

THREE SKELETON KEY



Elements of Literature

p. 65

A) PRE-READING- COMPLETE & TURN INTO IN BOX

- INFER: Based on the text and illustrations on page 65, what do you infer the story will be about?
- VISUALIZE: If you were writing a horror story or directing a horror movie, what details would you use to create a scary setting?



B) VOCABULARY-

LOOK UP DEFINITIONS FOR EACH WORD & WRITE THE SENTENCE FROM THE STORY
WHERE IT'S FOUND. COMPLETE & TURN INTO IN BOX.

1. foreshadowing (p. 64)
2. suspense (p. 64)
3. hordes (p. 69)
4. suffice (p. 70)
5. ravenous (p. 70)
6. receding (p. 71)
7. pestilential (p. 71)
8. incessantly (p. 72)
9. morose (p. 73)
10. edible (p. 74)
11. derisive (p. 74)
12. incident (p. 76)

B) VOCABULARY-

LOOK UP DEFINITIONS FOR EACH WORD & WRITE THE SENTENCE FROM THE STORY WHERE IT'S FOUND. COMPLETE & TURN INTO IN BOX.

1. foreshadowing: use of clues to suggest events that will happen later
2. suspense: feeling of anxious curiosity
3. hordes: large, moving crowds
4. suffice: be enough
5. ravenous (ravening): wildly greedy, hungry
6. receding (recede): move back
7. pestilential: harmful, troublesome
8. incessantly: ceaseless, unending
9. morose: gloomy, sullen
10. edible: fit to be eaten
11. derisive: scornful, ridiculing
12. incident: an occurrence or event

WHERE DOES THE STORY TAKE PLACE?



WHERE DOES THE STORY TAKE PLACE?



THE KEY



LIGHTHOUSE LOG



- Imagine you are the narrator filling out a **report of your adventure at Three Skeleton Key**. What happens each day? What do you see? What do you do? What do you think? Record your thoughts and reactions by **VIVIDLY** describing your experience in the Lighthouse Log.



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How did “Three Skeleton Key” get its name? (p. 66)
2. How does the author describe life on Three Skeleton Key?
3. How does life on the lighthouse island sound to you? (p. 66)
4. What words in the third paragraph on page 67 create a sense of danger and a feeling of anxiety about what will happen next?
5. What’s the nautical term for the stern or back deck of a ship? (p. 68)
6. What’s the name of the derelict (ship)? (p. 68)
7. On page 69, what vivid adjectives does the narrator use to describe the rats? What do these vivid adjectives convey about the narrator’s view of the rats?
8. How were the rats finally defeated? (p. 76)
9. What happened to the author, Lee Gleo & Itchoua? (p. 76)
10. This is a story of nature gone berserk. What other stories or movies can you name that have used this same frightening idea?

"THREE SKELETON KEY" ON-AIR SCARE

- In 1949, a drama called "Three Skeleton Key" was broadcast on a radio series called *Escape*, a half-hour program of horror-adventure stories.
- While listening to the broadcast, imagine yourself back in time and follow along in the script with a partner.



"THREE SKELETON KEY" ON-AIR SCARE PROJECT



- **Directions:** Work with two or three of your classmates to write a radio script based on "Three Skeleton Key" for the whole story or for the part of the story you find most exciting. You might want to start with lines from the narrator to set the scene. Then, let the **dialogue**, or conversation, among the keepers carry the action of the story. **Sound effects are important in radio drama**, so describe briefly any sound effects you'd use. Put these notes in parentheses right where you want the sounds heard. You may also describe background music. **Practice** your broadcast with your group. **Decide who's going to read what part and who will be in charge of creating the sound effects.** Present your broadcast **LIVE** in front of the class.

LESSON PLAN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **LA. E.2.2.1 Cause & Effect Relationships**
- ▶ **LA. A.1.3.2 Words and Phrases in Context**
- ▶ **LA . A.2.3.1 Main ideas, details, and methods of organization**