

La Petit Fadette

Note:

Beginning on page 259, there are endnotes corresponding to the numbers indicated on some of the words and expressions used in the book. When you see a word with a superscript number, look back here for the explanation.

Beginning on page 240, there are explanations for the words and expressions with an asterix (*).

Chp I

p. 37

1. **The first paragraph** describes how père Barbeau "n'était pas mal." Here, this means that « il gagnait pas mal d'argent. » (He was pretty well off.) Quote **2 examples** given that demonstrate that he was well off.

2. **The second paragraph** describes their home. Find the French translations used in the story for:

- A. The house ... was well built with a tile roof
- B. garden
- C. how large is his vinyard? (see p. 259 end note explanation)

p. 38

3. **The first paragraph** describes the père Barbeau's character. Was he a good man? Give **2 justifications** from the story.

4. **The second paragraph** talks about the birth of the twins. Were they identical? Justify your response with an citation from the story

5. In **the third paragraph**, the midwife makes a little cross with her needle on the arm of one of the twins. Why? (use an expression from the story)

6. The older twin, Sylvain, is given the same name as his godfather. Who is his godfather?

7. What is Sylvain's nick name?

The fourth paragraph describes le père Barbeau's surprise when he returns home to find twins. (No questions here.)

page 39

8. At the **top of page 39** give **one of the comments** that le père Barbeau makes that bring la mère Barbeau to tears in the first new paragraph of this page. **(This time, answer in English)**

9. In the **first new paragraph**, cite **two phrases** that show le père Barbeau telling his wife that he is happy. (en français – citation from the story)

10. The **second paragraph** is essential to the story. It establishes the mother's superstitions. What expression states that they trick you into thinking that each one is the other.

11. Translate into English: « ...il faut qu'un des deux périsse pour que l'autre se porte bien. »

page 40

12. In the **last paragraph on page 39 that continues on page 40**, does the midwife agree that the twins will cause harm to each other? Why or why not? **(This time, answer in English)**

13. In the **first new paragraph**, the father's concerns foreshadow events in the story. He heard that twins has so much **a)** _____ for **b)** _____ that when they leave each other, they can no longer **c)** _____, and that one of the two, at least, allows himself to be **d)** _____, until he **e)** _____.

14) In **the last paragraph that goes on to the next page**, how does the midwife, la mère Sagette, advise the parents to avoid this problem? Summarize briefly. **(This time, answer in English)**

page 41

15. In **the first new paragraph**, the midwife, la mère Sagette, tells them not to nurse the twins with the same milk, so they search quickly for a wet-nurse. What is the word for "wet-nurse"?

In the second paragraph, the dad can't find a wet-nurse, so he has to go to surrounding communities, and the mother ends up nursing both babies anyway. (No questions here.)

In the third paragraph, the dad has a tough time finding anyone because everyone know they are well off, and that la mère Barbeau was no longer young, so they thought she would get exhausted and run out of milk nursing two babies. So they asked for 18 livres a month, what a bourgeois would pay. (No questions here.)

In the last paragraph that goes on to the next page, the dad doesn't want to pay that much, and the twins turned out to be easy to care for. (No questions here.)

page 42

The dad finally finds a wet-nurse, but the mom thinks it's too much money. Cite the following in French from the story:

16. La Sagette told us not to feed our twins with the same milk...

17... but didn't she also say that we must care for them equally... ?

18. I would rather that ours love each other too much, than have to sacrifice one for the other.

The paragraph finishes off on page 43 with the mother begging the father not to hire the wet-nurse. She describes how she loved all of her children, but with these two, she somehow fears losing them.

page 43

19. In the **first new paragraph**, the father agrees with his wife, but asks her, "But what if... your health starts to wither?" by saying: "mais si..._____"

In the second paragraph, the mom assures the dad that she has the appetite of a 15 year old, and if she starts to get exhausted, she'll let him know and they can send one of the twins to a wet-nurse. (No questions here.)

In the third paragraph, le père Barbeau realizes how much he loves that his wife doesn't need to spend money frivolously. La mère Barbeau nurses the boys and is so healthy, that 2 years after they are weened, she has another baby. But this time her oldest daughter, who just had her first child, helps her mother by occasionally nursing her little sister.

20. What is the name of the baby sister?

- ➔ There will not be this many questions in every chapter. I am trying to provide as much support as possible in the first few chapters, as you get used to the reading level. Once you see the same vocabulary and expressions again and again, you should begin to understand better, and be able to read more independently.
- ➔ Please do not hesitate to send me a message if you have any questions. I'll be checking my email regularly.