

**Standards-based Reading Questions**  
**for**  
*Mystery of the Missing Candlestick*  
**By June Weltman**

Teachers across the country are required to address reading standards. Each state gives these standards unique numbers, yet the concepts taught are universal. The questions that accompany this young adolescent novel, *Mystery of the Missing Candlestick*, address the reading standards of main idea, cause and effect, plot and character development, conflict, word analysis, relevant details, comparing and contrasting, validity and accuracy of information, and author's purpose. The novel is appropriate reading for students in grades 5 through 8 yet can be enjoyed by all mystery fans.

The questions reflect standards utilized in Florida's current Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks (<http://www.firn.edu/doe/menu/sss.htm>).

When students comprehend text, they are able to identify events that advance the plot and determine how the story's events explain past and present actions. Students must be able to analyze characters and their actions. By reading a wide variety of literature, students make connections, acquire new information, and develop an understanding of how other people think. The following questions will allow students to demonstrate that they comprehend *Mystery of the Missing Candlestick*.

*Prepared by Jane Feber*  
*September 2006*

*Jane Feber teaches language arts to middle school students in Jacksonville, Florida. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and was the 2003 Teacher of the Year for the Florida Council of Teachers of English and the recipient of the Gladys Prior Award for Teaching Excellence. She is the author of **Creative Book Reports: Fun Projects with Rubrics for Fiction and Nonfiction** (Maupin House, 2004).*

Copyright 2006 June Weltman.  
All Rights Reserved.

1. What is the main idea of *Mystery of the Missing Candlestick*?
  - a. Three girls had their vacation ruined by a theft.
  - b. Three girls solved a mystery while on vacation.
  - c. Three girls enjoy a vacation in St. Augustine, Florida.
  - d. Three girls met a lot of interesting people while on vacation.
  
2. What caused Mr. Weisner to be distressed?
  - a. His housekeeper quit.
  - b. His house was broken into.
  - c. His synagogue had a theft.
  - d. His granddaughter came to visit.
  
3. What was one effect of Miranda's solving the candlestick mystery?
  - a. Two families were reunited.
  - b. The girls were able to go home.
  - c. The priest was able to light candles again.
  - d. The priest was able to return the candlestick to the church.
  
4. How were the two candlesticks similar?
  - a. They were both used in the church.
  - b. The both had a symbol on the bottom.
  - c. They were both made in St. Augustine.
  - d. They both had belonged to Mr. Weisner.
  
5. Which of the following best supports this statement:  
St. Augustine is a city with much history.
  - a. There is an international airport.
  - b. There are many tourists in the city.
  - c. There is evidence of Spanish culture.
  - d. There are many museums and historical tours.
  
6. What makes Miranda suspicious of Father Donald?
  - a. He has a candlestick collection.
  - b. He is always being seen in tourist locations.
  - c. He tells Miranda that detective work is dangerous.
  - d. He wants Miranda to stop looking for the candlestick.
  
7. Miranda found a paper with a series of numbers on it. Why were the numbers important?
  - a. They told the thieves' address and trolley schedule.
  - b. They told what time the thieves' plane would leave.
  - c. They showed an address where Mrs. Orlov visited frequently.
  - d. They showed the time and place where the thieves would meet.

8. Why did the man in the baseball card store drop a baseball card in Leila's purse?
  - a. to get her put in jail
  - b. so he would not be noticed stealing
  - c. to make her and her friends leave St. Augustine
  - d. so the police would not watch his gang anymore
  
9. What makes the party at the museum a target for the thieves?
  - a. a music box collection
  - b. a candlestick collection
  - c. an exhibit of antique silver
  - d. a large amount of gold and silver
  
10. How were the thefts at the synagogue and the church similar?
  - a. Two candlesticks were stolen.
  - b. There was no sign of a break in.
  - c. There was a silver candlestick stolen.
  - d. Two boys were seen running from the scene.
  
11. How does Leila differ from Miranda and Rebecca?
  - a. Leila is boy crazy.
  - b. Leila solves mysteries.
  - c. Leila is interested in history.
  - d. Leila is interested in baseball cards.
  
12. What is a chalice?
  - a. a wine cup
  - b. a music box
  - c. a candlestick
  - d. a religious ornament
  
13. From 1565 – 1763 what country ruled St. Augustine?
  - a. Spain
  - b. France
  - c. America
  - d. England
  
14. What did the caricature artist ask to do with the picture he drew of Leila?
  - a. mail it to her when she arrived home
  - b. redo it and have it ready the following week
  - c. take it to an art show and mail it to her home
  - d. take a picture of it for his catalogue and deliver it to her later

15. What does the word **faltered** mean in the sentence below?  
“The butterfly faltered. Then beating its wings furiously, it continued on its way.”
- fell
  - flew
  - stopped
  - hesitated
16. Which of the following is a characteristic of Rebecca?
- boy crazy
  - a history lover
  - a solver of mysteries
  - jealous of Miranda and Leila’s friendship
17. Miranda sees a monk who she thinks is the artist. What led her to this conclusion?
- He had the same build.
  - He had paint on his hands.
  - He was carrying a gym bag.
  - He was wearing sneakers spotted with paint.
18. What did Miranda find while touring the historic house in the Spanish Quarter?
- a bag of old gym clothes
  - a black gym bag full of books
  - a bag containing a silver candlestick
  - a gold wine cup stolen from the church
19. What happened to Miranda when she was visiting Ft. Matanzas?
- She was pushed into a van.
  - She fell and sprained her ankle.
  - She was pushed over a stone wall.
  - She fell into a pit with an alligator.
20. Which is a reason that Miranda does NOT suspect that Ms. Orlov is involved in the thefts?
- She sees her listening to Miranda’s conversations.
  - She sees her in the window of a house in the Spanish Quarter.
  - She watches her disappear into a secret room in the Spanish Quarter.
  - She claims she doesn't know the artist, yet has a conversation with him.
21. What made Miranda think that the thieves were getting ready to leave the country?
- Mrs. Orlov disappeared.
  - The trolley company shut down.
  - The party at the museum was over.
  - The baseball card shop was emptied out.

22. What makes Miranda think that the thieves will try to steal the silver at the party?
- The artist's van had a "Catering" sign painted on it.
  - Brian was at the party location with a black gym bag.
  - The trolley with Ms. Orlov and the artist was cruising slowly past the museum.
  - Peter and his friends were standing and watching the museum where the party was to be held.
23. (Short Response): At the beginning of the story, an airplane landing at the St. Augustine airport almost causes an accident. How does this foreshadow the ending of the story?
24. (Extended Response): Several characters in the story frequently show up in different places that Miranda thinks are unusual places for them to be. Describe several of these situations.

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks  
(<http://www.firn.edu/doe/menu/sss.htm>)

**GRADES 3 – 5**

1. LA.A.2.2.1
2. LA.E.2.2.1
3. LA.E.2.2.1
4. LA.A.2.2.7
5. LA.A.2.2.8
  
6. LA.E.2.2.1
7. LA.E.2.2.1
8. LA.E.2.2.1
9. LA.A.2.2.1
10. LA.E.2.2.7
11. LA.A.2.2.1
12. LA.A.1.2.2
13. LA.A.2.2.1
14. LA.A.2.2.1
15. LA.A.1.2.2
16. LA.E.1.2.3
17. LA.A.2.2.1
18. LA.A.2.2.1
19. LA.A.2.2.1
20. LA.E.2.2.1
21. LA.E.2.2.1
22. LA.E.2.2.1
23. LA.E.1.2.2
24. LA.E.1.2.1

**GRADES 6 - 8**

- LA.A.1.3.2 – main idea
- LA.E.2.2.1 – cause/effect
- LA.E.2.2.1 – cause/effect
- LA.A.2.2.7 – compare/contrast
- LA.A.2.3.8 – validity and accuracy of information
- LA.E.2.2.1 - cause/effect
- LA.E.2.2.1 – cause/effect
- LA.A.2.3.1 – details
- LA.A.2.3.1 – relevant details
- LA.E.2.2.7 – compare/contrast
- LA.A.2.3.1 – relevant details
- LA.A.1.3.2 – analyze words
- LA.A.2.3.1 – relevant details
- LA.A.2.3.1 – relevant details
- LA.A.1.3.2 – words in context
- LA.E.2.3.1 – character development
- LA.E.2.3.1 – supporting details
- LA.A.2.3.1 – relevant details
- LA.A.2.2.1 – details
- LA.E.2.2.1 – cause/effect
- LA.E.2.2.1 – cause/effect
- LA.E.2.2.1 - cause/effect
- LA.E.2.3.1 – plot development
- LA.E.2.3.1 – character development

## Answer Key

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. d
6. c
7. a
8. c
9. c
10. b
11. a
12. a
13. a
14. d
15. d
16. d
17. d
18. b
19. c
20. c
21. d
22. a
23. The airport is important at the beginning and the ending of the story. The pilot who is flying in is also the pilot who will fly the thieves out of St. Augustine with the stolen goods.
24. Artist
  - a. Brings the picture to the house and talks with Ms. Orlov.
  - b. Miranda and Randy follow the artist in the monk's robe on St. George Street. He has paint spattered on his shoes and he carries a gym bag.
  - c. Miranda sees him peering through the window into the historic house in the Spanish Quarter after she finds the gym bag.
  - d. Miranda spots the artist driving the van south along the beach toward Ft. Matanzas.

### Peter

- a. He runs out of the Lightner Museum/City Hall after the theft.
- b. Miranda thinks she recognizes the same boy running down the stairs of the St. Augustine Lighthouse.
- c. Miranda looks over the wall and sees Steven shaking Peter.
- d. Miranda overhears a conversation between Peter and another boy and then follows him into the building.

Father Frank

- a. Miranda sees him with a minister at another church while the girls are on a trolley ride to the Alligator Farm.
- b. Miranda recognizes his voice behind a door in an office where she thinks Peter might be.

Ms. Orlov

- a. Miranda sees her standing near a window that opens to the porch where the girls have been talking and visiting.
- b. Miranda sees her standing in the window of a house in the historic district.

Pilot

- a. Miranda first sees her getting out of the airplane then sees her again outside of the Cathedral talking with a man and then walking away.
- b. Miranda also sees a priest in a black cassock follow the pilot away from the Cathedral.

Nick

- a. Miranda first encounters him after coming out of the Cathedral. He's among the tourists and talks with the pilot.
- b. Miranda sees him getting off the trolley and walking toward the van marked "Catering," which is parked next to the Lightner Museum.