boom.” While he is speaking, the other players move toward him. As soon as he is finished speaking, he turns around. Any players he catches moving are out. The player who reaches the leader first wins, and becomes the next leader! Take turns being the leader. For an extra challenge, say the words in Czech: *Cukr, káva, limonáda, čaj, rum, bum* (SOO-kruh, KAH-vah, li-mon-AH-duh, CHAI, ROOM, BOOM).
2. Snack: Have a snack of apples, like the one that hits Philomena on the head. Use your head to think of fun ways to eat an apple for a snack. One idea is to slice it thinly and spread it with peanut butter.

# Lesson 19



## Reading and Reading Preparation

Philomena worries that it may soon be time to leave the Daminskis. Will she be able to find her aunt, or has Babushka already done all she can do? Study the vocabulary words for this lesson. Then read the second half of Chapter 5, pages 82–95.



## Vocabulary

**Certain-sure:** slang for absolutely certain, positive

*...she wasn't certain-sure that she was a widow, which made a sad story.*

**Barred:** closed or forbidden

*...the way to Heaven for such a person would not be barred.*

**Heedless:** thoughtless, not careful

*"I was young, strong, and heedless..."*

**Put on a light and catch it:** fleas are attracted to light, so the speaker is describing how to catch fleas.

*"I must not trouble you with my—with the flea in my bed," she finished.*

*The cook laughed, too. "Put on a light and catch it—it helps to talk about it."*

**At a loss:** puzzled or uncertain

*Still speechless and at a loss how to put all she knew into words...*

**Fleeting:** not lasting, passing swiftly

*...each silent fleeting moment was one less to wait.*

**Eternally sound:** forever healthy, solid, and good

*...the voice of all people close to earth, humble and frugal and eternally sound.*

# Lesson 20



## Reading Review Questions: pgs. 82–95

Answer the Reading Review Questions below.

1. What does Philomena remember Father Matthias saying will happen to a person who breaks a promise and isn't kind?

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2. What did Aunt Liska promise Father Matthias she would do after marrying Mr. Wittek?

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3. Why didn't Aunt Liska write back to Father Matthias after she married?

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# Lesson 21 Discussion & Activities



## Discussion Questions: pgs. 82–95

Answer and hold conversations on some or all of these Discussion Questions.

A parent's guide to the Discussion Questions can be found in the answer key.

1. Why do you think it takes Philomena so long to find out that the Widow Wittek is her aunt? Is the Widow Wittek what you expected Aunt Liska would be like? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Philomena and Uncle Borish don't tell Aunt Liska at once that Philomena is her niece?
3. At the beginning of your study of *Philomena*, you learned about setting. The setting of a story is when and where it takes place, including the location, time period, and customs and traditions of people in that place and time. How is this setting different from your own setting? Think about the places Philomena goes, the way she travels, the people she meets, the jobs she gets, the traditions she follows, and the things she likes to do.
4. Think about the way Philomena and people like her are described at the end of the book: "close to earth, humble and frugal and eternally sound." Is this a good description of Philomena? Do you think this is a good way to be? How would you like others to describe you and your family?
5. Why do you think the story ends with the promise of Philomena, Aunt Liska, and Annika going home? Do you think this is the right end to the story?



## Character Quality Study: Gratitude

Philomena experiences many hard situations, such as the death of her grandmother, not being able to find Aunt Liska, and working for two difficult employers. But she

always finds the good in every situation: for example, even though her first job is difficult, she is happy singing with the canary and becomes more experienced and obedient. When Philomena finds a wonderful job with the Daminskis, she is happy and grateful to have children to play with, a miraculous room to take baths in, and a beautiful bedroom. Whether faced with bad situations or good situations, Philomena always finds things to be grateful for.

## Gratitude Defined

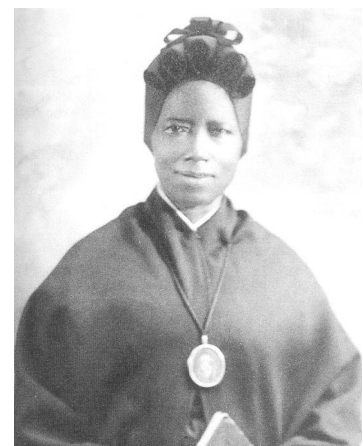
Gratitude is being thankful. It means always being ready to appreciate goodness and kindness. When a grateful person enjoys a blessing, such as sunshine or a friend's kindness, he responds with appreciation, enjoyment, and thanks. People who practice gratitude enjoy life more because they focus on what is good, instead of looking for bad things to be upset about.

## Gratitude and the Bible

The Bible has a lot to say about gratitude. God even commands us to be grateful! 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." God tells us to practice gratitude because it keeps us close to Him. He is the source of goodness: "all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17). When we find things to thank God for, even the worst situation gets brighter. King David often gave thanks to God in the Psalms, even when he was having a very difficult time (such as Saul trying to kill him!). He says, "Bless the Lord, my soul; and do not forget all His gifts" (Psalm 103:2).

## Role-Model Saint

St. Josephine Bakhita had a very difficult life, yet she was one of the happiest, most grateful people. She was made to be a slave when she was very young, and her masters didn't always treat her kindly. St. Bakhita was taken to work as a slave in Italy, where she learned about Christianity.



When her owners wanted to leave Italy, St. Bakhita refused. She wanted to stay with the religious sisters who taught her about God and how to serve Him. St. Bakhita was given her freedom and became a religious sister. She was always cheerful and content. She was even grateful for the bad things that happened to her as a slave, because they led her to God.

## Gratitude in Our Lives

When we look for the good in situations and in the people around us, we usually find it. This is why people who practice gratitude become more cheerful and see more opportunities when they look at the world. How much more pleasant it is to look for goodness rather than focus on the bad! One way to increase your gratitude is to keep a journal or a list of things you have to be thankful for each day. Set yourself a “gratitude minimum”: can you think of at least five things a day you’re grateful for, or even ten? Be sure to write them down so you can remind yourself of your many blessings when you feel sad or upset.

## Gratitude Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for so many gifts! Please help me to look for the good in every situation and enjoy Your blessings with a cheerful heart.*



## Games, Projects, and Activities

Complete as many of the following Games, Projects, and Activities as you would like.

1. Gratitude Activity: Play “If It Weren’t For...” Think of a blessing in your life: your mother, the rain, and your favorite food are some ideas. List all the things that would be missing in your life without this blessing, beginning by saying, “If it weren’t for (this blessing)...” For example, “If it weren’t for ice cream, there would be no ice cream cake, no milkshakes, no melty mint chocolate chip ice cream cones...”

2. Drama Activity: Act out the scene that is *not* described in the book in which Philomena tells Aunt Liska that they are family. Write down what you think each person says in this scene, and give parts to your siblings or friends.
3. Cooking Activity: One of the most popular treats in Philomena's homeland is kolaches. Kolaches are small pastries filled with jam or another sweet filling. Traditionally, kolaches are eaten as an afternoon snack. An easy way to make your own kolaches is to use frozen dinner roll dough that you purchase from the store. Your parent can find a recipe online by searching for "fruit kolaches frozen rolls."
4. Costume Activity: If you are a girl, wear your hair in braids with a colorful kerchief on your head, as Philomena does. If you are a boy, wear long socks and suspenders, and maybe a feather in your cap, like the men used to wear in Bohemia! Or find a coat with long tails and dress as Uncle Borish, the butler.



### Concluding Activities

*Optional:* Have a party to celebrate finishing your study of *Philomena*. Have rolls with cheese; pâté and crackers if you like; and kolaches or an apple dish like sliced apples with caramel, apple crisp, or baked apples. See if you can put your thoughts in order, as Philomena does before talking to Babushka, and remember all the steps in her adventure to tell your family. What jobs does she take, and what messages lead her to them? When does she collect the cat, the canary, and the dog? Don't forget any of her pets or friends she meets along the way!

Congratulations, you have finished your study of *Philomena*!

# Answer Key

Complete answers are provided on the following pages. Wording need not be exact; as long as the answer conveys the proper meaning, it is correct. If the student understands a question in a different way than it was meant and can prove his answer from the text, the answer is also considered correct.

# Philomena

## Lesson 2

### Reading Review Questions

1. She seems to have forgotten to be kind.
2. Philomena wants Babushka to be able to take flowers with her to Heaven.
3. Because writing to Father Matthias is much too easy: Philomena needs to learn to think for herself.

## Lesson 3

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. *Answers will vary.*
2. The church seems to be in the center of town, between the “head” and the “feet.” It is also the heart of the village because everyone goes to church on Sundays, and Father Matthias makes people happy when he talks to them. The villagers also have parties with Father Matthias after church. The church is the village’s “heart” because it brings the villagers together and is where they are happy.
3. *Answers will vary.*
4. Babushka says that “the coming home” part is very important because it is good to return to where you belong. Babushka’s daughter Liska didn’t come home, and this hurt Babushka very much. Babushka doesn’t want Philomena to leave the village and never come back. *Answers will vary as to what the student likes about coming home.*
5. Babushka is very happy to be dying and going to Heaven. She is very old and tired, so she probably looks forward to resting

and not being tired anymore in Heaven. Also, she misses her daughter, Philomena’s mother, who is in Heaven. She wants to go see her. This seems like a good way to feel about dying: Babushka knows she will be with God and other loved ones and will be free from suffering.

### Literary Elements: Setting

1914–1918

Czech Republic

## Lesson 5

### Reading Review Questions

1. Because he is dirty. She changes her mind because his dirty finger has left a mark next to the perfect job offer in the newspaper.
2. Because that would have been too easy
3. Because it is the fashion. No, she doesn’t like it.

## Lesson 6

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. *Answers will vary, but if you don’t expect things to be easy, you will be more ready to work hard and less disappointed if things don’t go your way. Often, we have to work hard to make things the best they can be. For example, we have to clean our rooms to make them nice to be in, and we have to pull out weeds and do all sorts of other work to grow a garden. Most good things in life require lots of work. The villagers’ beliefs help them to do the work needed to have a good life.*

2. *Answers will vary.* Some possibilities are: when you get hurt, when a pet dies, when a parent or sibling is very sick, when someone does something cruel, or when you are afraid or frustrated.
3. Babushka talks to Philomena by sending a man to sit on her park bench and mark the job she should take in the newspaper.
4. Philomena’s conversation with Babushka is different from prayer because God does not usually give us clear “signs” of what to do, the way Babushka sends Philomena.

Even though Philomena’s conversation with Babushka isn’t exactly like prayer in real life, it does illustrate some important lessons about prayer:

- Philomena is confident that when she asks for help from Babushka, she will receive an answer. In the same way, we can be sure that God hears us when we pray and that He will answer our prayer in the best way.
- Father Matthias tells Philomena that she should not expect Babushka to answer her in words. In the same way, God does not usually answer our prayers in words.
- Philomena tells Babushka, “I’m listening, Babushka, and I’ll do just as you say.” When we pray, it is important to listen with an open heart and be willing to follow God’s will no matter what.
- Babushka speaks to Philomena by sending a man to sit on her park bench and mark the job she



should take in the newspaper. God doesn't usually give direct "signs" of what we should do, but He does often speak through things that happen to us. Imagine that you have asked God to help you know what to give up during Lent. You are thinking of giving up candy, but after you pray, your little brother comes up and wants to play with you. Usually you like to play by yourself, but suddenly you get the idea that maybe God wants you to play with your brother more often during Lent instead of giving up candy. Since God doesn't always give such direct signs of what to do, you can also ask your mom or dad what they think of the idea. Your parents' advice is the main way God speaks to you while you are a child.

5. Answers will vary, but Philomena's job at Madame Benesh's seems difficult. It is hard to please both the cook and Madame Benesh when they each want her to do different things. Also, for her supper, she has to eat what she scrapes off the pots and pans when doing the dishes, so she may be hungry sometimes. But Philomena is learning to do many things and seeing new things, like copper pots and beautiful vases. Philomena enjoys singing with the canary bird, too.
6. *Answers will vary.* On one hand, Philomena did break a valuable vase because she was running in the house. On the other hand, Madame Benesh and her cook shouldn't make it so difficult for Philomena to do her job. Philomena slips and breaks the vase because she is trying to

hurry to answer two calls at the same time. It would be hard for anyone to be careful and calm at that moment. Whether or not it is fair that she loses her job, Philomena is probably better off at another job. She can take the one thing she really enjoyed about this job, the canary bird, with her; and it is unlikely that another job will be worse.

### Reading Skills: Visualizing

*The student should illustrate an object, place, person, or event from Chapter 2 on a separate piece of paper.*

## Lesson 8

### Reading Review Questions

1. The house's address is written on the kitten's collar tag. *OR:* The policeman escorts her to the address on the kitten's tag.
2. The policeman reasons with the butler to make him divide the money more fairly. (He says the cat's return is worth more than permission to keep the bird.)
3. Philomena asks if she can keep the cat in her own room.

## Lesson 9

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. Answers will vary, but the student will probably agree that Philomena does the right thing by saving the cat. The boys were acting out of cruelty, and Philomena is strong and experienced enough to know how to stop them.

2. Answers will vary, but the policeman may want to help Philomena because she is a young girl alone in a big city or because she is very interesting (not all girls ask their grandmothers in Heaven for instructions on what to do next). He knows her first job didn't go so well, since she is now applying for another one; he probably feels sorry and wants her to have a good job. He might also want to make sure they give her the reward money for the kitten.

3. Answers will vary, but Philomena learns that others might try to cheat her. Maybe she should speak up for herself, or bring along a friend like the policeman, when people try to take advantage of her. If Philomena had not had help, she would have gotten less of the reward money. Without the policeman, she might still have realized that the butler was taking advantage of her, but she might not have realized that anything could be done to change the butler's actions.

4. Philomena burns the tablecloth because the cat escapes from her room while she is ironing the tablecloth. She leaves the hot iron on the cloth too long, and the iron burns through the cloth. Philomena thinks Babushka is responsible because Babushka led her to this job. Because Babushka seems to be in control of what happens to her, Philomena thinks Babushka allowed the cat to escape and the tablecloth to be ruined. The student may realize that Philomena should have been more careful and put up the iron before going after the cat. It is Philomena's

fault that the tablecloth burned, but Philomena is in a difficult situation because she has to work and take care of a cat at the same time. Philomena may feel that Babushka should not have let this happen, but sometimes events that seem like disasters turn out for good.

## Reading Skills: Who Is Speaking

1. the woman
2. Philomena

## Lesson 11

### Reading Review Questions

1. Philomena thinks Babushka wastefully destroyed the tablecloth.
2. She looks in the newspaper that was wrapped around the liver.  
*OR:* She finds that the part of the newspaper that is most stained and smelly is an advertisement for Governess Wilson's job.
3. Because one must never judge things by the way they look on the outside (they might be very different on the inside)

## Lesson 12

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. *Answers will vary.* Some possibilities are playing games, reading aloud to them, taking nature walks, eating snacks, and building forts.
2. *Answers will vary.* Some possibilities are food that looked unappetizing but tasted good, a person you didn't like at first but

who ended up becoming a good friend, and an activity or skill that looked boring or difficult but turned out to be interesting and fun.

## Literary Studies: Descriptions

*The student should write at least two sentences to describe a pet.*

## Lesson 14

### Reading Review Questions

1. One must use both head and heart to make things come out right. The head should be hard and the heart soft.
2. Because Uncle Borish's coattails wag like a dog's tail sometimes. [Also, the dog is black and white like Uncle Borish's suit.]
3. She gets her thoughts in order (by remembering the day). *OR:* She gets clean.

## Lesson 15

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. Mr. Daminski seems to like and admire Philomena. He also seems to find her amusing, since he smiles and covers his mouth sometimes when she is telling her story. But, like Father Matthias, he is kind. He will probably be a very good man to work for because he loves children, doesn't mind the animals Philomena brings, is kind, and has a sense of humor. *Answers may vary as to what the student thinks of Mr. Daminski.*
2. *Answers may vary,* but Philomena's amazement at the bathroom tells us she is not used

to having a whole room just for getting clean in. It sounds like she did not have running water (faucets with water ready to come out) in the village. Philomena likes being clean. Some clues are the way she always washes her feet when she goes to the park, the fact that she notices how dirty the man in the park is (and the smudge he leaves on the newspaper) and the smelly stain left by the liver on another newspaper, and the fact that she thinks the bathroom is the most miraculous place imaginable.

3. *Answers will vary.*

## Reading Skills: Summarizing

*Below is a sample summary of Chapter 4.*

Philomena goes to the park to ask Babushka what to do. There she meets a woman who says she needs a replacement for her job as a governess. Philomena is given the job of caring for the Daminski children.

## Lesson 17

### Reading Review Questions

1. Because Mr. Daminski is going to marry again and Philomena won't be needed to care for the children
2. Because no one is ever allowed to go away hungry from Mr. Daminski's house. *OR:* Mr. Daminski has been looking for a seamstress to hire. *OR:* She believes it is Babushka's plan.
3. Babushka; to make Philomena pay attention and talk to the woman leaving the park

## Lesson 18

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. *Answers may vary.* The most important difference is that the Daminskis treat her like one of the family instead of like a servant. She is surrounded by people who love her instead of being scolded. Another difference is the type of work she is doing—instead of doing household chores, she is taking care of children, which she enjoys. Another difference is that she has her own beautiful bedroom instead of having to sleep in the back kitchen or in a tiny room under the stairs.
2. *Answers will vary.* The student may be sad that Philomena might no longer be needed, but it is good for the children to have a real mother. Helena seems like she will be a good mother because she is kind and makes everyone laugh.
3. *Answers may vary,* but Philomena probably means that it is hard for her to remember that she is a servant when the whole household treats her as one of the family. Philomena still seems like a very humble person because she is grateful to the Daminskis for their kindness and does not take her position for granted. A less humble person might feel prideful at being treated as one of the family instead of as a servant.
4. *Answers will vary.* Without family, there would be fewer chances to show and receive love. It would be lonely not to have family to help and protect you and be friends with.

## Literary Studies: Suspense

A dog (or any other animal that can eat from a bowl, make holes in socks, whine, and scratch at a door)

## Lesson 20

### Reading Review Questions

1. He won't be very happy because he will remember his actions. He will feel as if he is trying to sleep with a flea in his bed.
2. That she would send for her mother and baby niece
3. She was too ashamed and proud.

## Lesson 21

### Discussion Questions Guide

1. *Answers will vary,* but the Widow Wittek is not like Philomena imagined she would be. She is no longer young and beautiful. She is not living in a wealthy mansion, like Madame Benesh and Madame Sloshek; instead she is poor and hungry. *Answers will vary* as to what the student expected Aunt Liska would be like.
2. *Answers may vary.* Philomena is so happy that she can't talk about it yet. She can pray about her happiness, but doesn't yet know what words to use when speaking to Aunt Liska. Maybe she needs time to figure out the best way to explain everything to her aunt. Uncle Borish understands that this news is something Philomena should share, since she is Aunt Liska's family. The author says "he must have known that the time for joyousness was yet to come, and

when it came, it belonged to Philomena and her family."

3. *Answers will vary.* Possible answers include traveling by car and airplane, not wagon; most people don't have butlers, seamstresses, cooks, and kitchen maids; children don't usually travel alone or have to find work at age 11; girls and women don't wear skirts or dresses (or kerchiefs) all the time; the student may not live in Europe; the student may not live in a farmhouse in a small village by the river or in a fancy house in a city; most people today don't find jobs through newspaper advertisements but through the internet; and most people today don't dance a folk dance together at home for entertainment.
4. *Answers will vary.* This is a good description of Philomena, because she appreciates simple and beautiful things; she isn't proud; she doesn't waste time, money, or things; and she is healthy and good. This is a very good way to be, and it is good to try to be like Philomena in these ways. *Answers will vary* as to how the student would like himself and his family to be described.
5. *Answers may vary.* The story began with Babushka telling Philomena that it is important to come home, so it is very appropriate that Philomena and her long-lost aunt (Babushka's lost daughter) will return home. Even though Babushka is in Heaven, her daughter will finally come home, and Philomena will come home, too.