

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Part one - The Legend, Chapters One & Two

The Legend of Alderley		
1	What does 'light mists bedimmed his way' mean?	The mist made everything in front of him a bit blurry, it wasn't as light as the sun's light was blocked out a little by the mist. He couldn't see as far as he could on a normal day without mist. Bedimmed - to make dim; darken; obscure.
2	'...the day promised fine...?'	It was going to be a nice sunny day.
3	Why did the farmer allow the horse to 'set her own pace'?	'...he wanted her to arrive fresh for the market.' A good-looking horse would sell for more money than one that looked tired and worn-out.
4	Why was his 'mind on the town while he was yet in the hills'?	He was looking forward and thinking about how much money he would get for the mare at the market.
5	'The spur and the rein she understood, and her master's stern command, but the eyes that held her were stronger than all of these.' Explain. What does the author mean?	She had been trained and knew when to go and when to stop, when to turn, etc. She would obey the tug of the reins or the kick of a foot or the voice of command. However the person looking at her was exerting a greater authority over her than all of these. The eyes looking at her were telling her to stop so she did.
6	Why was the farmer so rude to the old man?	'...the farmer wished to sell only at the market, where he would have a choice of many offers...' The farmer wanted the most money he could get. In the market the people wanting the mare might bid against each other and the price would go up and up. This old man couldn't give the best price because the farmer didn't know what the best price was yet.
7	'None will buy...and I shall await you at sunset.' What did the old man mean by that?	The farmer might want to sell, but no-one would buy and he'd be waiting again on the way home.
8	Why did the farmer's horse plunge when the rock was split?	The horse was terrified by the noise. Horses hate storms. By 'plunging' the author means that the horse pranced and bucked. Plunge - to pitch violently forward, as a horse, ship, etc.
9	'...when England shall be in direst peril, and England's mothers weep.' What is the author implying here?	When England is in great danger, and mothers weep because either their children are dead or are going off to die. Peril - to expose to danger; imperil; risk. Imminent danger.
10	'...dumb with awe...?' What had happened to the farmer and why?	He was struck silent. He couldn't talk. He was so overcome with what he saw before him, with what was in the cave. Dumb - temporarily unable to speak: Awe - an overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration

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Chapter One - Highmost Redmanhey		
11	Why did the guard cry 'Wilmslow fifteen minutes'?	He was saying that the train would be arriving at Wilmslow in fifteen minutes time. He was warning the people who wanted to get off to start getting themselves ready and to get all their things together so they got off in the time they were stopped at the station.
12	Why were the last miles the longest of all?	They were ready. They had put everything away and were ready to stand up and go. Now they had to wait and because they had nothing else to do they noticed every minute going by. It's like when you are waiting excitedly for something to happen but it never seems to arrive. It's as if time has slowed down.
13	Why was it so easy for the children to notice Gowther Mossock?	'He was an oak of a man...solid as a crag...'
14	How does the author tell us that Gowther is a 'nice' person?	'...blue eyes crinkled to the humour of his mouth.' Eyes crinkle when you smile. Everything about his solidness is written about kindly; there is nothing scary or nasty in the author's description of him.
15	Why did the dog 'eye the children warily'?	He hadn't seen them before. He didn't know whether to be friendly with them or not. His master was talking kindly to them so they must be fine but... Warily - watchful; being on one's guard against danger.
16	How did the dog finally show that it had accepted the children?	'...Scamp, who came and thrust his head on to the seat between Susan and Gowther.'
17	Why does the author misspell some of the words Gowther use?	He is showing that Gowther is not speaking BBC English; he has an accent, so the author is misspelling the words so that we know how Gowther is pronouncing them. 'theer' - there; 'con' - can; 'poncake' - pancake; 'wheer' - where.
18	How has the author implied the Edge is a bit creepy like Susan says?	It's in the way he describes it. The hill is 'high, <u>sombre</u> , and <u>black</u> .' The author writes that it ' <u>towered</u> above them'. He writes that the trees ' <u>seemed to be whispering to each other</u> '. Sombre - gloomily dark; shadowy; dimly lighted: gloomy, depressing, or dismal Tower - appear very large or occupy a commanding position. To rise or extend far upward, as a tower; reach or stand high

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19	Why did they not travel by the shortest route?	'I dunner care much for the main road, with its clatter and smoke, nor does Prince here.' Gowther didn't like the main road; it was too busy, too much traffic, too noisy with all the car engines. Prince didn't like it either, so presumably Gowther would have had to do a lot of reassuring and guiding and controlling to keep himself and Prince safe.
20	Why were the children going to stay with the Mosssocks?	'...mother...had been called to join her husband abroad for six months.' 'Bess...had been nurse to the children's mother...they still wrote to each other...'
21	What was the effect of the heavy meal and all the travelling?	The children just wanted to sleep. '...before long Colin and Susan were falling asleep on their chairs.'
<b>Chapter Two - The Edge</b>		
22	Why did they have to get the hay in 'while the weather holds'?	The hay needed to be collected in dry or it would start to go mouldy in the barn. Question the children about what hay is and what it's for to help with this if necessary.
23	What did Colin and Susan do that first morning? How do you know?	They helped bring in the hay. We know because the author writes - '...Sam... lifted three times as much as Colin and Susan...' This implies that the children were helping with the hay, not just watching.
24	Why did Gowther warn them about the Edge?	Because of all the shafts, and tunnels from old copper mines. They could fall in or get lost going down one.
25	Why do you think the inn was so named?	It was the place, or near the place, where, legend had it, that the farmer met the old man who led him into the cave.
26	Why did Colin venture down the trench, despite Gowther's warnings?	'...there's no harm going down a little way - just as far as daylight reaches.' He didn't see any reason why they shouldn't. It didn't look dangerous. They could see where they were going. An adult had told them not to, so he was bound to disobey!
27	What was odd about how the woman in the car looked?	She didn't appear to 'have much of a neck'. '...her eyes were rather too small for her broad head.' '...her legs were thin and spindly...'
28	What did the children do that was right?	Refuse to get in the car.
29	What made Colin uncomfortable about the woman?	She was talking to herself and had been very insistent. 'They could not just walk off and leave this peculiar woman in the middle of the road, yet her manner was so embarrassing that he wanted to hurry away...'

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30	<p>Why do you think that the woman was so angry at the dog barking? What do you think she had been trying to do?</p>	<p>It had broken her concentration. She had been trying to cast a spell. We can imply that from her use of Latin.</p>
31	<p>What did Colin realise that he'd been doing?</p>	<p>'...Colin saw that his fingers were round the handle of the car door, and the door was half-open.' Somehow she had made him get to the car and begin to get in without him noticing.</p>
32	<p>Why was Scamp snarling noisily?</p>	<p>There was something about the woman he didn't like. He could sense that the children, who were now under his protection, were in danger.</p>
33	<p>What was the Tear? Where had it come from?</p>	<p>'A small piece of crystal, shaped like a raindrop...' It had been Susan's mother, and she had been given it by Bess, in whose family it had been passed down from mother to daughter.</p>
34	<p>Why had Bess given the Tear to Susan's mother?</p>	<p>'I've no childer of my own, and thy mother was the same as a daughter to me.'</p>

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Chapter Three - Maggot-breed of Ymir		
1	What did Gowther think was daft?	That Selina Place had asked the way to Macclesfield as she lived in Alderly!
2	Why does Gowther think Selina's dogs are more like wolves?	'...I've heard them howling of a winter's night...' Wolves howl.
3	Bess says, 'It all sounds a bit rum to me. I think she's up to summat.' What does she mean?	That something wasn't right and that Selina had had something planned that was not good.
4	'If you run three times widdershins' round Devil's Grave 'Owd Nick's supposed to come up and fetch you.' What might happen to you? What must you do?	Run x3 anticlockwise/counterclockwise. Owd Nick is the devil. <i>Question the children if necessary; you should be able to get them to see a link between the Devil and Own Nick.</i>
5	Why did Gowther threaten to get his shotgun out when he saw the crow?	'...they're a reet menace in the lambing season.' They'll harm the new lambs, attack the weak ones, too weak to get away, peck out the eyes of the ewes who get stuck on their backs and can't get back up.
6	Why did the children go out after tea?	'...Colin...suggested another walk on the Edge, this time to find the iron gates.'
7	Why did Susan want to go home?	The sun was going down, they could get lost. They didn't know the area. They were new. '...If we don't reach the road before dark we could easily lose our way.'
8	What made the children think they were being watched?	'...had the feeling between the shoulder blades...'
9	Why did Colin laugh?	Because somebody was watching, the carrion crow. He laughed because he was relieved. It wasn't anything dangerous he thought. It was only a bird!
10	What made them wary of the crow?	It did not move when shooed. '...he took a step forward, waved his arms in the air, and cried "Shoo!" ...the crow did not move.'
11	Why were the figures outlandish?	Outlandish - freakishly or grotesquely strange or odd, as appearance, dress, objects, ideas, or practices. They were small (three feet high); large heads, pointed ears, round saucer eyes, snouts or pug noses.
12	What do you think scared the children the most about them?	Take answers so long as they can justify them. For me I'd say the ropes that they were holding as it implies that they were out to capture the children and take them somewhere.
13	As they ran what did Colin	'He realised that their only hope of escape lay in reaching

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	realise?	open ground and the path that led from Stormy Point to the road, where their longer legs might outdistance their pursuers...'
14	Why, when the children reached the rock, did the weird creatures slow down?	'...they were in no hurry now, for they knew that escape was impossible. The children were trapped, there was no way out, so the creatures didn't have to rush; they surrounded them anyway.'
15	What was the miracle? What happened?	There was a blue light, and the ropes that tied them up just crumbled and fell off them. '...the whole rock was lapped about by a lake of blue fire. The...captors fell, hissing and spitting...and the ropes charred and crumbled into ash...'
16	What two names did the old man call the creatures? Which is a rude way of calling them and which is their proper name? How did you make that decision?	'Run, <u>maggot-breed of Ymir</u> ...' 'Come quickly, children, lest there be worse than <u>svarts</u> abroad...' Maggot-breed is the rude name - the comparison with maggots implies they are not nice. Svarts is their proper name, it's not derogatory.
<b>Chapter Four - The Fundindelve</b>		
17	What effect did the water have on Colin and Susan?	'And at the first draught their tiredness vanished, and a warmth spread through their limbs; their befuddled, shock-numbed brains cleared, their spirits soared.' It made them feel normal again; as if they'd had a good long rest and recovered from their ordeal.
18	Why were the children not scared or worried at being in a strange cave alone with an old man who could work magic?	This man had rescued them from the svarts. He looked like the man from the legend and nothing bad had happened in that. He did not look threatening - '...whose mouth...was kind and capable of laughter.'
19	Why did the old man tell the children to use the name Cadellin for him?	'I have had many names among many peoples...some may now not be spoken, or would be foreign to your tongue...' Some of his names were very old and some in different languages or unpronounceable.
20	Why are the svarts-alfar no danger to Cadellin?	'They have no magic, and so, alone, are no danger to me...'
21	Why did Cadellin have to find out why the children had attracted so much unwanted attention?	These creatures were out to get him, and he feared that catching the children might have been a way to getting to him. '...I must discover this reason, both for your safety and my own, for my destruction is their aim, and somehow I fear you could advance them in their work.'
22	What was the 'echoing sigh, like	The sound of the knights and the horses breathing as they

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	waves rippling on a summer shore...' that '...rose and fell upon the air...'? How do you know?	slept. '...their gentle breathing filling the cave with its sweet sound.'
23	Why did the king decide he and his knights needed to be saved for another day?	Nastrond could only be defeated by people who were pure in heart and brave. The people from now could not defeat him as they had been tainted by his black thoughts. '...there would be none to withstand him (Nastrond) since...he would have put a little of himself into the hearts of all men.' '...the world might still be saved if a band of warriors, pure of heart, and brave, could defy him in his hour...' <i>You will have to lead them probably and question and suggest and guide, but they need to be able to know this since it is such a vital part of the story.</i>
24	Why did it have to be the strongest magic used on the knights?	'...magic that would stay the sleeping warriors from growing old or weak, and that no evil could ever break.' The knights needed to stay strong and young to be able to defeat Nastrond. The magic needed to be strong to prevent any black magic of any kind to break through that Nastrond might try use.
25	How did Nastrond get all witches, warlocks, svarts, etc to try to break the magic spell around the knights?	'...put greed and a craving for riches in their hearts by telling them of the treasure that would be theirs if only they could reach it.' Nastrond made sure they all knew about the treasure that lay in the cave next to the knights, so they all, in their greed wanted it. The only way to get it would be to break the spell protecting the knights. 'This treasure...was safe as long as the spell remained unbroken...'
26	Why does Cadellin dread every day?	'...each day I dread that I shall see the flames tremble and give way to shadows, and hear the murmur of men roused from sleep, and the neigh of horses. For I have lost the weirdstone of Brisingamen!'
27	Why does Cadellin not think the treasure as beautiful as Susan does?	'You would not think them so beautiful...if you had run through your fingers every...in the...cave, in search of a stone that is not there...I spent five years labouring in this cave...' Poor Cadellin has had to search through every single item of treasure to find the missing weirdstone. No wonder he isn't interested in what the treasure looks like any more!
28	Why would it be dangerous for	'...although he is powerless against the magic it contains, if

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	Nastrond to have Firefrost, the weirdstone?	he could destroy the stone then the magic too, would die away.'
29	Why were Colin and Susan unwilling to go back outside through the gates?	'It looked very black outside, and the memory of their recent fear made Colin and Susan unwilling to leave the light and safety...' They remembered what had happened to them before they'd been rescued. They didn't want to go back out in case there was any chance that it would happen again.
30	Why do the children have to keep away from the mines?	'...when men dug here, they followed, hoping that Fundindelve would be revealed; and when men departed they swarmed freely. The svarts now lived in the mines and so they were dangerous places for the children to go near.



The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Part Three - Chapters Five & Six

Chapter Five - Miching Mallecho		
1	Why had Bess let the children sleep late that morning?	They'd looked exhausted last night. 'You looked dead beat last neet
2	'gallivanting'. Can you work out what it means by its context?	<b>Gallivant - To roam about in search of pleasure or amusement.</b> To go off and do something for the fun of it, without any serious intent or reason
3	Why did Susan say, 'I think we've seen enough of the Edge for a day or two...'	Wouldn't you? If you'd just been chased and captured by weird creatures and then rescued by a wizard who told you there were evil forces at large and out to get them? She couldn't say all that to Bess, though. They had gone exploring and seemed interested in exploring the Edge so they had to give some explanation or it would have looked odd.
4	Why did the children believe what had happened the previous night?	'...we can't both have imagined it...' It's true, how could they both have imagined exactly the same? They had both been there and talked and listened to each other. They had both seen exactly the same thing. It had to be true!
5	Why did they not discuss their pursuit and rescue?	<b>Pursuit - The act or an instance of chasing or pursuing.</b> They couldn't think about it 'without trembling and feeling sick.' It had been too scary and too recent. They didn't want to talk about it, it would make it too real, and the threat to their life had been real.
6	'They mun be thinking we're sneyed out with mice, or summat.' Can you translate? What, from the context and the events in the paragraph might 'sneyed' out mean?	Over-run. Since there are so many owls in the barn, and we know that owls eat mice/voles/rats, we can make the assumption that the owls think there are plenty of mice in the barn and have come to catch them for food.
7	Why after Gowther sent off the odd man did he say that 'Scamp had best have the run of the hen-pen for a neet or two, just in case'?	<i>They may need some help with this. Gowther's description of the man and the man's reaction when not given a job. All this should help them to work out that Gowther might think this man would try to get his own back for not being given a job. One of the ways he might try would be to steal - that's why Scamp was to go in the hen pen - to stop anyone stealing the hens.</i>
8	Why had the wizard told the children to keep their windows closed, whatever the weather?	Svarts, or something else nasty, might creep in and grab/capture them.
9	Why did Scamp's barking wake Gowther up, it wouldn't	'It was the tone used for strangers, high-pitched and continuous, not the gruff outbursts that answered other

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	usually?	dogs, birds, or the wind.'
10	What does 'frantic clamour' mean?	<b>Frantic - desperate or wild with excitement, passion, fear, pain, etc.; frenzied.</b> <b>Clamour - any loud and continued noise.</b> The dog was barking (which is noisy), and he was desperate to get his message across; he never stopped.
11	Why was Gowther so puzzled when Scamp didn't rush out of the hen pen?	This was Scamp's patch. If there was something there that shouldn't be Scamp would go and warn the intruder off. He would race off after the smell or the noise, but this time he didn't. He came out slowly.
12	What made the knot tighten in Gowther's stomach?	'...a smell so strange, so unwholesome, and unexpected...'
13	'...let's be having a scrat around.' Scrat? Work out what it means from its context.	Search/check.
14	Why did Gowther say, 'I dunner like it one bit'?	'...and yon's a dog as fears neither mon nor beast most days.' That dog doesn't fear anything, people or animals most of the time. The fact that Scamp was obviously frightened made Gowther worried about what was going on.
15	How do we know that Gowther was really spooked/scared by the events of the night?	'...he strode quickly and purposefully towards the house, looking neither to the right nor to the left...in one movement he lifted the latch, stepped across the threshold, closed the door, and shot the bolt home.' He had been perfectly happy to get up in the middle of the night to go chasing thieves, but this was something not of this world, something not right that made the hairs on the back of his neck stand up.
<b>Chapter Six - A Ring of Stones</b>		
16	Why was Thursday always a busy day?	'...normal round of work...selecting and cleaning produce for Friday's marketing.'
17	What did Colin realise about the Edge? Why did I say Colin and not Gowther, after all Gowther has the answer?	No birds, or very, very few. Colin was going to say it; we know that from the ellipse (...) which tells us that he was interrupted while still talking. Gowther interjected/jumped in with the answer, without giving Colin time to come out with it himself.
18	Why did Susan ask Gowther if there were any mines close by?	'Susan thought how unpleasant it would be to have to move quickly through such country.' Having to clamber through the undergrowth made Susan think about what it would like to have to run away from someone in these woods and she wanted to reassure herself that she wouldn't have to. She only knew about the svarts and that they lived in mines, so by asking she could at least

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		know if they were safe there or not.
19	What made Susan link her bracelet to Firefrost?	'You know, it reminds me of the light in Fundin...' She had been catching the light on her bracelet, and it reminded her of the cave. That must have started off a train of thought that led her to Firefrost and the description Cadellin had given of how it might have been taken and by whom.
20	Why did Colin stare at her 'open-mouthed'?	He had had the same thought as she spoke. He had been watching Susan and what she was doing.
21	Why didn't Cadellin recognise Firefrost?	'He couldn't have seen it! I - I was wearing my mackintosh!' The coat's sleeve covered the wrist which had the bracelet on.
22	Why did their meeting with the svarts begin to make sense? Who might they have met?	'If it should be Firefrost, and had been recognised by the wrong people, their brush with the svarts would at last make sense.' Selina Place? <i>Don't push this part of the question if they don't come up with it themselves.</i>
23	Why were the children so impatient at Prince's 'leisurely pace'?	They needed to find Cadellin at once to see if it really was Firefrost. They had to get back to the farm so they could go out on the Edge to find him, and if necessary give it back to him to look after. 'We must find Cadellin at once...because if this is Firefrost, the sooner he has it the better it will be for us all.'
24	Would you, if you'd met the Svarts, use the path that Cadellin recommended and not go astray? Justify your answer.	Accept answers, so long as they can justify their decisions with reference to the events in the book and their own personalities.
25	Why did Susan run?	'It was too much for Susan. Her nerve failed her. All that mattered was to escape from this chill cloud and what it might contain.' The cloud made her think of the other night and she just panicked and wanted to get away.
26	Why did they have 'to make as little noise as possible'?	'...because whatever it is that made this fog will be listening for us.' If <i>they</i> could hear the children, <i>they</i> could find them!
27	Why had they been unable to find the path?	'As they approached, the mist had gathered thickly about their feet, hiding the ground until the path was behind them.' The mist was not real mist but magical in some way.
28	Why didn't it matter any more if they made noise if they started shouting?	The mist had followed them; someone definitely knew they were there, but they had nothing to lose. They had to find Cadellin and they had to find help.

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29	Why would the sight of the figure on the stones 'have daunted a brave man'? What does 'daunted' mean, do you think?	<b>Daunted - To abate/lessen/weaken the courage of.</b> It would have scared a brave man. The figure was horrible, too horrible; even a brave man would have been scared at the sight of it.
30	Why were the children unable to struggle against the figure?	'...an icy numbness swept down from the grip of those hands into their bodies, and the children stood paralysed, unable to move a figure.' The figure had powers, powers to overcome the children.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Part Four - Chapters Seven & Eight

Chapter Seven - Fenodyree		
1	Why were Colin and Susan not willing to trust the friendly voice?	Would you, after all that had happened to them? They knew there were people after them. They knew these people wanted them. How could they know who to trust anymore?
2	Describe Fenodyree; what does he look like, what do we know about him from his description? From this initial description does the author intend us to trust him or not, how do you know?	'...two eyes, black as sloes, set in a leathery face, bearded and bushy-browed...a man four foot high...he wore a belted tunic of grey, patterned with green spirals along the hem, pointed boots, and breeches bound tight with leather thongs. His black hair reached to his shoulders, and on his brow was a circlet of gold...his face had the same qualities of wisdom, of age without weakenss, that they had seen in Cadellin, but here was more of merriment, and a lighter heart.' Other names - Wineskin, Squabnose. <i>Ensure the children find all the information about Fenodyree, it's scattered over about a page.</i> I'd say that the description written by the author intends to allay the reader's fears - Fenodyree comes over as a 'good guy'. He wears colours and it mentions 'merriment' and a light heart. This persuaded me he's good. <i>Accept answers so long as they can justify their answers using information gained from the text.</i>
3	Why did Fenodyree not open the rocks at once?	He wanted to know all the details, forgetting that it was very urgent. 'In case what is not too late...oh, but there I go, wanting gossip, when all around is turmoil and urgent deeds!'
4	How could Cadellin have been expecting bad news, as he said?	He's a wizard, they know everything! He could sense it.
5	'The wizard grew older before their eyes.' Why?	They were telling him such bad news about Firefrost, and he had told them how bad it would be for Firefrost to end up in the wrong hands. He knew what it might mean. Life would be very difficult, trying to get Firefrost back before they destroyed it or tried to use it to gain entry to the cave. He could see all the hard and difficult and dangerous work ahead of him and there was no guarantee of success. All his care over the centuries might be done for, over with, finished.
6	Who is Grimnir?	The figure from the rock circle who had taken the Firefrost. Fenodyree mentions 'the hooded one' which should remind them about the meeting in the previous chapter. <i>The children should be able to work this out, if not a little prompting. 'Who else have they recently met?'</i>

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7	Why did Fenodyree not encourage Cadellin to go after Grimnir?	It was too late, Grimnir was long gone and where he'd gone was somewhere even Cadellin wouldn't go. 'It is near an hour since the hooded one strode swampwards; he will be far from the light by now, and even you dare not follow there.'
8	Why, according to Cadellin, did Grimnir leave the children unharmed?	'Mock me! Why did he leave these children unharmed, if not for that...And how else could despair have been brought to me so quickly? I am savouring his triumph now, as he meant me too.' To make sure he could rub it in his face that he'd got the Firefrost. He had not harmed the children to make sure they ran to Cadellin and told him straightaway about the theft of the Firefrost.
9	Why was Grimnir like he was?	'...in his lust for knowledge he practised the forbidden arts, and the black magic ravaged his heart, and made a monster of him.'
10	Why was Cadellin so angry when he heard about Selina Place?	If he'd only known about the meeting between her and the children he might have realised something was up. He knew what Selina Place was (chief witch of the morthbrood). Now it was too late to know that there had been warning signs before. 'Oh, why did you not tell us this when we first met?'
11	What is Selina's other name?	'Morrigan, the Third Bane of Logris.'
12	Why was there 'no place for children in the struggle to come'?	'High Magic and low cunning will be the weapons of fray, and the valour of children would be lost in the struggle.' They could do nothing against magic, however hard they fought.
13	Why did Cadellin tell them that even if he failed, that they would be safe?	'...for not in your time will Nastrond come.' Even if Cadellin failed against all the evil forces, the take over by the 'baddies' wouldn't happen straightaway, not in the children's lifetime at all.
14	How did Fenodyree say that Colin and Susan could help Cadellin? Why?	'You will help him best by keeping out of danger.' If they tried to get involved and were in danger again and needed rescuing, then Cadellin might get sidetracked from his important battle against evil to come and rescue them and the battle could be lost.
15	What surprising information did Fenodyree have to tell the children about events at the farm?	That the owls had been sent there by him. 'Do you mean to say all those owls were sent by you?' 'Ay, my people have ever been masters of bird lore.'
16	What skill did the children discover Fenodyree had?	The ability to understand birds. '...which obviously meant more to the dwarf than they did to the children.'

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17	Where had Grimnir gone? How do you know?	To Llyn-Dhu. 'A mist crossed the plain a while since, as fast as a horse can gallop, and sank into Llyn-Dhu.'
<b>Chapter Eight - Mist over Llyn-Dhu</b>		
18	Why did the children not like visiting the Edge at the weekend?	Too many people. It was nothing like when they had it to themselves. '...the woods were peopled with townsfolk who, shouting and crashing through the undergrowth, and completely littering the ground with food wrappers and empty bottles, completely destroyed the atmosphere of the place.' 'Its spirit was dead - or hidden.'
19	What two things were left to remind them that svarts and wizards did happen?	'...nothing, except a barn full of owls...and an empty wrist where once a bracelet had been.'
20	Why did the loss of the bracelet cause friction between the children and the Mossocks? What does friction mean?	Susan told the whole story and Bess was upset. She thought Susan was so scared of owning up that she made up this huge story. Bess had thought they were all getting on well. Gowther, however, had had experiences which told him that perhaps there was an element of truth in what Susan had told them. '...what troubled her more was the fact that Susan should be so fearful of the consequences that she would invent such a desperate pack of nonsense to explain it all away. Gowther...was by no means certain that it was all fantasy...in places the story touched on his recent experiences far too accurately for comfort.' <b>Friction - quarrelling; disagreement. Conflict, as between persons having dissimilar ideas or interests; clash.</b>
21	Why did they not rush up the hill with their bikes?	'...the last stretch was the worst - straight and steep, without any respite.' It was too steep. If they pushed the bikes hard all the way up the hill, they would be worn out by the time they got to the top.
22	What had the children wondered when they noticed the birds had gone?	'...we thought something must have happened to you...we were so worried...when the owls disappeared we wondered if you'd...you'd...' The children had thought that Cadellin had lost the battle, or died.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Part Four - Chapters Seven & Eight

23	Why had there been no big trouble with Grimnir having the Firefrost?	He hadn't passed it on to Nastrond, the nastiest 'baddie'. He had kept it to solve himself. 'He should have delivered it to Nastrond, but the morthbrood and he intends to master it alone. Perhaps they believe Firefrost holds power for them.'
24	Why was there a chance for them to get the Firefrost back?	Grimnir did not intend to let anybody else benefit from the treasure or power and that will not go down well with all the others. There will be bad temper and arguments and fights over this and then there might be a crack by which the Firefrost can be taken back. '...rumour has it, are planning to reap all benefits for themselves...it may be among all this treachery that we shall find our chance...'
25	Why did the children leave Cadellin 'lighter at heart than they had been for many a day.'	They knew Cadellin was alive. They knew there was a chance the Firefrost might be returned. They knew that all the evil broods were going to be at loggerheads with each other, going to fall out with each other.
26	Why does the author have the children go off to see Llyn-Dhu? What is he trying to tell the reader about the children?	The author wants us to realise something about the personalities of the children; something that we will remember as we go through the book and more and more events take place. They are brave; they are not put off by the thought of danger. They've been heartened by the knowledge that all is not lost, and there just might be a chance that they could do something that might help. Because it's there!
27	Why did the policeman not recognise the name Llyn-Dhu?	...there's been fog on Lindow Common for days, and the only lake in the district is there.' They were using an old name used by Cadellin, whereas over the years the name had changed.
28	What was the ring of pink scum?	'...a broken rash of houses...' encircling the lake. Houses surrounding the lake with gaps between.
29	What was wrong about the lake?	'...what was most obviously wrong was that they could see all this...it had rid itself of every trace of the mist that had shrouded it...'
30	Why had the mist gone and where had it gone?	Grimnir had gone. Grimnir had moved to Selina Place's house. '...a ball of mist hung as though moored to the trees. And out of the mist rose the chimneys and gaunt gables of St Mary's Clyffe, the home of Selina Place.'



## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nine and Ten

Chapter Nine - St Mary's Clyffe		
1	Why has the author emphasised the two colours - red and black - in describing the room in the house? What information, atmosphere is he trying to get across? What does he make you think about this place?	Black is the colour of black magic and death; red, the colour of blood and the devil. The effect is to make the room seem dark and mysterious, not a place to linger in. Obviously the room is not a good place to be and therefore what this place is, is not a good place either! <i>Take answers, making sure they justify their explanations. You may need to lead them a bit, or they may just be able to realise the effect the author is trying to get across.</i>
2	Why did Grimnir not like what Shape-shifter was doing?	'He did not like witch-magic: it relied too much on clumsy nature spirits and the slow brewing of hate. He preferred the lightning stroke of fear and the dark powers of the mind.'
3	Why did Grimnir watch Shape-shifter so carefully?	'...it would not do for the stone to become her slave.' He did not want her to gain power over it so that she could use its powers herself for what she wanted. That way he might lose out on his plans for the future!
4	What did Selina Place leave the room to do?	She left to let the dogs go. She thought there might be something out there and the dogs could go and find it. 'They are restless: there is something on the wind. Perhaps it would be wise to let them seek it out...'
5	Why was Selina in such a hurry to be 'master of the stone'?	'...we shall not feel safe until we are master of the stone.' By being in charge of the stone, her powers would increase hugely. Once she had power over it then she basically could do what she liked and nobody could harm her.
6	Why did the 'last trace of enthusiasm' evaporate quickly for the children?	Wouldn't it for you? If you were in hiding and you see shadows moving on the room; you hear spells being said? They'd entered the house without thinking and now were stuck, in hiding, and outside all they could hear were the sniffing of the hounds!
7	Why has the author used so many ellipses in Selina's speech (bottom of p 111)?	He is showing the reader just how out of breath and puffed Selina is after all that shouting of spells. The ellipses show that Selina was constantly having to pause and interrupt what she was saying because she just didn't have enough breath to speak smoothly.
8	Why did Susan not want to leave straightaway?	The bracelet was in the room and she wanted it back! 'My tear's in that room, and we'll never have another chance!'
9	How did Colin know that it was dangerous to go near the bracelet?	'...didn't you hear old Place say that it wasn't safe to be in there? And if <i>she's</i> afraid to stay it must be dangerous.'

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nine and Ten

10	Why could Susan not believe it when she fastened the bracelet on her wrist?	'The moment had haunted her dreams for so many months, and there had been so many awakenings.' She had dreamed about it for so long and yet each time she had felt it on her wrist she had woken up to find that it was only a dream and it hadn't really happened.
11	What was the price of Grimnir and Selina's failure?	Something very horrid no doubt! After all no-one for 1000 years had disobeyed Nastrond. An Abyss is a giant chasm, or hole in the ground. 'Not once in a thousand years had any of their kind disobeyed the charge of Nastrond, but all at some time had stood in the outer halls of Ragnarok and looked on the Abyss.'
12	Who did the author want you to think was the 'thing' at the top of the stairs?	Nastrond; or one of his close followers. After all, their plan had evidently gone wrong. Who else could be there that fast? And we know that Nastrond would not like it if they had been doing something behind their back!
13	Why were the children quite so fearful of the hound?	Its size! Its lack of eyes! '...it stood four feet high (120cm)...' '...its head and muzzle were blank. There were no eyes.'
14	Why did Susan not trust the latch of the door? What does 'flimsy' mean?	The hound was huge and obviously strong. The catch on the door would not last very long as it was not very strong. 'Flimsy' means that that something is not very strong or well-made, something lightweight. 'Not very well made; likely to break.'
15	Why did Susan think that she had fainted? How did she know she hadn't?	'Her stomach turned over, her head reeled, and she seemed to be falling into the bottomless dark.' She pinched herself; that way she knew she wasn't in a faint; it hurt!
16	How did Colin know that they were in a lift?	'It's something that feels like smooth rock going past very quickly...that's why my ears have been popping!'
17	Why were 'their hearts in their mouths'?	They were scared stiff; terrified; the lift was going back up. That meant that whoever, whatever, was up in the kitchen would soon be coming back down the lift after them! '...a slight noise brought them whirling round...gazing up at the shaft, into which the cupboard was disappearing...'
<b>Chapter Ten - Plankshaft</b>		
18	What filled the children's minds as they ran?	'...two thoughts in their heads - to escape from whatever was following them, and to find Cadellin or Fenodyree.'
19	Why was there no need to ask questions?	Colin didn't need to ask Susan why she stopped as what they could both see in front of them was the obvious answer! 'The tunnel ended in a shaft that dropped beyond the range of their light.'

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nine and Ten

20	Why didn't they hesitate when they saw the state of the ladder?	'The urgency of their plight killed all fear...' They couldn't go back; there was the hound; and whatever else was back there in the house, coming after them along the tunnels. The ladder was their only hope of escaping what would be following them.
21	What does the author mean - 'the children took to their heels'?	They ran for it, fast!
22	What was it that kept Susan going?	She had the Tear! She had it back! It was in the right hands at last! '...but she had her Tear, and this time Susan was going to keep it, even if all the witches and warlocks that ever were came after her.'
23	What told them that they were no longer in a tunnel, as they gulped in the cold air?	'...the sudden lack of resonance...every movement in the tunnel had produced a magnified, hollow echo...; The tunnels had echoed every noise, but now there was no echo.
24	Why did this cave seem so dark compared to Fundindelve?	In Fundindelve there was a magical light that lit up the cave; here there was only the light from their bicycle lamps, not a lot of light for such a large cave! The small rays shining on from the lamps only served to emphasise how dark the rest of the cave was.
25	Why was 'losing their pursuer' such an easy task?	There were so many tunnels, going off in all sorts of directions that any pursuer wouldn't know which one to take, or even if he/it was in the right one!
26	Why has the author written two long paragraphs about the tunnels? What is he trying to get across to the reader?	It is for emphasis. He wants the reader to realise just how many tunnels and openings there were for the children to choose, and just how many they kept finding, running from one to another. He wants the reader to realise how panicked the children were that they did not stop to think about how lost they were getting, but that they were just so terrified they had to keep going. <i>This will need some leading I should think.</i>
27	Why did Colin and Susan finally stop?	They were exhausted from running and from trying to breathe in the bad, thin air. They were hot and bothered from all this and desperate for a drink. 'They were consumed by heat and thirst...'
28	How did Susan come up with a way of finding a way out?	She realised that all the entrances were up on the Edge, so any tunnels that led upwards could lead them to an exit. '...nearly all the entrances are on top of the Edge...if we follow only the tunnels that lead upwards, we're bound to be moving in the right direction...'

### The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nine and Ten

29	Why did the children not turn back when they came upon the shaft with the plank across?	'The tunnel leads somewhere, or the plank wouldn't be there.' Susan was sure that it was going the right way. She certainly wasn't going to turn round and try to find another way out when this tunnel was looking so hopeful.
30	What made Susan drop the lamp?	'Eyes! Eyes looking at me! Down there in the darkness!'

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Eleven and Twelve

Chapter Eleven - Prince of the Huldrafolk		
1	How did Susan know that the lights she saw beneath the plank were eyes?	'...They blinked and moved about.'
2	Why did the loss of the lamp slow them down?	They only had one light to send out its glow to light up the cave or tunnel. They had to stay close together to see where they were going. Before, the lights sent out more rays and since they each had one, they could see more around them.
3	Why did they keep switching off the light?	'The battery was not new, and they had neither matches nor candles, and without light there would be no hope.' The children did not know just how long they would be down there and they needed to have the light for as long as possible.
4	Why did Susan give a little cough and a gasp?	She had been taken by the svarts; presumably they had put their hands over her mouth so she couldn't scream.
5	Why wasn't Colin taken so easily?	He turned the light on and caught the svarts in the beam of light. They were blinded by the light and fled.
6	What does the author mean - 'All this happened in half the time it takes to tell'?	It all took place in a second. It was very quick; they were there; they were gone.
7	How did the svart react to the blade's bite?	'...the svart faded, and crumbled like a withered leaf, and all that was left was a haze of dust which settled gently to the floor.'
8	Why did the dwarf complain that it was 'poor sport indeed'?	The svarts just ran and turned to dust. They didn't fight back!
9	Why would Durathror not pause to explain things to Colin?	'More svart-heads must roll soon, and I would share them with my cousin...we have not time for gossip...' He had something on his mind; he knew there was danger with the svarts and he was after them! He knew he had to get things done quickly.
10	Why did Colin have 'the greatest difficulty in keeping up with the dwarf'?	The dwarf 'set off at a run and slackened his pace for neither steep slopes nor floundering sands.' The dwarf must have been very fit. Normally you find it harder to run uphill or on sand. The dwarf did not make allowances for Colin's young age.
11	What did Colin realise when they met up with Fenodyree?	That all that running away had been for nothing, all that energy and fear wasted, because it had been the dwarfs trying to catch up with them!
12	What is Durathor implying by saying of his cousin, 'your tongue would still wag if it were cut out'?	That he talks too much! 'This talk is pleasant...but our errand is not over...'

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Eleven and Twelve

13	'The way to the light is not long...' What is Fenodyree saying? Where are they?	The exit from the tunnels and caves is not very far away. They are in the dark maze, remember; outside is where the light is.
14	What skills did the children realise the dwarves had?	They could see in the dark and they had very acute hearing. 'I had but to put my ear to the ground, and your bellowing all but split my head!'
15	Why did Fenodyree not want to fight when Durathror drew his sword when the gong was heard?	'It would be a good fight, but we should go under, and the stone with us. We must pass unseen.' There were too many svarts. They had to keep hold of the Firefrost. It would be fun, but they would all lose their lives. They had to get by without being seen.
<b>Chapter Twelve - In the Cave of the Svartmoot</b>		
16	What sort of character did the svarts have according to Fenodyree?	'They are cowards...and must be drive to a frenzy to meet our swords...'
17	Why did the memory of what they saw remain with the children forever?	It was just too horrible; the cave was absolutely crammed full of svarts. They must have been terrified; if they were noticed there would be no chance of escape
18	Why could the svarts look on the firedrake without pain, it gave off light?	'...it makes them strong to face the purer light of day...' It gave them the power to move around in the light. The light of the firedrake was not as pure as the light of the sun outside.
19	What two things about the svart holding the firedrake told the children he was old?	'wizened' (wrinkled, shrivelled or dried up) 'Sagging skin'
20	'We have a comfortless road ahead...' explain what the author means.	It was not going to be easy getting out of this maze of tunnels; we already know the tunnels and caves are low/high and wet/dry and full/empty of sand. We know that Colin and Susan found it hard and kept going round on themselves.
21	Why does Durathror say that they are going to be tracked down and attacked at the plankshaft and the gate?	He could understand what the svart leaders were saying. How else could he know what was going on?
22	Why did Fenodyree intend to take them out by a different route?	He did not intend for Firefrost to be taken and the children and themselves killed. The other way was just as dangerous, but at least if they died they wouldn't be found and Firefrost would be safely hidden down there. '...it bears more perils than the gate...if we should perish on this road, Firefrost will lie hidden...'

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Eleven and Twelve

23	Why did Durathror stop Fenodyree from talking more about this way out?	It was too depressing, too scary. He didn't want to think about this dangerous way out himself and he certainly didn't want the children to start to worry about it. 'Nay, speak this no more...I like it not.'
24	'Do we run like shadows before this light, or do we snuff it out?' What options did Durathror offer?	Do we behave like cowards and run away as fast as we can to avoid the svarts; or do we stand and fight them, aiming to kill all the svarts.
25	Why did the children have 'to fight to stop themselves from running' as the svarts advanced?	They remembered how terrifying it was last time they were taken by the svarts. They just wanted to turn and run away. Even though they knew the dwarves had plans and would protect them, the thought of what could happen to them was still enough to make them want to escape.
26	Why has the author written what Durathror said to the svarts? After all he didn't, back in the cave, translate what the svart leaders said	If the author hadn't this time, then we wouldn't know what went on, and how the svarts reacted. In the cave he didn't need to, because by not doing so he just added to the suspense of the moment. He left the reader wondering what was being said. This time he wants the reader to know what is being said.
27	Why, when Durathror 'whirled Dyrnwyn above his head with both hands' did two svarts die?	He is a dwarf and short; the svarts are short also. He has a lot of power in his arms and the svarts are thin; it would be easy to kill several svarts in one go.
28	Which of the dwarves enjoyed fighting?	Durathror, not Fenodyree. 'He did not feel Durathror's joy of battle: these creatures...must be killed...he was no born fighter.'
29	What makes the svarts turn to dust?	'...the bite of iron...' Being stabbed by a sword or dagger.
30	How did Fenodyree stop Susan panicking when the hammer nearly hit her?	He sounded calm. He just told Susan calmly what to do; reminded her of how to do it; reminded her that she was safe and that there was no need to be afraid.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

Chapter Thirteen - "Where no Svart will ever tread"		
1	'The deed is nothing. It is the thought that breeds fear.' What does Fenodyree mean?	He meant that the actual jump wasn't too bad, in fact perfectly doable. What might make them go wrong was the fear of what would happen if they missed the ledge -death down the bottom of the shaft!
2	Why did Durathror say about the svarts, 'I fear they will not come in time'?	He was the one left behind to keep the svarts away. He wanted a fight! Remember, he was the one that liked a battle. If they didn't come before the other three were down then he wouldn't have a chance to fight and kill many svarts!
3	Colin, <u>you are well-lodged</u> , so your sister will go first,' what did Fenodyree mean?	Colin was in a safe place with good hand and foot-holds; he could stay there for a bit without fear of falling. So, he could stay there while Susan went down further.
4	Why was 'the dwarf's face, lined and grey with effort'?	He had climbed all the way down to the bottom and then all the way back up. He must have been exhausted - we know he probably is because of all the ellipses which show that he is out of breath.
5	Why did Susan and Fenodyree move quickly?	'To remain still for more than a few seconds was to be in serious danger of falling.' The hand and foot holds were so small that holding on in a place for long would have meant losing your footing or handhold and falling to the bottom of the shaft.
6	Where was Cadellin while all this was going on?	'Cadellin was prowling in the hills towards Ragnarok to find out if word of the stone had spread...'
7	What benefit did the cloak of feathers give Durathror?	'It was as Colin and Susan had begun to suspect: he had the power of flight. It lay in his cloak of eagle feathers...' When he wore it he could fly.
8	Why did Durathror not kill Selina Place and Grimnir?	He tried, but could not. 'I could not kill the morthdoers, since their magic is greater than my sword...'
9	What were the two things that made Durathror pause?	'...a small, white hand...and Firefrost shone upon its wrist.'
10	Why did the children not have the heart to talk?	They realised that they could have left this place many hours ago. If only they'd investigated the lake more they would have found out for themselves that it was not deep and might have gone on to find the way out. They were kicking themselves for not having been more daring. All this time they had wasted!
11	What size was the cloak capable of being rolled up into?	Very small! Think about the size of a sandwich bag! That's what they put the cloak into to keep it safe from the water.



The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

Chapter Fourteen - The Earldelving		
12	How did they react to the shock of the cold water?	'...it took their breath away...' It made them gasp, it was so cold.
13	Why could Fenodyree not talk when he came back from exploring the tunnel?	The water filled the tunnel further up. That meant that he had to have held his breath, and the water was very cold. He was out of breath when he came back. He needed to just stand there and get his breath back first before he could talk properly and fluidly.
14	Why would they have to swim on their backs?	'...the roof is low for many yards...' If they swam on their fronts, their heads would have been up out of the water to allow them to breathe. They would have hit their heads constantly and hurt themselves. On their backs most of their head is underwater so they had room to breathe in the tiny bit of air between the water and the roof of the tunnel.
15	Why did Susan wait a bit before going?	'...she was more frightened than she cared to admit...' She was terrified; she had to go underwater; she was deep down in the tunnels; she knew ahead was dangerous. No wonder she was scared!
16	What did Durathor admit?	That he was as scared as the children. 'Mortally...and so I am afraid...' He was scared to death.
17	Why did Colin begin to panic in the water?	Every time he came up for air he couldn't. His lungs were bursting; he needed air. He thought he would drown. He had forgotten Fenodyree's warning that they had to swim on their backs.
18	What made the new tunnel so special?	The tunnel was square and the walls and roofs were red and green. 'The roof ran square to the walls and nowhere was more than a yard high. The colours were striking, for the walls were of a deep-red shale, and the roof was a bed of emerald copper ore.'
19	Why did Colin and Susan get back and neck ache and not the dwarves?	The tunnel was only a metre high. The dwarves must have been less than a metre tall. The children, however, were taller than a metre, so had to bend over all the time as they went along.
20	What did the children find out about small holes they had to try to squeeze through?	'...if a head and one arm could be pushed through together, then the rest of the body would eventually follow.'

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

21	Fenodyree called a halt in a cave into which they fitted like the segments of an orange.' What is the author implying?	The cave was very small; only just big enough to squeeze the four of them in. there was no spare room; think about how the segments of an orange all fit together without any big gaps between. It was just like that for the children and the dwarves.
22	How did Fenodyree try to reassure Susan about the 'rabbit hole'?	'My father travelled...and he was an ample dwarf...' His father had travelled along this way several times himself and he was fatter! So, if he could manage it then they could all do it.
23	How did Colin feel when he was stuck at the corner?	He must have been terrified. He'd previously been thinking about all the tons of rock that were bearing down on him and now, here he was, stuck; he couldn't move forward, or back; perhaps that was it and he would die here! He would have begun to panic.
24	Why did Fenodyree move on with 'renewed vigour'?	'...this bend was the last great hazard...' He thought they were nearly at the end of their dangerous journey. He thought it was nearly over.
25	'Better a quick road to forgetfulness than a lingering one.' What did Fenodyree mean?	He'd rather drown while trying to get through the flooded bit of the tunnel. Drowning wouldn't take long; he'd be dead within a couple of minutes. If he stayed where he was, he was stuck 'cause he couldn't go back or forward. He would lie there and slowly die of thirst and starvation in total darkness, when the light ran out.
26	Why did the children talk rapidly and loudly once they were able to crawl?	They were so relieved that the worst was over. They were high on this relief. They just wanted to babble on to prove to themselves they were still alive.
27	'...real, accessible daylight...' what is meant by this?	They'd already seen daylight, but hadn't been able to reach it. This time they were actually going to get there, out into the real light. Accessible - easy to approach, reach, enter.

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

Chapter Fifteen - A Stromkarl Sings		
1	Why were the dwarves able to relax on the elf-road?	'...for as long as they remained on the road...they would be hidden from searching eyes.' It had magic keeping it safe and out of sight of evil.
2	'Their aching limbs only sweetened the prospect of rest' what does the author mean?	On top of being filthy they were so exhausted that the thought of rest was wonderful. They were so looking forward to collapsing in a heap when they knew they could just sit and wouldn't have to do any more walking or clambering!
3	Why was the scene in front of them, 'the waning light among the scented pines', almost unreal?	'After all they had undergone in the barren caves...' The children had been hunted through caves and tunnels, Susan had been captured by svarts; they had seen a svartmoot and heard the rage of the svarts; they had to swim through submerged tunnels, climb down steep shafts; felt their hearts beat fast in terror and horror. No wonder it almost seemed unreal to be out on the surface with the beautiful forest around them and be safe from what went on down below. There had been ugliness in mood and deed down below but nothing like up here on the surface. <i>(something like that anyway!)</i>
4	Why was the stromkarl sitting on Goldenstone?	Not to just sing to himself! '...but you will not go to Fundindelve...the hooded one sits by Holywell, and the Shape-shifter watches the gates: and to them are gathering the morthbrood.' He was there to warn them to stay away from Fundindelve so that they did not get caught and the weirdstone did not end up back in the wrong hands.
5	What other useful information did he give the children and the dwarves that might help them in the future?	'My people will aid you where they may...' He told them that they could have his folk's help when it was needed and they could do something for them.
6	Why does Fenodyree say about the farm, 'whether it will be shelter for the night I cannot be certain'?	Once the morthbrood know that Susan and Colin took the weirdstone back they would know where to go. The morthbrood have magic; the children would not be safe anywhere unless it was surrounded by a stronger spell than that of the morthbrood - like Fundindelve, or the elf-road.
7	Why was scant cover useful for them on their journey? What does it mean anyway? Can you infer it from its context?	'It's nearly all open moorland...if there is scant cover for us, there is more chance that we shall see the morthbrood from afar.' There were not a lot of trees and shrubs to hide among on the way they had to go - moorland has very small bushes, and otherwise is mossy and grassy and shrubby (up to your ankles, that's all). Scant - hardly enough; not very much

### The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

8	Why did the dwarves insist they hide from anybody?	'The morthbrood travel in many disguises.' They didn't know whether the people they saw were normal or evil; better to assume the worst each time and be safe.
9	Why did Gowther show such animosity (talk so rudely and aggressively) to Fenodyree?	He was the man that had come round looking for a job and been sent away, but had threatened him as he went. He was immediately on his guard and worried for the children.
10	What made Gowther be ready to trust the dwarves?	"You've got to trust him...You must!...He's saved our lives more than once today!' Gowther looked at the anguished faces of the children...' The pleading of the children; they were desperate in trying to tell him to listen to them and trust the dwarves.
11	Why was Bess so against the children going off with the dwarves on their venture?	'You conner run risks like that and get away with it every time.' She knew that the children had escaped death y the skin of their teeth. She knew that it couldn't necessarily happen again. Soon their luck would run out and they would end up captured or dead.
12	What argument did Fenodyree use to try and persuade Bess?	'If Colin and Susan do not se this through to the end in the company of those best fitted to help them...their chances of ever setting eyes on parents or home again will be less than little.' He pointed out that if they didn't get the weirdstone to Cadellin and fight against the morthbrood, then they would end up dead anyway. This way, by going with the dwarves they at least had a chance; staying at the farm would mean certain death in the end.
13	Why did Gowther decide to go with them?	'But we're still responsible, choose how you look at it...I'll be coming with you in the morning.' The children were his responsibility; he needed to go with them to try and keep them as safe as possible himself; at least if something did happen then he could truthfully say that he had tried his hardest.
14	Why do you think the dwarves insisted that they all stay in the same room?	That way they could be sure that the children and adults were safe. If someone tried to get in they would all be there to fight against whoever/whatever it was. If they were spread out in their separate bedrooms, the dwarves could not be everywhere at one time and somebody might be captured or even die.
15	How do you think Gowther felt when Fenodyree told him that Selena Place was bluffing?	He must have been so relieved. She was telling him that she would be in that room shortly and would destroy them and their farm. Before Fenodyree spoke he must have been tempted to give in, in the hope that the children would be spared or that he could talk Selena round. When Fenodyree spoke he knew that they would be safe for a bit. It must have been a huge weight of his mind.

## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

16	What did she threaten the farmer and the children with and why?	'Wherever you are...there is no escape, for we have called those to whom such spells are meaningless...the mara are stirring.' The mara - spells meant nothing to them; they could go anywhere they wanted. She wanted them to know that she would get the children and what she wanted somehow, it was only a matter of time.
<b>Chapter Sixteen- The Wood of Radnor</b>		
17	'Sam Hurlbutt was as imperturbable as only a Cheshire man can be.' What does imperturbable mean. Can you deduce it from its context and what has gone on previously in the text?	Nothing bothered Sam; he wasn't 'phased' by anything. He just accepted whatever it was and got on with it. Imperturbable - incapable of being upset or agitated; not easily excited; calm.
18	Why do you think the dwarves would not tell Gowther and the children about the mara?	'It will be time enough to fear the mara when we see them...' He did not want to terrify them by revealing all about the mara. We already know that Selena used them as her final threat that she would get her own way with them in the end by using the mara, so they must be particularly dreadful.
19	'...such strangers too'. What is the author implying?	Not only were they strangers to Gowther, but they were also dwarves, with swords! They were very odd strangers!
20	What does Fenodyree mean when he says to Gowther '...without us you will not regain your own, even though it lies at your feet.'	Gowther will not survive this without them. He may seem to be in his own world, when he looks round and sees the normal scenery he sees every day, but the witches and all the evil peoples are out and about; this world is now not the same as his and he must rely on the dwarves to survive it and be able to return to his own normal world safely.
21	Why was Colin so surprised when Durathror said 'Those are witches and warlocks...'?	They were hikers, they just looked like normal people out for a walk; how could they be witches and warlocks? They didn't look evil or dangerous. They ought to have pointy hats and broomsticks (like Gowther says)!
22	What/who was the main problem as they tried to stay hidden as much as possible? Was it the witches?	'Above their heads wheeled a cloud of ragged-winged birds.' Birds can soar up in the sky and see from a long way away. They can peer through the gaps in the trees in the forest and spot the children and their helpers. These birds were organised; they were systematically searching the ground from on high.
23	Why did Durathror question the use of scarecrows in Tom Henshaw's fields?	<i>(They need to read on a paragraph to be able to infer pasture, if they don't know what it is)</i> '...what need he may have of them on pasture land?' The scarecrows were not just in fields growing crops but also in grass land with cows in, where they were not needed.

### The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

24	Why did Fenodyree slow down and stop walking/running quite so fast?	'There is no need to hurry...I hoped to find cover...' He knew it was a lost cause; they might have escaped the morthbrood but the birds were all around them and would relay their position back to the morthbrood. The birds would find them wherever they went despite his hope of evading all the morthbrood and their supporters.
25	Was it fear that meant 'all colour fled from Durathror's cheeks'?	No; hope and surprise. He knew who the arrows belonged to; he knew them well. We know that because he calls them by name. He says that if the lios-alfar are around then it's not looking so black for them all. They would help them. Fenodyree tells us that the lios-alfar have been gone for hundreds of years; yet here seems to be proof of them back in the woods.
26	What persuaded Fenodyree that the lios-alfar were in the woods?	'...landed at Durathror's feet. A white eagle feather.' The feather came from an elven cloak - a lios-alfar cloak; so we know now that the lios-alfar are elves.
27	'...they were sharing the same cloak in an effort to stay alive'. What is the author implying?	That the weather was cold. They were sharing the cloak in an effort to keep warm and not get hypothermia! It wasn't a magic cloak to make them invisible or anything like that (Durathror had '...exchanged the power of going unseen for the power of flight'. We know the weather is cold, because at the beginning of the chapter it says there was a 'hard frost' and further on it says 'frozen, rutted leaf-mould'.
28	Name three items of clothing that Mr Hodgkins wore.	Three of: thick ski-trousers; hooded anorak; sweater; beret snow goggles; leather gauntlets; nailed boots.
29	Why did they all watch Mr Hodgkins 'in agony'?	'Neither...had had time to make themselves comfortable among the branches...were standing frozen in the most awkward attitudes, cramped, precariously balanced. Any movement would have set the leaves dancing...' It was a bit like Musical Statues. They had had to freeze wherever they were and in whatever position they had been in. It was hard, muscles would hurt; itches would start up. But they had to keep still and so made every effort, however desperately they wanted to move.
30	Why was it a danger to clear a path for themselves with the dwarves swords?	'the dwarfs were carving a track that could not fail to be visible from the air.' By cutting a path; the birds could easily see where they were and even them; by clambering through the bushes they had still been hidden.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen

Chapter Seventeen - Mara		
1	'...a little may be well spent in counsel'. What does Fenodyree mean?	'I put not trust in blind flight, and thought time is precious...' It was worth spending some time thinking about where to go next; rather than rashly going off in one direction without thought and then regretting it later if they got into trouble or danger.
2	Why did Durathnor think Colin's idea of which way to go a good one?	'The hares will dart north while the hounds run south.' He realised that by doubling back; they would be going the wrong way to their followers; the followers would continue pursuit on and on, but they would be going in the opposite direction and getting further and further away from their followers.
3	What did Gowther and the children learn/deduce about fimbulwinter from his speech that includes 'the fimbulwinter is upon us'?	That it was going to be very cold and wintry. Fenodyree referred to the clothes the man they'd had to stand still in the woods had been wearing - cold weather gear. He also refers to 'the ice-giant's breath' which also told them what was to come.
4	Why did the dwarves 'halt under the last cluster of trees'?	'...which thinned to open fields.' They would soon be out in the open where they could be seen by anyone/thing. They had to plan carefully how they were going to cross the open land or skirt it with the least danger to themselves and the children.
5	What amazed Gowther?	'...weaving from tree to tree in burst of speed that amazed Gowther: he had not run like this for thirty years.' That he could still run that fast! It was fear and determination that made them do it. They didn't want to be caught.
6	Why would it have been an 'easier task' 'in the elder days'? When were they?	Long ago when dwarves etc lived all around were the 'elder days'. It would have been easier then because there were 'true forests then'. There were many more trees, in proper forests then, not just in small woods and clumps.
7	What impression do the dwarves give you about the man on the hill - is he one of the morthbrood or for them? How do you know?	He is not one of the morthbrood. 'There is that about him that strikes a chord of memory.' 'It could, and could not, be one I know.' From what both of them say it seems as if they know whoever they think it is, and know him as not one of the morthbrood. They don't imply that they have to take care. They say no warnings, just musings.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen

8	What was Fenodyree's responsibility at the Macclesfield Road?	'...dividing his attention between birds and traffic, Fenodyree was kept busy for a good ten minutes while he shepherded the others to the opposite side of the road...' He had to keep watch to make sure there were no birds around AND no people around - as no one could be trusted (in cars, or otherwise), before he could let the others cross the road safely.
9	Why does Gowther not like Macclesfield forest?	'...mile after mile of trees on parade; it inner natural.' He didn't like it because it wasn't like a real forest where trees are scattered all over the place wherever the seeds dropped and grew, but this had been planted all at once and the trees were all in rows, like growing vegetables in the garden, or wheat in a field.
10	Why was it a good idea to follow the streams?	'no danger of being outlined against the sky...it would be possible to lie close under the bank if caught in the open...running water kills scent...there were still two of the hounds of the Morrigan...' They wouldn't be seen so easily because of all the tress growing along the edge of the streams; they could duck down by the bank of the stream if they thought they might be seen; if necessary they could wade along the streams if the hounds were let loose.
11	Why was one mile an hour 'good progress'?	'Desperate scrambles, long periods of inactivity, mud, sand, water, ice, malicious brambles...' They might have sudden dashes, but there were times when they also had to stand still and wait as birds went overhead. Walking/wading through mud and sand and water cannot be done quickly; they got caught on brambles and had to unpick themselves; they had to climb over branches and up and down banks.
12	What does the author imply when he makes Durathror say, 'It is good to drop that coward's gait and walk on two legs'?	That they had had to do a lot of either crawling or bending over double using their hands as well, to move along. He says it's good to walk on two legs, which implies they weren't before.
13	Why were they more at ease in the plantation of firs?	'...these trees were well grown, and there were few low branches. The floor was mute; no sun cut through the green roof: here twilight lay hidden at noon.' They felt safer here for several reasons: they were not treading on sticks anymore so they could move silently; they could walk upright for there were no branches to duck under; if no sun shone through then no birds could see them either; because it was so dark it would be hard for any watchers to see them either.



## The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen

14	Why did the lios-alfar leave?	'To them beauty is food and life, and dirt and ugliness, death. When men...corrupted the air with the smoke of furnaces it was poison to the lios-alfar...they had to go, or die.' They liked clean air and untouched nature; when men started making things and cutting down the forests and burning them to make metal they could not stand it any longer and had to go.
15	Fenodyree did not like the idea of moving on but he decided to; what reason did he have for making this decision?	'...it was becoming obvious that they could not survive the night in the open. Already they were experiencing the fatal, warm drowsiness foe exposure...both Gowther and Colin had had to be roused more than once.' It was just to cold to hang around in the open. They were going to die of the cold (hypothermia) if they stayed out there much longer.
16	What was so strange about the tracks they found?	'Each foot was composed of a pointed big toes, divided by a cleft from the single wedge that filled the place where the other four toes would normally have been.' Didn't have toes - only one big toe, the rest was a lump.
17	Why did Susan have such a clear vision of what she saw in such a brief moment?	It was nothing like she had ever seen before. She couldn't help but notice everything about it. 'A statue that moved'. It must have been horrible. We know that because it says further on 'she began to scream'.
18	What are mara?	'Troll-women: from rock are they spawned, and to rock they return if the sun should find them above ground. But by night they are indestructible, all-powerful.'
19	What is their only weakness?	'...the mara's brain is as meagre as its strength is great. Just as they are really strong, so they have very small brains. Meagre - deficient in quantity or quality; lacking fullness or richness; scanty; inadequate
20	What told the dwarves the mara had found them?	'...a thin cry, like the plaintive voice of a night-bird, yet cold and pitiless as the fangs of the mountains, came from behind them.' Their cry. They evidently only cry out when they pick up a trail (like hounds after a fox).
<b>Chapter Eighteen - Angharad Goldenhand</b>		
21	Why were the dwarves laughing at the others' bewilderment?	They knew what was happening, unlike the children and Gowther. They knew it was nothing bad.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen

22	Why did the mara not cross the water to them?	'...the mara have not half a mind...our tracks were all they had to follow, and when they ended the trail was lost.' Because they had very little brain; they couldn't work out that if the trail ended at the water then they must have gone on the island. They could only see that the trail had stopped. Their little brain didn't have enough brainpower to think about what to do next or work out where the people they were chasing had gone.
23	Who had helped them to safety?	'It was lodged against the shore when Angharad guided our feet hither.' Angharad Goldenhand, the Lady of the Lake. She had ensured the island was by the shore for them to step safely on; she had then made sure it floated away onto the lake so that they were safe from the mara.
24	Why, did Atlendor, the lios-alfar, not stop to reveal himself to the dwarves that day, when he had shot the birds?	'He had set out...in haste to be clear of the sullied air, and he dared not stay for words...' He had been in a hurry to get away from the air polluted by man's industry and could not stop to talk to them in case it made him ill again.
25	How many cloaks did the stromkarls give Gowther?	Four! '...there were four cloaks sewn together to cover Gowther's broad shoulders.'
26	Why did Angharad Goldenhand give Susan the bracelet?	'It will guard you on your journey, and when the other is with Cadellin Silverbrow, think of this as fair exchange: it has many virtues.' For two reasons: one it was protection; it would ease the disappointment when she handed over Firefrost to Cadellin, she would still have something to wear on her wrist.
27	How did Susan know that her dreams had been real?	'Susan was wrapped in a cloak of bronze-red hair, lined with a fleece of curls...there was something enclosing her wrist...a silver bracelet.' She woke up to find she really did have the cloak and bracelet.
28	How did Fenodyree know that Susan's new bracelet was more than just a bracelet?	'...Angharad would not wear it for ornament alone.' Being Angharad Goldenhand everything she wore would have significance/importance; after all she has powerful magic.
29	Who is Angharad Goldenhand?	'...is wife to one who sleeps in Fundindelve; a great captain.'

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nineteen, Twenty and Twenty-one

Chapter Nineteen - Gaberlunzie		
1	Where had the mara gone during the day?	'...as they reclined upon the floor under the lion's head in the Cave of the Svartmoot.' They were in a meeting with the svarts and the morthbrood.
2	What is the 'Common Tongue' that Selina was using?	It was a language they all understood; how else could they all communicate with each other. Selina and the Morthbrood speak English normally; the svarts have their own language; yet they all needed to be able to communicate with each other for what they were planning. It might have been the old language from the time that Cadellin sought out the knights.
3	What two threats did Selina use in her speech?	'...you will be svart-meat...you must know the boundary is sealed. Any who try to cross will be slain...' She threatened to hand over James Hodgkins to the svarts to eat for letting the children through; and to kill anyone who tried to slip out to betray them all to Nastrond.
4	What did Selina expect them all to find during the day?	'We do not believe the humans have survived the night.' That the children, Gowther and the dwarves were dead from cold and Firefrost would be with them.
5	What words or phrases tell you that Selina was able to manage the weather?	'...it will take till sunset to bring more cloud...though...there will be no further snow.'
6	What can you tell me about the lyblacs?	'The heap of rags spilled over and broke into a number of tattered forms, which rose jerkily to their feet like scarecrow marionettes, and slunk, spindly and stooping, out of the cave.'
7	How was Nastrond knowing what was going on?	'...what...Nastrond has learnt from his spies...his own mind...we have felt...probing our thoughts often within the last month.'
8	How did Gowther say they could avoid being seen by the birds as they crossed the open parkland?	'...theer's been enough folks gone along this lane...for our tracks not to stond out a mile...if we flop down in a heap...every time the birds come over...we should be all reet.' The path had already been well-used so their footsteps wouldn't be noticed on top of all the others. Their cloaks would cover them up so the birds wouldn't see them.
9	Did anyone see them as they passed the hall?	Yes, Jim Trafford, a servant at the hall. And by talking about it in the pub; he gave away the position of the children, Gowther and the dwarves. Fred rushed off to tell the rest of the morthbrood. Selina now knew that the children were still alive.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nineteen, Twenty and Twenty-one

10	What did Colin not like about the tower?	'He felt that it was staring at him with its expressionless eyes.' Now he knew it was there it seemed to watch him and his imagination began to run riot, imagining all sorts of things.
11	How did Gaberlunzie explain that he could find his way in the thick mist?	'...my eyes are not your eyes, and my horse is not of earthly stock...' He was not human; he had powers and so did his horse. Mist meant nothing to either of them.
12	What did the foxes do?	'When every trace of human feet was obliterated, they set off down the trail, throwing the snow into confusion as they fought...the scent of a fox is stronger than that of either men or dwarfs.' They covered the traces of the children's footsteps completely and their scent covered that of the children's group.
<b>Chapter Twenty - Shuttlingslow</b>		
13	Why was the cold 'no longer a problem' for the little group?	They had the cloaks Angharad Goldenhand had given them. These kept them all warm and snug.
14	'...prey to their emotions at the sudden appearance of the long-sought goal.' What sort of thoughts do you think were going on inside the children's heads?	They were nearly there; after everything they had had to do to get there. They must have had a ray of hope, that they really would reach Cadellin; on the other hand they have had to struggle so much to get to where they were; they might well see it as so near and yet so far; they still hadn't got there and everyone, or so it seemed, was out to get them. They must have been wondering if they ever would reach the top.
15	Why were 'their spirits drained from them', lying on top of Shuttlingslow?	'...their trail stood out (across the plain to the hill) as clearly as if it had been painted black. And there was no Cadellin.' Anyone could easily see where they were by following their trail; and Cadellin, who was supposed to be there, was not.
16	Why did the birds attack Susan and not the others?	She had the Firefrost on her wrist. By dragging her away from the others she would be easily taken.
17	'Gowther reversed his grip on his ash stick, <u>which he had been wielding with terrible effect...</u> ' What does the author mean by this?	He was able to fight against the birds with it, slashing through the air and hitting them. 'With terrible effect' means that he was pretty good at it and managed to kill lots of birds with his stick 'Wielding - To handle (a weapon or tool, for example) with skill and ease.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nineteen, Twenty and Twenty-one

18	'By weight of numbers they will conquer. But since it has come to this we must draw what teeth we may before we go down to rest.' What does Durathror mean will happen and what should they do?	Durathror was saying that they would not win this battle; there were too many of the enemy. However he intended not to just give up. He meant to kill as many of the enemy as possible before he was killed himself.
19	Why one they were off the hill could they not rush as much as they wanted?	'The snow was knee-deep, and clogged the feet like a nightmare...rocks, reed clumps, hummocks of grass sent them stumbling at every stride.' They had to wade through the snow and it just slowed them down. The land underneath the snow wasn't flat either and they kept stumbling over all the lumps and bumps.
20	What power did Susan discover Angharad's bracelet had?	'Beside her was the mara, and it was shrinking...there on the moor-top stood a rough lump of rock.' It could shrink the mara and turn them back into stone.
21	Why were the svarts and lyblacs in confusion?	They had seen a monster perish in front of them. They'd thought the mara invincible and now they'd been proved wrong. They were cowards; they didn't want to carry on chasing the little group and getting too close if there was a chance they would die too!
22	What was the one hope the little group kept at this final stand against the enemy?	'Their one hope was to survive until the wizard came...' Once Cadellin was here, they were sure all would be well.
23	Why did Durathror fight so hard and for so long?	Susan had given him Firefrost to protect; there was no way he was going down until the very last piece of energy and courage in his body had been used up. He wanted to stay alive for as long as possible to keep Firefrost safe; if he could only last as long as it took for Cadellin to arrive then they would be safe.
<b>Chapter Twenty-One - The Headless Cross</b>		
24	Why was Susan so shocked when Grimnir spoke?	'...the voice was the voice of Cadellin...' He sounded like Cadellin!
25	Why were the svarts and the morthbrood so fearful?	'Racing out of the north was a cloud...in shape a ravening wolf...Managarm of Ragnarok is about his master's bidding...' What they saw in the sky was enough to terrify them. Nastrond had evidently found out about their treachery and was out for revenge, not just after the children.
26	What stopped Grimnir from getting away?	'A double-edged sword stood out from his back.'

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen - Chapters Nineteen, Twenty and Twenty-one

27	Who was <i>Grimnir</i> ?	'Oh <i>Govannon</i> ...my brother...' <i>Govannon</i> , <i>Cadellin</i> 's brother.
28	What happened to <i>Selina Place</i> ?	'...and then there was no <i>Selina Place</i> , only a carrion crow rising into a sky of jet.'