

TOP SECRET

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READING RIGHT

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Synopsis

This is a fantasy story about Allen and his amazing science project. Allen wants to win the science prize at the school science fair. So he decides to find a way to create human photosynthesis, the ability of people to get nourishment from the sun. His grandpa even encourages him. Allen tries many different connections in the blender before he finds the one that turns him green. No one seems to believe Allen until the President's doctors get involved. They don't want the human photosynthesis to work so they turn Allen back to a normal boy. Allen wins a blue ribbon at the fair for his lipstick project and Miss Green his science teacher is never seen again after Allen gives her the photosynthesis lipstick.

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LESSON 1

Chapters 1 - 2

1. What science project does Miss Green want Allen to do?
2. Why does Barry Cramer get kicked off the school bus?
3. Waffle, Allen's cat, does something weird when his belly is rubbed. What is it?
4. What does the author tell us human photosynthesis would be?
5. Do Allen's parents believe he can figure out human photosynthesis? Explain your answer.
6. Why do you think Grandpop thinks Allen should try his photosynthesis experiment?

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LESSON 2

Chapters 3 - 4

1. Why did Allen get off to the library later than he wanted to?
2. In the library when Allen returned from a break, who was reading his notebook?
3. How many times did Allen drink different concoctions before he turned green?
4. What is a concoction?
5. List the six tools Grandpop said Allen needed to make a discovery?
6. What does Grandpop mean when he tells Allen to start thinking crazy?
7. Do you think Allen and Barry are friends? Explain your answer.

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LESSON 3

Chapters 5 - 7

1. What did Miss Green tell Allen to do when she saw him?
2. Who is coming to visit Allen's town? (Hint: It is a famous person.)
3. Why does Allen start to get weaker?
4. Put the following events in order:
 - _____ Allen's mom cooks pancakes for breakfast
 - _____ Allen turns green
 - _____ Allen gets on the school bus and everyone is laughing at him
 - _____ Allen stays in the yard to watch the sunrise
 - _____ Allen's parents take him to the hospital
5. Allen thought if his story was in the newspaper people would believe him. Why didn't that happen?
6. Pretend you are Allen's best friend. What would you say to him after you read his story in the newspaper?

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LESSON 4

Chapters 8 - 9

1. Allen says there are several good things about being a plant. List 2 of them.
2. Underline the items that Allen thought would convince Dr. Wedemeyer that he was a plant.

Roots in his feet No taste buds Leaves on his arms
3. How long did Allen have to be observed by the president's doctors to see if he was telling the truth?
4. Why did the president's advisor say that a discovery that would end world hunger would be bad?
5. Do you think a real discovery like Allen's would be bad or good? Explain your answer.
6. Do you think it would be hard to keep a discovery like Allen's a secret even though you promised?

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. Miss Green wants Allen to do a science project on lipstick.
2. Ivan the bus driver thinks that Barry put lipstick on his neck and kicks Barry off the bus.
3. Waffle bites people when they try to rub his stomach.
4. Human photosynthesis would be people getting their food from the sun like plants do.
5. No Allen's parents do not think he can figure out human photosynthesis. Explanations will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. Allen was late getting to the library because his dad wanted to talk about the lipstick project.
2. Barry Cramer was reading Allen's notebook when he returned from his break.
3. Allen drank 3 different connections before he turned green.
4. A connection is a mixture of things.
5. The six tools grandpop said Allen needed were eyes, ears, mouth, brain, fingers, nose.
6. When grandpop said think crazy, he meant Allen needed to think in a new way.
7. Allen and Barry are not friends. Explanations may vary. One reason is that they are always playing tricks on each other.

LESSON 3

1. Miss Green told Allen to wash off the green paint when she saw him.
2. The president of the United States is coming to visit Allen's town.
3. Allen starts to get weaker because the sun isn't shining and that is where he gets his food.
4. The correct order is 4, 1, 5, 3, and 2.
5. People didn't believe the story in the newspaper about Allen because the newspaper printed it as a crazy story.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. Allen says two things he likes about being a plant is that you get to be outdoors and there are no chores.
2. The underlined items are: ROOTS IN HIS FEET NO TASTE BUDS
3. Allen was observed by the president's doctor for 10 days.
4. The advisor says that the discovery of human photosynthesis would put people out of work and the advisor would lose his job.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. Allen got the lipstick back from Barry by telling the judges that Barry was polishing the lipstick cases.
2. Allen won a blue ribbon for his lipstick project.
3. By turning Miss Green green Allen showed her his experiment had really worked.
4. An antidote is a remedy to counteract the affects of poison; it reverses the effect of something.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.