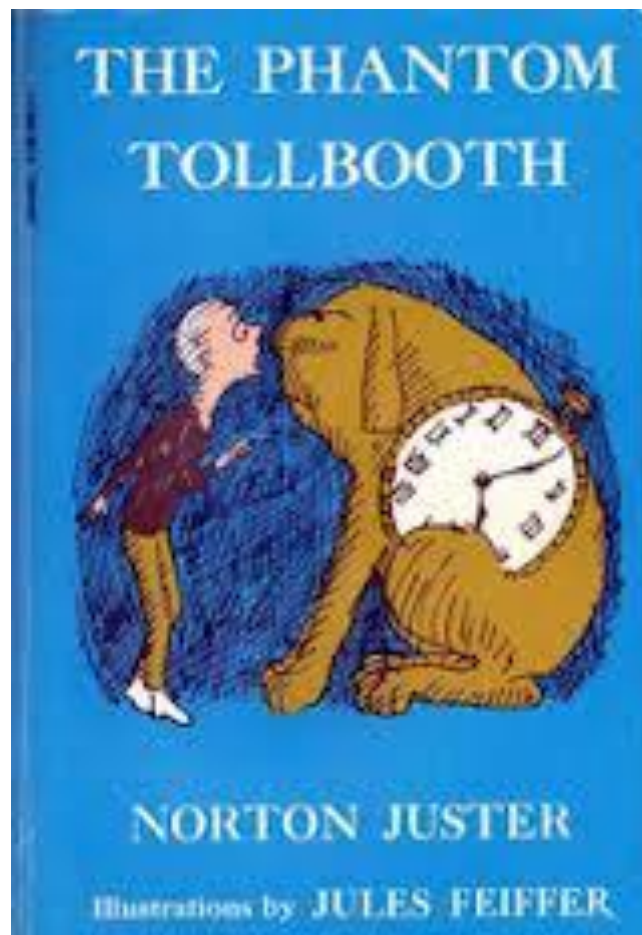
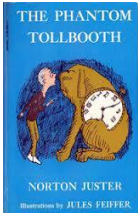


# The Phantom Tollbooth

*Written by: Norton Jester*

## **Student Guide**





## **Chapter 1**

**Dejectedly** – Miserably,  
Sadly

**Phonograph** – A record player

**Puzzled** – Confused

**Turnpike Tollbooth** – A place  
where you pay a toll on a  
highway.

**Precautionary** – Warning

**Cartographer** – Map maker

**Impractical** – Useless

**Peculiar** – Odd or strange

**Wistfully** - Thoughtfully

1. How does Milo feel about school?

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2. Where does Milo live?

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3. What is included in the package?

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4. What is odd about the map?

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## **Chapter 2**

(part 1 – Read to page 22)

**Polished** – Wiped clean

**Effusive** – Loud and attention grabbing

**Encounter** – Meeting someone

**Doldrums** – The feeling of being stuck, unmotivated

1. Where is Milo once he goes through the tollbooth?

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2. What is funny about the man's name?

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3. What does the man say about Expectations?

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4. What does Milo do at the fork in the road?

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5. What does it look like when Milo goes the wrong way?

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**Chapter 2 (part 2 – Read to page 27)**

**Doldrums** – The feeling of being stuck, unmotivated

**Lethargy** – The feeling of not wanting to do anything.

**Lethargarians** – People who are lethargic

**Ordinance** - A law

**Alternate** – Every other

**Bide your time** – To wait around

**Linger** - To wait around

**Loiter** – To wait around

**Loaf** – To wait around

**Lounge around** – To wait around

**Dawdle** – To wait around

**Delay** – To wait around and postpone

**Conciliatory** – Peacemaking

**Strenuous** - Difficult

1. What do the lethargarians look like?

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2. What is not allowed in the doldrums?

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3. How do the lethargarians act?

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4. Who gets stuck in the doldrums?

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5. What is strange about the things they do in their daily schedule?

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Chapter 2 (part 3 – Read to the end of the chapter)

**Apologetically** – With apologies

**Precisely** – Exactly!

**Impatiently** – Without patience

**Reasonable** – Making sense, fair

1. What is odd about the watchdog?

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2. Why did Milo get stuck? (HINT: This is also Milo's problem)

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3. What is Milo's problem in this chapter?

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**Chapter 3** *(Part 1 - Pages 32-38)*

**Gruff** – grumpy or rude

**Inscribed** – Written down

**Overwrought** – Worried, Nervous, Anxious

**Disrepute** – Shamed, disrespected

**Time and tide wait for no man.**

1. What is the story of Tick and Tock?

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2. What is the watchdog's job?

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3. What does "time and tide wait for no man" mean?

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4. What does the gateman demand from Milo?

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5. What does the gateman give Milo and why is that odd?

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**Chapter 3 (Part 2 - Pages 38- 45)**

**Immense** – Large, enormous.

**Orchard** – A field of trees where things are grown (like apples)

**Reticence** – Silence, calmness

**Cabinet** – Official advisors to the leader of a country

**Banquet** – A large dinner

1. What is odd about the way the five men talk?

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2. How do the five men feel about using just one word?

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3. What is the main export (wordly wise) of Dictionopolis?

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4. What is done at the word market?

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5. What is the job of the cabinet members?

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6. Why does Tock think the cabinet members are silly?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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**Chapter 4 (Part 1 Pages 45-50)**

**Tumult** – Noise

**Merchant** – A salesperson

**Bustle** – Busy-ness

**Quagmire** – A puzzling situation

**Flabbergast** – To amaze or astound in confusion

**Upholstery** – The cloth covering on furniture

1. What types of words are for sale at the word market?

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2. How are words grouped together at the word market?

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3. What does Milo find at the different wagon?

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4. According to the salesman, why do people hardly use Z's and X's?

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5. What pattern do the letter's tastes follow?

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**Chapter 4 (Part 2 Pages 50 - 56)**

**Misapprehension** - Misunderstanding

**Brow** - Forehead

**Adept** - Skilled

**Balderdash!** - Nonsense!

**Humbug** - Nonsense!

**Fraud** - A fake

**Fury** - Anger

1. What is odd about the Spelling Bee?

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2. What is the story of the Spelling Bee?

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3. How does the Humbug feel about spelling?

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4. Why do you think he is called the Humbug?

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5. What happens at the end of the chapter?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.



**Chapter 5 (Part 1 Pages 58-63)**

**Short Shrift** – A rushed judgment, a quick negative response.

**Guilty** – Responsible for a crime

**Suspicious** – worrisome

**Sentenced** – To be given a punishment

1. Why don't any of the sentences that people say make sense at the beginning of the chapter?

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2. Describe Officer Shrift and what makes him odd.

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3. What is odd about Officer Shrift's questions to Milo?

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4. What is odd about the way Officer Shrift sentences Milo?

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5. How does Officer Shrift change his jobs from Officer, to judge to jailer?

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**Chapter 5 (Part 2 Pages 63 - 67)**

**Corridor** – A hallway a little

**Faintly** - Only

**Macabre** – Evil, wicked

**Brevity** – Shortness, in terms of words used

**Wit** - Intelligence

1. BEFORE YOU READ: Based on your knowledge of the Whether Man, what do you think will be odd about the witch?

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2. What does the jail look like inside?

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3. What did Milo learn from the incident at the Word Market?

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4. What is odd about the Which?

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5. What was the Which's job?

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6. What do you think "Brevity is the soul of Wit" Means?

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**Chapter 5 (part 3 - 67-70)**

**Corrupt** – Used for personal gain

**Miserly** – Stingy (pronounced Stingee)

**Rhyme and Reason** – A phrase meaning “common sense”

1. What do you think “An ill-chosen word is the fool’s messenger” mean?

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2. What was the effect of the Which’s miserliness?

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3. What can help the Which get out of the dungeon.

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4. Why do you think the Which wants to be known as Faintly Macabre (see the previous section)?

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**Chapter 6 (Part 1 - Pages 71- 75)**

**Barren** – Empty, without plants

**Null** – Nothing

**Flourished** – Grew and prospered

**Rival** - Compete

**Grandeur** – Impressiveness

**Animosity** – Anger, dislike of someone else

**Twilight** – 1. The time when sun sets 2. The last days of your life. 3.

A terrible movie, but a really good book.

**Reign** – The time a king is in power

1. What was the land of Null like?

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2. How did was the kingdom of Wisdom created?

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3. What does the King ask his sons to do?

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4. How did the cities feel about themselves?

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5. What happened in the twilight of the king's reign?

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**Chapter 6 (Part 2 - Pages 75 - 77)**

**Grievances** – Complaints

**Unabridged** – Without revisions (a book that is unabridged is longer than the regular book)

**Reconcile** – To fix

**Significant** – Important

**Arbitration** – A decision made by a judge

**Cloak** – A cape or a coat.

**Warp and Woof** – The way something is woven. Warp are the strings that go sideways and woof are the strings that go up and down. Here is a picture for your viewing pleasure .



**Verdict** – Decision

**Banish** – To kick someone out and not let them back in.

**Rhyme and Reason** – A phrase meaning “common sense”

**NOTE TO STUDENTS: This section has a lot of questions for a very short reading. The reason is that this part of the book is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT and you must clearly understand it in order to understand the rest of the book!**

1. What happened when the king died?

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2. What were the new names of the kings sons?

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3. Why do you think the king of Dictionopolis chose the name Azaz (hint....look at the way the name is spelled!)

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4. Why did people love the princesses?

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5. What was the decision of Rhyme and Reason on the matter of importance of words and numbers?

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6. Why is there no Rhyme or Reason in the kingdom of Knowledge.

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7. Why does the Which need Rhyme and Reason?

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**Chapter 6 (Part 3 - Pages 78- 79)**

**Banquet** – A large meal

**To go without saying** – A phrase meaning “it is obvious”

1. Where is the Castle in the Air and why is it hard to get there?

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2. How does Milo get out of prison?

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3. What is odd about the way the wagon moves?

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**Chapter 8 (Part 1 - Pages 80 - 85)**

**Vast** – Large

**Crimson** – Dark Red

**Cordially** – politely

**Famished**- Very hungry

**Embroidered** – Sewn on, with stiches

**Sonnet** – A type of poem

1. What does the palace look like?

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2. What do you notice about the drawing of the Royal Coat of Arms?

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3. Take a look at the drawing of the king. After reading the description of what he looked like, what is missing from the picture?

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4. What is odd about the things that the cabinet members can do?  
(Hint.....you may want to look up on the internet what they all mean. That is, unless you know one of them...).

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**Chapter 7 (Part 2 - Pages 86- 91)**

**Light Meal** – A phrase meaning a meal with less food.

**Square Meal** – A phrase meaning a well-balanced diet

**Eat your words** – A phrase meaning to get what you deserve

**Half-Baked idea** – A bad idea

1. What is odd about the light meal?

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2. What is odd about the square meal?

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3. What is odd about the speeches AND why did the guests say them?

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4. Why is Milo unhappy with his meal?

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5. What is odd about the things that the cabinet members offer milo to put on his meal? (hint – Somersault sounds like salt.....but it isn't salt)

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6. What is odd about the deserts?

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## **Chapter 8**

**Indigestion** – Stomach sickness

**Stout** – Brave (although it can also mean fat....it's a multiple meaning word)

**Steadfast** – Fixed in the right direction

**Chasms** – A crack in the earth

**Tear apart limb from limb** – To tear someone's arms and legs off (have any of you seen the movie Twilight? They do this to one of the vampires)

1. According to the humbug, what must Milo do to bring back Rhyme and Reason? (This should be a long answer)

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2. What does the King give Milo and why might it be useful?

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## **Chapter 9**

**Gallant** – Exciting in a brave way

**Dense** – Packed, crowded

**Scenic** – Like a scene from a picture

**Promontory** – A high point of land

**Contradict** – To argue against someone

1. Why is the boy floating?

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2. What is the boy's name and what was his special power? What can he not do?

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3. What are the powers of the boy's family? Why is this odd?

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4. What is the point the boy is trying to make when he talks about the bucket of water?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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## **Chapter 10**

**Luminous** – Filled with light (lum)

**Metropolis** – A big city

**Percussion** – Drums or things that you beat

**Gaunt** – Thin and bony

**Chrom** – the root word meaning color

1. What is odd about the giant?

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2. What is odd about the midget?

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3. What does Milo figure out about these four men?

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4. What is the name of the city they see? What is odd about that?  
(hint: it's not reality"

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5. Why did the city of Reality disappear?

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6. BIG QUESTION: How does the problem of the city of reality connect to Milo's own life?

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7. What is odd about the concert?

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8. What is the effect of the instruments?

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9. What happens when the musicians stop?

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10. What does Chroma ask Milo to do?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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## **Chapter 11**

**Frantically** – Desperately

**Dawn** – Sunrise

**Glove Compartment** – The drawer on the passenger side of a car

**Plummet** – To drop

**Cacophonous** - Loud and Noisy (in the book, Kakafonous is a pun)

**Discord** – Sounds that don't sound nice together.

**Dissonance** – Ideas and sounds that don't go well together

**Bric-a-Brac** – a collection of things

**Deficiency** – Missing something

**Din** – A loud noise

1. What happens when Milo conducts the orchestra?

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2. What does Alec give Milo?

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3. What does the man in the wagon look like?

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4. Why do people need unpleasant noises?

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5. What is the Dynne?

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6. How do Dr. Dischord and King Azaz disagree?

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7. Where does Milo have to go in order to get to Digitopolis?



Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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**Chapter 12**

**Laudable** – Good, Deserving recognition

**To no avail** – Without success

**Monarch** – A king or queen, someone who rules by themselves

**Catalogued** – Categorized and kept safe

**Disconsolate** – Unhappy

**Crestfallen** – Unhappy

**Obstinate** - Stubborn

1. What is odd about the valley?

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2. How do the people in the valley of sound communicate?

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3. How is the story of the valley of sounds similar to the story of the city of reality?

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4. Why did the soundkeeper banish sound?

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5. What do the people want Milo to do?

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6. What kind of sounds does the soundkeeper like?

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7. What does the vault look like and where is it?

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8. How is sound made?

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9. What does a handclap look like?

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10. Why doesn't the soundkeeper release the sounds?

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11. How does Milo steal a sound?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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**Chapter 13**

**Fuse** – The string that is used to light a cannon

**Ominous** – A sign of evil

**Jump to a conclusion** – An idiom meaning that you assume something without proof.

**Objection** – Disagreeing with someone

1. What lesson does the soundkeeper learn?

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2. What does the soundkeeper give Milo?

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3. Why does Milo name the name "Canby"?

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4. How do you get to Conclusions?

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5. What lesson does Milo learn in this chapter?

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## **Chapter 14**

**Dodecahedron** – A 3-d shape with 12 faces. (Do=2, deca = 10)

**Beret** – A hat

**Doff your cap** – To take off your hat as a sign of respect

**Mine** – a place where minerals are dug up

**Nuisance** – Annoying thing

1. What is odd about the sign? (hint....think about conversions)

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2. What is odd about the dodecahedron? (Hint....the pun is about "faces")

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3. What is odd about the problems that the Dodecahedron gives them?

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4. How do you get numbers?

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5. Who owns the mine?

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6. What do they use broken numbers for?

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7. What do they do with all the jewels they find?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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**Chapter 15**

**Caldron** – A pot of boiling water

**Famine** – A time when all food is gone or is rotten

1. What is odd about the meals that they eat?

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2. Why does the meal make them feel hungrier?

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3. How does eating working in digitopolis?

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4. What does the mathmagician's workshop look like?

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5. What does the Magic staff look like and what can it do?

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6. What is odd about the biggest and longest number?

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7. Why can you never get to the number of greatest magnitude?

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8. What is infinity and what are the two ways to get there?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.

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1. What is the nicest thing about mathematics?

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2. How does Milo trick the Mathmagician?

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3. The Mathmagician says there is a big problem that he can only tell them when they return. Who else said this?

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4. What gift does the Mathmagician give Milo?



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5. What does it look like up the mountains?

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6. What is the Everpresent Wordsnatcher and what does it do?

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7. What is odd about the gentleman?

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8. What is difficult about the small jobs that the gentleman needs to do?



**Worthwhile** – Something that is worth doing

**Indignantly** – Angrily

**Trivial** – something that is unimportant...which leads to trivium...

**Transfixed** – amazed and captured, hy[notized

**Insincerity** – Untruthfulness

**Plateau** – Flat land

**Gelatinous** (jelatinus) – Like Jello

**Conspicuous** – Easy to see

1. Why does Trivium only do unimportant things?

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2. Who gives Milo bad advice? (hint: keep reading until he tells you his true name)

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3. How does the Gelatinous Giant decide his shape?

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4. How does Milo use King Azaz's gift?

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5. What happens at the end of the chapter?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.



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2. What does the Senses Taker offer to each character?

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3. Why are the offerings of the Senses Taker dangerous?

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4. What is the job the of the Senses taker (wait until after the spell is broken)

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5. What is the cure to the senses taker?

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6. What does Reason say about mistakes?

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7. What does Rhyme say about learning?

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8. What does Reason say about the purpose of learning?

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9. What question do you think Milo was going to ask when he says “which is the most important—“ and gets interrupted?

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10. How do they get down from the castle in the air? And why can they do that?

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Write a summary of this text in your own words. Include the important ideas and facts from each section of the text. You may use the book to help you write your summary.





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2. What do all of these demons represent?

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3. Who is waiting for the demons at the bottom of the mountain?

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4. This part of the story is the climax, the most exciting part where the problem is being resolved. How is the problem being resolved here?

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5. How does Milo feel about being a hero?

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6. Why do the Mathemagician and King Azaz say about impossible things?

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7. How do people celebrate? How does this connect to the rest of the story?

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8. Why can't the humbug and tock come along?



1. How much time passed while Milo was gone?

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2. What does Milo want to do the next day?

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3. What does Milo find when he goes to his room?

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4. How does Milo feel about the world at the end of the book?

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