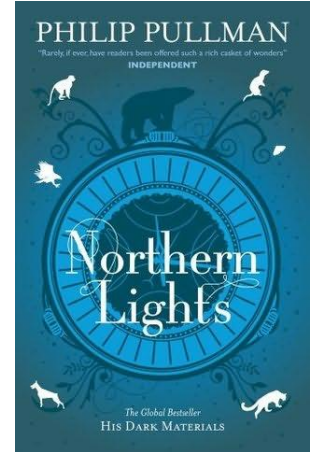


Comprehension: Northern Lights by Phillip Pullman

Lyra and her daemon moved through the darkening Hall, taking care to keep to one side, out of sight of the kitchen. The three great tables that ran the length of the hall were laid already, the silver and the glass catching what little light there was, and the long benches were pulled out ready for the guests. Portraits of former Masters hung high up in the gloom along the walls. Lyra reached the dais and looked back at the open kitchen door and, seeing no one, stepped up beside the high table. The places here were laid with gold, not silver, and the fourteen seats were not oak but mahogany chairs with velvet cushions.



Lyra stopped besides the Master's chair and flicked the biggest glass gently with a fingernail. The sound rang clearly through the Hall.

"You're not taking this seriously," whispered her daemon. "Behave yourself"

Her daemon's name was Pantalaimon, and he was currently in the form of a moth, a dark brown one so as not to show up in the darkness of the Hall.

"They're making too much noise to hear from the kitchen," Lyra whispered back. "And the Steward doesn't come in till the first bell. Stop fussing,"

But she put her palm over the ringing crystal anyway, and Pantalaimon fluttered ahead through the slightly open door of the Retiring Room at the other end of the dais. After a moment he appeared again.



"There's no one here," he whispered. "But we must be quick."

Questions:

Vocab

Find the meaning of the word:

Daemon:

Dais:

Interpretation

How are the characters of Lyra and Pantalaimon contrasted in this opening section of the book?

Prediction

What might be happening in the Hall tonight?

Explanation

Why is Panatalaimon in the form of a brown moth?

Retrieval

What phrase suggests Lyra wasn't taking it seriously?

Answers:

Vocab

Find the meaning of the word:

Daemon: supernatural being of a nature between gods and humans

Dais: a low platform for a lectern or throne, low stage

Interpretation

How are the characters of Lyra and Pantalaimon contrasted in this opening section of the book?

Pantalaimon is the more cautious of the two telling Lyra to be quiet and telling her she's not taking it seriously. Lyra is taking risks, making noise by flicking the crystal glass.

Prediction

What might be happening in the Hall tonight?

A dinner for important guests. The table is fully set for 14 people. The plates are gold rather than silver suggesting the importance of those people. The kitchen is busy preparing a meal.

Explanation

Why is Pantalaimon in the form of a brown moth?

He is camouflaging himself against the dark gloom of the Hall, to avoid being detected.

Retrieval

What phrase suggests Lyra wasn't taking it seriously?

Lyra stopped besides the Master's chair and flicked the biggest glass gently with a fingernail. (*The sound rang clearly through the Hall.*)
