

Journal Questions

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater

Chapter 1

1. Mr. Popper was often forgetful. Explain why. Describe something you have forgotten. What happened?
2. Why does Mr. Popper wish he were a scientist rather than a painter? What would you like to be when you grow up and why?
3. Where would Mr. Popper like to visit most and why? Where would you like to visit (that you have not been to) and why?
4. Why do Mr. and Mrs. Popper have to change what they eat? If you could save up some money, what would you like to buy and why?
5. Mr. Popper is a dreamer. What does he dream about? What do you dream about doing and why?

Chapter 2

6. Mr. Popper would like a penguin as a pet. Why? What would you like as a pet and why?
7. Why does Mrs. Popper not want a penguin as a pet? If you have or had a pet, what do you think your family would need to care for it?
8. Mrs. Popper thinks penguins are heathens. A heathen is something or someone who is uncivilized or cruel. Why does Mrs. Popper think the penguins are cruel or mean? What type of behavior do you think is cruel or mean and why?
9. Mr. Popper wrote to Admiral Drake, a famous explorer. Why is Mr. Popper so excited to write to him? If you could write to someone famous, who would you choose and why?

Chapter 3

10. Why did Mr. Popper have trouble sleeping? Have you ever been so excited about something that you could not fall asleep easily? Explain such a time.
11. Mr. Popper is having trouble reading today. Why? Explain a time when you could not concentrate and why?
12. The penguin is curious. What did he do that tells you that he is curious? What are you curious about? What can you do to learn more about what interests you?

Chapter 4

13. (Note: Prediction Question — read only the first page of Chapter 4)
What do you think Mrs. Popper's reaction will be to having a penguin in her house? Pretend you are Mrs. Popper. What would you say and do if you found a penguin in your house?
14. Why did Mr. Popper name the penguin Captain Cook? What name would you have chosen for the penguin and why?
15. Captain Cook will be sleeping in the refrigerator. What changes will need to be made to the refrigerator? What do you like to have when you go to sleep?
16. Why does Mrs. Popper think the penguin will be a good example for her family? Another word for "good example" is role model. Who do you consider to be a good role model and why?

Chapter 5

17. (Note: Prediction Question — read only the first three paragraphs of Chapter 5)
What do you think the serviceman's reaction will be when he comes to the house and why? Pretend you are the serviceman. What would you say to Mr. Popper?
18. Why do you think the police are at Mr. Popper's house? When should you call the police and why?

Chapter 6

19. Mr. Popper wants to get a license for his pet. How do the people at City Hall react on the phone? How would you react if someone asked you for a penguin license? Why?

Chapter 7

20. What did Captain Cook use to build his rookery in the house? If you had to build a rookery for yourself, what would you like in your rookery?

Chapter 8

21. Mr. Popper took Captain Cook for a walk. How did people react to the sight of a penguin on the street? How would you react and why?
22. Does the reporter believe that Mr. Popper got the penguin from Admiral Drake? How do you know? Would you believe him? Why or why not?

23. The author states that the man at the barbershop *had been* (clue) a good friend of Mr. Popper's. Predict what will happen at the barbershop? If you were a penguin, what would you like to do at the barbershop?

Chapter 9

24. Why does Captain Cook climb the stairs? What types of activities do you like to do and why?
25. Why did Mr. Popper call a taxi? What do you do that makes you very tired?

Chapter 10

26. Why are the Poppers proud and happy? Describe a time when you were very proud about something you did.
27. People felt badly that Captain Cook was sick. What did people do to show their sympathy? What would you do to cheer up a sick friend?
28. Why does Dr. Smith think Captain Cook and Greta might be sick? Describe a time when you missed someone very much. How did you feel?

Chapter 11

29. Mr. and Mrs. Popper cannot tell the penguins apart. Think about what Mr. Popper does for work. What do you think Mr. Popper will do to tell them apart? What would you do to tell them apart?
30. (Note: Prediction Question — read up to the section where Mr. Popper tells Mama to put her food back in the icebox)
How will Mr. and Mrs. Popper keep the penguins cold in the house when they are not in the icebox? During the winter, how would you keep warm in your house?

Chapter 12

31. (Note: Prediction Question — read only the title to this chapter, "More Mouths to Feed")
What do you think is going to happen in this chapter? If you had company at your house, where would everyone sleep?
32. How does Mr. Popper solve the problem of keeping all the penguin eggs warm? Describe a problem you solved and how you did it.
33. Mr. Popper does not want spring to come. Why? Which season do you look forward to and why?

Chapter 13

34. (Note: Prediction Question — read only the title to this chapter, "Money Worries")
What do you think is going to happen in this chapter? What are some ways you can earn money?
35. What will Mr. Popper train the penguins to do? If you owned a dog or cat, what could you train it to do?

Chapter 14

36. Why does Mr. Popper have to open the windows on the bus? When you go for a car ride, what do you like to do and why?
37. Mr. Greenbaum wants to change the name of the penguin's show to "Popper's Pink-toed Penguins." Why doesn't Mr. Popper like that title? What would you name the penguin's show and why?

Chapter 15

38. Why does Mr. Popper want to get the ladders off the stage? How does your teacher get everyone in your class to listen? Which way do you like the best and why?
39. Why did Janie and Bill cry? Describe a time when you were sad and why.

Chapter 16

40. What do the Poppers do before they leave their house for a long time? If you went away on a vacation, what would you and your family have to do before you left home?
41. What does Mr. Popper have to fit into the taxis? What do you take with you on vacation and why?
42. (Note: Prediction Question — read up to the following sentence: "The porters' ladders offered too much temptation to the penguins")
Why were the penguins excited to see the ladders? What do you like to do for a sport? Explain.
43. Why did Monsieur Duval fall off the high wire? When have you made a mistake? Describe what happened.

Chapter 17

44. Why is the lady opera singer annoyed that the penguins will be performing the same night as she? Describe a time when you were annoyed. How did you feel?

45. Why do Poppers' penguins feel guilty? Describe a time when you felt badly about doing something you should not have.
46. Why don't hotels have rules about penguins? What types of rules do you think hotels should have?
47. What do the penguins like to eat? What do they not like to eat? What is your favorite meal and why?

Chapter 18

48. What was Mr. Popper busy doing at night? Mr. Popper is very tired. What do you do that makes you tired?
49. Why does the theater manager want to have Mr. Popper arrested? Pretend you are Mr. Popper. What will you tell the police?

Chapter 19

50. (Note: Prediction Question — read up to the following sentence: "It was not Mr. Greenbaum who stood there")
Who do you think may have freed Mr. Popper and the penguins from jail?
Why? When you have a problem, who do you call upon for help and why?
51. Describe the two choices Mr. Popper must think about. If you were Mr. Popper, what would you do with the penguins and why?

Chapter 20

52. Describe how Mr. Popper felt when he was saying good-bye to his penguins. Describe how you would feel if your best friend was moving far away.
53. Describe how Mrs. Popper feels knowing that her husband will not be back for a long time. Were you surprised by her reaction? Why?