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Indian Captive

Lois Lenski

CHAPTER I: *Come What May*

1. What news does Neighbor Wheelock bring to the Jemison family? How do the different members of the family respond?

(The Indians have murdered the Johnson family, burnt the Haskins family out, and taken Ned Haskins' wife and children captive. Thomas Jemison appears untroubled and explains that he is not afraid of the Indians. Jane Jemison is left weak and afraid and desires to flee.)

2. Why does Molly enjoy being outdoors?

(Being closed up in the house working on chores makes her feel stifled. She longs to be in nature, experiencing the freedom of the birds, butterflies, and wild things.)

CHAPTER II: *The Long Journey*

1. What image always stayed with Molly from the day that the Indians captured her family, and what image is it contrasted with?

(Molly always remembered the beautiful spring morning on the meadows in contrast to the terror, shock, and pain that came with her [and her family's] capture.)

2. Why does Molly believe Pa is refusing to eat or speak?

(She thinks that he is haunted by the decision not to heed Neighbor Wheelock's warning.)

3. What does Ma tell Mary when the Indians take her and Davy away with them?

(She tells her to try and make the best of things, not to run away from the Indians because they would kill her, and above all to stay strong and courageous.)

CHAPTER III: *Fort Duquesne*

1. When Molly says to Davy and Nicholas, "They can change our faces, but our hearts they cannot change," what does she mean?

(Molly implies that though the Indians have just painted their faces and changed their external appearance, they cannot change who they really are.)

2. What does Molly do when she realizes she will never see Davy and Nicholas again?
(She sobs on the ground, prays to God for strength, and repeats to herself her mother's last words.)
3. What does Molly realize when she gets in the canoe with the two women?
(She realizes she has just changed masters and she now belongs to these two women.)

CHAPTER IV: *Seneca Town*

1. How are the two women in the canoe related to one another? How are they different from one another?
(The two Indian women are sisters. While one is beautiful, thin, graceful, and kind, the other is plain, stout, rough, and harsh.)
2. What is the only tie that Molly has left to her former life? What happens to it?
(When Molly and the Indian sisters finally come ashore, the sisters give Molly a new set of Indian clothes. Molly's blue jean dress, though torn into rags, is the last remaining thing of her life back home. Molly tries to save her dress, but one of the sisters throws it in the river and it floats away.)
3. What name do the Indians give Molly? Why?
(They call her Corn Tassel because she has long, silky blond hair the color of fresh corn-silk. Though Molly is unaware, the Indian women have been intentional and kind in naming Molly since corn is one of the dearest things in life to them.)

CHAPTER V: *Lost in Sorrow*

1. What is the "ka-doom" sound that Molly hears as she wakes up from a dream about her mother?
(It is the Indians pounding the corn into ground meal.)
2. What is the first Indian word Molly learns? How does she learn the word?
(Molly learns the word for "wood." When the plain Indian sister orders her to go get wood from the grove and Molly does not leave immediately, the sister kicks her in the shins.)

3. Who does Mary meet in the woods? Who does he remind her of?

(She meets a young Indian boy who reminds her of Davy Wheelock because of his soft brown eyes.)

CHAPTER VI: *A Singing Bird*

1. Little Turtle, the boy Mary met in the woods, goes to his father, Chief Standing Pine, to ask for help. What does he say to his father, and what is his father's reply?

(Little Turtle compares Mary to a wounded animal in a trap and asks his father if she could be set free and allowed to return home. The chief responds by saying that the settlers and the Indians rage against one another in war and Mary is a result of that war. She cannot be returned, but time will eventually cause her to forget her sorrow.)

2. Why is this chapter called "A Singing Bird"?

(Grandfather Shagbark makes Molly a ladle with a singing bird on the handle so that she can look at it and always be happy.)

3. What does Little Turtle teach Molly?

(Little Turtle teaches Molly the Seneca language.)

4. What important lesson does Molly learn that she will never forget?

(When Molly comes back to the village after spending the day with Grandfather Shagbark and Little Turtle, she is hungry and holds out her bowl for food. But Red Bird refuses to give her food because she did not work that day to earn it, and Molly is sent to bed hungry.)

CHAPTER VII: *Slow Weaving*

1. What conflict is Molly struggling with?

(Molly finds herself drawn to Shining Star and desires to both show and be shown affection. Yet at the same time she thinks that Shining Star is only showing her affection in order to turn her into an Indian.)

2. What important lesson does Molly learn from Shining Star about how Indians show emotion?

(Molly learns that Indians do not cry but instead bear their pain and suffering with courage.)

CHAPTER VIII: *A Second Captivity*

1. To what place does Molly return with Squirrel Woman and Shining Star? What has changed?

(She returns with them to Fort Duquesne. Molly finds that the fort itself has not changed, but she has changed by living the life of an Indian girl.)

2. Who does Molly meet there? What do they want to do? Do they succeed?

(Molly meets pale-faced people. They want to take her away from the Indians. Molly wishes she could go with them and live as she used to. But Squirrel Woman finds her and pulls her in the opposite direction.)

3. Why can Molly and the sisters not return to Seneca Town?

(The sisters heard Molly tell the pale-faced people at the fort where she lived. The sisters believe it is the will of the Great Spirit that she live with them, so instead of returning to their home, they take a longer journey to Genesee Town so Molly cannot be found.)

CHAPTER IX: *By the Falling Waters*

1. Who does Molly meet when she wakes up from her sickness, and what is she making? How has she earned her name?

(Molly meets Beaver Girl, who is making a clay pot. Beaver Girl has earned her name, according to Earth Woman, because she is industrious and always busy like a beaver.)

2. What do the children find in the woods? What do they disagree about?

(They first find a bear cub and then its mother. They want to take the bear cub captive, but Molly disagrees with them and wants to keep the cub free.)

CHAPTER X: *Old Fallenash*

1. What does Molly watch Little Turtle do in the woods? How does she respond? What does Little Turtle say in return?

(Molly watches Little Turtle kill a turkey with an arrow. Molly weeps to see the turkey suffer pain. Little Turtle reiterates what Shining Star had once told Molly that crying is just weakness and Indian girls should avoid weeping in order to become strong.)