

O. Henry's
The Gift of the
Magi

and other stories

Student Learning Materials

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THE GREEN DOOR

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 1: WHAT TYPE OF ADVENTURER ARE YOU?



“The Green Door” is a story about a true adventurer. The main character, Rudolf Steiner, looks for something interesting or surprising all the time. In this activity, you will complete a quiz to find out if you are a *true adventurer*.

Directions:

1. Mark the best answer for each question in the quiz.
2. Write the point(s) you get for each question in the **Points** column.
3. Ask another friend or a family member to complete the quiz.
4. Total your points and see what type of an adventurer you and your friend (or family member) are.

Quiz for yourself

Questions	Yes (3 points)	Sometimes (2 Points)	No (1point)	Points
1. Do you seek out adventure?				
2. Do you like to take risks?				
3. Are you ready for anything?				
4. Do you take actions with no specific purpose?				
5. Are you fearless enough to accept any adventure?				
Total				

Quiz for your friend or a family member

Questions	Yes (3 points)	Sometimes (2 Points)	No (1point)	Points
1. Do you seek out adventure?				
2. Do you like to take risks?				
3. Are you ready for anything?				
4. Do you take actions with no specific purpose?				
5. Are you fearless enough to accept any adventure?				
Total				

POINTS DESCRIPTION



12-15 points: You are a true adventurer. You regularly seek out adventure in your life. You might get into trouble sometimes, but you love to deal with unexpected things.

8-11 points: You are a half-adventurer. You like new and exciting things, but you don't want to get into trouble. You try adventurous things only when you are bored.

5-7 points: You are not very adventurous. You always want to plan things ahead of time and play it safe. You don't like to get into anything you are not sure about.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 2: FOCUS ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FEATURES

The story "The Green Door" is about Rudolf Steiner's adventure. The author uses the special verb **would** to show possible consequences or reactions in various imaginary situations. In English, *would* can be used in various ways. This activity will introduce you to several typical functions of the word *would*.

PART 1: TYPICAL FUNCTIONS OF WOULD

Directions: Study the information about three typical functions of *would* in the table below.

Sentence Examples	Typical Functions of <i>Would</i>
1. Then he waited to see who would open the door. (p. 87)	A. To talk about the past (the past tense of <i>will</i>)
2. Your face would turn red. (p. 85)	B. To talk about a possible situation that has not happened or that is only imagined
3. Would you accept it? (p. 84)	C. To make a polite request, offer, invitation, etc.

PART 2: USING WOULD

Directions:

1. Complete the sentences in the table on the next page. Use *would* with verbs in the **Sentence** column.
2. In the **Functions of Would** column, select a function of *would* from the **Function List** on the next page. The first sentence has been completed for you as an example.

Functions List

A	To talk about the past (past of <i>will</i>)
B	To talk about a possible situation that has not happened or that is only imagined (imaginary)
C	To make a polite request, offer, or invitation (polite request).

Sentences	Functions of <i>Would</i>
1. He thought the drive <u>would take</u> (take) about two hours.	<i>past of will</i>
2. If the dragon came, you _____ (run) away immediately.	
3. I never thought that the little boy _____ (lie) to me.	
4. If I were Superman, I _____ (protect) the people in my city.	
5. _____ you care for some tea?	
6. _____ you come this way, please?	

WHILE-READING ACTIVITY 1: SUPPORTING DETAILS

At the beginning of the story, the narrator describes the difference between true adventurers and cautious people who prefer to avoid risks. This activity will help you understand the differences listed by O. Henry and learn more about Rudolf Steiner as a true adventurer.

PART 1: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRUE ADVENTURERS AND CAUTIOUS PEOPLE

Directions:

1. As you read **page 85**, pay attention to the way the narrator describes different people.
2. Read the details in the **Character Descriptions** box carefully.
3. Match the descriptions with either **True Adventurer** or **Cautious Person**. Write the letter for each description in the corresponding column in the double-arrow graph below. An example has been provided for you.

Character Descriptions

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. takes actions with no specific purpose | E. wishes to follow others |
| B. prefers to repeat something that has been done before | F. is one of the few people in this group |
| C. takes actions with a specific purpose | G. usually has a long quiet life |
| D. is ready to accept adventures | H. knows true romance and adventure |

True Adventurer	Cautious Person
	
1. <u> A </u> 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

PART 2: RUDOLF STEINER AS A TRUE ADVENTURER

Directions:

1. At the bottom of **page 85**, there are two paragraphs about Rudolf Steiner. As you read them, think about how the author describes Rudolf Steiner as a true adventurer.
2. In the boxes below, write three supporting details about Rudolf Steiner as a true adventurer from **page 85**. You can either copy the sentence from the story or retell the details in your own words. An example has been provided for you.

Rudolf Steiner as a true adventurer	1. <i>Always goes out seeking something different at <u>night</u>.</i>
	2. _____.
	3. _____.
	4. _____.

WHILE-READING ACTIVITY 2: THE MAIN CHARACTER AND YOU

In the story “The Green Door,” Rudolf makes many decisions that show he is a true adventurer. As you read the story, this activity will help you predict what will happen to him.

Directions:

1. As you read **pages 85-90**, stop at the major events listed in the table below.
2. After each major event, choose what will happen next to Rudolf and write the corresponding letter under **Rudolf Steiner**.
3. Choose what you would do if this event happened in your life. Write the letter for your choice under **Me**. An example has been completed for you.
4. Check to see if your prediction came true before you move to the next event. Circle *Yes* if your prediction came true or *No* if your prediction did not come true.

<p>Event 1: Rudolf Steiner was a true adventurer. He went out seeking something different every evening. One night after work as he was walking along a street in the older part of New York. (p. 85)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What will happen next?</i></p>		
<p>a. Hurry home b. Look for an adventure</p>	<p>Rudolf Steiner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p>	<p>Me</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p>
<p>Did your prediction for Event 1 come true? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>		



<p>Event 2: Rudolf passed a busy restaurant and saw a man offering small pieces of paper to those who passed by (p. 86).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What will happen next?</i></p>		
<p>a. Take a piece of paper b. Pass without taking the paper</p>	<p>Rudolf Steiner</p>	<p>Me</p>
<p>Did your prediction for Event 2 come true? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>		



Continue on the next page

Event 3: Rudolf passed by the man a second time and received a second piece of paper (p. 86).

What will happen next?

- a. Throw away the piece of paper
- b. Follow the sign on the piece of paper

Rudolf Steiner

Me

Did your prediction for **Event 3** come true? Yes No



Event 4: Rudolf came to the building where the man was handing out papers (p. 87).

What will happen next?

- a. Pass the building without going in
- b. Look for adventure in the building

Rudolf Steiner

Me

Did your prediction for **Event 4** come true? Yes No



What will happen at the end of story?

- a. Rudolf will meet a girl who needs his help
- b. Rudolf will get into trouble

Do you like the story so far? Why or why not? Write 2 sentences.

 _____

POST-READING ACTIVITY 1: SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

This activity will help you arrange several major events in the order in which they occur in the story “The Green Door”.

Directions:

1. Read the main events from the story listed in *Events in the Story*, the left column below.
2. Decide on the order of the events. In **Order**, the column on the right, “1” has already been marked for the first event as an example. Mark “2” in the right column for the second event. Continue ordering all the events.

Events in the Story	Order
Rudolf goes out to buy some food.	
The young girl and Rudolf eat the food together and share their stories.	
Rudolf asks the black man why he gave Rudolf a piece of paper with “The Green Door” on it.	
Rudolf walks pass and takes a piece of paper from the black man two times.	1
Rudolf promises to visit the young girl again.	
Rudolf finds a green door on the second floor of the building and knocks on the door.	
The young girl asks Rudolf how he found her, but he decides she must never know the truth.	
A young girl opens the door for Rudolf.	
The black man does not give Rudolf another piece of paper when Rudolf passes by the third time.	

POST-READING ACTIVITY 2: RIGHT THERE

This activity will help you remember the main events in the story by answering six questions. Then write the main idea of the story in your own words.

Directions:

1. Read the questions below. Use the page numbers to help you find answers in the story.
2. Write your answers to the questions using a phrase or a short sentence. The first question has been answered for you as an example.

Question 1. Why does the narrator make a distinction between regular adventurers and true adventurers? (pp. 84-85)

 *To show that the main character in the story is a true adventurer.*

Question 2. The narrator says that adventure waits at every corner. What are **three** things that the narrator gives as examples of adventures waiting in the big city of New York? (p. 85)

 _____

Question 3. Rudolf takes a piece of paper from the black man as he passes by the restaurant on the street. Then he returns and passes by the black man again. Why does Rudolf pass by the black man for the second time? (p. 86)

 _____

Question 4. What happens when Rudolf knocks on the green door in the building? (p. 87)

 _____

Question 5. Why does Rudolf leave the building and buy some food? (p. 88)

 _____

Question 6. Why does Rudolf say “I know that it was planned that I should meet her in that way at end of the story?” (pp. 89-90)

 _____

Based on your answers to the questions above, what do you think is the main idea of this story? Write the main idea of the story using a short phrase or a sentence.

 _____