Solutions

Bridge to Wiseman's Cove - The Character of Carl

1) Aspects of Carl's Character

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Select the correct closing phrase for each sentence below:

Carl is described as a "bloated pincushion", because he is sensitive ___to the hurtful remarks of others___.

When he buys the sailor's hat as a way of saving Skip's barge, Carl shows ___both courage and creativity___.

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Instead of passively accepting cruelty to Harley, Carl speaks assertively to Beryl at the Bowls Club, telling her that he and Harley deserve better treatment.

On the day when Carl releases the osprey, he begins to feel that he belongs, because he is part of a group of people who like and respect him.

2) Symbolism in the Novel

Each picture symbolises or represents an important emotion or development in the novel. Can you select the words that correctly describe the symbols?

a Initially Carl is a deeply vulnerable teenager. His mother's imagined words are like sharp pins or "barbs" that pierce him, as though he were a pincushion; he is depicted at the start of the novel as
the __victim__ of other people's neglect or cruelty.

b Carl's action in buying the cap is a sign of his readiness to take a risk and assert himself. Through this daring plan, he demonstrates his growing determination and __courage__. Furthermore, when Carl refuses to accept payment for the cap, Skip recognises this as the act of a young __man__, not a boy. This is evidence that Carl is changing and developing in the course of the novel. He is no longer a __passive__ victim of external events. His action, moreover, allows him to break down Skip's __prejudice__ against him as a member of the despised Matt family.

c The chain that Beryl uses to restrain Harley is a symbol of __cruelty__. Her action in tying the boy up is even more __callous__ and inhumane than the __neglect__ that she has already displayed in her treatment of the two boys.
The release of the osprey shows the importance of freedom. The bird has been healed of its wounds and is finally able to take flight. In a sense, this is exactly what Carl needs: to be healed of his own emotional wounds and to gain the freedom to take charge of his life.

3) Courage

Which word below is NOT a synonym for "courageous"?

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a. ○ gutsy
b. ○ vulnerable
c. ○ brave
d. ○ bold
4) **Passivity**

Which word below is the **opposite** of "passive"?

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a. fearful  
b. withdrawn  
c. **active**  
d. submissive

5) **Vocabulary**

Type the correct word for each definition below. Here are the options:

- courageous  
- cruel  
- ingenious  
- neglect  
- passive  
- prejudice  
- vulnerable
a. _vulnerable_ : feeling exposed or endangered, able to be hurt physically or emotionally
b. _courageous_ : not deterred by danger or pain; able to overcome fear; brave
c. _neglect_ : fail to care for somebody or something properly
d. _passive_ : accepting what others say or do, without resisting or actively responding
e. _ingenious_ : creative and inventive
f. _cruel_ : wilfully causing pain or suffering to others
g. _prejudice_ : preconceived opinion not based on reason or actual experience

6) Carl's Friendships and Family - A Short Text

First, read the text below. All the words in **red** are defined below the text.
Match up the words with their meanings.

In the course of the novel, Carl discovers that his friendships can provide a new, more functional kind of family for him. Justine helps him to redefine what a family means when she says to him, "You take good care of Harley. That's family." The importance of caring for others and being cared for by them becomes clearer as Harley thrives in his new home with the Duncans. By developing friendships with Justine, Joy and Skip, Carl creates a network of friendships that allows him to feel that he is part of a group. This process is often a difficult and painful one that does not come naturally to him. As he admits to Justine, "I've never felt part of anything before...". Gradually, however, Carl realises that this new sense of belonging, even if it is initially daunting, provides a lasting happiness and compensates for his lack of a traditional family.

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a  redefine - create a new definition of something
b  importance - significance
c  thrives - flourishes, grows in a healthy way
d  network - group of connected people or things
e  daunting - threatening, frightening
f  initially - at first, at the beginning
g **compensates** - makes up for

h **functional** - working, effective