

Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy

By Scott Peters

Reading Comprehension

How to use:

The reading comprehension exercise is divided into six parts. Each part consists of questions that test a reader's comprehension, four chapters at a time. It can be completed over a number of weeks by assigning chapters and handing out the accompanying Reading Comprehension Sheet. Alternatively, the questions can be provided for class discussion, or as part of a reading group discussion.

Also included in this study guide:

- A mummy maze activity
- A mummy doorhanger craft with a hieroglyphics chart that students can personalize

**Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
Reading Comprehension**

Chapters 1 - 4

1. Zet wakes up to find what he calls 'Khonsu' overhead. What was Khonsu?
2. Downstairs, why are Zet's sister and mother staring out the front door?
3. How does Zet react when his mother won't let him outside?
 - a. calm
 - b. relieved
 - c. frustrated
 - d. mystified
4. Zet lived in ancient Egypt, where mummies were made. Why, then, was he shocked to see a mummy in his street?
5. Zet and Kat knew a man who was mummified. What was his name?
 - a. Paneb
 - b. Aziza
 - c. Konpu
 - d. Renofer
6. Only some people in ancient Egypt were mummified. Why was that? List *two (2)* reasons why a person might be buried in mummy wrappings.
7. The morning after Zet sees the mummy, his mother tries to comfort him. She asks if he's all right. Why does Zet smile and act like nothing is wrong?
8. At the end of chapter 3, what does Kat think Zet is hiding from their mother?
9. What was the name of the upcoming festival?
 - a. Opet Festival
 - b. Wag Festival
 - c. Isis Festival
 - d. Osiris Festival
10. Customers start returning their pottery to Zet and Kat's stall. Why?
11. Zet explains that ancient Egyptians had to pass a test to go to the afterlife. How did the test work? Choose the correct response.
 - a. A goddess named Maat questioned you to see if you were a good person.
 - b. You had to be clever and avoid a monster named Ammit.
 - c. Maat used a pair of scales to make sure your heart weighed less than her feather, which proved you were good.
 - d. Maat used a feather to check off a list of all the good and bad things you did in life, which she then measured.
12. What dangerous creatures lived in the Nile river? Choose the correct *two (2)*.
 - a. Sharks
 - b. Crocodiles
 - c. Hippos
 - d. Bears

**Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
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Chapters 5 - 8

1. On the river, the children meet a man and woman near a fishing hut. Choose five (5) words that best describe the couple.

fun	angry	bashful	impatient	scary
loving	sour	nosy	shy	happy

2. On shore, Kat warns Merit to hide her face with her hood. Why?
3. Why is Zet worried about the Royal Treasury being robbed?
- Because the city needed the funds to pay for repairs.
 - Because the rare treasures kept inside would be lost forever.
 - Because the army needed the funds to pay for supplies.
 - Because the funds were needed to pay for the Wag Festival.
4. Zet and Merit meet the royal mummifier. Describe what the man wears on his head.
5. The mummifier explains that the brain was removed and then thrown away. Why didn't the ancient Egyptians keep the brain for the afterlife?
6. Mummifiers placed four (4) organs in canopic jars for safe keeping. Name all four.
7. What makes Zet think the priest was hiding something?
8. In chapter seven, Merit bemoans the fact that a public statue of her is about to be unveiled. Explain why she feels this is a bad thing.
9. Why is Zet and Kat's mother angry that they hid the truth from her?
10. Merimose, the man guarding Aziza's house, has a job as a medjay. What is the modern word for his job?
11. Renni is the head of the Royal Guard. What three (3) pieces of equipment does he wear or carry for protection?
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| sharp sword | long curved knife |
| breastplate embossed in gold | brass helmet |
| chainmail shirt | lightweight fiber shield |
| leather shin guards | |
12. Merit wants Zet to help solve the mystery. Why doesn't Zet explain this to Renni?

**Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
Reading Comprehension**

Chapters 9-12

1. When Kat learns that the mummy is haunting Kanup Street, she's horrified. Why?
2. How does Hui react when Zet and Kat reach his house?
 - a. Hui runs out to meet them.
 - b. Hui hides on the roof.
 - c. Hui and his little brothers gather round to ask them questions about the mummy.
 - d. Hui urges them to come inside and close the door.
3. At the beginning of chapter ten, describe Zet's reaction after he clammers up the ladder.
4. How does Hui react to danger, and how is that different from Zet and Kat?
5. What unexpected person does Hui see in the crowd on his street?
6. At the end of chapter 10, who does Zet think might be connected to the mystery?
7. On the riverbank, what makes Zet believe Kat has grown braver?
8. Many people in ancient Egypt, like Zet, could not read. Kat learned to do so, however. What was the name of their alphabet?
9. Who comes to treat the fisherman's sick daughter?
10. What was the ancient Egyptian sun god's name?
Osiris Maat Ra Anubis
11. After their river trip, that night Kat goes straight to sleep. Why can't Zet sleep?
12. When Zet and Hui hide in the pottery stall to catch the mummy, do both boys really want it to show up?

**Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
Reading Comprehension**

Chapters 13-16

1. The story talks about someone named Khonsu. Who was Khonsu?
 - a. Zet's neighbor
 - b. the ancient Egyptian moon god
 - c. the ancient Egyptian star god
 - d. the medjay policeman
2. At the beginning of Chapter 13, Zet is discouraged. What actions and thoughts show us he's feeling this way?
3. When the mummy appears in the marketplace, who spots it first?
 - a. Hui
 - b. Zet
 - c. the medjay
 - d. Anubis
4. What was the main purpose of the Theban Necropolis?
5. When the boys enter the Necropolis, how do you think the boys feel when the gates slam shut behind them?
6. Explain what a 'cliffhanger' is. Why do you think the author ends Chapter Fourteen on a cliffhanger?
7. At the beginning of chapter fifteen, the boys are terrified. Why do you think they keep going?
8. From this list, which items might have been found in an Egyptian tomb?

furniture	jewelry	running shoes	statues	vases
television	incense	ointments	beer	cell phones
9. Describe how the tomb smelled.
10. What is the modern day version of a sarcophagus called?
11. What does an ancient Egyptian ankh symbolize?
12. From this list, choose the creatures that attack Zet and Hui in the tomb.

Snakes	Spiders	Dragonflies	Beetles
Bees	Mosquitoes		

**Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
Reading Comprehension**

Chapters 17-20

1. In Chapter Seventeen, how is the mummy different than the first time Zet saw it in Chapter One? List three (3) differences.
2. Why does Merimose, the medjay, defend the boys in front of Renni?
3. What were grave robbers?
4. What question do the boys forget to ask Renni when they are in the Necropolis? Why is it important?
5. Kat is angry when Zet first wakes her. How does this change and why?
6. Where do you think the mummy will strike next?
7. Why does Geb, the spice vendor, come to the front door?
 - a. He comes to warn them about the mummy.
 - b. He brings them spices.
 - c. He tells them that the mummy destroyed the market last night.
 - d. He wants them to shut down their stall.
8. What does Geb offer to give Zet's mother before he leaves?
9. At the end of chapter nineteen, what do Zet and Kat decide to do?
10. Why doesn't Apu help Zet and Kat with their plan?
11. Describe where their mother wants to take the family and why.
12. At which temple would Princess Meritamen's statue be unveiled?
 - a. The Temple of Isis
 - b. The Temple of Bastet
 - c. The Temple of Osiris
 - d. The Temple of Anubis

**Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
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Chapters 21-25

1. In Chapter Twenty-one, who do the children see hiding on a nearby rooftop?
2. Why does Zet say there are no mummies? What has he figured out?
3. Zet thinks the mummy has a friend. Who is the friend?
 - a. the woman from the river
 - b. the man from the river
 - c. the royal mummifier
 - d. Renni, the Royal Guard
4. After Kat and Hui draw straws, who goes where? Complete the following:
Zet goes:
Hui goes:
Kat goes:
5. What causes the sandbank blocking the river to grow even bigger?
6. Describe the inside of the fishing shack.
7. Why does Zet believe the mummy hauntings will stop?
8. Who is the Overseer?
 - a. A medjay
 - b. The head of the Treasury
 - c. A priest
 - d. The head of the Royal Guard
9. How does the mummy on the ship's deck act differently than he did in Chapter One?
10. What do the kids throw overboard? Why?
11. What explanation does their mother give as to why Apu was upset during the story?
 - a. He was upset about being left behind
 - b. He'd been cursed by the mummy, but now he's safe
 - c. He was getting a new tooth
 - d. He missed his dad.
12. What gift does Pharaoh give the children as a reward for solving the mystery?

Mystery of the Egyptian Mummy By Scott Peters
Reading Comprehension
ANSWERS KEYS

ANSWER KEY: Chapters 1 - 4

1. Zet wakes up to find what he calls 'Khonsu' overhead. What was Khonsu?
Khonsu was the ancient Egyptian moon god.

2. Downstairs, why are Zet's sister and mother staring out the front door?
They were looking at a mummy that was walking down their street.

3. How does Zet react when his mother won't let him outside?
a. calm b. relieved **c. frustrated** d. mystified

4. Zet lived in ancient Egypt, where mummies were made. Why, then, was he shocked to see a mummy in his street?
Mummies didn't walk the streets, they stayed in the tomb where they were buried.

5. Zet and Kat knew a man who was mummified. What was his name?
a. Paneb **b. Aziza** c. Konpu d. Renofer

6. Only certain people in ancient Egypt were mummified. List two (2) reasons why a person might be buried in mummy wrappings.
They were part of Pharaoh's family/they were royal.
They were wealthy and could afford it.

7. The morning after the mummy sighting, Zet's mother tried to comfort him by asking if he was all right. Why did Zet smile and act like nothing was wrong?
Zet was determined to be brave. He wanted to protect his family and didn't want his mother to know he was afraid.

8. At the end of chapter 3, what did Kat think Zet was hiding from their mother?
Kat seemed to guess that Zet planned to solve the mystery, no matter what.

9. What was the name of the upcoming festival?
a. Opet Festival **b. Wag Festival** c. Isis Festival d. Osiris Festival

10. Why were customers returning their pottery to Zet and Kat's stall?
Customers believed that Aziza is haunting Zet and Kat, and they don't want to be cursed, too.

11. Zet told the others that ancient Egyptians had to pass a test to go to the afterlife.

How did the test work?

- a. A goddess named Maat questioned you to see if you were a good person.
- b. You had to be clever and avoid a monster named Ammit,
- c. Maat used a pair of scales to make sure your heart weighed less than her feather, which proved you were good.**
- d. Maat used a feather to check off a list of all the good and bad things you did in life, which she then measured.

12. What dangerous creatures lived in the Nile river? Choose the correct two (2).

- a. Sharks
 - b. Crocodiles**
 - c. Hippos**
 - d. Bears
-

ANSWER KEY: Chapters 5-8

1. When the children are on the river, they meet a man and woman near a fishing hut. Choose five words that best describe the couple.

fun **angry** bashful **scary** loving shy **sour nosy** happy **impatient**

2. Why is Zet worried about the Royal Treasury?

Zet knows that without money, the army will be in trouble. His father is a soldier, and so is Hui's father. He's worried about what will happen to them.

3. Why is Zet worried about the Royal Treasury being robbed?

Because the city needs the funds to pay for repairs.

Because the rare treasures kept inside will be lost forever.

Because the army needs the funds to pay for supplies.

Because the funds are needed to pay for the Wag Festival.

4. In chapter six, Zet and Merit meet the royal mummifier. Describe what the man wore on his head.

A mask in the shape of Anubis.

5. The mummifier explains that the brain is removed from the body, and then it's thrown away. Why didn't the ancient Egyptians keep the brain for the afterlife?

Ancient Egyptians believed the brain had no purpose.

6. List the four organs stored in the canopic jars.

Heart Lungs Intestines Stomach

7. What made Zet think the priest was hiding something?

The man refused to answer Zet's question. He abruptly changed the subject. He said he could tell them no more and asked them to leave.

8. In chapter seven, Merit bemoans the fact that a public statue of her is about to be

unveiled. Explain why she feels this is a bad thing.

Merit will not be able to go out in public without being recognized.

9. Why was Zet and Kat's mother angry that they hid the truth from her?

She felt embarrassed that others knew about her family's stall before she did. She felt that deciding how to handle the customers should have been left to her. (answers will vary)

10. Merimose, the man guarding Aziza's house, has a job as a medjay. What is the modern word for his job?

Policeman

11. Renni was the head of the Royal Guard. What three (3) pieces of equipment did he wear or carry for protection?

sharp sword

long curved knife

breastplate embossed in gold

brass helmet

chainmail shirt

lightweight fiber shield

leather shin guards

12. Merit wanted Zet to help solve the mystery. Why didn't Zet explain this to Renni?

If he did, Pharaoh would know Merit had snuck out of the palace. He would also hear about the visit to the mummifier. Zet didn't want to get Merit in trouble.

ANSWER KEY: Chapters 9-12

1. When Kat learned that the mummy is haunting Kanup Street, she was horrified. Why?
Kat and Zet's best friend lived in Kanup Street.

2. How did Hui react when Zet and Kat reached his house?

a. Hui ran out to meet them.

b. Hui hid on the roof.

c. Hui and his little brothers gathered round to ask them questions about the mummy.

d. Hui urged them to come inside and close the door.

3. At the beginning of chapter ten, describe Zet's reaction after he clammers up the ladder.

Zet was terrified for his sister. He thought something was pulling over the edge of the roof so he ran to help her. (answers will vary)

4. How did Hui react to danger, and how was that different from Zet and Kat?

Hui would joke around, even though he was scared, while Zet and Kat were more serious.

5. What unexpected person did Hui see in the crowd on his street?

The fisherman from the river.

6. At the end of chapter 10, who did Zet think might be connected to the mystery?

The fisherman from the river.

7. On the riverbank, what made Zet believe Kat had grown braver?

Kat looked stronger. Also, she wanted to go question the scary fisherman.

8. Many people in ancient Egypt, like Zet, could not read. Kat learned to do so, however. What was the name of their unusual looking alphabet?

The hieroglyphic alphabet.

9. Who came to treat the fisherman's sick daughter?

A priest.

10. What was the ancient Egyptian sun god's name?

Osiris Maat **Ra** Anubis

11. After their trip on the river, that night Kat went straight to sleep. Why couldn't Zet sleep?

He couldn't stop thinking about the mystery. He was worried about his family and friends.

12. When Zet and Hui hid in the pottery stall to catch the mummy, did both boys really want it to show up?

No. Zet did, but Hui did not.

ANSWER KEY: Chapters 13-16

1. The story talks about someone named Khonsu. Who was Khonsu?

a. Zet's neighbor

b. the ancient Egyptian moon god

c. the ancient Egyptian star god

d. the medjay policeman

2. At the beginning of Chapter 13, Zet is discouraged. What actions and thoughts show us he's feeling this way?

Zet is growing tired and quiet. He thinks that his plan is a stupid dead end.

3. Who spotted the mummy first?

- a. Hui
- b. Zet
- c. the medjay
- d. Anubis

4. What was the main purpose of the Theban Necropolis?

It was used as a cemetery.

5. When the boys enter the Necropolis, how do you think the boys feel when the gates slam shut behind them?

The boys felt scared and possibly trapped.

6. Explain what a 'cliffhanger' is. Why do you think the author ends Chapter Fourteen on a cliffhanger?

A cliffhanger is a break in the middle of the action that leaves you wondering what's going to happen next. By using a cliffhanger, the author makes you want to turn the page!

7. At the beginning of chapter fifteen, the boys are terrified. Why do you think they keep going?

They were determined to solve the mystery, no matter what. They wanted to see where the mummy went.

8. From this list, which items might have been found in an Egyptian tomb?

furniture	jewelry	running shoes	statues	vases
television	incense	ointments	beer	cell phones

9. Describe how the graveyard smelled.

It smelled of dirt and decaying flowers.

10. What is the modern day version of a sarcophagus called?

A coffin.

11. What does an ancient Egyptian ankh symbolize?

Eternity.

12. From this list, choose the creatures that attack Zet and Hui in the tomb.

Snakes Spiders Dragonflies Beetles Bees Mosquitoes

ANSWER KEY: Chapters 17-20

1. In Chapter 17, how is the mummy different than the first time Zet saw it in Chapter 1?

List three (3) differences.

1. The mummy spoke actual words.

2. The mummy's eyes could be seen peeking through the mask.

3. The mummy moved quickly instead of in a slow jerky fashion.

2. Why does Merimose, the medjay, defend the boys in front of Renni?

Merimose trusted the boys because he knew they'd solved crimes before.

3. What were grave robbers?

People who broke into ancient Egyptian tombs and stole the treasures within.

4. What question do the boys forget to ask Renni when they are in the Necropolis?

Why is it important?

Did the tomb belong to Aziza? They wanted to know if the rumors were true, that Aziza was haunting them.

5. Kat is angry when Zet first wakes her. How does this change and why?

Zet convinces her that he needs her help because she is smart. She gives in and decides to forget about being angry.

6. Where do you think the mummy will strike next?

Answers will vary.

7. Why does Geb, the spice vendor, come to the front door?

a. He comes to warn them about the mummy.

b. He brings them spices.

c. He tells them that the mummy destroyed the market last night.

d. He wants them to shut down their stall.

8. What does Geb offer to give Zet's mother before he leaves?

To share his income with them until they get back on their feet.

9. At the end of chapter nineteen, what do Zet and Kat decide to do?

To go where the mummy will strike next and stop it once and for all.

10. Why didn't Apu help Zet and Kat with their plan?

Because Apu was a baby.

11. Describe where their mother wanted to take the family and why.

On a picnic in the public gardens. She wanted the family to take a break from all the stress and fear.

12. At which temple would Princess Meritamen's statue be unveiled?

a. The Temple of Isis

- b. The Temple of Bastet
 - c. The Temple of Osiris
 - d. The Temple of Anubis
-

ANSWER KEY: Chapters 21-25

1. Who do the children see hiding on a nearby rooftop?
The woman from the riverbank.

2. Why does Zet say there are no mummies? What has he figured out?
Zet suspects that the mummy is actually a living man in a mummy costume.

3. Zet thinks the mummy has a friend. Who is the friend?
 - a. **the woman from the river**
 - b. the man from the river
 - c. the royal mummifier
 - d. Renni, the Royal Guard

4. After Kat and Hui draw straws, who goes where?
Zet: goes downriver on the raft.
Hui: goes in search of the medjay police.
Kat: goes downriver on the raft.

5. What caused the sandbank blocking the river to grow even bigger?
Thieves were digging a tunnel into the treasury. The dirt was carried out and thrown in the river.

6. Describe the inside of the fishing shack.
It was dark and smelled like sweat and old food. There were at least a dozen sleeping pallets (beds) on the floor.

7. Why does Zet believe the mummy hauntings will stop?
He knows that the mummy isn't real.

8. Who is the Overseer?
 - a. A medjay
 - b. **The head of the Treasury**
 - c. A priest
 - d. The head of the Royal Guard

9. How does the mummy on the ship's deck act differently than he did in Chapter One?
This mummy fights and moves quickly. He shouts and acts very human.

10. What do the kids throw overboard? Why?

The kids throw the anchor overboard. They do this so that the getaway ship, which is also full of treasure, drifts away from shore. The bad guys have no way to escape.

11. What explanation does their mother give as to why Apu was upset during the story?

a. He was upset about being left behind

b. He'd been cursed by the mummy, but now he's safe

c. He was getting a new tooth

d. He missed his dad.

12. What gift does Pharaoh give the children as a reward for solving the mystery?

Pharaoh gives the children letters from their fathers, who are away fighting.

FOLD IN 1/2
(Don't cut
along fold.)

CUT

SCOTT PETERS BOOKS



CUT OUT

CUT

SCOTT PETERS BOOKS



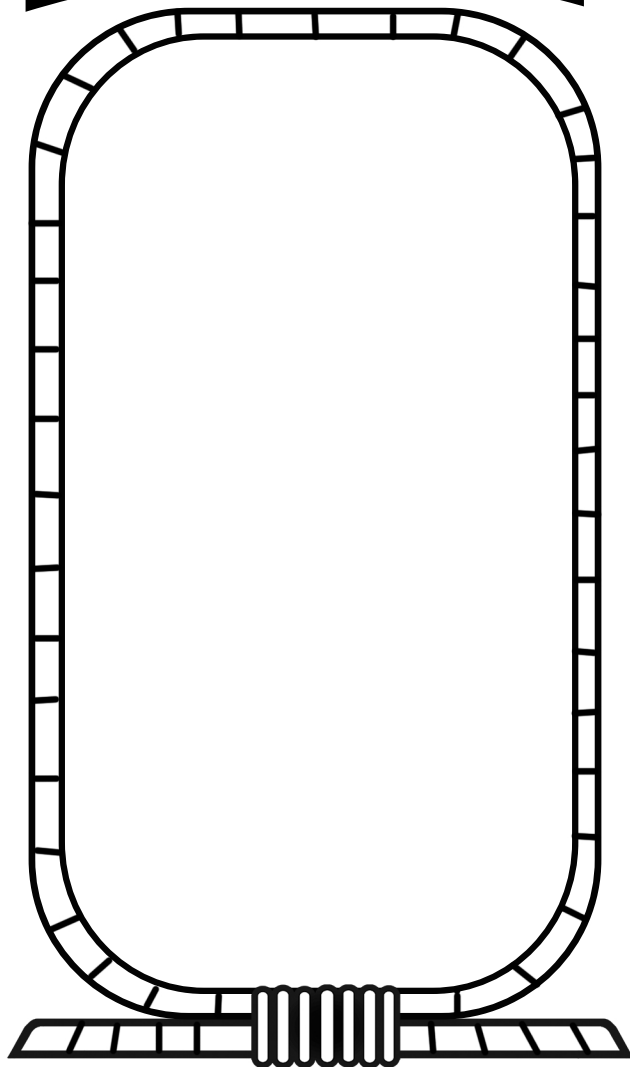
CUT OUT

**MUMMIES
INSIDE!**



BEWARE!

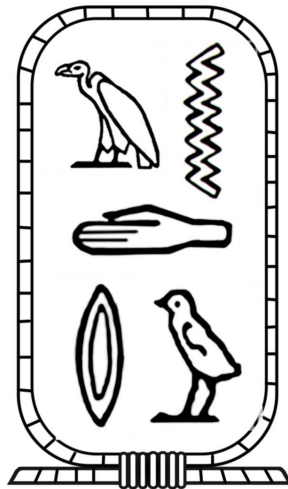
**MYSTERIES
SOLVED BY**



DESIGN YOUR OWN CARTOUCHE

What's a cartouche?

- It's the oval frame that surrounds the hieroglyphics that make up a person's name.
- The frame symbolized a rope. It was believed that any name written inside the rope frame was magically protected.
- A cartouche was used to protect a person against danger in this life and the next.











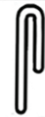














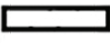

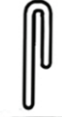







ANDREW
(A N D R U)

Adding your name:

- In the cartouche above, I've written Andrew in hieroglyphics.
- Tip #1: The name Andrew has 5 basic sounds. A N D R U. Why is this important? It means you only need to draw the hieroglyphics for those sounds. Makes things easier, right? *It's almost like writing in text message lingo!*
- Tip #2: Here's another cool tip—You don't need to lay out each letter in a row. You can position your hieroglyphics to make your design look interesting.
- Tip #3: Write your letters in pencil in case you need to erase them. You can go over them after with colored pencils or markers.
- Tip #4: Have fun!

— Scott Peters

Ancient Egypt Hieroglyphics Chart

	A ^{ay}	arm		K	cup		V	viper
	A ^{ah}	vulture		L	lion		W	chick
	B	leg		M	owl		X	cloth
	C ^k	cup		N	water		Y	feathers
	D	hand		O	chick		Z	bolt
	E	feather		P	stool		CH	tether
	F	viper		Q	hill		KH	sieve
	G	pot		R	mouth		SH	basin
	H	wick		S	cloth			man
	I	feather		T	loaf			woman
	J	cobra		U	chick			ankh



TAKE ME TO MY PYRAMID!

