

The Magpie Girl

Read the narrative and complete the questions below.

Warm up

1. Which bird is the main character of this story associated with? _____
2. What is this bird well known for? _____
How might this knowledge inform you about the girl's character? _____

Essential Vocabulary

3. What word does the writer use to describe the magpie girl's eyes? _____
Does this suggest she is tired or awake, happy or sad? _____
4. Which words does the writer use to describe how her dreams disappeared? _____
_____ Does this suggest they disappeared quickly or slowly? _____
5. Find the word 'blur'. Why do you think the writer likens this word to fog? _____

6. Which words are written in italics? _____
Why do you think they are written in this way? _____
7. Find the word 'nudged'. Show someone at home how you might 'nudge' someone.
8. Do you think the woman was nudged by accident or on purpose? _____
9. Find the word 'bustled'. What do you think this word means? _____

Main Questions

10. How does the writer describe the apples? _____

Why? _____

11. Find the line that the magpie girl speaks. Do you think she says these words out loud or in her head? _____ Why do you think she repeats this sentence? _____

12. Do you think the woman buying the apples is rich or poor? _____

Why do you think the writer includes this character? _____

13. There are seven apples in the story. Who owns them? _____

14. How does the magpie girl feel about stealing? _____

15. Why does the magpie girl think a stolen apple will taste differently from one bought? _____

Reflection

16. Was it right for the magpie girl to steal the apple? Explain your thinking. _____

17. Why do you think the writer included the poem at the start of the story? _____

18. Why do you think the writer set this scene on a cold, December evening? _____

19. Look at the final sentence. What do you think the writer is trying to say? Do you agree or disagree? Why? _____