

Name _____

Date _____

FOLLOW THE STORY

Answer in complete sentences. Use a specific action or line from the episode when it helps explain your answer.

1. Why does the group accept Hocus's offer even though they distrust him?

2. How do the Barnivores and the crash change the group's journey?

3. What happens to Smudge inside the cracked mirror, and how do they get out?

4. What does the balloon escape solve? Name one problem it leaves unresolved.

Name _____

Date _____

Carnival Nonsense

Invent the whole thing. The sillier, the better!

1 Hocus tells a terrible travel tale

Cover the story. Write five silly words first. Then fill the matching numbered blanks and read it in your most serious tour-guide voice.

1. Adjective: _____ 2. Plural animal: _____

3. Food: _____ 4. Noise: _____

5. Place: _____

Welcome to my (1) _____ shortcut! Please keep your
(2) _____ inside the car. Today's fuel is (3) _____.
If the engine shouts "(4) _____!" we have arrived at
(5) _____. Probably.

2 Spinks gives the trip one star

Invent a ridiculous review of Hocus's travel service in Spinks's voice.

Best feature _____

Biggest surprise _____

I would ride again only if _____

Carnival Nonsense (continued)

3 Unexpected balloon luggage

Invent one ridiculous thing Fleck packed. Then write a tiny comedy scene about it.

Fleck packed _____

Smudge says _____

Spinks replies _____

Bonus: Perform your scene with a partner. Use your most dramatic voices!

Name _____

Date _____

CLAIM EVIDENCE REASONING

Choose ONE claim below or write your own. You may agree, disagree, or qualify a claim. Support your thinking with two scenes from the episode.

Possible claims: Spinks shows heroism through actions. / Hocus gives the group reasons for caution. / The mirror scene makes being heard central to Smudge's freedom.

My Claim:

Evidence 1: a specific action or line

Reasoning: how this detail supports my claim

Evidence 2 and what it adds to my argument

A different reading someone might offer

Name _____

Date _____

FOLLOWING THE STORY THREADS

The episode shifts between Calumbra's tower and the friends' journey, then follows separate carnival experiences. Track how the shifts build tension.

1. Tower: What does Calumbra do, and what is left unexplained?

2. Fleck: How does the heroes' tent create a new danger?

3. Smudge: What do the mirrors reveal about what Smudge wants?

4. Audience: What do we learn from the tower scene that the traveling friends are not shown? How does this affect suspense?

Name _____

Date _____

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Use the scene descriptions to infer each meaning. The descriptions below paraphrase the episode. Then explain a context clue.

Caveats

Hocus says there is no catch, then admits that his help may come with conditions and caveats.

Meaning and clue

Quid pro quo

Hocus calls his offer quid pro quo and says they can discuss his terms after finding the Storyteller.

Meaning and clue

Leverage

Calumbra says he had hoped to keep Iggy for leverage. He also says the friends needed motivation to find someone.

Meaning and clue

Use one word or phrase in a new sentence that shows its meaning.

Name _____

Date _____

OBJECTS WITH MEANING

A symbol can suggest an idea beyond an object's literal use. Offer a possible interpretation for each object and connect it to a specific scene.

1. The map: What does it offer the friends? Why does revealing it matter?

2. The mirrors: What might the reflections suggest about identity?

3. Calumbra's restored pages: How do the conflicting voices complicate the idea of being complete?

There can be more than one supported interpretation. Explain your reasoning rather than naming a single "correct" symbol.

Name _____

Date _____

CONFLICTS AND CHOICES

Identify two different conflicts. You may consider Fleck and the heroes, Smudge and the mirror authors, or a character's struggle with their own feelings.

Conflict 1

Who or what is in conflict? What does each side want?

What action or line shows this conflict?

Conflict 2

Who or what is in conflict? What does each side want?

What action or line shows this conflict?

Which conflict most shapes the episode's meaning? Explain.

Name _____

Date _____

CAN WE TRUST HOCUS?

Evaluate Hocus through actions and unanswered questions. A useful action does not settle every question about a person's intentions.

One action that helps the group

One action or statement that raises concern

One important part of the agreement Hocus leaves unclear

**My judgment so far: Would I recommend relying on him?
Explain with evidence.**

**A question the group could ask or boundary they could set
before accepting more help**

Name _____

Date _____

HEROIC WORDS HEROIC ACTIONS

Compare the heroes' tent with Spinks's behavior. Judge actions, not appearance or a title.

**1. What do the adventurers claim about themselves?
Give one example.**

2. How do they treat Fleck? Use a detail that supports your answer.

3. What does Spinks do for a friend? Explain what the action shows.

4. What definition of heroism could connect your examples? Include one limit or complication in your judgment.

Name _____

Date _____

OBSERVATION INFERENCE PREDICTION

Write O, I, or P beside each statement. Then explain one answer. An observation is shown or stated; an inference is a supported interpretation; a prediction is a guess about what comes next.

_____ Dot leaves the fortune-teller's tent holding a card.

_____ Fleck's need to be believed helps explain why she shows the map.

_____ The group will find the Storyteller in the Whispering Dunes.

_____ Spinks pulls Smudge out of the mirror.

_____ Hocus expects something valuable in return for his help.

_____ Dot's card will warn the group about their next danger.

Choose one inference. Which specific detail supports it?

Someone claims, "The real Edgar has definitely made Smudge a baker." Rewrite this to say only what the episode establishes.

Name _____

Date _____

WAS THE SHORTCUT WORTH TAKING?

Plan an argument about the decision to accept Hocus's offer. Begin with what the friends knew BEFORE the trip. Separate that from what the audience learns later.

My position: accept, refuse, or accept only with conditions

Evidence available before departure and why it supports my position

A second relevant detail and what it adds

The strongest argument against my position

My response to that argument

After the crash: would I revise my judgment? Why?

Name _____

Date _____

WRITING STUDIO PLAN

Choose ONE prompt. Plan here, then draft on the next page. Mark invented scenes as fiction and keep established episode details accurate.

A. A listening conversation

Invent a conversation after the escape in which Smudge tells Fleck what happened in the mirror. Let both characters respond in their own voices.

B. A new carnival attraction

Write a visitor's guide to an invented attraction. Explain how it works, what it promises, and a choice a visitor must make.

C. A theme response

Explain how the episode develops a message about trust, heroism, or having a voice. Analyze two specific scenes.

D. The next scene

Write a possible opening to Episode 7. Continue from the balloon journey, introduce a problem, and show the friends making a choice.

I chose prompt ___ because...

My main idea or central problem

Two episode details I will preserve or analyze

Name _____

Date _____

WRITING STUDIO DRAFT

Write your response. Add a title. Continue on another sheet if needed.
Use the revision check at the bottom before sharing.

Title

[illegible]

Revision check: My ideas are clear. / I used specific details. / I kept facts accurate or labeled inventions. / I revised one sentence to make it stronger.