

June 2024

8 Honors Summer Reading Assignment Directions:

1. You will receive a copy of the assignment with YOUR NAME and GRADE 8 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT
2. Complete the assignment over the summer.
3. You will attach it to the assignment your 8th grade English teacher posts in September. You are expected to have the assignment completed

£ 3 2 r c X K 1 By Ž W. ve 3 Jacob (3) 860

Without, the night was cold and wet, but in the small parlour of Laburnam Villa the blinds were drawn

3, VKRXOG OLNH WR VHH WKRVH ROG WHP SOHV DQG IDNLUV  
started telling me the other day about a monkey's paw VRPHWKLQJ 0RUULV"´

31RWKLQJ´ VDLG WKH VROGLHU KDVWLO\ 3/HDVWZD\V QRW  
30RQNH\ V SDZ"´ VDLG 0UV :KLWH FXULRXVO\

LF S  
lips an

then set it down again. His host filled it for him.

37R ORRN DW´ VDDGIRUKHXFELJHQMQ KLV SRFNHW 3LW V M

He took something out of his pocket and proffered it. Mrs. White drew back with a grimace, but her son  
taking it, examined it curiously.

3\$QG ZKDW LV WKHUH VSHFLDO DERXW LW"´ LQTXLUHG 0U

3, ZRQ W ' VDLG KLV IULHQG GRJJHGO\ 3, WKUHZ LW RQ WK



placed her hands behind her, and hurriedly unfastening the strings of her apron, put that useful article of apparel beneath the cushioned chair.

She brought the stranger, who seemed ill at ease, into the room. He gazed at her furtively, and listened in a preoccupied fashion as the old lady apologized for the appearance of the room, and her husband's coat, a garment which he usually reserved for the garden. She then waited patiently for him to broach his business, but he was at first strangely silent.

“ZDV DVNHG WR FDOO ‘ KH VDLG DW ODVW DQG VWRRSHG FRPH IURP ODZ DQG OHJJLQV ‘

The ROG ODG\ VWDUWHG ‘,V DQ\WKLQJ WKH PDWWHU" ‘ VKH D +HUEHUW" :KDW LV LW" :KDW LV LW" ‘

+HU KXVEDQG LQWHUSRVHG ‘7KHUH WKHUH PRWKHU ‘ KH conclusions. You've not brought DG QHZV , P VXUH VLU ‘ DQG KH H\HG WKH R

‘, P V R began the visitor.

‘,V KH KXUW" ‘ GHPDQGHG WKH PRWKHU

7KH YLVLWRU ERZHG LQ DVVHQW ‘%DGO\ KXUW ‘ KH VDLG ‘

‘2K WKDQN \*RG ‘ VDLG\SLQH KEG KBDQ FOKDQN \*RG IRU W

She broke off suddenly as the sinister meaning of the assurance dawned upon her and she saw the avowed confirmation of her fears in the other's averted face. She caught her breath, and turning to her husband, laid her trembling old hand upon his. There was a long silence.

‘+H ZDV FDXJKW LQ WKH PDFKLQHU\ ‘ VDLG WKH YLVLWRU D

‘&DXJKW LQ WKH PDFKLQHU\ ‘ UHSHDWHG OU :KLWH LQ D O

He sat staring blankly at the window, and taking his wife's hand between his own, pressed it as he had been wont to do in their old courting days nearly forty years before.

‘+H ZDV WKH RQO\ RQH OHIW WR XV ‘ KH VDLG WXUQLQJ JH

The other could KHG DQG ULVLQJ ZDONHG VORZO\ WR WKH ZLQGRJ VLQFHUH V\PSDWK\ ZLWK \RX LQ \RXU JUHDW ORVV ‘ KH VDLG ‘ DP RQO\ WKHLU VHUYDQW DQG PHUHO\ REH\LQJ RUGHUV ‘

There was no reply;2 Tf7 .13 0 0 1 4(.0570044>4<02 re W\* n BT /F11 12 Tf 1 0 0 1 72.02Con4(sfmr

Unconscious of his wife's shriek, the old man smiled faintly, put out his hands like a sightless man, and dropped, a senseless heap, to the floor.

3

In the huge new cemetery, some two miles distant, the old people buried their dead, and came back to house steeped in shadow and silence. It was all over so quickly that at first they could hardly realize it, and







# Graphic Organizer

6 W X G H Q W · V 1 D P H \_\_\_\_\_

7 L W O H 7 K H 0 R Q N H \ · V 3 D Z μ

Author: W.W. Jacobs

<p>Setting (time and place)</p>	
<p>Characters (including physical and personality traits)</p>	
<p>Plot (sequence of main events)</p>	
<p>Theme(s) (central idea/overall message)  **Identify the theme and provide an example.</p>	
<p>Conflict (the problem(s) the main character confronts)</p>	

Favorite Part  
(include an  
explanation of  
why you like it)

### SIGNIFICANT QUOTE IDENTIFICATION

In the space below, please identify three quotes from the story that you think are significant. Be sure to include the section and explain why you think each quote is important to the story as a whole.

Section	Quotation	Significance (expl anation)

### VOCABULARY ACQUISITION

In the space below, please record three new words you have learned while reading this story. Please include the section where you found it as well as the part of speech and definition.

Section	WORD/PART OF SPEECH	DEFINITION
---------	---------------------	------------

£ 3 2      3 2 6 ^      Đ 6 Ž 2 α      1

Once there was a man who was driving in his car at dusk on a spring evening through part of the forest of Savernake. His name was Mr. Peters. The primroses were just beginning but the trees were still bare, and the air was cold; the birds had stopped singing long ago.

As Mr. Peters entered a straight, empty stretch of road he seemed to hear a faint crying, and a struggling and thrashing, as if somebody was in trouble far away in the trees. He left his car and climbed the mossy bank beside the road. Beyond the bank was an open slope of beech trees leading down to thorn bushes through which he saw the gleam of water. He stood a moment waiting to try and discover where the noise was coming from, and presently heard a rustling and some strange cries in a voice that was almost human and yet there was something too hoarse about it at one time and too clear and sweet at another. Mr. Peters ran down the hill and when he neared the bushes he saw something white among them which was trying to extricate itself; seeing this he found that it was a swan that had become entangled in the thorns growing on the bank of the canal.

The bird struggled all the more frantically as he approached, looking at him with hate in its yellow eyes and when he took hold of it to free it, it bit at him, pecked him, and thrashed dangerously with its wings which were powerful enough to break his arm. Nevertheless he managed to release it from the thorns, and carrying it tightly with one arm, holding the snaky head well away with the other (he did not wish his eyes pecked out), he took it to the verge of the canal and dropped it in.

The swan instantly assumed great dignity and sailed out to the middle of the water, where it put itself to rights with much dabbling and preening, smoothing its feathers with little showers of drops. Mr. Peters waited to make sure that it was all right and had suffered no damage in its struggles. Presently the swan, when it was satisfied with its appearance, floated in to the bank once more. and in a moment instead of the great white bird, there was a little man all in green with a golden crown and long beard, standing by the water. He had fierce glittering eyes and looked by no means friendly.

"Well, Sir," he said threateningly, "I see you are presumptuous enough to know some of the laws of magic. You think that because you have rescued me from a difficulty, you should have some fabulous reward."

"I expect three wishes, no more and no less," answered Mr. Peters, looking at him steadily and with composure.

"Thsu the nois

he flung three dead leaves in the air and don't blame me if you spend the last wish in undoing the work of the other two."

Mr. Peters caught the leaves and put two of them carefully in his notecase. When he looked up the swan was sailing about in the middle of the water again, flicking the drops angrily down its long neck.

Mr. Peters stood for some minutes reflecting on how he should use his reward. He knew very well that the gift of three magic wishes was one which brought trouble more often than not, and he had no intention of being like the forester who first wished by mistake for a sausage, and then in a rage bit the end of his wife's nose, and then had to use his last wish in getting it off again. Mr. Peters had most of the things which he wanted and was very content with his life. The only thing that troubled him was that he was a little lonely, and had no companion for his old age. He decided to use his first wish and to keep the other two in case of an emergency. Taking a thorn he pricked his tongue with it, to remind himself not to utter rash wishes aloud. Then he held the other two in case of an

One evening he was returning home along the river path when he saw ~~Leita~~ <sup>Leita</sup> of him, down by the water. A swan had sailed up to the verge and she had her arms round its neck and the swan's head rested against her cheek. She was weeping, and as he came nearer he saw that tears were rolling, too, from the swan's eyes.

"Leita,

Then he knew that it was hopeless and she would never be happy as a human. He stooped down and kissed her goodbye, then took another leaf from his notecase, blew it out of the window, and used up his second wish.

Next moment instead of Leita there was a sleeping swan lying across ~~with his~~ <sup>her</sup> head under its wing. He carried it out of the house and down to the brink of the river, and then he said, "Leita! Leita!" to waken her, and gently put her into the water. She gazed round her in astonishment for a moment, and then came up to him and rested her head lightly against his hand; next instant she was flying away over the trees towards the heart of the forest.

He heard a harsh laugh behind him, and turning round saw the old King looking at him with a malicious expression.

"Well, my friend! You don't seem to have managed so wonderfully with your first two wishes, do you? What will you do with the last? Turn yourself into a swan? Or turn Leita back into a girl?"

"I shall do neither," said Mr. Peters calmly. "Human beings and swans ~~are in~~ <sup>are in</sup> their own shapes."

But for all that he looked sadly over towards the forest where Leita had flown, and walked slowly back to his empty house.

Next day he saw two swans swimming at the bottom of the garden, and one of them wore the gold chain he had given Leita after their marriage; she came up and rubbed her head against his hand.

Mr. Peters and his two swans came to be well known in that part of the country; people used to say that he talked to the swans and they understood him as well as ~~children~~ <sup>children</sup>. Many people were a little frightened of him. There was a story that once when thieves tried to break into his house they were set upon by two huge white birds which carried them off bodily and dropped them in the river. As Mr. Peters grew ~~older~~ <sup>older</sup> every one wondered at his contentment. Even when he was bent with rheumatism he would not think of moving to a drier spot, but went slowly about his work, milking the cows and collecting the honey and eggs, with the two swans always somewhere close at hand.

Sometimes people who knew his story would say to him:

"Mr. Peters, why don't you wish for another wife?"

"Not likely," he would answer serenely. "Two wishes were enough for me, I reckon. I'(ng th peo)3(0e)4

## Graphic Organizer

6WXGHQW·V 1DPH

---

7LWOH 7KH 7KLUG :LVKμ

Author: Joan Aiken



Conflict (the  
problem(s) the main  
character  
confronts)

Favorite Part  
(include an  
explanation of

