

English I  
(optional)

# The Princess Bride

## One – “The Bride”

### VOCABULARY

- adversary – enemy
- antiquity – history
- bewilderment – confusion
- careening – knocking, rolling randomly
- droll – odd, humorous
- dullard – a stupid person
- dumpling – a term of endearment
- hovel – hut
- inadvertent – accidental
- moldering – decaying
- scullery – kitchen
- sublimity – perfection
- supplication – humbleness
- undaunted – resolutely
- unfathomable – unimaginable
- visage – face

1. Chronicle the list of beautiful women before Buttercup. At what point does Buttercup start to be noticed for her beauty? How does Buttercup feel about beauty? What does the text say about Buttercup’s hygiene?

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2. Who is the farm boy, and what is his connection to Buttercup? How does the farm boy respond to Bettercup’s requests?

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3. Why do the town girls not speak to Buttercup anymore? What is their explanation? How does Buttercup feel about what they say? Cite an example from the text to support your answer.

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4. When the village boys bother Buttercup, who comes to her aid? Why do you believe he wants to help her?

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5. The narrator mentions that there is a turning point in Buttercup's life. What is the turning point? How is this situation different from the previous situations in which Buttercup finds herself?

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6. Describe the setting of the next part of the story, then describe the characters that are introduced.

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7. Predict a conflict that might occur between Buttercup and the Countess.

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8. Consider the italicized section in this chapter that begins, "This is me." Who is "me"? Who is Morgenstern? What is the purpose of this interruption?

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9. What event causes Buttercup and her parents to stop and look in awe? Why might this be a momentous occasion for the family?

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10. What physical differences are there between Buttercup and her parents? Use specific examples from the text to explain your answer.

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11. Under what pretense does the Count visit the family? What information does he bring that is unusual? What comment is made about the parents?

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12. As the story is being developed, Goldman mentions sporadically, "Thirty-four to twenty-two and pulling away." What is this quote referring to?

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13. Goldman uses repetition to call attention to Buttercup's suppressed feelings. What is repeated, and what does it tell the reader about Buttercup?

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14. How does Buttercup describe Westley? What does it mean when Buttercup says "...if you liked that sort of thing"?

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15. Buttercup believes that the Countess is one of the most beautiful people she has ever seen. Buttercup cannot imagine anyone more beautiful. After Buttercup realizes that the Countess is staring at Westley, her opinion of the Countess begins to change. What is Buttercup's new opinion of the Countess? Why does her opinion change?

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16. After Buttercup has a poor night of sleep, she visits Westley at his hovel. What does Buttercup describe to Westley? What is his reaction? Is his reaction expected? Why or why not?

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17. What does Westley come to tell Buttercup? How does she react to the news?

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18. How does Westley feel about Buttercup? Cite examples from the narrative to support your answer.

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19. How do Westley and Buttercup leave one another?

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20. Why does Buttercup have a sudden interest in her appearance? Who does she ask for help? What does she do to become the most beautiful woman in the world? What is the real reason for her increasing beauty?

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21. What great surprise takes place towards the end of the chapter?

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22. How does the lack of technology in the story affect the outcome?

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23. Consider the following line: "She never did." What is this statement referencing? What technique is Goldman employing?

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24. How would you characterize the tone of the novel to this point?

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**Two – “The Groom”**

VOCABULARY

excision – removal of material  
grappling – wrestling  
simians – monkeys

1. What explanation does Goldman give about his approach in this chapter? Why?

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2. Describe Prince Humperdinck.

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3. What does Prince Humperdinck love more than anything? How do you know? Cite examples from the text to support your answer.

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4. Using details and specific examples from the text, what is the "Zoo of Death"?

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5. What does the Prince learn as he is battling the great ape, and what is his reaction?

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6. Predict how the Prince and Buttercup will be connected. Use the titles of the first two chapters as a basis for your prediction.

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7. Cite an example of textual manipulation in this chapter. What is its effect?

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**Three – “The Courtship”**

VOCABULARY

alliance – bond  
doted – had great affection for  
etiquette – social conduct  
ferreting out – searching out  
insolvency – bankruptcy; inability to pay debts  
supped – to eat (supper)

1. How does setting the story in the castle contribute to the overall effect? What other images are included in the first paragraph add to the illusion?

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2. Describe the Queen. How can she be loved by everyone in addition to being evil?

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3. Who is Miracle Max, and how is he related to the story?

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4. Who is the first person the Prince decides to marry? Why?

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5. Describe Princess Noreena.

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6. Describe the events that happen during the dinner. What is their significance?

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7. How do the lives of Buttercup and Humperdinck connect in this chapter?

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8. Under what condition do the Prince and Buttercup decide to marry?

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**Four – “The Preparations”**

NO VOCABULARY

1. What is the nature of this chapter, and how does it move the story ahead?

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2. What does Goldman describe as missing from the pages he omits?

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**Five – “The Announcement”**

## VOCABULARY

agility – nimbleness  
ascension – upward movement  
astonishment – surprise  
brutalize – to treat cruelly  
caliber – degree of importance  
carnivorous – meat-eating  
chicanery – trickery  
crotchety – ill-tempered  
diabolical – devilish  
disheartened – discouraged  
eventual – inevitable  
exultation – joy  
feint – lure  
ferocity – ferociousness  
flogged – beaten  
frenzied – frantic  
fretted – worried  
gouged – thrust  
guile – deception  
haggled – bargained  
impenetrable – inaccessible; incapable of being crossed  
impetuous – impulsive  
industrious – diligent  
inevitable – unavoidable  
knave – a deceitful person  
maneuvered – manipulated  
marauding – pillaging  
olfactories – senses of smell  
onslaught – fierce attack  
parry – battle  
peculiarities – oddities  
peevish – irritated  
prodigious – enormous  
prominence – conspicuousness  
quail – worry, concern  
quarry – game; the object of a hunt  
quibbled – bickered  
refuge – protection  
ripostes – a fencer's quick return thrusts after a parry  
ruffian – like a bully

VOCABULARY (CONT.)

scabbard – sheath  
scurried – scampered  
shackled – impeded  
shrouded – obscured  
sloth – lazy, idle  
spectate – observe  
sufficiency – adequacy  
taut – tight  
thwart – oppose  
tiller – a lever used to turn a boat from side to side; the place where the boat’s rudder is found  
trifle – slightly  
vaguely – slightly  
vulpine – cunning  
whippet – a racing dog  
wistful – melancholy

1. How has Buttercup’s beauty changed in the three years since she has agreed to marry Prince Humperdinck?

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2. When Buttercup is introduced to the people, what does she request of Prince Humperdinck? Why?

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3. This chapter introduces some troubling news after what appears to be an uneventful walk through the people. What is the news?

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4. Describe the man in black who is watching the Princess.

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5. How can this section be confusing to the reader?

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6. Describe the relationship between Buttercup and Prince Humperdinck.

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7. Do you think that most people would be able to face their fate the same way that Buttercup can? Why or why not?

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8. Buttercup loves to go horseback riding on a daily basis. Who does Buttercup meet on one of these rides?

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9. What do the three men tell Buttercup?

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10. Where does Buttercup find herself when she awakens? What does she hear being discussed?

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11. How does the Spaniard feel about killing Buttercup?

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12. What allusion is made with the line, "it should be Homeric"?

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13. Describe how Buttercup tries to escape from the three men?

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14. How does the author interrupt the anticipated shark attack? What is the reason for the interruption and what effect does it have on the narrative?

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15. After the trio gets Buttercup out of the water, where do they plan to go? What do they notice?

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16. Who does the Sicilian believe is following them? What word does the Sicilian continuously use? Why does he choose this word?

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17. How does Buttercup feel about the man who is following them? Do you think that this is a normal reaction? Why or why not?

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18. How would you characterize the climb up the mountain?

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19. What is the Sicilian's special skill?

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20. How do the kidnapers initially escape the man in black? Describe how the description reinforces the tension of the story.

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21. How does the man in black defy the kidnapers' expectations?

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22. When it appears that the man in black is going to be able to scale the cliff successfully, how does the Sicilian direct the others?

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23. How does the Spaniard, Inigo, feel about killing the man in black?

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24. How does the narration in the story change as Inigo is waiting for the man in black to finish climbing the cliff?

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25. At the time of his father's murder, young Inigo had a confrontation with the six-fingered man? What happens when the nobleman and Inigo battle?

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26. What is the connection between the Sicilian and Inigo?

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27. How does the man in black reach the top? Why?

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28. Describe the duel.

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29. How do the following sentences add to the pace of the scene?

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30. What happens to end the battle? Why is this unusual?

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31. When the Sicilian discovers that Inigo has not killed the man in black, he creates a new plan. Describe the Sicilian's new plan.

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32. After the Sicilian instructs Fezzik to kill the man in black, how does the narration change again? What is the purpose of this change in narration?

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33. Describe Fezzik. How is he unusual?

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34. What does Fezzik's father teach him and why does he teach him this?

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35. What do Fezzik's parents ask him to do? Why? How does Fezzik feel about his parent's request?

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36. How does the simplicity of the language reflect the simplicity of the main character in this section?

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37. How does Vizzini, the Sicilian, find Fezzik?

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38. What does Fezzik wonder about the man in black?

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39. Describe the battle between Fezzik and the masked man. What is the result?

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40. Summarize what transpires between the man in black and Vizzini.

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41. How does the man in black treat Buttercup? Why do you think he treats her this way?

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42. What types of questions does the man in black ask Buttercup? What is her response?

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43. Why does Buttercup believe that the Prince will save her?

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44. What is significant about the statement, "I died that day"?

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45. What does Buttercup do in retaliation toward the man in black? What does she discover by doing this? How?

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46. How does the Prince's behavior show that he is an expert hunter? Use examples from the Cliffs of Insanity and his treatment of his horses.

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47. Prince Humperdinck finds no body when he investigates the duel, what do you think has happened to Inigo?

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48. Goldman complains that Morgenstern has omitted the reunion scene between Westley and Buttercup. What does he suggest that the reader do? Is this a possibility or another of Goldman's inventions? Goldman does, however, provide a summary of the lover's reunion; describe this summary in your own words.

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49. When Westley discovers that they are running into the Fire Swamp, what does he attempt to do for Buttercup? How does he attempt to do this?

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50. Goldman mentions the R.O.U.S.s that dwell in the Fire Swamp. Use your imagination and describe what you believe R.O.U.S.s to be.

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51. The Snow Sand is part of the Fire Swamp, and it has particular dangers. Cite two examples of figurative language that Goldman uses to describe the effects of the Snow Sand.

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52. As Westley attempts to rescue Buttercup from the Snow Sand, what phrase is repeated? What is the purpose of repeating this sentence?

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53. Summarize Westley story about the Dread Pirate Roberts. Why does Westley believe that the Dread Pirate Roberts did not kill him right away?

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54. Describe the R.O.U.S.s How is Westley able to escape from them?

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55. When the couple finally makes it through the Fire Swamp, they are greeted by the Prince and his men. What does Buttercup ask of Prince Humperdinck? Why?

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56. When Prince Humperdinck answers Buttercup, how does he deceive her without lying?

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57. At the end of the chapter, what does Westley notice about Count Rugen?

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**Six – “The Festivities”**

## VOCABULARY

adroit – clever  
anguish – torment  
ardor – intensity; loyalty  
audible – able to be heard  
charades – pretenses  
commenced – began  
conglomeration – mass  
degrading – bringing to low self-esteem  
discontent – unhappiness  
dulcet – sweet  
entanglements – involvements  
epochal – significant  
erasure – elimination  
foray – invasion  
incompetent – inadequate  
inducing – bringing about  
infiltration – invasion  
invigorated – rejuvenated  
jibe – agree, work  
ministrations – aids  
muckamuck – an important person  
perturbed – bothered  
petrified – scared  
posterity – future generations  
privy – privileged in sharing the information  
quandary – problem; predicament  
reconciliation – agreement  
shellacked – beaten  
soliloquy – speech in which the person speaking is the only person in the scene  
spiel – talk extravagantly  
ticklish – sensitive  
unsheathed – drew a sword from its sheath  
wary – cautious

1. What are the results of the Princess' kidnapping? Use specific examples from the text.

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2. Why does Inigo return to drinking? Explain the irony that is found at the end of this section.

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3. What does Fezzik discover when he regains consciousness? What does he do next?

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4. When Westley is placed in the Zoo of Death, whom does he meet? What does this person do for Westley? What is the purpose of introducing this character?

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5. Consider the statement, "But they broke him anyway." What literary technique is demonstrated in this line? What does this line lead you to believe?

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6. In this section, Goldman leads the reader to believe that something has happened to the King. What has happened? What must the Prince do?

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7. What happens to Buttercup as a result of the King's death? How does she feel about what has happened? Many of the events in the novel fit the mold of events in a fairy tale; how does this event *not* fit the mold?

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8. After Buttercup is crowned Queen, she walks among the people. How is this walk different from her first walk? How does Buttercup react? What does she learn? How does King Humperdinck react to this same event?

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9. Why does Goldman tell the story of Buttercup becoming Queen and getting booed by the public?

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10. Who is Edith Neisser? What important lesson does Goldman learn from her? How does this relate to the rest of the story?

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11. In order to avoid the nightmares, what does Buttercup do? How do you know that her tactics do not work? What is her next plan?

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12. Why does Buttercup approach Prince Humperdinck? What does she request? What is his response?

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13. Do you believe that the Prince is being honest? Why or why not?

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14. How does Prince Humperdinck suggest that they find Westley? Does Buttercup believe him?

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15. What are Prince Humperdinck's plans for Buttercup? What is the reason for his great adoration for her as of late?

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16. Who tortures Westley? What two reasons are there for performing the torture?

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17. Describe the first measure of torture. How does Westley react?

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18. What advice does the albino give Westley? What warning does he give him?

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19. In trying to write a letter to Westley, what does Buttercup share with Prince Humperdinck about Westley? How do you think the Prince feels about his revelation?

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20. Explain the one fundamental virtue that motivates Westley and Buttercup that does not seem to motivate the other characters in the book.

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21. What does Prince Humperdinck tell Yellin to do? Is there are a real reason to do this? Why or why not?

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22. Describe what frightens Yellin. What effect does this have on other people in Florin? Cite specific examples from the text.

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23. Why is Count Rugen excited?

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24. Why does Westley believe he can survive anything?

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25. As he is putting together the Machine, what does the Count share with Westley? What does Westley think about the information?

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26. Explain the significance of the following line: "And you can stop all your performing about how weak and beaten you are; you haven't fooled me for a month. You're practically as strong now as on the day you entered the Fire Swamp. I know your secret, if that's any consolation to you."

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27. What offer does the albino make to Westley? Why? What is Westley's response?

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28. When the count begins the Machine, Westley still believes that he will be able to conquer the pain; however, he discovers that his methods no longer work. Why is Westley unable to use his "taking away" method with the Machine? How does the Machine work? What is Westley's response to his first experience with the Machine?

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29. When Prince Humperdinck is with the Count, with what are they both preoccupied?

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30. What does the Prince ask of Yellin and his men? Why?

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31. Who is Falkbridge?

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32. Who seems to be posing a problem for the men conducting the round-up?

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33. Explain how Fezzik and Inigo reunite.

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34. How does Fezzik take care of Inigo? What does Fezzik reveal to motivate Inigo?

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35. After Fezzik succeeds in sobering Inigo, what do they decide?

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36. Why do Fezzik and Inigo disagree about the man in black? What is the nature of their disagreement?

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37. Describe Westley's current situation.

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38. What does Buttercup learn when she visits the Prince? How does she learn this information?

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39. How does Prince Humperdinck respond when Buttercup confronts him with her realization?

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40. Predict what you think will happen when Prince Humperdinck arrives at the Zoo of Death.

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41. When Prince Humperdinck arrives in the Zoo of Death, what does he scream at Westley? What happens next?

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42. What is the sound that petrifies the people in the city? How does this sound affect Inigo? What do Fezzik and Inigo do as a result of the noise?

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43. After Westley is killed, what does the albino decide to do with the body? How does this lead to his mistake?

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## Seven – “The Wedding”

### VOCABULARY

adversity – misfortune  
alternation – rotation  
anachronistic – characterized by errors in time  
appalled – dismayed  
bode – foretell  
clambered – climbed awkwardly  
claret – a type of wine  
consolingly – comfortingly  
contingencies – unplanned for event  
conviction – belief  
efficiency – productiveness  
fiend – devil, demon  
holocaust – ashes of something burned as a sacrifice  
humiliations – embarrassments  
ladler – a dipper of liquids  
oracle – a person who has divine knowledge through spiritualism  
pinioned – shackled  
proclamation – announcement  
procured – obtained  
rebuttal – argument  
recluse – spider  
resignation – formal notice of resigning (withdrawing from office or appointment)  
resonant – intense  
resurrection – revival  
reverberating – resounding  
scoffed – mocked  
staunchly – faithfully  
tromping – stamping  
ulcerating – breaking of the skin  
unimpeachable – cannot be questioned; entirely believable

1. List the perils that Fezzik and Inigo encounter as they are descending through the levels of the Zoo of Death and describe how they are able to escape each.

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2. Why is Inigo disappointed when he reaches the fifth level of the Zoo of Death? What does he do as a result of what he discovers?

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3. What does Miracle Max need to know before he agrees to do the miracle? How does he find his answer?

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4. What are Westley's last words? What does Max think he says? What is Max's conclusion about Westley's final words? Who contradicts Max?

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5. Describe Miracle Max in his earlier role in the story, and explain why he would be interested in reviving Westley.

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6. How is Westley brought back to life?

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7. Describe Prince Humperdinck's demeanor when it comes to killing Buttercup.

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8. How is the castle defended?

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9. What does Humperdinck reveal to Yellin, and what is Yellin's response?

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10. What does the Prince understand when Yellin tells him that he cannot find his cousin, the albino? What does he decide to do?

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11. Where do Inigo and Fezzik take Westley? What do they find there?

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12. Fezzik and Inigo debate about when they should give Westley the resurrection pill. They decide to give him the pill earlier than they had anticipated. Why might this turn out to be a good decision?

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13. Describe Westley after he is resurrected.

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14. Why is Westley discouraged?

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15. What items does Westley need in order to carry out his plan? Where do they find the materials?

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16. Why is Buttercup so sure that Westley will rescue her?

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17. Describe the Inigo, Westley, and Fezzik's strategy?

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**Eight – “Honeymoon”**

## VOCABULARY

afflicted – injured  
cleric – a member of the clergy  
contemplated – thought about, pondered  
cowardice – lack of courage  
crescendoing – gradually increasing  
fauceted – ran quickly  
forlorn – miserable  
impediment – hindrance  
imperiously – commandingly  
lumbered – moved slowly  
propriety – appropriateness  
reminiscing – remembering  
squabbled – argued; bickered  
swarthy – dark complexioned  
unendurable – unbearable

1. How are Fezzik, Inigo, and Westley able to retrieve the key from Yellin?

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2. Describe the wedding.

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3. What does Buttercup do after the wedding?

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4. Fezzik, Inigo, and Westley make it into the castle. Explain how the three men are separated once inside.

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5. As Inigo, Fezzik, and Westley are storming the castle, what challenges do each face individually?

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6. When Inigo finally finds Count Rugen, what surprise does the Count have for Inigo? What will happen to Inigo?

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7. Describe the situation between Westley, Buttercup, and Prince Humperdinck. What does the text keep highlighting that none of the characters realize?

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8. Meanwhile, Inigo is wounded by Count Rugen, how does the determined Spaniard keep fighting?

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9. Why does Inigo keep repeating the same phrase? What is it? What is the effect of this repetition?

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10. Explain the symbolism of Inigo's final destruction of Count Rugen.

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11. How does Westley explain "to the pain"? Use specific lines from the text for your answer.

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12. How does Buttercup contribute to Westley's attack on the Prince? How is Westley acting?

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13. How does Inigo find Buttercup and Westley? Where do they find Fezzik?

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14. How does the group get down from the tower?

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15. How do the four of them escape?

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16. Buttercup now believes she and Westley will be together until they die, but Westley has a different idea. What is it? How does his idea fit with the tone of the entire novel?

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17. What allusion does Goldman use to describe the ending of The Princess Bride? What is its purpose?

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18. How does Goldman believe that the novel ends? Why does he believe this?

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**Buttercup's Baby: An Explanation**

VOCABULARY

deluged – overwhelmed  
depositions – testimonies  
elisions – omissions  
giddy – frivolous  
keel over – pass out; die  
unpretentious – modest  
verve – energy  
waddler – clumsy person

1. Explain the first letter that Goldman writes to his readers.

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2. Summarize the second letter Goldman sends to those who requested the reunion scene.

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3. Why does Goldman include the long section for his son?

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4. Goldman uses three public figures in discussing the abridgement of "Buttercup's Baby." Who are they, and why would he do this?

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5. Why does Stephen King give up his agreement to abridge "Buttercup's Baby"?

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**Buttercup's Baby: S. Morgenstern's Glorious Examination  
of Courage Matched Against the Death of the Heart**

**One – "Fezzik Dies"**

VOCABULARY

balmy – mild  
beckoning – summoning  
berated – scolded  
besotted – infatuated  
brawn – muscles  
cartographers – map makers  
disdain – scorn  
disingenuous – calculating  
embers – remains of a fire  
erratically – strangely  
escapade – adventure  
flaunting – showy  
forged – formed  
fumigate – disinfect  
insidious – treacherous  
keen – eager  
momentum – impetus  
monotony – boredom  
natch – naturally  
ominous – foreboding  
optimism – positive thinking  
profitable – beneficial  
provisions – supplies  
remnants – remainders  
sanctuary – consecrated and safe place  
scourge – affliction  
serenity – peacefulness  
siestaed – napped  
snatched – informed; foreshadowed  
spawn – generate  
trajectory – path  
unalloyed – pure

1. What is unusual about the way this chapter begins?

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2. Who is Waverly? Why is Fezzik so adamant about the pursuit?

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3. How is Fezzik faster? Where has the reader seen this before?

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4. Describe the madman.

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5. As the madman is supposed to be giving Waverly to Fezzik, what happens?

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6. What does Waverly call Fezzik? Why do you think she calls Fezzik this?

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7. Why does Goldman disapprove of the opening?

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9. What is Despair?

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10. In order for Inigo to train, how does he spend most of his time? Who does he meet in his dreams?

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11. Inigo meets Giulietta and learns that she is not the servant she claims to be. Who is she?

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12. Why does Goldman include this section? What does he wish he knew? How does this section offer a new side of Inigo that the reader has not seen?

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13. Who makes the first mistake when the four are trying to escape Prince Humperdinck and his men? What is it?

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14. What is Fezzik supposed to be taking care of as they are escaping? How are his acts heroic?

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15. How does the tempo of the narration change at this point? What does Goldman leave out? Why?

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16. List what happens to Fezzik, Buttercup, Westley and Inigo.

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17. How does Goldman personify the whirlpool? Cite two examples from the text as support.

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18. What is the status when One Tree Island is reached?

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19. Describe the birth of Westley and Buttercup's child. Focus on the reason why Fezzik is so close to Waverly.

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20. How is the final section written? What is the effect of this type of style?

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21. Describe the conclusion to the first chapter of "Buttercup's Baby"? Is there a true conclusion? How do you feel about how the story ends?

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