

Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat

By Lynne Jonell

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Library of Congress Summary:

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny, who has access to rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

Book Information:

Time Period: Contemporary

Genre: Fantasy

Booktalk:

<http://www.mackinbooktalk.com/viewbook.aspx?BookId=672>

Author Information

<http://www.lynnejonell.com/>

This website includes a biography of the author, detailed bibliography, answers to questions she has received, her favorite books, writing tips, create bookmarks based on Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat, how to blog with the author, teacher's guide, a reader's theater, journal and contact information.

Illustrator Information

<http://www.jonathanbean.com/>

This website includes a biography of the illustrator, and examples of some of his artwork.

Chapters 1-3

Questions:

1. Why is Emmy so obedient?
2. Why did Emmy not freak out when the rat started talking?
3. What does Emmy think about her family?
4. Why do you think no one ever really sees Emmy?
5. What do you think is going to happen with Emmy when Miss Barmy finds out that she did not go to lessons?
6. What do you think Mr. Vole and Brian do with the animals in the back of the store?

Journal Topic: What is the most important aspect of family to you?

Vocabulary:

Quavered (p. 6)- to shake or tremble from being scared

Epidermal (p. 11)- your top layer of skin where you get shots or scratches

Incredulous (p. 17)- Showing disbelief

Suppressed (p. 34)- to put an end to some ones activities or fun things to do

Chapters 4-5

Questions:

1. Why does Mr. Vole get upset at Emmy for not giving him her rat with the triangle on its fur?
2. Will Emmy steal the other rat so that they can be together?
3. What will happen when the two rats meet? Do you think there is something magical to it?
4. Why is the rat always so mean to Emmy even though she shows him nothing but kindness?
5. Do you think that animals that have always been in human control could survive on their own in the wild?
6. Why would Miss Barmy kick the hired help out of the kitchen when she was cooking dinner for Emmy's parents?

Journal Topic: Anger or Being Unkin

Vocabulary:

Exasperated- To be very annoying Pg. 53

Sniveling- To cry without sniffing Pg. 65

Chapters 6-7

Questions:

1. What does Mr. Vole wants from Emmy at her school?
2. What do you think happens every time the rat bites a person?
3. What is changing Emmy's personality to become outgoing?

Journal Topic: Trust

Vocabulary:

Droned – pg. 75

Nocturnal – pg. 76

Affronted- A hurtful word or act Pg. 85

Chapters 8-9

Questions:

1. `Why is the school doctor always so interested in Emmy?
2. Did you ever expect Joe to shrink when he was bitten by the rat?
3. What do you think Miss Barmy will do to Emmy for spying on her?

Journal Topic: Being Afraid

Vocabulary:

Tremulous- Trembling from being scared Pg. 98

Somber- Very dark and sad Pg. 105

Chapters 10-12

Questions:

1. Predict what is going to happen to Emmy's parents after they eat Miss Barmy's dinner.
2. Do you think Joe is going to turn to normal size ever again?

Journal Topic: Lying

Vocabulary:

Naïve- Not knowing a lot of information Pf. 133

Implicated- To be involved in a situation Pg. 143

Chapters 13-15

Questions:

1. Do you think that Brian, Mr. Vole's nephew, is going to help out Emmy and Joe?
2. Do you think that Professor Capybara is going to wake up or is he really dead?

Journal Topic: Helping a friend

Vocabulary:

Appalled- To be horrified Pg. 152

Antagonize- To bother someone constantly Pg. 160

Patronizing- To constantly give your opinion to someone Pg. 165

Chapters 16-18

Questions:

1. Do you think that Professor Capybara will figure out a cure for Joe to become human sized again?
2. Do you think that Ratty will bite Mr. Vole to turn him into a small person as well?
3. What do you predict is going to happen with Emmy and her nanny throughout the rest of the book?

Journal Topic: Knowing when to trust the right people

Vocabulary:

Petulantly- To be very touchy Pg. 212

Blighted- Any kind of destruction to something Pg. 225

Reproachful- Full of exaggerated looks Pg. 132

Chapters 19-20

Questions:

1. Do you think Emmy's parents are going to figure out that they keep getting put under a spell to be away from Emmy?
2. Predict what is going to happen with Emmy after Miss Barmy talks again with her parents about her "bad" behavior.
3. Do you think that Mrs. Brecksniff is going to help Emmy deal with Miss Barmy?

Journal Topic: Loving

Vocabulary:

Valiantly- Bold and courageous Pg. 261

Chapters 21-23

Questions:

1. Do you think Emmy should trust Miss Barmy's new kindness?
2. Do you think her parents are going to send Emmy off to boarding school?

Journal Topic: Running Away

Vocabulary:

Perplexed- To be very puzzled or confused Pg. 271

Convulsive- To be able to make someone sick Pg. 292

Precarious- Uncertain or unstable Pg. 299

Chapters 24-26

Questions:

1. Do you think Sissy is going to kiss Miss Barmy to make her tall again?
2. So if Sissy's kisses do not turn small humans back into their normal size what do you think will?
3. Do you think all of these experiences will help Emmy in her social life?

Journal Topic: Life experiences

Vocabulary:

Abashed- To destroy some ones confidence Pg. 313

Preened- An animal cleaning itself Pg. 327

Ambled- To go at a slow pace Pg. 340

Other Works by Lynne Jonell:

Emmy and the Home for Troubled Girls

Emmy and the Rats in the Belfry (due in Spring 2011)

Related Works

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien

Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People by Albert Marrin

I Was a Rat by Philip Pullman

Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Willoughbys by Lois Lowry

A Series of Unfortunate Events (series) by Lemony Snicket

Additional Websites:

<http://www.grandcanyonreaderaward.org/resources/emmy.pdf> - discussion questions & activities.

<http://us.macmillan.com/CMS400/uploadedFiles/custompagecontents/titles/EmmyAndShrinkingRatScript.pdf> - Readers' Theater Script

<http://www.grandcanyonreaderaward.org/resources/Emmy+and+Shrinking+Rat+reading+guide.pdf> – Reading and Discussion Guide

<http://www.ilfonline.org/clientuploads/YHBA/EmmyAndShrinkingRat.pdf> - Great website of activities, discussion questions, websites, and vocabulary.