

The Adventures of Kid Combat

Volume 1: Curse of the Red Beryl

Chapter 1: The Escape

remote (1) pursuers (1) frenzied (2) surveillance (2) hoists (3)
linguistic (4) scurry (12) ancient (12) Latin (12)

1. What was Samantha's mission?
2. Recall 3 details about Samantha's escape from the mansion.
3. Why is Samantha concerned about her lost necklace?
4. What exactly is the treasure?
5. What 2 details in chapter 1 give the reader information about Samantha's personality?

Why is "The Escape" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 2: The New Kid

singed (15) smolder (16) quorum (17) curio (21)

1. Describe the events that introduce the character – Kyle Christensen.
2. Describe Kyle's parents, Ellen and Peter.
3. What are the 2 actions that Kyle notices about Samantha that he finds curious?
4. Predict what Kyle might do next.

Why is "The New Kid" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 3: The Quorum

prophecy (25) crusaders (26) chaos (27)

1. Describe the Treehouse.
2. What information did Samantha share about the book?
3. While investigating the wooded area behind his house, why did Kyle "bolt" back home?

Why is "The Quorum" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 4: A Day at School

ruckus (32) commotion (32)

1. Why is Troy bullying Gears?

2. How does Kyle stop the bullying of Gears?

Why is "A Day at School" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 5: Introduction of Evil

gothic (35) jalopy (36) ominous(37) innovator (37)
progressive (37) demeanor (38) geologist (42)

1. Describe the Jones Mansion.
2. Why is Peter disappointed by the interior of the mansion?
3. The phrase, "men of destiny" is said 2 times by Jones – what is the importance of this repetition?
4. Describe the hidden side of the mansion.
5. What are the 2 problems in Elmcrest?

Why is "Introduction of Evil" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 6: The Curio Shop

blanches (47) dissension (53)

1. Why are Wedge and Rocket concerned about the security inside the curio shop?
2. Describe the secret chamber.
3. Who are the Defenders? What is their mission?
4. So far, Artie Jones is considered an innovator. Why do you think the Professor says that Jones is a dangerous man.

Why is "The Curio Shop" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 7: The Book of Darkness

abduct (56) infamous (57) relents (60) vanquish(62)

1. What is the Professor's summary of the ancient book?
2. Describe the cavern below the Jones mansion.
3. What is Red Beryl?
4. Explain Peter's involvement with the Red Beryl.
5. Explain the importance of the Red Beryl to Jones.
6. According to Mr. Thompson, what is the job of the crusaders?
7. How will the leader of this group be chosen?

Why is "The Book of Darkness" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 8: The Pawn

pawn (66) etchings (73) pilfering (73)

1. What are Samantha's 2 concerns?
2. Kyle's mother is suspicious of her husband's-Peter's- trip to Colorado. Give at least 2 of her reasons.
3. Explain the importance of Peter's late night discovery in the cavern.

Why is "The Pawn" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 9: The Necklace

fixated (74) periphery (75) radiating (76)

1. Describe the plan to get back Samantha's necklace.
2. Compare and contrast a normal wishing well to the one on Jones' property.

Why is "The Necklace" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 10: The Intruder

obsession (81) misappropriation (83) intertwined (84)

1. Describe Kyle's first impression of the curio shop.
2. Recall what happens when Kyle discovers the secret entrance.
3. Give 2 reasons why Thompson distrusts Jones' activities in Elmcrest.
4. What happens when Kyle picks up the Book of Darkness?
5. Discuss the crusaders' reaction to this event.

Why is "The Intruder" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 11: The Throat

fault line (87) throat (87) seismic (95)

1. Peter shows Jones a scroll of the hieroglyphics. How does he react to the warning?
2. What are the consequences if the drilling continues?
3. How does Jones plan to use the Red Beryl?
4. In what way does this plan confirm Thompson's suspicion of Jones.
5. Explain the importance of the company – OmniPax.

Why is "The Throat" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 12: The Fifth Defender

anomalies (97)

1. Explain the purpose of the meeting in the Treehouse.
2. Explain the Professor's concern about Kyle's plan.
3. In your opinion, should the Defenders follow the Professor's advice or continue with the plan.

Why is "The Fifth Defender" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 13: Invasion

improvisation (106) sarcastically (107) scurries (108) deceit (112) vulnerable (113)

1. Summarize the events of Kyle and Samantha's time inside the Jones mansion.
2. Why did Kyle and Samantha get separated?
3. Describe Thompson's reaction to the Defender's attempt to rescue Kyle's father.
4. Why is Kyle plagued with guilt?

Why is "Invasion" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 14: Unexpected Visitor

collateral (117) tectonic (125)

1. What was the purpose of Jones' visit to the Curio Shop?
2. Why does the word "*hers*" add to the importance of the necklace?
3. Explain why Jones is rattled by the phrase- the *Pugna Hedum*?
4. Explain of the consequences of obtaining the Red Beryl?
5. Why does Jones believe that the Red Beryl will give him eternal life?
6. During Jones' interrogation of Samantha – Why is he concerned with finding out if she "the one"?
7. Describe the purpose and consequences of Two's visit to the curio shop?

Why is "Unexpected Visitor" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Chapter 15: Eruption

ensues (127) phased (133)

1. What happens when the Red Beryl is given to Jones?
2. During the escape, describe the book's reaction to Kyle's touch.

3. Recall the events of Jones' escape from the collapsing tunnels.
4. Explain the importance of the wishing well during the escape.
5. How does the Red Beryl save the town of Elmcrest?

Why is "Eruption" an appropriate title for this chapter?

Epilogue

1. What does Mr. Thompson mean by ...it's only the beginning?
2. Do you agree that the Defenders need a new secure area to meet?
3. Who do you think is reaching for the glass?

Post reading Activities:

1. Predict what will happen next?
2. What is the importance of the 3 items: the glass of red liquid, and the bandaged hand?
3. Discuss the Author's craft – Why is there a squiggle mark between some paragraphs?
4. Discuss the importance of the wishing well .
5. Brainstorm different titles for some or all of the chapters.
6. Create a new device or tool for the Defenders to use on their next mission.