

A Smuggler's Song

Questions for Book 3 Group

1. What is the reader told not to do at the start of the poem?

The reader is told not to pull back the blind or look into the street.

2. How many smugglers are riding past the house?

There are twenty five smugglers riding past the house.

3. What have the smugglers hidden around the back of the house which you are asked to cover up if you find it?

The smugglers have hidden barrels of brandy around the back of the house.

4. What might your mother have to fix for the smugglers?

Mother needed to mend a torn coat from one of the smugglers.

5. *What does 'mindful' mean at the top of page 2.*

Mindful means 'mind what you say', or be careful what you say to the soldiers in case you give away that the smugglers had been here.

6. Who are Trusty and Pincher?

Trusty and Pincher are pet dogs who live in the house.

7. What do Trusty and Pincher know what to do when the smugglers pass by outside at night.

Trusty and Pincher know not to bark if it's the smugglers passing by.

8. If you help keeping the secret that the smugglers have been, what reward might you receive?

If you do as you're told, you may be brought a doll as a present from France.

9. What other presents do the smugglers bring for people in the town - you may need to find out *what 'Baccy'* is.

The smugglers brought brandy for the Parson and tobacco for the clerk.

10. What two pieces of advice are given to persuade the reader not to pay attention to what the smugglers are up to.

The reader is asked not to be curious and ask questions, then her *parents wouldn't have to make up a story so they don't reveal what the smugglers are up to.* She is also told to just look at the wall *so she doesn't see them.*

11. Challenge question: Why does the poem seem to be about doing everything to pretend the smugglers haven't *been seen,* and why *wouldn't the people in the town want to tell King George's soldiers* about the smugglers?

Although the smugglers are breaking the law by bringing food and goods from France without paying taxes to the King, they are also helping the local people by bringing extra goods for them. Also, some of the smugglers may be family members from the town.