

Reading Notes

Detie	Heidi's aunt who has taken care of her
Heidi	young, orphaned girl
Barbie	Detie's friend
Uncle Alp	Heidi's grandfather; Tobias' father
Tobias & Adelheid	Heidi's father and mother
Bridget	Peter's mother
Grannie	Peter's grandmother

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. trudging uphill on a pair of **hobnailed** boots. _____ nailed soles
2. The old man lived up on the mountain like a **hermit**. _____ loner; withdrawn from others
3. That made him more angry than ever, and **morose** too. _____ gloomy

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. How did Detie acquire Heidi? Why does Detie take Heidi to Uncle Alp? Heidi's parents died.
When Heidi became an orphan, Detie (her aunt) and Heidi's grandmother took Heidi in. After
Heidi's grandmother died, Detie got a job offer with a family in Frankfurt, so she is taking Heidi
to Uncle Alp.

2. How is Uncle Alp perceived by the townspeople? Why? He is odd, antisocial, and not
a churchgoer. He is scary with a wild-looking, bristly, dreadful beard. He lives as a hermit and
isn't to be trusted. Generally, one might disapprove of him because of his past.

3. Describe the scenery surrounding Uncle Alp's hut. The hut stands on a little plateau on
high pasture with a glorious valley view. Three old fir trees are behind the hut; beyond them are
the mountains. Above the hut is grazing land; tangled undergrowth leads up to rugged peaks.

Quotations

"I've looked after her up to now, but I don't mind telling you, I'm not going to turn down a good job like the one I've just been offered, because of her."

Who said this? Detie About whom? Heidi

"She can look after herself, though she's only five. She's got all her wits about her. She knows how to make the best of things too ..."

Who said this? Detie About whom? Heidi

"Then one day we heard that he'd gone to live up on the mountain and wasn't coming down any more. He's actually stayed up there from that day to this, at odds with God and man, as they say."

Who said this? Detie About whom? Uncle Alp

Discussion Questions

1. What does the first quote above tell us about Detie's character? Do you agree or disagree with her analysis of the situation? Why?
2. The author tells us that Detie is "really far from easy in her mind about what she [is] doing." What are the reasons for her uneasiness?
3. What does it mean to be "at odds with God and man"? What are the reasons for Uncle Alp choosing this lifestyle?
4. With what we know about Uncle Alp and Heidi so far, how do you think Heidi and Uncle Alp are going to get along?

Enrichment

1. Locate the towns of Mayenfield and Dorfli on a map.
2. Read the story of the prodigal son from the Bible (Luke 15). How is Uncle Alp similar to the prodigal son, and how is he different? Uncle Alp and the prodigal son left their families to "ape the gentry" and travel. Both sons wasted their inheritance on worthless things. It does not appear that Uncle Alp realizes the folly of his ways. Uncle Alp also does not return to find his family eager to reconcile with him.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, draw Heidi's family tree and include the following people: Tobias, Heidi, Detie, Uncle Alp, Adelheid, Tobias' grandmother, Detie's grandmother.

Reading Notes

cupboard

a closet with shelves for dishes, cups, etc.

loft

a room or storage area within a sloping roof

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. a biggish room, the whole **extent** of his living quarters. scope, limit, size
2. and blew up the fire with **bellows** till it was red and glowing. air blowing device
3. Two graceful animals **detached** themselves from the others. separated
4. The moon, which had been covered by **scudding** clouds ragged and swiftly moving

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Describe the inside of Grandfather's hut and cupboard. Grandfather's hut is one room with a loft. His only furniture is a table, chair, and bed. He has a stove and a pot, plus a cupboard with shelves containing clothes, cups, plates, and glasses. On top is a loaf of bread, meat, and cheese.
2. What are the names of Grandfather's goats? Why are those names appropriate? Daisy and Dusky are the goats. Daisies are flowers that are mostly white; so is Daisy. Dusky is brown in color; dusky is an adjective that means dark in color.
3. What does Grandfather do to make Heidi feel more comfortable in the hut? He provides her with a coarse cloth and heavy linen from his own bed. He feeds Heidi and makes accommodations by fixing her a table just her size. He makes her a high chair. He checks on her in the loft and stays with her for a while.