Battle of the Books
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh
Review Questions and Answers

1. Who was Mrs. Frisby? A mouse
2. In whose garden did she and her children live? Mr. Fitzgibbon’s.
3. How did they find food in the winter? They found leftovers from the human harvest: beans, potatoes, peas and asparagus.
4. What kind of house did they live in? It was a cinder block that was partially buried in the dirt.
5. How many rooms did they have in their house? Two, a living room and a bedroom.
6. Where was Mr. Frisby? He had died the summer before.
7. How many children did Mrs. Frisby have? Four.
8. Why were January and February hard months for the Frisbys? Because most of their good food was gone, and they had to eat boring, tasteless food.
9. What happened to Timothy at the end of February? He got sick.
10. Why did Mrs. Frisby go out that morning? To look for something different to eat, as they were all tired of what they had stored up.
11. What did Mrs. Frisby find? An abandoned store of food that had corn, peanuts and mushrooms in it.
12. What were Mrs. Frisby’s children’s names? Teresa, Martin, Timothy and Cynthia.
13. Why didn’t Timothy get up for breakfast? Because he was sick.
14. Why didn’t Mrs. Frisby believe it at first? Because Timothy sometimes thought he was sick when he wasn’t.
15. What was wrong with Timothy? He had a fever, he couldn’t catch his breath, his pulse was fast, and he was dizzy.
16. What was Timothy like? He was frail, and prone to illness, but also very thoughtful and smart.
17. Where did Mrs. Frisby, Martin and Cynthia go after breakfast? To get more of the abandoned food.
19. How was Timothy when Mrs. Frisby got back? His fever was worse, he was having hallucinations, and his breath was raspy.
20. Where did Mrs. Frisby go? To see Mr. Ages and get some medicine.
21. Where did Mr. Ages live? He lived beyond the farm in the foundation of a farmhouse that had burnt down.
22. Why didn’t Mrs. Frisby like to go at that hour? Because it took a long time to get to Mr. Ages’ house, and by the time she got back, it might be close to dark. It was dangerous for mice to be out after dark.
23. Why couldn’t Mrs. Frisby take the shortest route to Mr. Ages’ house? Because it would take her close to the farmhouse and barn, where Mr. Fitzgibbon’s cat was always on the prowl and looking for mice to kill.
24. How long did it take to get to Mr. Ages’ house? Two hours.
25. How did Mrs. Frisby know Mr. Ages? Because he had been good friends with her husband.
26. How did Mr. Ages use the wild berries and plants that grew near the abandoned farmhouse? He used them to make potions that the animals used as medicine.
27. Why had Mrs. Frisby come there before, with her husband? Because Timothy had been bitten by a spider that had paralyzed him.
28. What did Mr. Ages do for Timothy then? He gave him a liquid medicine that loosened his muscles.
29. What did Mrs. Frisby think had been a lasting effect of the spider bite? That Timothy had always been more frail than the other children.
30. How long did Mrs. Frisby have to wait for Mr. Ages to get home? A half and hour.
31. What was Timothy’s tongue like? It seemed to be coated in purple.
32. What was Mr. Ages’ diagnosis? That Timothy had pneumonia.
33. What did Mr. Ages give Mrs. Frisby? Three doses of medicine to bring down the fever.
34. What other instructions did he give? He had to stay in bed and couldn’t breathe any cold air, or else the disease might come back, this time worse than before.
35. Why did Mrs. Frisby decide to go home by the quicker route, in spite of danger from the cat? She wanted to get home before dark, to avoid foxes, owls, etc. She thought she could hopefully see the cat first and hide before he saw her.
36. What was the cat’s name? Dragon.
37. What was Dragon like? He was orange and white with yellow eyes, and was very fierce. He let out a blood curdling scream as he leapt to kill another animal.
38. What did she see as she got closer to the barn? She saw a crow flapping around and making a lot of noise.
39. What was wrong with the crow? He had a piece of silver ribbon tied around his foot, and the other end was attached to the fence. He was stuck.
40. Why did Mrs. Frisby think the crow should be quiet? Because he was going to attract the attention of Dragon.
41. How did the crow get wrapped up in the string? When he picked it up with his beak, it got stuck to his foot. Then he sat on the fence to try to get it off his foot, but the other end got stuck on the fence.
42. Why did the crow pick up the string? Because he liked how shiny it was.
43. Why was it dangerous for the crow to be tied to the fence? Because the cat would attack him, and he wouldn’t be able to get away.
44. What did Mrs. Frisby do for the crow? She gnawed through the string to free him.
45. Who came near just as she was finishing the job? Dragon.
46. How did the crow and Mrs. Frisby get away from the cat? Mrs. Frisby climbed on the crow’s back, and they flew away.
47. What was the crow’s name? Jeremy.
48. How did he want to repay Mrs. Frisby for saving his life? He said if she ever needed any help, to ask.
49. What did Mrs. Frisby do when she got home? She gave Timothy his first dose of medicine.
50. How was Timothy by the next day? His fever was lower, his breathing was less raspy, and his heartbeat was more regular.

51. What did Mrs. Frisby do on the fourth day of Timothy’s recovery? She went out for a walk, to get more corn from the abandoned stash of food.

52. What was the weather like? It was very warm, as if spring had arrived.

53. What was worrying to Mrs. Frisby about the weather? It made her realize that Moving Day was coming up soon.

54. Why did the mice have to move out of their winter homes in the spring? Because they lived in the garden, and in the spring Mr. Fitzgibbon would plow up the earth, destroying their homes and the animals too, if they were still in them.

55. When would Mr. Fitzgibbon plow the garden? As soon as the frost was out of the ground.

56. Why did the thought of Moving Day worry Mrs. Frisby? Because Timothy wasn’t yet strong enough to move all the way to their summer house, and Mr. Ages had said that if he began to breathe cold air again, he would catch pneumonia again, this time worse than before. The summer house was not as warm as the winter house, and the nights there would be chilly for awhile.

57. What did Mrs. Frisby tell herself to stop her worry for awhile? She said that spring might not be here yet, and that it might turn cold again, delaying plow time for a month or so.

58. Who did Mrs. Frisby see on her walk? The shrew.

59. What did she think about the weather? She thought Moving Day was coming up soon.

60. What sound did Mrs. Frisby hear on her walk that made her very frightened? She heard Mr. Fitzgibbon starting up his tractor.

61. Why did he and his sons have the tractor out of the shed? They wanted to look at a linchpin that was broken.

62. What did Mrs. Frisby learn about Mr. Fitzgibbon’s plowing plans? He was going to plow in five days, if the tractor was fixed by then and the weather stayed warm and dry.

63. When did Mr. Ages say that Timothy would be able to get out of bed? Not for three weeks.

64. What did Mr. Frisby used to say about problems and solutions? He said whenever you got to a locked door, you simply had to find the right key.

65. After she eavesdropped on Mr. Fitzgibbon and his sons, who did Mrs. Frisby see? Dragon was right beside her.

66. What happened? She knew he saw her, and she ran as fast as she could, but the cat didn’t chase her; she didn’t know why. He seemed to be very sleepy.

67. What animals did she see carrying electric cable? Rats.

68. Why did this puzzle Mrs. Frisby? She couldn’t understand why the rats wanted electric cable, and how they could carry it out in the open, without fear of Dragon.

69. Where did the rats live? Inside and under the rosebush.

70. What did Mrs. Frisby see as she traveled to the corn? She saw some aluminum foil in the sun, and then she saw Jeremy, attracted to the foil.

71. What did she talk to him about? She told him about her moving problem and asked him if he had any ideas.
72. Where did Jeremy say the crows go when they didn’t know what to do? They go to see the owl, who was the oldest animal in the woods.
73. What did Jeremy agree to do? To take Mrs. Frisby to see the owl.
74. When did they need to go? They couldn’t go during the daytime, because that was when the owl would sleep, and they couldn’t go at night, because that was when the owl would be out hunting. They had to go at dusk, as that was when he was awake but still in his tree.
75. When did Jeremy say he would come to get Mrs. Frisby? That night at five o’clock.
76. Why didn’t Mrs. Frisby tell Timothy where she was going? She didn’t want him to worry or blame himself if something went wrong.
77. Why was Mrs. Frisby afraid to see the owl? She was afraid to fly so far, high and fast on the crow’s back. She was afraid to go into the dark woods, and she was afraid of being eaten by the owl.
78. Why did the crow suddenly stop beating his wings while they were flying? Because they were able to soar on an updraft.
79. What did she see from up high that looked like a snake? The river.
80. Where did the owl live? In a hole inside a dead, hollow tree in the woods.
81. Why couldn’t the owl see Jeremy and Mrs. Frisby? Because he could only see things in the dark, and it was still too light outside for him to see them.
82. Could the owl hear them? Yes.
83. Why did the owl ask Mrs. Frisby into his house, the hole in the tree? Because he couldn’t see her outside, and he didn’t want to talk with someone he couldn’t see.
84. Why didn’t Mrs. Frisby want to go in there? Because she was afraid that the owl would eat her.
85. Why did the owl even agree to help Mrs. Frisby? Only because she had helped save another bird from being eaten by the cat.
86. Why did she agree to go into the hole? Because Jeremy assured her that he wouldn’t hurt her in his own home.
87. What was the floor of the owl’s house like? It was clean, but it had rough pieces of wood sticking up from it; it wasn’t smooth.
88. How did the owl know that spring was here, it was not going to turn cold again? Because the wild onions had already come up in the pastures.
89. What did the owl first recommend? Wrapping Timothy up as tightly as possible and attempting the move. Timothy might die, but the rest of the family would be saved. If they stayed, the whole family would surely die when the farmer began plowing.
90. What made the owl change his mind and decide to talk with her further? When she told him her name, his demeanor changed. He had known her husband Jonathan, and he said the fact that she was his wife put matters in a different light.
91. What was his second recommendation? To go and ask the rats for help.
92. What did he think the rats would be able to do for her? To move her house to a new place, safe from the plow.
93. Who should she ask for when she went to the entrance to the rats’ nest? Justin and Nicodemus.
94. What did the owl think the rats would ask of Mrs. Frisby? They would swear her to secrecy.

95. Where did the owl think the rats should move Mrs. Frisby’s house? To the lee of the stone.

96. In what way did the owl’s situation parallel that of Mrs. Frisby? Because he knew that his house was dying and would eventually fall over, and he did not feel up to the challenge of finding a new place to live.

97. Why did Mrs. Frisby feel better about flying home with Jeremy? Because she was getting used to flying, and because in the dark, she could not see the ground so far below.

98. What did the term “in the lee” mean? Jeremy said it meant the side that was protected from the wind.

99. Why did Jeremy think that the rats could move Mrs. Frisby’s house? Because he said the rats did strange things, and used tools, and were building a new house.

100. Why did Jeremy, in spite of this knowledge, think it was strange that the owl had told her to see the rats? Because he had never heard of the rats helping any other animals.

101. What were the children doing when Mrs. Frisby got home? They were eating dinner and worrying about where Mrs. Frisby was.

102. Why did Timothy want to stay in his bedroom rather than going out into the other room? He wanted to be alone to think about Moving Day.

103. How did Timothy know that it was getting warmer? He hadn’t been outside, but he had noticed that the air smelled different; it was the smell of the frost melting.

104. What happened when Timothy tried to walk that day? He got very dizzy.

105. Was Timothy worried about Moving Day? No, he wanted to wait and see what would happen, and he didn’t want Mrs. Frisby to worry either.

106. When did Mrs. Frisby go to see the rats? The next day, as soon as the sun was up.

107. How did the other animals treat the rats and their house under the rose bush? They stayed away from them. Even Dragon did not go into their house.

108. What barrier prevented animals from getting in? All the thorns on the rosebushes.

109. How did Mrs. Frisby get in through the thorns? The rats had scraped the thorns off a low-hanging branch, and cut it so it swung open like a door if one pushed on it.

110. What did she see when she went under the bush? There was a big clearing in the bush, and beyond it, an archway lined with stones that led to a tunnel.

111. Who was standing in the doorway? A big rat.

112. What did he say to Mrs. Frisby? That she had to leave.

113. What was the rat’s name? Brutus.

114. Whom had the owl told Mrs. Frisby to expect at the door? Justin.

115. Where was Justin? He was at a meeting.

116. Did Brutus care who Mrs. Frisby was? No, he just insisted that she had to leave, and that she couldn’t wait for Justin to return.

117. What did Mrs. Frisby think she might do after she was out of Brutus’ sight? Wait there until Justin returned.
118. Who did Mrs. Frisby see coming in the entrance of the rosebush as she waited? Mr. Ages.
119. What was wrong with Mr. Ages? He had broken his ankle.
120. What did Mr. Ages tell Mrs. Frisby to do? Come back to the entrance with him, and he would talk to Brutus for her.
121. Who did Mr. Ages say would explain to her how he knew Brutus? Nicodemus.
122. What did he make Mrs. Frisby promise? That she would never tell anyone what she learned about the rats and their relationship with Mr. Ages and Mr. Frisby.
123. Who was the rat that was now with Brutus? Justin.
124. How did Justin treat her? He said he was honored to meet Jonathan Frisby’s widow.
125. Why had Justin left the meeting? The meeting was on a break, as the rats were waiting for Mr. Ages to arrive.
126. Why was Mrs. Frisby surprised to see a light after the darkness of the tunnel they were walking in? Because they were so deep underground, away from any sunlight.
127. Where was the light coming from? From electric lights.
128. Where did they get their light bulbs? From Christmas trees.
129. What was strange to Mrs. Frisby about the air in the tunnel? It was fresh, as if it was filtered, rather than being stale and damp as it should have been deep underground.
130. How did Justin, Mr. Ages and Mrs. Frisby get downstairs to the rats’ meeting? They took an elevator.
131. Why did they do that? Because of Mr. Ages broken ankle.
132. What did Nicodemus look like? He had a big scar on his face and a patch over his eye.
133. What did Nicodemus say about Mr. Frisby? That he was a great friend to the rats.
134. Why did this puzzle Mrs. Frisby? She didn’t know that her husband even knew the rats.
135. Why did Mrs. Frisby need to wait to talk to Nicodemus? He had to finish the meeting, so she would need to wait an hour.
136. Where did she go while she waited? Into the library.
137. How did Mrs. Frisby learn to read? From Mr. Frisby.
138. What did Justin say his meeting was about? The Plan.
139. What did it say on the blackboard in the library? “The Plan of the Rats of Nimh.”
140. What questions did Mrs. Frisby have as she looked around the library? What was Nimh? How long had the rats lived there? Were they from somewhere else? What was in all the other rooms?
141. Why did Mrs. Frisby decide not to explore in the other rooms? She didn’t want to offend the rats by being nosy, especially when she needed their help.
142. Who came into the library while Mrs. Frisby was in there? A young girl-rat named Isabella.
143. Why was the girl suspicious of Mrs. Frisby at first? Because she thought she might be a spy.
144. Where might Mrs. Frisby be a spy from, according to Isabella? From Nimh.
145. Why was Isabella in the library? She was supposed to practice her reading.
146. What was Nimh, according to Isabella? It was a place where her parents had lived before she was born.
147. What was Isabella’s interest in Justin? She had a crush on him and hoped to marry him when she got older.
148. Who had gone to the meeting? All the male rats.
149. Where was Isabella’s mother? Packing grain for the plan.
150. Why didn’t Isabella’s mother like the plan? Because they were going to have to live without electricity and running water for awhile. It would be a hard life.
151. How was Jenner? A rat who deserted their group.
152. Who did Mrs. Frisby think was the leader of the rats? Nicodemus.
153. Who came in to talk to Mrs. Frisby? Nicodemus, Justin, Mr. Ages and Arthur, the rats’ chief engineer.
154. Why would it be good to move the Frisbys’ house to the lee of the stone? Because Mr. Fitzgibbon would not plow there. It was only a few feet from where the house was now, so it would be an easy move.
155. How long did Arthur think it would take to move the house? With twenty rats, it would take an hour.
156. How did the rats usually take care of Dragon, so they could carry out their projects? They put sleeping powder in his food.
157. What mystery did the information solve for Mrs. Frisby? Why Dragon hadn’t chased her the other day when she was right by him.
158. What was the problem, why the rats couldn’t give Dragon the powder that day? Only Mr. Ages could fit in the hole to get into the kitchen and get the powder to Dragon’s bowl, but he had hurt his leg, so he wasn’t up to the challenge. The rats were too big to do it.
159. What solution did Mrs. Frisby propose? If Mr. Ages gave her the powder, she could put it in Dragon’s bowl.
160. What facts did Nicodemus provide Mrs. Frisby to show how dangerous a mission it would be? He told her that that was how Mr. Ages had broken his leg, and that it was also how Mr. Frisby himself had been killed, trying to put sleeping powder in the cat’s bowl.
161. What story was Nicodemus going to tell Mrs. Frisby while Justin and Mr. Ages went to get the sleeping powder? He was going to tell her how Mr. Frisby came to know the rats, how they got to the farm, and why Mr. Frisby had never told Mrs. Frisby about his relationship with the rats.
162. What was Arthur going to do while they talked? He was going to get the equipment ready to move the Frisbys’ house that night.
163. What was in Nicodemus’ office that especially impressed Mrs. Frisby? A radio that was playing music.
164. Why did the rats need the radio? To listen to the news.
165. Where had Nicodemus grown up? Near a farmers’ market in a big city.
166. How did Nicodemus’ family get food? Every night after the market closed, the rats came out and feasted on the scraps that were left behind – vegetables, meat and fish.
167. Why did the rats always bring food home with them, even though they had already eaten? These were stores they would eat on the days the market was closed.
168. Why didn’t Gerald, Nicodemus’ brother, go to the market on the night they were captured? Because he was sick.
169. With whom did Nicodemus go on that night? He went with his best friend, Jenner.
170. What did Nicodemus notice that night as he arrived at the marketplace? A white truck was sparked a block away.
171. Why wasn’t he concerned about the truck? There were often lots of trucks in that area of town.
172. What happened as the rats ran toward a big mound of food at the center of the square? Blinding lights flashed on, and men with nets came in to capture them.
173. How many other rats were captured in the net with Nicodemus? Three.
174. Why did Nicodemus at first think they had been captured? Maybe because the people didn’t like the rats eating the food, or maybe just because they didn’t like rats.
175. Why did the people who captured the rats know that more rats wouldn’t come there for a few days? He said that the ones who got away would spread the word that it was dangerous at the market now.
176. Where did the people put the rats? Into the back of the truck.
177. Who was on the truck with Nicodemus that he knew? His friend Jenner.
178. Where did the people say they were going? To a lab.
179. How long were they in the truck? About two hours.
180. How many rats had the men caught? Sixty-three.
181. Who was the leader of the lab? Dr. Schultz.
182. For how long was Nicodemus a prisoner at the lab? Three years.
183. What did Nicodemus think about his cage? It was fairly comfortable, but he hated being trapped in there and not having the freedom to go where he wanted and do what he wanted to do. He was dependent on humans to give him food and water, and he didn’t know or understand their plans.
184. How did the scientists divide up the rats? Group A got one type of injection, Group B got another, and Group C was the control group. They just got a prick with an empty needle. They all got the same food. There were twenty rats in groups A and B and twenty-three rats in Group C.
185. Who were Dr. Schultz’s assistants? Julie and George.
186. What did the people put around the rats’ necks? Plastic collars labeling them; Nicodemus was numbered A-10.
187. Where was Jenner? He was about six cages down from Nicodemus.
188. How often did they get injections? About twice a week.
189. What was the purpose of Dr. Schultz’s experiment? He wanted to see if certain injections would make the rats learn more and faster.
190. Where did George take Nicodemus the next day? Into another room, where he opened his cage up so Nicodemus could run out into a maze.
191. Where did it look to Nicodemus like he could go from the maze? Into the outdoors.
192. What happened when Nicodemus tried to get to the outdoors? He got an electric shock.
193. What happened as Nicodemus traveled through the maze? He kept getting closer and closer to a green lawn, but he got a shock as he got closer. Finally, when he was only one step away, George picked him up and put him back in his cage.

194. How long did it take Nicodemus to get through the maze the first time? Four minutes and thirty-seven seconds.

195. Why did Nicodemus continue to run through the maze, even though he knew he’d never make it to the green grass? Because he wanted to run, since he was always stuck in the cage.

196. How did Dr. Schultz teach the rats shapes? By putting them in mazes where they had to go through certain shaped doors at certain times to avoid getting a shock.

197. Who was in the cage next to Nicodemus? Justin.

198. What was Justin going to do the next day? Try to run away when they opened the cage to give him an injection.

199. How did Justin know that he wouldn’t get hurt if he got out? Because the scientists had spent so much time working with him, they wouldn’t want anything to happen to him.

200. How did Julie react when Justin ran away? She calmly pushed a button on the wall near the door.

201. What was Justin doing? He was inspecting the air ducts.

202. Was Dr. Schultz surprised that Justin had escaped? No, he had expected it to happen, but it had happened sooner than he thought it would.

203. Where was the A Group in learning compared to the control group? Three hundred percent ahead.

204. With what were the scientists injecting the rats? DNA, and they were going to soon begin injecting them with steroids.

205. What else did Justin see while he was out? He saw that the scientists also had cages of mice.

206. How were the rats changing as a result of the injections? They were learning more than any rats had ever learned, and they had almost completely stopped aging.

207. How were the rats in the B Group different from the rats in the A Group? They were getting a different type of injection, so they weren’t learning as quickly and their life span was not being extended.

208. What group of mice was getting the same injections as the A group? The G group.

209. Had the life span effect continued after the rats escaped from Nimh? Yes, none of the rats seemed any older than they had been when they were captured.

210. What word did the scientists first teach the rats to read? RAT.

211. How did they do it? They showed them a picture of a rat, then they showed them the letters that spell RAT, and they said the names of the letters. Then they said the word, “Rat.”

212. Who was the first to recognize the word RAT on a sign in the lab? Jenner.

213. Did Dr. Schultz know that the rats had learned to read? He didn’t realize how advanced they were.

214. How did Justin get out of his cage? He read the instructions on the handle, of how to open it. The humans didn’t realize that the rats could read as well as they could; they had not tested them yet.
215. When did Justin get out of his cage? At night, after the scientists had gone home.
216. What was Justin going to do while he was out? He was going to look around, and maybe find a way to eventually escape the lab.
217. What had the scientists done, accidentally, by teaching the rats to read? They had taught them to escape.
218. How did Justin get back up to the shelf where the cages were kept, once he was down? He climbed up a metal filing cabinet.
219. What had Justin discovered that he thought would be their way out? An air duct that had pipes that he assumed must lead to the outside.
220. What did the rats do that night? They had a meeting about how to escape.
221. How did Nicodemus come to be seen as the leader? Because he and Justin had let the rats out, and he was older than Justin.
222. What problem did Jenner immediately point out? That they could get lost in the ducts as they were exploring, and they had to explore the way before they planned their escape, otherwise they might not find the way out before Dr. Schultz came in some morning.
223. What supplies did they need to plan explore the air ducts? They needed a spool of thread and a screwdriver to take the screen off the air duct. They also needed a light, but they couldn’t find one.
224. Who went out exploring the mazes? Justin, Arthur, and another rat.
225. Why was it so hard to find their way in the air duct? It was a total maze with lots of turnoffs, and every corridor looked the same.
226. What was the problem with the thread? It wasn’t long enough for the rats to fully explore the air ducts.
227. When did Justin finally find the way out? On the seventh night.
228. What made Justin think he was near the outside when the thread ran out? The air smelled fresher.
229. What was across the opening to the outside? A wire screen.
230. What happened, coincidentally, as Justin ran toward the outside screen? The air started blowing really hard, just for a minute. Justin had to really hold on to not be blown away.
231. Why didn’t the rats leave that night? It was near morning, and it might take a while for them to get the screen off the duct. They didn’t want the humans to realize that they had the ability to escape.
232. Why was it hard for them to wait one more day? Because they didn’t want to risk the humans realizing the tools were gone or changing the pattern some way so that it would be impossible for them to escape.
233. Who asked the rats to let them escape with them? The rats.
234. Which mouse asked Nicodemus to let them out? Jonathan, who was to become Mrs. Frisby’s husband.
235. Why did the mice need the rats’ help? They were not able to open their cages by themselves.
236. Why did some rats argue against helping the mice? They were afraid the mice would slow them down.
237. What was Jonathan’s argument against that? They only wanted them to help them escape. They didn’t need anything after that.
238. How many mice were there? Eight.
239. What arrangement did Nicodemus make with the mice? The rats would open their cages the next night when the humans left, and they could follow the thread out to the wire screen. Once they were out, they would go their separate ways.
240. What did Jenner want to discuss with Nicodemus later that night? He wanted to know where they should go, once they got out.
241. Why couldn’t they go back where they had been? Because now that they were so much smarter than other rats, they wouldn’t be happy, nor would they fit in, where they had lived before.
242. What else was Jenner worried about? He was worried about Dr. Schultz or others coming to look for them, because he would figure out that they had learned to read.
243. Why did the rats need to hurry after they escaped, to get to the screen at the end of the shaft quickly? It was almost dark, and they needed a little bit of light to get the screen off.
244. What did Nicodemus think Dr. Schultz would do when he realized the rats and mice had escaped? He thought he would try to find them.
245. Who was first into the air duct? Justin.
246. Who was last? Nicodemus.
247. How long did it take the group to get to the end of the passage? About twenty minutes.
248. What happened as the group reached the end of the passage? The air flow sped up as had happened when Justin had first explored it.
249. What happened to the mice? They were too small to withstand the wind, and most of them blew away.
250. How were two mice saved? Nicodemus grabbed onto the white mouse and held him, and Jonathan was stopped by another rat.
251. What happened to the rest of the mice? They blew down other passages and were unable to find their way back.
252. Why didn’t the survivors try to find the lost mice? Because they would have a hard time finding them in the confusing passageways, and because the wind might kick up again, and they would be unable to protect themselves from it.
253. How many times did the wind come at them before they could get out? Six times.
254. How did the two mice protect themselves when the wind came? They held onto the screen and the rats stood by them in case they lost their grip.
255. What were the rats using to get off the screen? A screwdriver.
256. How did they get the screen open a ways? They pried the bottom open a slight bit, using the screwdriver as a lever. The two mice were the only ones who could slip through.
257. How did the rats get out? The mice opened the screen from the outside.
258. Why were the rats glad that they had had the mice with them? Because the rats would not have been able to get out without them.
259. Why did the mice decide to stay with the rats, in spite of their earlier agreement to split up upon their escape? Because there were only two mice left.
260. What time of year was it when the rats escaped? Early summer.
261. Where were they when they got outside? Up on the roof.
262. How did the rats survive when they first got out? Sometimes they had to eat garbage, but mostly they were able to find grocery stores, now that they could read, and find what they wanted that way.
263. What happened when they met other rats? The other rats could tell they were different, and didn’t want anything to do with them.
264. How did the Nimh rats look different from regular rats? They were bigger and stronger.
265. Where did the rats want to settle for the winter? They wanted to be in the country, but near a town for access to food.
266. Why did Nicodemus worry about how they got their food? He didn’t like the fact that they had to steal whatever they used.
267. Why did the rats want to go into the deserted estate? They thought it would have a big pantry, freezer and cupboard, and since no one lived there, that they would be left alone.
268. Why did the homeowner have several lights on automatic switches? To keep away burglars.
269. How did the rats get into the house? Through a broken window.
270. Was there food in the house? Yes, a lot of it.
271. How did the rats get canned goods open? They read the instructions on the automatic can opener.
272. What was the best thing about the big house? It had an enormous library that was well-stocked with books.
273. Why was the house deserted? The owner and his new wife were on a long trip around the world.
274. Who came to check on the house and how often? A caretaker came in once in a while, maybe a few times a week, but he didn’t live there.
275. What did the rats do with their garbage? They took it out into the woods at night.
276. What did the rats learn to do that winter? They learned to write.
277. What time was it when Justin and Mr. Ages returned with Dragon’s sleeping powder? It was after noon.
278. Why couldn’t Mrs. Frisby stay to hear the story of the toy tinker? Because her children needed to have their lunch.
279. When were the rats going to move the Frisby’s house? At eleven o’clock.
280. What was Mr. Ages going to do until then? He was going to take a nap.
281. What was Mrs. Frisby going to tell her children about the day’s events? She was only going to tell them that the rats had agreed to move their house that night.
282. Why wasn’t she going to tell them what she was going to do with Dragon? Because they would worry, and Martin would try to go instead of her.
283. Did they accept the answer about the rats? No, they were forever questioning why the rats were going to help them.
284. Why didn’t Mrs. Frisby kiss her children goodbye when she went out to put the powder in Dragon’s food? Because that would further arouse their suspicions.
285. Where was Dragon as Mrs. Frisby went to the rats’ nest that afternoon? He was lying in the sun on the back porch.
286. What did it mean if the sentry rat pushed the doorbell three times? It meant there was danger, and twelve rats would run up, ready to fight.
287. Where was the back door to the rats’ house? It went out through the blackberry bramble.
288. Where did Justin take Mrs. Frisby? To the main hall.
289. What was occurring in the main hall? All sorts of work; rats were working machinery to make things and they were also moving supplies from one place to another.
290. How did the rats dig out the main hall? They didn’t have to; it was a natural cave made of rock.
291. What was the most important invention the rats had, according to Justin? A plow, so they would be able to grow their own food.
292. How much food did the rats have? They had two years’ supply for their group.
293. How much seed did they have? They had enough to plant two seasons’ worth, in case the first one failed.
294. What, exactly, was the Plan? To be self-sufficient, to produce their own food so they didn’t have to steal.
295. When did the rats leave the deserted estate? On May 1, after staying there for eight months.
296. What subjects did the rats study while they were at the Boniface Estate? History, astronomy, biology, electricity, math, music and art.
297. What did they read about rats? They learned that people hated rats, mostly because they stole food and had a reputation for biting kids. They also learned that rats had, many centuries ago, been close to developing civilizations; these rats came to be called prairie dogs.
298. Why didn’t the rats develop civilizations? The scientist thought it was because their lives were too easy.
299. How would a rat civilization be different from a human one? It would be below ground, and would be more suited to a rats’ physical and social needs.
300. What sort of landscape did the rats want to settle in? They wanted and area with mountains, so there would be caves. They would also need to be near farms, for food.
301. Why was it good that they chose land that bordered the wilderness preserve? Because people weren’t allowed in there. The rats were not observed by many humans.
302. What had happened to the man the rats found in the woods? He had died, probably of a heart attack.
303. Why wasn’t he supposed to be where the rats were? Because it was a protected wilderness preserve.
304. How did the rats bury him? By covering him up with lots of leaves, stone, twigs and soil.
305. What did Justin find as the rats were burying the man? They found his truck.
306. What did the truck indicate that the man did for a living? He was a repairer of toys.
307. Why did the rats think the toy tinker had come into the woods with his truck? To camp for the night.
308. What was wrong with the man’s truck? One wheel had gotten stuck in the soft mud, and he had been trying to dig it out when he had a heart attack.
309. What was in the truck? The man’s living supplies, lots of toys, and lots of motors and tools.
310. Why were the tools and motors so important? It meant the rats could make whatever they wanted, but they would first need electricity.
311. Why had the rats originally decided that the cave under the rosebush wouldn’t do for their house? It was too close to the humans.
312. Why did they later decide they would live there? Because they could get electricity and water from Mr. Fitzgibbon’s shed.
313. Why did the rats begin to feel discontented after they had fixed up their civilization as they wanted it? They felt that they didn’t have a mission, as to what to do next; they were bored and life was becoming too easy. They didn’t like stealing what they had, and they always lived with the fear that they would be found out.
314. Where did Nicodemus begin going on his walks? He explored the jeep trails in the preserve, trying to find the areas least traveled by humans.
315. How did Nicodemus meet the old owl? He asked some chipmunks what was on the other side of the mountain. They didn’t know, but they encouraged him to ask the owl, and they told Nicodemus where he lived.
316. What did he learn about from the owl? He learned about Thorn Valley.
317. Why didn’t humans ever go there? Because the mountain was too steep and rocky, and the landscape was covered with thorns.
318. What was Thorn Valley? It was a level area at the bottom of the rocky cliffs that had lakes and streams and flat, lush land.
319. Who did Nicodemus go with when he first searched for Thorn Valley? Jenner.
320. How long did it take to get there? More than half a day.
321. Why didn’t Jenner want to move to Thorn Valley? Because it would be hard work, and where they were now, they had what they needed. In Thorn Valley, there would be no electricity.
322. Why did Nicodemus want to move there? So the rats could develop their own, self-sufficient civilization; they wouldn’t have to steal.
323. Did Jenner care about stealing? No.
324. How long had it been since the rats had begun working on the Plan? Over three years.
325. When did the rats hope to leave Mr. Fitzgibbon’s farm? By early June.
326. What time did Mrs. Fitzgibbon feed Dragon? Six o’clock.
327. What was the last question Mrs. Frisby needed answered? Why didn’t Jonathan ever tell her about all that had happened in the past?
328. Who answered that question for her? Mr. Ages.
329. What was the answer? Jonathan didn’t know how to tell Mrs. Frisby that, although she was going to get older and die, he was not aging, seemingly, at all.
330. What effect did all this have on Mrs. Frisby’s children? They didn’t know whether they would have longer life spans, but it was clear that they had inherited their father’s ability to learn quickly.
What happened to Jenner? He and some others left the group because they didn’t want to move to Thorn Valley.

When did Jenner finally decide to leave? When the other rats destroyed the machines.

Why did they do that? Because they didn’t want to leave evidence behind of how they lived, and also because they wanted to be truly self-sufficient; they didn’t want to be tempted to move back to the rosebush when things got difficult, as they were sure to at the beginning, at Thorn Valley.

Where did Jenner go? No one knew for sure, but they thought they would try to go somewhere like Mr. Fitzgibbon’s farm, where they could live similarly.

Why would it be hard for Jenner’s group? Because they didn’t have the Toy Tinker’s motors to get them started.

How was Mrs. Frisby going to get into the Fitzgibbons’ house to put the powder in Dragon’s food? She was going up through a hole in the kitchen floor.

Who would be in the kitchen at that time? Mrs. Fitzgibbon would be making dinner for the family.

When would she feed Dragon? After the family’s dinner was ready.

Where would Dragon be? He would be waiting outside the kitchen door, on the porch.

When did Mrs. Frisby need to run to the bowl to put in the powder? In between the time that Mrs. Fitzgibbon put in the cat food and walked to the door to let Dragon in.

How did Mr. Ages get hurt? He was a little late getting to the cat bowl, and Dragon almost got him.

Who went with Mrs. Frisby to the hole under the farmhouse? Justin.

Why couldn’t Justin go into the kitchen with Mrs. Frisby? He was too big to fit through the hole.

When should Mrs. Frisby open the paper package of powder, according to Justin? Before she ran out to Dragon’s bowl.

How far from Mrs. Frisby was the cat’s bowl? Five feet.

What was in between Mrs. Frisby and the cat’s bowl? A kitchen stool.

What happened to Mrs. Frisby after she dumped the powder in the bowl? She was captured under a colander by Billy Fitzgibbon.

Where had Billy been? Sitting on the stool.

Where did Billy put Mrs. Frisby? In a birdcage.

How long did Mrs. Fitzgibbon say that Billy could keep Mrs. Frisby? A few days.

Who thought Billy should let Mrs. Frisby go? Paul, his brother.

Where was the birdcage? Up on a stand in a corner of the kitchen.

Who was Mrs. Frisby most worried about as she waited in the cage? Her children.

What did Mrs. Frisby learn about rats while she waited in the cage? A group of rats had been electrocuted at the hardware store while trying to move a motor.

What else happened that was of interest to Mrs. Frisby? The government wanted to know more about it, and when Mr. Fitzgibbon told them about the rats at his farm, they said they wanted to come out and investigate his rats, too.
356. Why did they want to investigate his rats? Because they hadn’t been able to look at the electrocuted rats; their bodies had already been taken to the dump.
357. Why did Paul think the government was interested in the rats? Because they thought they might have rabies.
358. When were the officials going to come? In two days.
359. What were the men going to do to the rats? They were going to exterminate them with poison gas.
360. Who was in charge of the government group? Some doctor; Mr. Fitzgibbon couldn’t remember his name.
361. Had the sleeping powder worked on Dragon? Yes.
362. When did the Fitzgibbon’s go to bed? At ten o’clock.
363. What did Mrs. Frisby try to do then? She tried to get out of the cage by opening the door, but she couldn’t.
364. Did Mrs. Frisby think the rats would still move the house, although she was captured in the house? Yes.
365. Besides worrying about her children, why did Mrs. Frisby now really need to get out of the cage? To warn the rats about the damage that was going to be done to their home, and to them, on Saturday.
366. Who came to rescue Mrs. Frisby? Justin.
367. How did he know what had happened? He heard from under the kitchen floor.
368. What had Justin told Mrs. Frisby’s children? That she was OK and that she’d be home late.
369. Was Justin able to get Mrs. Frisby out? Yes.
370. How had Justin gotten into the house? Through the attic.
371. Who did Justin think the rats were who had died at the hardware store? Jenner and his group.
372. Was Justin grateful to Mrs. Frisby for the information she told him about the men who were coming to poison them? Yes.
373. What was the problem with the moving of the Frisbys’ house? The shrew didn’t believe the rats that Mrs. Frisby had asked them to move it; she thought they were stealing it, and she wouldn’t let them near it.
374. After she solved the problem with the shrew, where did Justin go? To tell Nicodemus what Mrs. Frisby had learned.
375. How was Timothy protected from the night air as he waited for the rats to move the house? He was all wrapped up in blankets.
376. What did the rats do first to move the house? They dug a new hole in the lee of the stone, and they dug around the house so they’d be able to get it out of its present hole.
377. How did they get the house out of the ground? They attached pulleys to it and, working together, pulled it up and over.
378. How did they move the house to its new position? With rollers that they moved from front to back as need be.
379. Once the house was in place, what still needed to be done? They needed to dig a new entrance hole, cover the house with grass, and fill in the old hole.
380. How long did it take the rats to dig the door, versus how long it had taken Mrs. Frisby to do it before? Five minutes, as compared to a whole day.
381. Why would the Frisbys be able to use their winter house over again year after year? Because it was now in a place undisturbed by the farmer’s plow, and would remain there forever, since no one could see it from above the ground.
382. Who came to see Mrs. Frisby that morning? Brutus.
383. What did he want? He wanted Mrs. Frisby to come and talk to Nicodemus about what she had heard in the Fitzgibbons’ kitchen the other night.
384. Who was at the meeting Mrs. Frisby went to? All the rats of the colony, besides the few who were doing sentry duty.
385. Why did the rats feel Mrs. Frisby had done them a great favor? Because they never would have known that the men were coming to destroy their home if she hadn’t overheard the people talking about it, and warned them.
386. How many rats were in Jenner’s group? Seven.
387. Did the rats think the men coming were from Nimh? Yes, they assumed they were.
388. What did the rats have to convince the exterminators of? That they were just normal rats. In other words, they had to destroy or cover up all evidence of their books, carpeting, electricity, etc.
389. How much food did the rats already have at Thorn Valley? Eighteen months’ worth.
390. Why couldn’t they bring more? Because there wasn’t time. The exterminators were coming the next day, and they needed to be gone.
391. How were they going to cover up the evidence of their advanced society? They were going to put everything in the cave and seal up the entrance, so they wouldn’t find it. Then the first tunnels and holes they would make look like an ordinary rats’ nest, with garbage, etc.
392. Were all the rats going to leave the hole before the men came? No, most would leave and go to Thorn Valley, but a few would stay behind and run out the secret exit as the poison gas was put in the entrance.
393. Which rats offered to stay behind and face the exterminators? Justin, Brutus and eight others.
394. How were the rats that stayed going to try to avoid the poison gas? They would run out the secret rear exit as the gas was being pumped in, make sure the men saw them, and run off into the woods.
395. Why was Mrs. Frisby sad that night? Because the rats were going away.
396. Why did Mrs. Frisby tell her children that the rats were leaving? Because she wasn’t ready yet to tell them the whole story.
397. Why did Mr. Fitzgibbon put the bulldozer on the tractor and park it by the rosebush the next day? Because he was getting ready to destroy the rosebush in order to look for the rats, once the scientists arrived.
398. Where did Mrs. Frisby go to watch what happened to the rats? She went to a hickory tree at the edge of the woods and climbed up onto a branch.
399. What could she see from there? She could see the rosebush and she could also see where the rats’ secret exit was, so she’d be able to watch their escape.
400. How many men arrived in the white truck? Three, one of whom wore horn-rimmed glasses.
401. What kind of poison were the men going to use? Cyanide.
402. Who was in charge of the scientists? The man with the glasses, who the other men called “Doc.”
403. What did the men do first? They bulldozed the rosebush, so they could get to the entrance to the rats’ nest.
404. What could Mrs. Frisby see when the bush was gone? She could see two holes, one the entrance, and the other the fake exits.
405. What did the men put over the entrance? A hose that covered the whole opening.
406. What did the men put over the exit? A cage, to catch the rats that tried to escape.
407. How long after the men pumped in the gas did the rats come out the real exit? At least a minute.
408. How many rats came out? Only seven, although Mrs. Frisby knew that ten had stayed behind.
409. Why did the rats move around among the men’s feet, rather than running immediately to the woods? They wanted to make the men see them, and they wanted to make the men think there were more than a mere seven to ten of them there.
410. What came out of the hole as the other rats were confusing the men? An eighth rat came out, but he did not look right. He wasn’t walking straight, and then he fell at the edge of the woods.
411. How did the men try to catch the rats? With nets.
412. Did they succeed? No, the rats ran into the woods.
413. What did the men do once the rats were gone? They dug into the rats’ home.
414. What did they find? Two dead rats, and a lot of garbage.
415. What did Mr. Fitzgibbon want the dead rats tested for? Rabies.
416. Was the rat at the edge of the woods dead? Mrs. Frisby wasn’t sure, but she thought she saw it move.
417. Which rat was it? It was Brutus.
418. Who was with him? Mr. Ages.
419. What did Mr. Ages do? He gave Brutus some medicine to counteract the poison.
420. How did Brutus get out? A rat pushed him toward the exit and the fresh air.
421. What happened to the rat who saved him? He went back, probably to help others.
422. Did he make it out? No.
423. What did Mr. Fitzgibbon do a few days later? He plowed the garden.
424. What happened to Mrs. Frisby and her children? They were safe in their house.
425. Did Mrs. Frisby think she would see the rats again? No.
426. Why couldn’t she go visit them? She didn’t know how to get there, and it was too long a walk for her family.
427. Why did the Frisbys need to leave soon? Because the garden was going to be too busy with people and animals to be safe for the mice.
428. When did they move to their summer house? In May.
429. How long did it take them to get there? A half a day.
430. Why were Mrs. Frisby’s children happy to see their summer house? There were many other children to play with there, unlike at Mr. Fitzgibbon’s farm.
431. Why did Mrs. Frisby decide to tell her children all about the rats? Because of the connection to their father, and how who their father was made them so different from other mice.
432. Who had suspected that his father and Mr. Ages knew the rats? Timothy.
433. Who did Teresa think had saved Brutus and died in the rat hole? Justin.
434. Where did Martin want to go? To Thorn Valley.
435. How did he think he would get there? He’d ask Jeremy to take him.