Cue For Treason
Chapter Comprehension Questions To Help Guide Your Reading

Chapters 1 and 2
1. Who is the narrator of the story?
2. What is the setting of the story?
3. What 2 things did Sir Philip do that caused problems?
4. Explain how Peter narrowly escapes death.
5. Provide an example of foreshadowing from the first chapter.
6. Why did George Bell go looking for Peter?
7. When did Peter realize he was in serious trouble?
8. Why is Peter happy about leaving home?

Chapters 3 and 4
1. What is a peel?
2. Why was Penrith designed with narrow streets leading to a large spacious square in the centre of town?
3. How did Peter decide to take his mind off his homesickness?
4. Who was Peter shocked to see coming through the archway?
5. Describe Peter’s first stage appearance.
6. What is Peter’s plan to avoid Sir Philip? How is the second part of his plan foiled?

Chapters 5 and 6
1. How did the group of actors react when they discovered Peter?
2. How is suspense created in chapter 5?
3. What happened to Christopher (Kit) Marlowe?
4. Why does Peter think that Kit is lying about his name?
5. What is the significance of the title of this chapter?
6. What address did Peter notice on Kit’s envelope?

Chapters 7 and 8
1. Why did Peter say that Kit Kirkstone had spoiled things for him?
2. Give evidence that Kit often remained aloof from the other boys.
3. Explain the Poor Law.
4. What company did the Desmond’s intend to join in London?
5. What amazing discovery did Peter make about Kit?
6. Why does Kit call Peter an idiot?
7. Explain why Kit and Peter decided to go alone to London without the Desmonds.
8. Who was the man from Stratford?

Chapters 9 and 10
1. Who did Shakespeare refer to as pirates?
2. Whose eyes did Peter find himself looking into when he lifted his head? Do you think this is a good way to end the chapter?
3. Whose disappearance has upset Burbage?
4. What does Shakespeare tell Peter and Kit when they are alone?
5. Why had Kit run away from her home?

Chapters 11 and 12
1. Who is the yellow gentleman and why has Peter given him that name?
2. Whose name does Peter hear being discussed by the yellow gentleman?
3. What was Peter excited to see half hidden under a stack of letters?
5. Describe Katherine’s feelings about Sir Philip Morton.

Chapters 13 and 14
1. Explain how Sir Francis Bacon deciphered the code of the sonnet. What is the significance of the message?
2. Why was Peter convinced that it was no miracle Queen Elizabeth had escaped her enemies?
3. Who was Robert Cecil?
4. If you were Kit, how might you convince Rom Boyd that you should be allowed to accompany him to Cumberland?
5. What warning does Mrs. Brownrigg offer to Boyd and the two apprentices?

Chapters 15 and 16
1. What is a perspective glass?
2. Why did Tom refer to watching with the phrase, “This game is like fishing”?
3. What evidence did Tom find that someone had been at the peel tower recently?
4. At the end of chapter 15 predict what may have happened to Tom.
5. What was the ‘patch of water’ at the bottom of the stairs?
6. What incredible plot does Peter overhear while listening to the men?
7. Describe what happens to Peter at the end of the chapter.

Chapters 17 and 18
1. How does Peter manage to free himself?
2. How does the wind keep Peter a prisoner.
3. What does Peter do to Anthony Duncan before leaving the islet?
4. Describe the final scene in which Peter escapes his two pursuers.

Chapters 19 and 20
1. How does Snap react at the sight of Peter?
2. Why is Peter anxious to share his news of the plot to assassinate the queen?
3. Describe what Peter and Kit intend to do after their escape through the narrow window.
4. What was the first place that Peter and Kit arrived as they fled?
5. What led Kit to suspect the magistrate was allied with Sir Philip?

Chapters 21 and 22
1. What does Peter think of Kit’s suggestion to sell one of the horses?
2. What fortunate discovery does Kit make?
3. What route does Peter suggest they take to London to avoid detection.
4. What was the Wool Pack?
5. Describe the incident when Peter and Kit encounter the four men.
6. Who interrupts the four attackers?

**Chapters 23, 24 and 25**
1. What does Peter mean when he said he never thought they would owe their lives to Sir Philip?
2. Whom do they meet in the Yorkshire woods?
3. How do the actors manage to apprehend Sir Philip?
4. Why is Peter no longer telling the story?
5. Predict what is meant by the title “A Cue Was Missed”.
6. Who is John Somers?
7. Provide evidence that Kit and Peter like one another.
8. What happens to Sir Philip? Peter? and Kit?
Chapters 1 and 2
1. Who is the narrator of the story? A young boy named Peter Brownrigg is telling the story.
2. What is the setting of the story? The story takes place in County Cumberland. It is located in North West England along the Scottish border.
3. What 2 things did Sir Philip do that caused problems? First, he raised the taxes of the lowland farmers who rented lands from him and next he built a rock wall, cutting off any access the yeomen or estates-men had to the common land in the meadow.
4. Explain how Peter narrowly escapes death. Peter throws a piece of rock at Sir Philip causing some confusion. Almost immediately one of Sir Philip’s men fires back with a pistol, knocking off Peter’s hat yet miraculously causing him no injury.
5. Provide an example of foreshadowing from the first chapter. He states that he never could have imagined that it would be such a long time before he would again see his house.
6. Why did George Bell go looking for Peter? He went looking for Peter to tell him that the constable as well as another man wanted to speak to him at the school.
7. When did Peter realize he was in serious trouble? Peter realized that he was in serious trouble when George Bell told him that the constable had his green hat with his name written inside.
8. Why is Peter happy about leaving home? He wanted to see the outside world and have an adventure.

Chapters 3 and 4
1. What is a peel? A peel is a tower like home that was built by the English to protect them from Scottish raids. Most of the English had stopped living in them and preferred to build other types of homes.
2. Why was Penrith designed with narrow streets leading to a large spacious square in the centre of town? It was originally designed this way to protect the citizens against attacks by the Scots. The townspeople could quickly barricade the narrow streets and keep their sheep and cattle in the large town square.
3. How did Peter decide to take his mind off his homesickness? He went to a local theatre to watch a play.
4. Who was Peter shocked to see coming through the archway? Sir Philip Morton was arriving to watch the performance of King Richard the Third.
5. Describe Peter’s first stage appearance. Peter’s stage debut occurred when the chest (coffin) in which he was concealed was carried onto the stage.

6. What is Peter’s plan to avoid Sir Philip? How is the second part of his plan foiled? He decides to remain hidden in the box (coffin) until the actors are far from town. Then he will quickly escape the chest and flee by foot onto the moors. He falls asleep.

Chapters 5 and 6
1. How did the group of actors react when they discovered Peter? They were very kind to him and offered him food and drink.
2. How is suspense created in chapter 5? The men on horseback were disappointed as they were looking for a female. The Desmonds pretended that the young boy was always hiding to avoid work.
3. What happened to Christopher (Kit) Marlowe? He died as a result of stab wounds.
4. Why does Peter think that Kit is lying about his name? His tone of voice is suspicious and Peter realizes that Kirkstone is the name of a pass between the mountains not far from where Peter lived.
5. What is the significance of the title of this chapter? Kit and Peter are quickly becoming rivals.
6. What address did Peter notice on Kit’s envelope? He was shocked to see that the envelope was addressed to Sir Philip Morton of Lonsdale Hall near Keswick.

Chapters 7 and 8
1. Why did Peter say that Kit Kirkstone had spoiled things for him? Peter worried that Kit might reveal his whereabouts to Sir Philip Morton.
2. Give evidence that Kit often remained aloof from the other boys. Kit never wanted to play football or wrestle with them and he also refused to join them for swimming even on the hottest days.
3. Explain the Poor Law. The Poor Law stated that an honest man who could not find work could only get help from his own parish.
4. What company did the Desmond’s intend to join in London? They intended to join William Shakespeare’s company.
5. What amazing discovery did Peter make about Kit? He discovered that Kit was actually a girl.
6. Why does Kit call Peter an idiot? Kit is upset because having uncovered her true identity, Peter tries to treat her like a lady—even attempting to help her onto her horse. Kit realizes that this type of gentlemanly behaviour will be a dead giveaway to the others. She quickly tells him to treat her as he had previous to discovering her identity.
7. Explain why Kit and Peter decided to go alone to London without the Desmonds. Mr. Desmond had broken his leg in an accident and the leg would require weeks to mend properly.
8. Who was the man from Stratford? They met William Shakespeare who offered to
help them.

Chapters 9 and 10
1. Who did Shakespeare refer to as pirates? **He called the people who used his plays without paying pirates.**
2. Whose eyes did Peter find himself looking into when he lifted his head? Do you think this is a good way to end the chapter? **He found himself looking into Sir Philip’s eyes. It creates suspense as the reader wants to find out what will happen next.**
3. Whose disappearance has upset Burbage? **He is upset by the mysterious disappearance of Kit as she was to perform the role of Juliet.**
4. What does Shakespeare tell Peter and Kit when they are alone? **He tells them that he has already guessed that Kit is really a girl.**
5. Why had Kit run away from her home? **She was going to be forced to marry a man whom she didn’t love—Sir Philip Morton.**

Chapters 11 and 12
1. Who is the yellow gentleman and why has Peter given him that name? **He is a man dressed in a yellow doublet who tricks Peter into giving him the new script for one of Shakespeare’s plays.**
2. Whose name does Peter hear being discussed by the yellow gentleman? **He overhears a conversation about Sir Philip Morton.**
3. What was Peter excited to see half hidden under a stack of letters? **He was thrilled to see what appeared to be the missing script.**
4. Kit suspects treason. Give evidence to support her claim. First, Peter overhears a conversation suggesting the yellow gentleman doesn’t intend to lose his head (literally). Secondly the man mentions Sir Philip Morton "is in it" and also that he has never forgiven the Queen for his poor reception at her court. Next part of the script has been underlined and a sonnet like verse has been scribbled on the back. Finally, the name of the chapter is **Treason on Thames-Side**
5. Describe Katherine’s feelings about Sir Philip Morton. **She refers to him as a vicious brute who wanted to marry her for money when she turned fifteen. She is afraid of him and feels that he has an inexplicable power over people including her own father.**

Chapters 13 and 14
1. Explain how Sir Francis Bacon deciphered the code of the sonnet. What is the significance of the message? **He discovered that by taking the first letter of each line in the sonnet, he unravelled a message which read, "Send News By Peel".**
2. Why was Peter convinced that it was no miracle Queen Elizabeth had escaped her enemies? **As a new member of the Queen’s Secret Service, he realized that the Queen had many faithful servants (subjects) looking out for her.**
3. Who was Robert Cecil? **He replaced Walsingham as the new head of the Queen’s Secret Service.**

4. If you were Kit, how might you convince Rom Boyd that you should be allowed to accompany him to Cumberland? **Answers will vary but keep in mind that Boyd does not yet realize her true identity. Certainly her familiarity with Cumberland would be an asset.**

5. What warning does Mrs. Brownrigg offer to Boyd and the two apprentices? **She tells them that it is not safe to stay at the house.**

**Chapters 15 and 16**

1. What is a perspective glass? Since Peter describes it as a metal tube with glass in it that makes things appear closer when you look through it, we can presume that it is a telescope.

2. Why did Tom refer to watching with the phrase, “This game is like fishing”? **He knew that it required a great deal of patience.**

3. What evidence did Tom find that someone had been at the peel tower recently? When he examined the site, he found fresh oil in the lock, mud on the steps, hoof marks, rust worn off the ring that the horses had been tethered to, and food scattered about that the horses had not finished eating.

4. At the end of chapter 15 predict what may have happened to Tom. **Opinions will vary but most students are likely to believe that he met an untimely end at the hands of Sir Philip’s men as Peter mentions that they never saw him again.**

5. What was the ‘patch of water’ at the bottom of the stairs? **Peter realized that it was blood as soon as he felt its stickiness and noticed its dark red colour.**

6. What incredible plot does Peter overhear while listening to the men? **He discovers that Queen Elizabeth is to be assassinated at the theatre in London followed by an uprising in the Northern counties of England. Finally, a Spanish fleet would land at Falmouth to attack England.**

7. Describe what happens to Peter at the end of the chapter. **He decides to hide in the cellar but on his way slips on the stairs. The last thing he remembers before losing consciousness is his pistol being knocked loose and going off with a loud bang as it hit the floor.**

**Chapters 17 and 18**

1. Describe Peter’s situation at the beginning of the chapter. **He is being held captive on a small islet (island) by a man he recognizes, Anthony Duncan.**

2. How does Peter manage to free himself? **He breaks the liquor (wine) bottle and uses one of the sharpened fragments to cut through the rope.**

3. How does the wind keep Peter a prisoner. **It churns the water into large waves making the quarter mile swim impossible.**

4. What does Peter do to Anthony Duncan before leaving the islet? **Peter ties up Duncan so that he won’t be able to pursue him.**

5. Describe the final scene in which Peter escapes his two pursuers. **He grabs the man’s
leg and twists it, sending the man over the rockface headfirst. The second pursuer then turned back.

Chapters 19 and 20

1. How does Snap react at the sight of Peter? The family pet does not recognize Peter and begins to bark.
2. Why is Peter anxious to share his news of the plot to assassinate the queen? He is worried that he may develop a fever or be too ill to tell anyone for several days and the performance in London is only six days away.
3. Describe what Peter and Kit intend to do after their escape through the narrow window. They plan to go to Mr. Bell’s stable for horses and then ride to Keswick to speak with the magistrate, Mr. Armthwaite, about the conspiracy plans.
4. What was the first place that Peter and Kit arrived as they fled? They arrived at Mr. Bell’s farm. He and his sons offered to help and also asked Peter and Kit to round up more help from the neighbours.
5. What led Kit to suspect the magistrate was allied with Sir Philip? Peter noticed as did Kit that Mr. Armthwaite spoke in a strange tone of voice. The magistrate also mentioned that had the news have fallen into the wrong hands, all their plans would have been upset. Kit also suspected that the only reason he wanted to ring the bell was to warn his men that their plans had been uncovered. Finally, towards the end of the chapter, Kit reveals that she recognized Mr. Armthwaite as he had paid a visit to her guardian and she knew he was lying when he pretended not to know Sir Philip

Chapters 21 and 22

1. What does Peter think of Kit’s suggestion to sell one of the horses? He believes that because they are not well dressed, people will think they are horse-thieves and lock them up.
2. What fortunate discovery does Kit make? Initially she discovers food in Peter’s saddlebags and subsequently finds a gold coin stitched into the lining.
3. What route does Peter suggest they take to London to avoid detection? He suggests they cross to the other side of England and make their way done the east side.
4. What was the Wool Pack? The Wool Pack was a tiny inn near the top of the mountain where Peter and Kit spent the night before heading to the Yorkshire dales below.
5. Describe the incident when Peter and Kit encounter the four men. They were robbed and had their horses stolen despite valiant attempts to fight off their attackers. One of the men, Redhead, was grazed in the shoulder when Peter fired off his pistol. Peter and Kit were subsequently captured and the four robbers intended to kill them by throwing them into a large pot-hole or pit.
6. Who interrupts the four attackers? Sir Philip Morton gallops onto the scene with his men, inadvertently scaring off the four would be killers.
Chapters 23, 24 and 25

1. What does Peter mean when he said he never thought they would owe their lives to Sir Philip? **He means that Sir Philip scared off the four attackers thus preventing the untimely death of Peter and Kit at the bottom of the pit.**

2. Whom do they meet in the Yorkshire woods? **They meet the Desmonds and a troupe of actors.**

3. How do the actors manage to apprehend Sir Philip? **They pretended to be soldiers on their way to Cumberland to stifle the rebellion against the queen. They informed Sir Philip Morton that he was under arrest and convinced him that he was badly outnumbered.**

4. Why is Peter no longer telling the story? **He wasn’t present when the action took place in most of this chapter.**

5. Predict what is meant by the title “A Cue Was Missed”. **Predictions will vary but the more astute reader will realize that it refers to the assassin being foiled.**

6. Who is John Somers? **Somers is the would be assassin who is apprehended at the very moment he is to carry out the plot.**

7. Provide evidence that Kit and Peter like one another. **Peter mentions how beautiful she looks dressed in a dress and both of them blush when the queen implies that they might be interested in one another.**

8. What happens to Sir Philip? Peter? and Kit? **The last paragraph explains that they have married and are raising their own family.**