

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Novel Study ~ MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH

### *Reader Responses and Vocabulary: Chapters 8 – 14*

*Be sure to complete each activity as intended, after reading the chapters.*

## READER RESPONSE - AFTER YOU READ CHAPTERS 8 - 10:

### ANALYSING THE NOVEL:

1. **Highlight** or underline true or false for each of the following statements.

A. True or False: The owl found it impossible to believe that a mouse had saved the life of a bird.

B. True or False: The owl knew that spring had come to stay because the wild onions were already up in the pastures.

C. True or False: The owl's first piece of advice was to wrap Timothy up warmly and hope for warm temperatures on Moving Day.

D. True or False: An extraordinary change came over the owl at the mention of Mrs. Frisby's name.

E. True or False: When the owl advised Mrs. Frisby to go to the rats, he suggested that they might swear her to secrecy.

F. True or False: The owl confessed that he was also worried about his own house in the tree, afraid that one day the wind would blow the tree over.

G. True or False: Brutus was such a large, muscular rat that Mrs. Frisby thought he could probably beat Dragon in a fight.

H. True or False: Mr. Ages would have trouble trying to escape from Dragon.

## VOCABULARY:

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word(s).

obvious    casual    reassure    domain    substitute    abrupt  
frequent    cordial    extraordinary    adjourn

1. The panel of lawyers decided to discontinue their meeting until the next morning. – \_\_\_\_\_
2. His careless remark was taken as an insult by Brutus. - \_\_\_\_\_
3. My father considers his den to be the center of his realm. - \_\_\_\_\_
4. Seeing a convertible with its top down in January is quite an unusual sight around here. - \_\_\_\_\_
5. She acted as an alternative member on the panel of jurists. - \_\_\_\_\_
6. Her beauty was plain for all to see. - \_\_\_\_\_
7. “Please do not make any sudden movements,” the lion tamer advised. - \_\_\_\_\_
8. His answer to that question was most polite. - \_\_\_\_\_
9. All of the campers tried to convince their counselor that there were no snakes in their cabin. - \_\_\_\_\_
10. Running a high fever was unfortunately quite constant and continual for poor

Marsha. - \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL RESPONSE: (Response options: Writing / Audio or Video Recording / Drawing)

Choose one of the following:

A) Confucius, a famous Chinese teacher from over 1500 years ago, once said, Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men. How has Mrs. Frisby already shown all three of these qualities in the novel?

OR B) Use the description on page 67 to draw and colour your version of the entrance to the tunnel. You can add a page following this page in your package for your picture.

Written:

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**\*\*\*Fill your plot flowchart with 2 – 5 sentences summarizing the main events of chapters eight to ten. Then, you will be ready to begin the next two chapters.\*\*\***

## READER RESPONSE - AFTER YOU READ

### CHAPTERS 11 - 12:

1. AUTHOR'S USE OF LANGUAGE - Creative chapter titles can really add to a good story. The titles for these two chapters "In the Library" and "Isabella" seem a little bit unimaginative. After you have read these two chapters, create intriguing new titles that reflect the contents.

In the Library -

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Isabella

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2. ANALYSING THE NOVEL:

A. List (point form) five things Mrs. Frisby has learned about the rat colony.

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B. Describe how the rats got the light bulbs for their home under the rosebush.

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### 3. PERSONAL RESPONSE - (Response options: Writing / Sketches)

Most animals are able to meet their basic needs for survival (water, food, and shelter). However, these rats have gone far beyond this. List or sketch 3 or more ways the rats functioned beyond the level of normal rats for each category.

<b>INVENTIONS</b>	<b>MACHINES</b>
<b>DECORATIVE APPEAL</b>	<b>SIGNS OF EDUCATION</b>

**\*\*\*Fill your plot flowchart with 2 – 5 sentences summarizing the main events of chapters 11 and 12. Then, you will be ready to begin the next two chapters.\*\*\***

## **READER RESPONSES – AFTER YOU READ CHAPTERS 13 - 14:**

## 1. ANALYSING THE NOVEL

- A) Using point form, record details of the garden as Nicodemus describes it.  
(Page 91 – in the chapter, *A Powder for Dragon* – although the page number may vary in different printings of the novel.)

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2. PREDICT – Obviously, the rats are not ordinary rats. Make predictions about why the rats are “special” or what they are up to.

Choose one to respond to (A or B):

- A) What do you think might be in the injections?  
B) Why do you think the rats might be studying agriculture?

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## 3. AUTHOR’S USE OF LANGUAGE –

A cliffhanger is defined as an ending of a chapter in a book that leaves the audience in suspense. How does the conclusion of chapter 14 fit this definition?

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#### 4. PERSONAL RESPONSE – AN EMAIL HOME

Imagine Mrs. Frisby decides to write an email to an old friend. She finds writing such an email is a good way to process what is happening and to help her to feel less alone. Use your imagination to write as if you actually are Mrs. Frisby describing what has happened during the past few weeks, mentioning some of the more memorable events. Your email should be at a half-page in length.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**\*\*\*Fill your plot flowchart with 2 – 5 sentences summarizing the main events of chapters 13 and 14. Then, you will be ready to begin the next three chapters.\*\*\***