



Red Maple Activity: Questions (Answers)

Forty Days in Hicksville by Christine Kilbourne

Name: _____

Answer the following questions:

1. Why does Kate not like Clarendon (and calls it “Hicksville”)? Where did she get that name from?

Kate has moved with her mom from a city to the small town of Clarendon. She misses her friends and the excitement of urban life where she had a Youtube following for her urbex (Urban Explorations) videos. She gets the name “Hicksville” from her dad.

2. What are some of the rumours spreading in the town about Peter Goheen? Why do people spread rumours, and why is this a problem?

Many people think he murdered his wife. People spread rumours for many reasons: some people find it exciting, others do it to put other people down. Rumours are often untrue and may unfairly hurt a person’s reputation and hurt their feelings.

3. What do Zach and Kate find in the crevasse on her grandfather’s property? What do the police find later in the same place?

They find a skull and some bones. The police find another skeleton when they investigate.

4. Why does Kate suddenly feel badly about posting her video of the skull? Have you ever posted something or shared details about somebody that you later regretted?

Kate feels badly about posting the video when she discovers that it might be of her uncle. She realizes that posting it might be disrespectful.

5. Why did Sally’s mom hide all of the pictures of James? Where did Sally and Kate find them?

Sally's mom hid all of the pictures of James because Sally's dad wanted to get rid of them after James disappeared. Sally and Kate find them tucked behind other photos hanging on the wall.

6. What do Zach and Kate find in the drive shed? What do they think it means? What does it really mean?

Zach and Kate find letters and numbers carved into the wooden leg of a table. They think it means "rest in peace, Luke McCleod and James Cooper, August 8, 1982," suggesting that both Luke and James are dead. But it's actually a message from James Cooper to Luke to rest in peace, suggesting James could still be alive.

7. According to Zach and Kate, who is "CJ Grover" and why is he sending messages on Facebook?

Zach and Kate think CJ Grover is James, and he is trying to lead the police to clues without revealing who he is. Kate learns from her mom that James had an imaginary friend named Grover when he was younger.

8. What was Kate's dad looking for in the drive shed? What did he say he was looking for, and why didn't he admit this at the start?

Kate's dad said he was looking for his old car, a Dodge Charger, but he was really looking for James' old clothes which he hid in the drive shed. He didn't want to be interrogated by the police but decided in the end to find the evidence and turn it in.

9. Why do Zach and Kate send false messages in social media about the discovery of the skeletons? Do you think it is ever okay to lie on the internet?

Zach and Kate are worried about unwanted publicity about being the ones who discovered the skeletons. They hope the false messages will draw people away from them.

10. What does the mysterious customer leave with his tip in Sally's restaurant? Why doesn't he want to say who he is?

The customer leaves a picture of Sally with her brother and mom, and writes "XOX CJG" on a hundred dollar bill. Kate thinks the customer is James and that he isn't ready to return to his family.