

Reading Notes

- subway** an underground railway system, often used extensively in large, populous cities
- Times Square** a major commercial intersection in the heart of Manhattan, New York City; one of the world's busiest pedestrian intersections
- Grand Central Station** a bi-level, underground railroad terminal, located in Manhattan, New York City

Vocabulary

1. an **abandoned** drain pipe _____
2. the **bustle** of the day _____
3. had long since **subsided** _____
4. **conductors** on the shuttle _____
5. comfortable **niche** in the wall _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Who are the characters introduced in this chapter?

2. What is the general setting of the book?

3. Describe the newsstand in detail.

4. What can we learn about Tucker Mouse so far?

Quotations

But in all his days, and on all his journeys through the greatest city in the world, Tucker had never heard a sound quite like this one.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is a subway station a good place for a newsstand?
2. Why do you think the author does not identify the sound at the end of the chapter?

Enrichment

ATTENTION TO DETAIL: A subway station is usually a very busy, noisy place, especially in a big city with a large population. As the author introduces us to the setting of his story, he draws attention to the many sounds heard by the characters.

1. What specific sounds can Tucker Mouse hear in the subway station as he watches Mario?

2. Tucker is not only familiar with the sounds in the subway station, but also with the sounds that can be heard from the street above. The author uses a repetition of descriptive phrases to capture what Tucker hears through the iron grilles. Find six things he names and list them below.

Reading Notes

Long Island

a heavily populated island on the Atlantic coast; part of the state of New York

Vocabulary

1. listened **intently** _____
2. bright, glossy **sheen** _____
3. something **resigned**, but nice _____
4. **peculiar** diseases _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Where had Mario heard the new sound before? How was this sound slightly different?

2. Describe the cricket.

3. Despite the fact that Mario lives in the city, he seems to know a few things about crickets. Where did he get his information? What does he know about them?
