

Classic Literature: Heidi

Swiss author Johanna Spyri wrote *Heidi* in 1880. It's the story of a young girl who goes to live in the mountains of Switzerland with her grandfather. She makes friends with Peter, a neighbor boy who herds goats.

In the passage below, Heidi is with Peter when he takes the goats to the pasture on the mountainside. Two of the goats are mentioned in the passage: Greenfinch and Snowflake. Heidi has just shared her lunch with Peter.

Heidi

by Johanna Spyri

Chapter III: Out With the Goats

All of a sudden Peter leaped to his feet and ran hastily after the goats. Heidi followed him as fast as she could, for she was too eager to know what had happened to stay behind. Peter dashed through the middle of the flock towards that side of the mountain where the rocks fell perpendicularly to a great depth below, and where any thoughtless goat, if it went too near, might fall over and break all its legs. He had caught sight of the inquisitive Greenfinch taking leaps in that direction, and he was only just in time, for the animal had already sprung to the edge of the abyss. All Peter could do was to throw himself down and seize one of her hind legs. Greenfinch, thus taken by surprise, began bleating furiously, angry at being held so fast and prevented from continuing her voyage of discovery. She struggled to get loose, and endeavored so obstinately to leap forward that Peter shouted to Heidi to come and help him, for he could not get up and was afraid of pulling out the goat's leg altogether.

Heidi had already run up and she saw at once the danger both Peter and the animal were in. She quickly gathered a bunch of sweet-smelling leaves, and then, holding them under Greenfinch's nose, said coaxingly, "Come, come, Greenfinch, you must not be naughty! Look, you might fall down there and break your leg, and that would give you dreadful pain!"

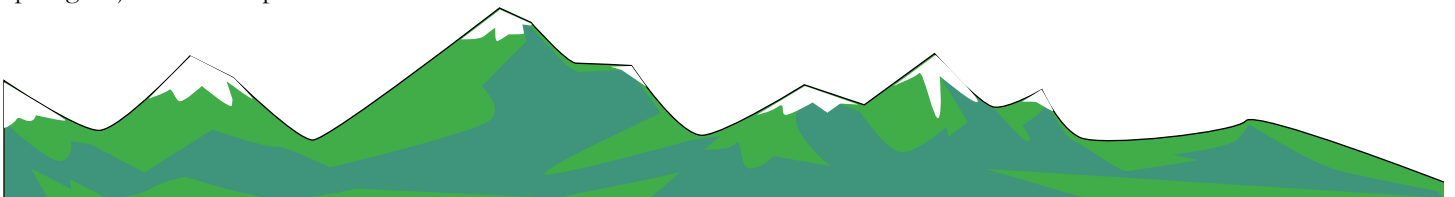
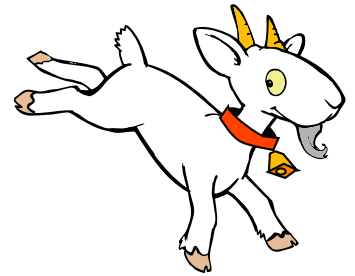
The young animal turned quickly and began contentedly eating the leaves out of Heidi's hand. Meanwhile Peter got on to his feet again and took hold of Greenfinch by the band round her neck from which her bell was hung, and Heidi taking hold of her in the same way on the other side, they led the wanderer back to the rest of the flock that had remained peacefully feeding. Peter, now he had his goat in safety, lifted his stick in order to give her a good beating as punishment, and Greenfinch seeing what was coming shrank back in fear. But Heidi cried out, "No, no, Peter, you must not strike her; see how frightened she is!"

"She deserves it," growled Peter, and again lifted his stick. Then Heidi flung herself against him and cried indignantly, "You have no right to touch her, it will hurt her, let her alone!"

Peter looked with surprise at the commanding little figure, whose dark eyes were flashing, and reluctantly he let his stick drop. "Well, I will let her off if you will give me some more of your cheese tomorrow," he said, for he was determined to have something to make up to him for his fright.

"You shall have it all, tomorrow and every day, I do not want it," replied Heidi, giving ready consent to his demand. "And I will give you bread as well, a large piece like you had today; but then you must promise never to beat Greenfinch, or Snowflake, or any of the goats."

"All right," said Peter, "I don't care," which meant that he would agree to the bargain, and let go of Greenfinch, who joyfully sprang to join her companions.



Name: _____

Heidi: Do You Understand?



I. Order of Events

Put the following events in the passage in the order they happened. Mark the first event with a 1, the second with a 2 and so on.

- A. _____ Heidi makes a deal with Peter.
- B. _____ Greenfinch gets too close to the edge of the mountain.
- C. _____ Peter wants to punish Greenfinch
- D. _____ Heidi gives Greenfinch leaves to eat.
- E. _____ Peter catches Greenfinch.

II. Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer in the blank.

1. What promise did Peter give Heidi?

2. Why did Peter jump to his feet and run after the goats?

3. What did Heidi promise to give Peter?

4. Which two characters were in danger?

5. How did Greenfinch act when Peter grabbed her?

Name: _____ **KEY**

Heidi: Vocabulary

Part I. Meaning in the Text

Below are sentences and phrases from the text. Circle the correct meaning of the underlined word.

1. "Greenfinch, thus taken by surprise, began bleating furiously, angry at being held"

A. sadly or miserably B. shyly or timidly C. curiously D. hotly or angrily

2. " 'Look, you might fall down there and break your leg, and that would give you dreadful pain!' "

A. a small amount B. terrible C. possible D. walking

3. "The young animal turned quickly and began contentedly eating the leaves out of Heidi's hand."

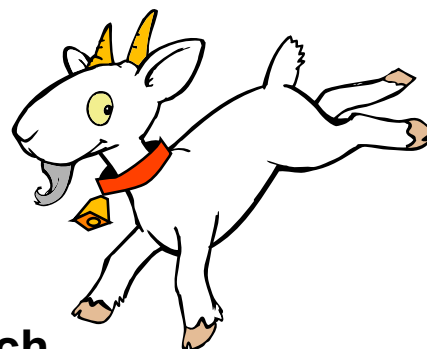
A. happily B. hungrily C. slowly D. quickly

4. "Heidi, giving ready consent to his demand"

A. quick B. slow C. thought D. agreement

5. "Greenfinch, who joyfully sprang to join her companions"

A. family B. owners C. friends D. enemies



II. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

Column A

- _____ flock
- _____ perpendicularly
- _____ abyss
- _____ voyage
- _____ endeavored
- _____ obstinately
- _____ wanderer
- _____ commanding
- _____ reluctantly
- _____ bargain

Column B

- A. trip or journey
- B. unwillingly or with regret
- C. traveler or one who strays
- D. group of animals
- E. deal or agreement
- F. having authority or power
- G. deep hole or canyon
- H. tried
- I. straight up and down
- J. stubbornly

Name: _____

Heidi: Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. What are three ideas from the passage that support this main idea.

Heidi was kind.

Three large empty ovals are provided for students to write supporting evidence.



Name: _____

Heidi: Heidi vs. Peter



Heidi and Peter are the two human characters in the passage. Compare the two of them. How are they alike? How are they different? Which one do you like best? If you were Greenfinch, who would you like best?



Name: _____

Fun With Words: Heidi Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

Q O T A L U B F R E S N B C
I L Z E T I R B S R N B W D
P U G G W H S R O G O A T S
D K N R E A A E H E W A Q K
F I O R E K N A B M F N H N
O E B A B E T D G U L V D S
B A R G A I N Q E B A E V M
K G E F E O A F I R K O R O
J L R S A J C T I R E D Y U
D E Z T L R H F N N T R N N
L A C I O F E W P L C O B T
P V G C P P E T E R S H K A
L E F K G I S T P E N A R I
Z S W D H H E I D I N J U N

BARGAIN
BREAD
CHEESE

GOATS
GREENFINCH
HEIDI

LEAVES
MOUNTAIN
PETER

SNOWFLAKE
STICK
WANDERER

Classic Literature: Heidi

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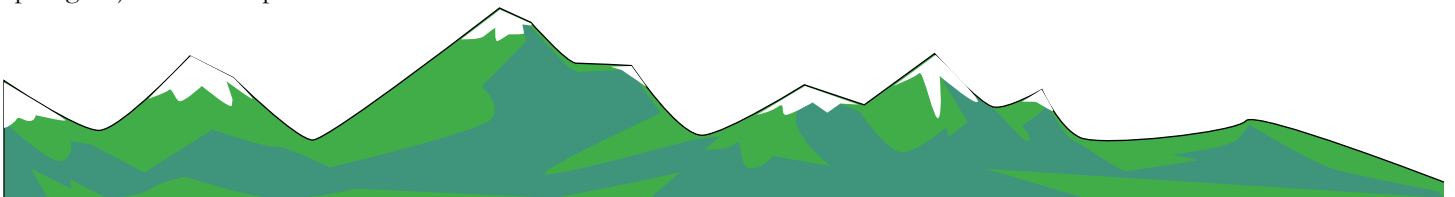
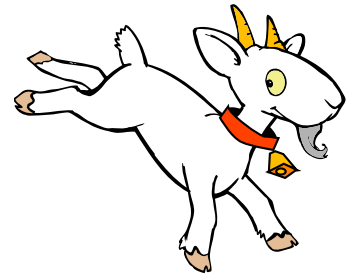
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- A. 5 Heidi makes a deal with Peter.
- B. 1 Greenfinch gets too close to the edge of the mountain.
- C. 4 Peter wants to punish Greenfinch
- D. 3 Heidi gives Greenfinch leaves to eat.
- E. 2 Peter catches Greenfinch.

II. Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer in the blank.

Student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers:

1. What promise did Peter give Heidi?

Peter promised would not hurt the goats

2. Why did Peter jump to his feet and run after the goats?

He saw Greenfinch getting close to the side of the mountain.

3. What did Heidi promise to give Peter?

Her cheese and bread

4. Which two characters were in danger?

Peter and Greenfinch

5. How did Greenfinch act when Peter grabbed her?

She was angry.

Name: _____ **KEY**

Heidi: Vocabulary

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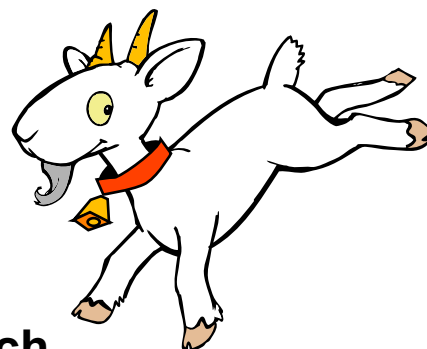
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A. family B. owners **C. friends** D. enemies



II. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

Column A

1. **D** flock
2. **I** perpendicularly
3. **G** abyss
4. **A** voyage
5. **H** endeavored
6. **J** obstinately
7. **C** wanderer
8. **F** commanding
9. **B** reluctantly
10. **E** bargain

Column B

- A. trip or journey
- B. unwillingly or with regret
- C. traveler or one who strays
- D. group of animals
- E. deal or agreement
- F. having authority or power
- G. deep hole or canyon
- H. tried
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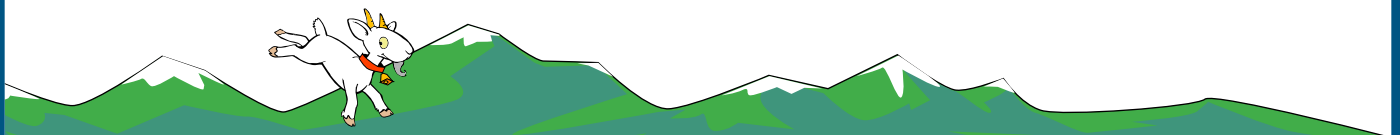
Heidi was kind.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

**She stopped
Peter from hurting
Greenfinch.**

**She made a deal with
Peter that he would not
hurt the goats.**

**She gave up her food
so the goats would
not be hurt.**



Name: _____ **KEY** _____

Heidi: Heidi vs. Peter



Heidi and Peter are the two human characters in the passage. Compare the two of them. How are they alike? How are they different? Which one do you like best? If you were Greenfinch, who would you like best?

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