

Home Reading

“Coraline” by Neil Gaiman

Chapter 1

Lead-in

1. What is the title of the story?

2. Why do you think the author chooses Coraline as *the title character*?

3. What kind of person Coraline is? Do we get any valuable information about her personality from Chapter 1?

Not much. She doesn't like when people get her name wrong, she likes exploring, she's bored with her life.

4. What is the relation between Coraline and her parents?

Both of her parents work, doing things on computers. They have no time for Coraline. (p. 4) They cook awful/terrible food from recipe books. (p. 6)

5. What was the weather like the day Coraline felt bored?

In general, it was a very cold summer that year.

The kind of rain that threw itself down from the sky and splashed where it landed. (p. 3)

6. What do you know about the house they've moved into? Can you describe the setting where the story takes place?

***The house:** It was a very old house with an overgrown garden with huge old trees in it. Coraline's family owned a part of the house as it was too big for them. (p.1)*

***The garden and a dangerous well:** She explored the garden... (p.2) Ask a student to read the description. (p. 2)*

7. Was the Jones family the only one living in this old house? Who are the neighbours?

Miss Spink and Miss Forcible – A pair of retired actresses who live in the flat under Coraline's. They own many ageing Scotties, such as

Hamish, Angus, and Jock, and talk in theater jargon, often referencing their time as actresses.

Mr. Bobo – A retired circus performer living in the flat above Coraline's; he is commonly referred to as the Crazy Old Man Upstairs. Over the course of the book he claims to be training mice to perform in a mouse circus.

8. What adjectives come to your mind when you think of all these people and the background setting?

crazy, strange, unusual, weird

9. What did Coraline find at the far corner of the drawing room?

The door that didn't go anywhere. It opened onto a brick wall. (p. 6)

10. What strange events happen in this chapter?

When she was almost asleep something went t-t-t-t... (p. 7) Read some passages.

11. Those of you who haven't seen the cartoon, can you predict the future events? What do you think is going to happen next?

Ss' answers.