



Title: Serafina and the Black Cloak

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COMMON CORE COMPATIBLE

Serafina and the Black Cloak and its educational materials are well suited for **Common Core** curriculum.

Educational Materials for *Serafina and the Black Cloak*

- Writing & Discussion
- Activities
- Vocabulary
- History

Go to robert-beatty.com/education for links to the PDF files, teacher testimonials, and other resources.

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Serafina and the Black Cloak

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C.A.R. CHART

CONFLICT → ACTION → RESOLUTION

CONFLICT #1

CONFLICT #2

MAIN ACTION

RESOLUTION

The Importance of C.A.R.: Nearly all stories involve a structure called C.A.R., which stands for Conflict, Action, and Resolution. The Conflict is a problem, mystery, or issue. The Action is the dialogue, physical action, and other activity that takes place related to the Conflict. The Resolution is how the problem is solved in the end. When creating your own stories it is often useful to think in those terms. What is the conflict of the story? What happens in the middle of the story (the action)? How is the conflict eventually resolved? As a first assignment, use this C.A.R. Chart to diagram the Conflict, Action, and Resolution for *Serafina and the Black Cloak*. Then do it again for a different story or movie. Finally, you could try creating your own story, with its own C.A.R. Note: If you find that your story is missing any of these elements, it probably won't make a very satisfying story for the reader.

Serafina

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BOOK COVER ANALYSIS

Based on the front and back covers, what do you predict Serafina and the Black Cloak will be about? What genre will it be? What does the cover say or show that makes you think this?

What questions do you have about Serafina and the Black Cloak? Is there something from the cover that makes you wonder this?

What sentence or phrase from the back cover speaks to you? What connections do you make between it and your personal experiences or what you know of the world?

What do you know about the setting, the Biltmore? What do you expect of a story set at the Biltmore and why?



Serafina and the Black Cloak

Date: _____ Name: _____

Compare and contrast Serafina and Braeden, or Serafina and Gideon (dog), Today vs 1899, or any other two items from the story.

Compare and Contrast Chart Graphic Organizer

Item #1 _____

Item #2 _____

How are they alike?

How are they different?

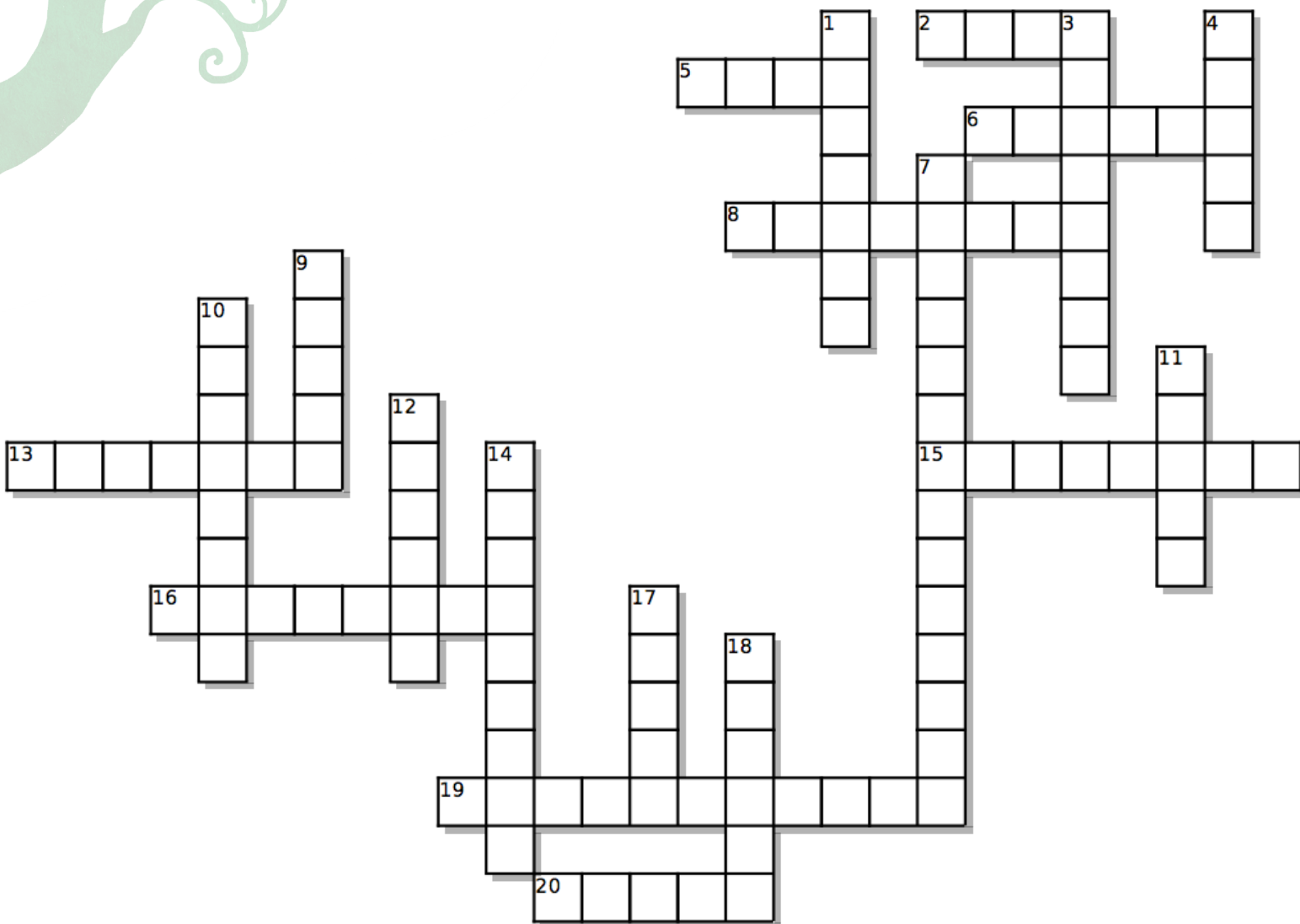
Serafina

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Chapters 1-10)



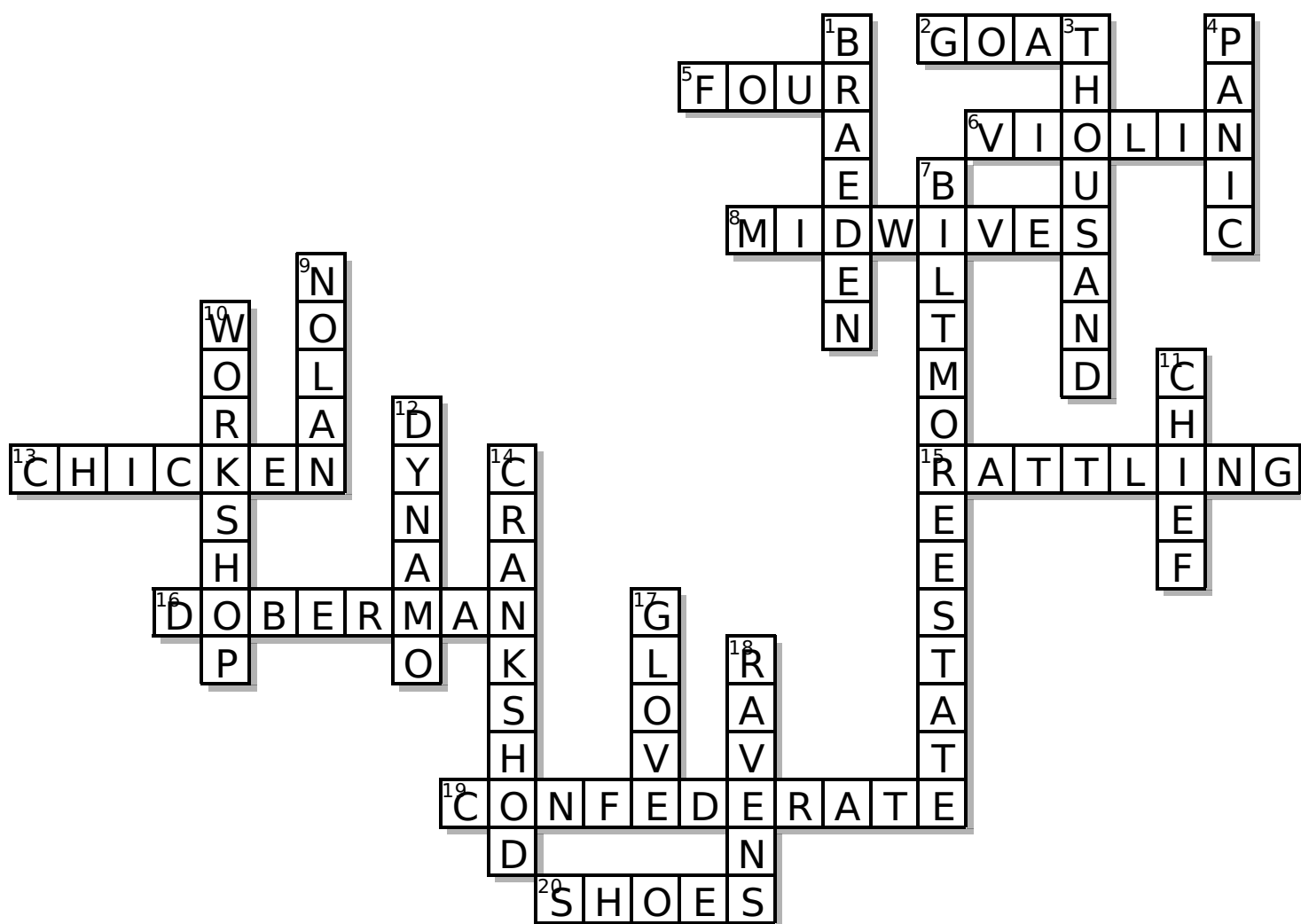
DOWN

- 1 Dog's best friend
- 3 Mr. Vanderbilt owns twenty-two _____ books
- 4 Mice are prone to _____ at key moments
- 7 Largest home in America
- 9 The young assistant coachman who disappeared
- 10 A place to call home if you're Serafina and her pa
- 11 _____ Rat Catcher
- 12 Because it's broken, it's extra dark each night
- 14 Serafina describes this character as "crab-crakedy"
- 17 The first piece of physical evidence Serafina finds of the Man in the Black Cloak
- 18 The birds that appeared near the cemetery

ACROSS

- 2 The kind of milk Serafina's pa gave her as a baby
- 5 The mansion's number of floors above ground
- 6 An Instrument Mr. Thorne plays
- 8 They turned Serafina's pa away
- 13 The only part of her dinner Serafina will eat
- 15 The Black Cloak makes this kind of noise
- 16 Gideon's breed
- 19 An entire company of _____ soldiers were buried in the cemetery
- 20 The sound of his _____ gave Serafina a clue to the man's identity

CROSSWORD PUZZLE KEY



Serafina

and the Black Cloak

TRACKING SERAFINA

Serafina

Who she is, what she thinks about, how she feels, what she looks like, what she wants...

Metaphors

Give one more more examples of metaphors associated with Serafina. (Metaphor: A figure of speech when a word or phrase is used in a non-literal way)

Serafina-isms

Unusual expressions Serafina and the narrator use that help us understand Serafina's unique character.

Relationship

Who does Serafina have relationships with? What kind? Any conflicts?

Serafina

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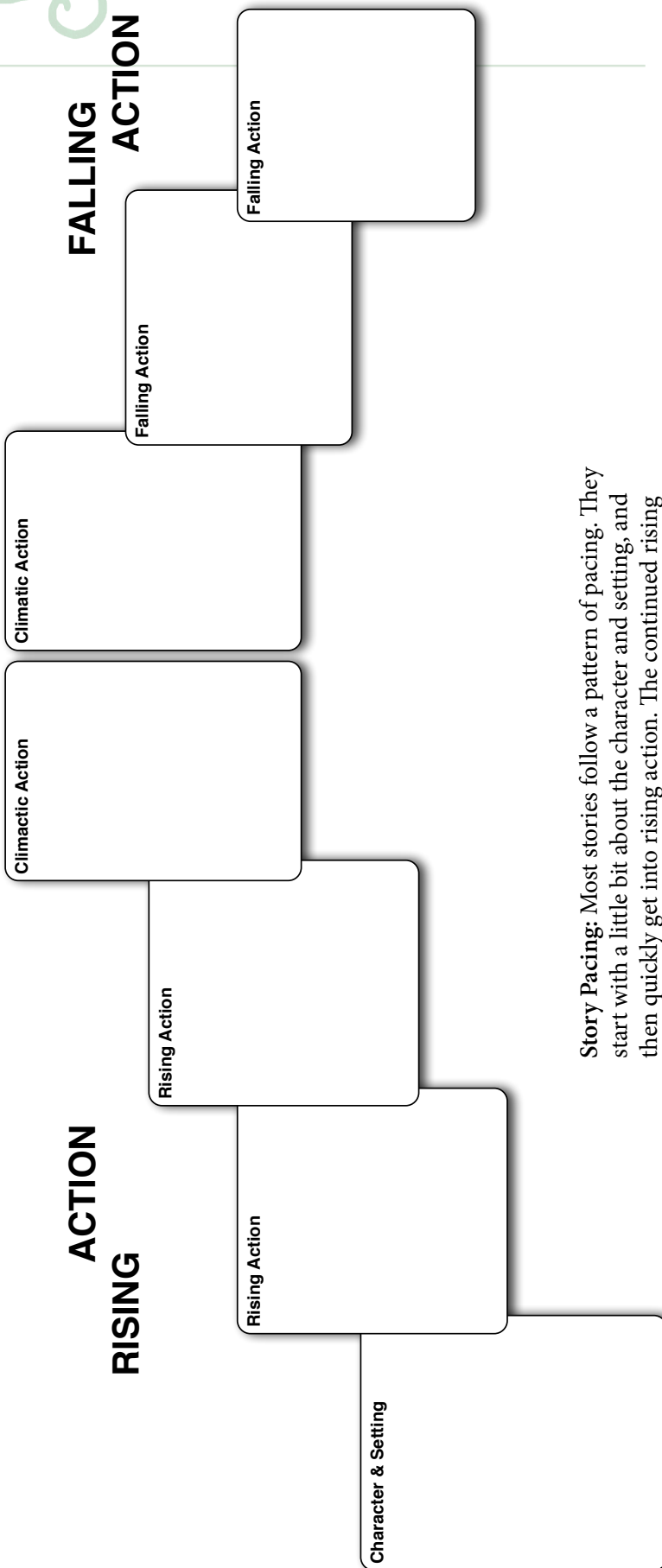
Date: _____ Name: _____

PACING CHART

CLIMAX

ACTION RISING

FALLING ACTION



Story Pacing: Most stories follow a pattern of pacing. They start with a little bit about the character and setting, and then quickly get into rising action. The continued rising action leads to an exciting, action-packed climax. This, in turn, is followed by falling action. Use this chart to diagram the pattern for *Serafina and the Black Cloak*.



Serafina and the Black Cloak

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Serafina Art

Draw a scene, character, or theme from *Serafina and the Black Cloak*. If you want to show off your work—and if you have permission from your teacher and parent—be sure to enter the Serafina Art Contest at www.serafina-art-contest.com.



Serafina and the Black Cloak

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Serafina's Journey

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

How does Serafina change throughout the novel? How does she think about herself and what is her place in the world in the beginning? Where do you see that changing in the middle? What does she think in the end?

Chief Riddle Master

If you dare to become the Chief Riddle Master, try answering the riddles below. If you like riddles, and if you have permission from your teacher and parents, be sure to enter the **Serafina Riddle Contest** at www.serafina-riddle-contest.com.

1.
When horses rise, he calms them.
When black flies, he fights.
2.
A black without darkness, sun, or moon,
But inside your soul will soon.
3.
Where mountains slope and cloud flows,
A steady guide home and lonely wolf goes.
4.
A maker of spark and caster of light,
Fix it now, or we'll all die in fright.
5.
Black coat and white fang,
Unseen until he sprang.
6.
To listen to stories and sit inside,
A deafening place to watch and hide.
7.
Weapon of the winged and piercer of shadow,
Held in hand, but never moves.
8.
Come hither, come hither, and lay with me.
We'll murder the man who murdered me.
But who am I?
9.
Sneak up a stair, and pass through a door,
A world of wonders and a place to explore.
Four stories high, and dark stories low,
A place where the bright minded go.
10.
The words of wisdom on the voiceless stone,
We aren't made by victory alone.
11.
No knock, no knock, just steps on the floor,
Doorknob's turning, who's behind the door?
12.
And lastly, a simple question: Serafina has many
characteristics similar to this thing, but the word is
never used to describe her throughout the entire book.
What is the word?

THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION

Character

Who is the main character? What is unusual about her? What is usual about her?

Point of View

What is the point of view of the story (First Person, Second Person, Third Person Limited, Rotating Third Person Limited, or Omniscient)? From whose point of view is the story being experienced and told?

Setting

What is the Time and Place of the story? How has it been portrayed to serve the story?

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Serafina

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THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION

Conflict

What are the Conflicts (and mysteries) of this story?

Plot

What is the overall plot of the story?



Serafina

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THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION

Voice

The “voice” of the story is how it sounds and feels when you’re reading it. The tone, style of writing, atmosphere, point-of-view, sentence syntax, and diction (choice of words) all come together to express the voice of the story. Does this story have a strong voice? What are some of the ways the author captures that voice?

Theme

The theme is similar to the moral of the story. It’s what the story is about underneath all the conflict and action. What are some of the themes of this story?

Imagery & Symbolism

Imagery is the use of description and details to paint visual pictures in the reader’s mind. In many cases, images are repeated in different ways throughout the story in order to give them meaning and resonance. Imagery is often used as a form of symbolism. What are some examples of imagery in this story? What images reoccur multiple times?



CHAPTER I - THE BEGINNING

1. Based on what you've read in Chapter 1, which adjective describes Serafina?
 - a. Brave
 - b. Quiet
 - c. Curious
 - d. Lonely
 - e. All of the above
2. In what Point of View is this novel narrated (First person, Third person limited, Omniscient, Second person) and whose Point of View is it?
3. What is Serafina's job title?
4. Serafina and her pa live in Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. What room do they live in?
5. Where has Serafina's pa warned her never to go?
6. To what does Serafina compare the Man in the Black Cloak?
 - a. An evil ghost
 - b. Mr. Vanderbilt
 - c. A rat
 - d. Her pa
7. What clue does Serafina have that might help her determine the identity of the Man in the Black Cloak later on?
 - a. The smell of his cologne
 - b. The sound of his footsteps
 - c. The color of his hair
 - d. None of the above



CHAPTERS 2 - 8 INTO A NEW WORLD

1. When Serafina goes back and searches the area, what evidence does Serafina find in the basement that she thinks may be related the Man in the Black Cloak?
2. What did Pa tell Serafina about her origin?
3. What special talent did Clara Brahms have?
4. Why does Serafina think the Man in the Black Cloak might be one of the guests in the house?
5. Who or what does Serafina pretend to be in order to escape Crankshod?
6. In addition to Clara Brahms, who has disappeared?
7. How do the Vanderbilts plan on keeping Braeden safe?
8. What unique ability does Braeden have? And how does this effect his view of Serafina?
9. Who is Nolan?
10. Why must Serafina walk home?



CHAPTERS 9 - 19 THE FOREST

1. Besides for the gravestones, what type of statue does Serafina discover in the graveyard?
2. What does Serafina play with in the graveyard / forest?
3. What attacks Serafina in the graveyard / forest and why?
4. What animal does Serafina encounter by the river that she felt an unexpected kinship to?
5. Late that night, when she finally gets home, where does Serafina go after Pa leaves to fix the dynamo?
6. Where does Serafina hide when the Vanderbilts and their guests gather in the Banquet Hall?
7. How does Mr. Thorne entertain those gathered?
8. What does Mr. Thorne accidentally call Mr. Rostonov that provides Serafina a clue?
9. What is Braeden's reaction when Serafina tells him her theory about the identity of the Man in the Black Cloak? Why does he have that reaction?
10. Who do Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt entrust to take Braeden to a safe place?



CHAPTERS 20 - 31 - THE CLIMAX

1. What does Serafina use as bait to lure Mr. Thorne?
2. Where does Serafina lead Mr. Thorne?
3. Where does Serafina hide from the Man in the Black Cloak?
4. Does Serafina's plan go the way she envisioned? What did she NOT plan for that leads to trouble (allows her hiding place to be seen)?
5. What are the two "great forces" Serafina brings together?
6. What does Braeden do to help Serafina?
7. What happens to the Man in the Black Cloak?
8. What does Serafina do initially with the Black Cloak?
9. What does Serafina learn about her origin?
10. At the end of the book, everyone at Biltmore is gathering together to search for a missing child. Who is the missing child?

QUIZ ANSWER KEY

Chapter 1

- 1 e
- 2 3rd limited
- 3 CRC
- 4 Workshop
- 5 The Forest
- 6 c
- 7 b

Chapters 9 - 19

- 1 the angel
- 2 mountain lion cubs
- 3 mother lion, defending her cubs
- 4 red wolf
- 5 Braeden's room
- 6 pipe organ
- 7 Plays the piano, then tells a story
- 8 Papa
- 9 He rejects it. He likes Mr. Thorne because he has always been nice to him and protected Gideon from Crankshod
- 10 Mr. Thorne

Chapters 2 - 8

- 1 glove
- 2 That she was born in the forest
- 3 Piano
- 4 Because he wears fancy shoes
- 5 A shoeshine girl
- 6 Anastasia Rostonova
- 7 By sending him some place else
- 8 Braden has special affection for and communication with animals, which is why he likes Serafina so much
- 9 The young assistant coachman
- 10 Because she can't allow the men in the rescue party to see her

Chapters 20-31

- 1 herself (in the red dress)
- 2 The cemetery / angel's glade / lion's den
- 3 inside the lion's den
- 4 The snow shows her tracks
- 5 The mountain lion and the Man in the Black Cloak
- 6 He sends Gideon to find and help Serafina
- 7 He is killed by Gideon and the Mountain Lion
- 8 She tries it on before destroying it
- 9 That her mother was a catamount
- 10 Serafina